Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Half Yearly Student Progress Reports** – Reports will be sent home next week. These reports will provide an update of student achievement and effort for all key learning areas. A student self-evaluation record and a parent teacher interview request note will be enclosed with your child’s report. Please complete the parent interview slip and return to your child’s teacher before the end of the term. Parent teacher interviews will be held early next term.

I have included an article in the Parenting Support section of this newsletter that looks at the subject of reading your child’s report. It is well worth reading and I think you’ll find it interesting and helpful.

**Busways Bus Safety** – The bus safety program has been designed to teach students how to be safe while travelling on the bus and while waiting at bus stops. The program is a Busways initiative and is delivered by trained, experienced school bus drivers. All students in Years K to 3 and those students in other years who travel on the bus to school, will participate in the program. Thanks to Kylie Bates for her coordination of this very worthwhile program.

**NAIDOC Week** – NAIDOC originally stood for ‘National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee’. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

A number of activities have been planned for the students next week. Please refer to the Dates to Remember section of this newsletter for further information. I would like to congratulate Ron Tyrrell and the Aboriginal Education committee for their great work in this very important aspect of learning.

**Sports Update** – Sydney North Cross Country was held last Thursday and a number of our students were fortunate to attend. Congratulations to our Cross Country team on their fine efforts and to Mrs Farrell who was this year’s Sydney North Primary Cross Country Convener. Gail worked tirelessly in the lead up to the carnival and throughout the day to ensure the carnival ran smoothly. Her efforts were very much appreciated by the children and everyone associated with the carnival.

The Senior Girls’ Soccer Gala Day was postponed last Friday and will now be held on Friday 27th June at Budgewoi Soccer Club. I would like to wish the girls and their coach Mrs Smithson, a great day of success and sportsmanship.

Senior Boys’ Rugby League Gala Day was held yesterday at Budgewoi. Congratulations to the team and their coach Mr Foley. The boys were a standout team and won all three games that they played. They represented our school with great skill and sportsmanship. Thanks also to the parents who supported the boys with transport and encouragement on the day.

**Excursions** - Congratulations to all our Year 3 and 4 students who attended the Sydney Excursions last week. Your behaviour was outstanding. Thank you to Miss Gruden for organising such an exciting and educational day. Thank you to all our parent helpers on the day. We couldn’t do it without you.

**Breakfast club** - Breakfast really is the most important meal of the day. Studies show that eating a healthy breakfast can help give children improved concentration and performance in the classroom and more strength and endurance to engage in physical activity. Gorokan Public School’s free breakfast program allows children to access breakfast every school day. It is located in the Out of School Hours room and all students are welcome to attend.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
**Monday 23rd June**  
Stage 3 Assembly 2.00pm  
Tuesday 24th June  
9.20am NAIIDOC week assembly  
**Tuesday 24th June**  
Fred Reid cultural performance  
**Friday 27th June**  
NAIDOC week assembly  
**Friday 27th June**  
Last day of term 2  
**Tuesday 15th July**  
First day of term 3

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**Kindergarten Supervisor – Kim Lansdowne**

**Home Reading** - This week will be the last week that we will be sending home Read To books. We would appreciate all the books returned in their bag. Next term the children will continue with the Home Reading Program to develop their independent reading skills and applying their strategies. Thank you for your support.

**Interviews** - Notes will be sent home shortly for parent interviews. We would ask that you nominate three times so we can accommodate everyone. We strongly encourage all of you to take this opportunity to come and talk to us so that we can work together in supporting your child’s learning at school.

**Class Awards:**  
KE/T - Gordon, Noah  
K/1/H - Cody  
KL - Jakob, Riley  
KS - Zachary, Tyrone

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**Stage 1 News – Cathie Behringer**

**Little cake day** - will be held this Friday 20th June. Year 2 are asked to make a donation of cakes and biscuits. These will be sold at recess for 20c or 50c each.

**Rewards day** - is coming up on Friday week 9 and all the students that have received levels 4, 5 and 6 will get to participate in a K-2 disco. This day will also be MUFTI and all students are able to wear red, yellow, and black for NAIIDOC week.

**Reports** - All reports will be going home in Week 9 and all parents will get a chance to come and speak to the teacher concerning their child’s progress and report early next term.

**NAIDOC week** - is in the last week of school with many fun-filled and educational activities for the students to participate in. Please do not forget to bring in $4.00 for the performance on Tuesday of week 9.

**Thought For the Week** - Our goal is to motivate children to read so they will practice reading independently and become fluent readers. That happens when children enjoy reading. As teachers and parents we can do for reading what fast food chains do for hamburgers...ADVERTISE! And we advertise by reading great stories and poems to our children.

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**Stage 2 News - Supervisor – Belynda Gruden**

**NAIDOC Week** - Next week is NAIIDOC week. Please make sure you have returned your child’s permission note for gardening. We will also be having a performance next Tuesday which will cost $4.00. Please return the note with the $4.00 enclosed to your child’s teacher.

**Little cake day** - will be held this Friday 20th June. Year 4 are asked to make a donation of cakes and biscuits. These will be sold at recess for 20c or 50c each.

**Rewards Day** - Rewards Day for Term Two will be held next Friday. Congratulations to all those students who will be attending.

**Class Awards:**  
3M - Jaxen, Anabel  
3/4B - Ryan, Shianne, Krystal  
4H - Danielle, Alex  
4C - Bronson T, Katie D

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**Stage 3 News – Supervisor – Charlie Corlett**

**Stage 3 assembly** - We are holding our Stage 3 "Showcase" assembly on Monday 23rd June at 2pm in the school hall. We hope that you will be able to attend this assembly and share in your child’s success this semester.

**Year 6 Fund raising** - Thank you for your efforts with supporting our Y6 fundraising event of selling chocolates. This has been incredibly successful and we have now dispatched all of the boxes that were ordered. Please ensure that your child is selling the chocolates safely and is accompanied by an adult or older sibling if selling chocolates door to door.

**Discover Uni Day** - Year 6 attended the 'Discover Uni Day' last Friday organised by Newcastle University and held at their Ourimbah campus. Students had an enlightening day about different aspects of university life and courses. It was well supported by Parents and Carers that attended. Thank you for your support.

**Stage 3 Rewards Day** - This will be held on the last day of term, Friday 27th June. Students that have received a rating 4, 5 or 6 on their behaviour card this term will be invited to participate in a BBQ lunch and games at Peace Park on Gorokan lakeshore. More information will be made available this week, including order forms for a BBQ lunch and Permission note.

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**Canteen News**

**Running down stock** - End of term is only a week away and we will be running down stock. Please make sure your child has a second choice when ordering their lunch. Pies, sausage rolls and sandwiches will always be available.

**Canteen roster 2014 - Week 9 Term 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Vicky Saville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
<td>Collette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Vicky Saville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Week 1 Term 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th</td>
<td>Jade Carberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th</td>
<td>Collette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Friday 18th July

| Susan Cheney, Belinda Bermingham |

**P & C News**

**Thompson Pies Fundraiser** - This fundraiser has now closed. Thank you to all those families that placed an order, it is greatly appreciated. Pies and cakes will be ready to be picked up on Tuesday 24th June between 8.30am and 9.30am in the hall.

**Book Club** - Orders for Scholastic Issue 4 have been processed and books should be returned to the children next week.

**Price Rise** - Due to continual price rises from our suppliers, chicken chips will now be $1.50 for 3 and $3.00 for 6 from Monday 23rd June, 2014.

**P&C Meeting** - Next term’s P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 4th August, 2014 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. All Welcome.

**Little Cake Day** - This term’s Little Cake Day will be held on Friday 20th June, 2014. Years 2 and 4 are asked to donate biscuits, cakes or toffees towards our stall. They will be sold at recess for 20c or 50c. Any donations can be left at the canteen on the morning of the stall.

**Community News**

**Have you got a child starting Gorokan School next year?**
We have Transition to school playgroup starting next term in the school as community centre.

- **Time:** 9:00 - 11:00am
- **Starting:** Tuesday 22nd July

Come along meet other families starting school, become familiar with the school and its staff, and assist your child learn valuable school readiness skills. Please bring a healthy morning tea. It’s free and Parents / Carers must stay with their child; younger siblings are welcome.

**Are you a Grandparent caring for a young child 0-5 years?**
We have an opportunity to start a grandparents supported play group, but we would like to see if there is interest in the community for this group.

This playgroup would enable grandparents to get together, meet and talk to other families who are experiencing the joys and the challenges of caring for grandchildren on a full time or part time basis. The children get to play, paint, sing a song or two and then read a story. The group would be free and would run during school term. If you would be interested in coming to this group could you please contact Lynda on 0467 760 712 or email Lynda.wooden@det.nsw.edu.au

**Kindergarten News**

As mentioned in the last few school Newsletters, we are currently in the process of finalising our Kindergarten orientation programme for students enrolling in Kindergarten in 2015. If you have a child or know of a child who will turn 5 on or before 31st July 2015, they are eligible to start school in 2015. Please fill in the form below (or give it to a friend or neighbour to complete if they have a child eligible to start school in 2015) and return it to school as early as possible.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Kim Lansdowne
Acting Assistant Principal

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**Kindergarten Enrolments 2015 – Return slip for office staff**

Child's Name (in full): __________________________________________ Date of Birth: _____________________

- Male    Female (please circle)

Names of Siblings at school (if applicable):_________________________________

Address:  ____________________________________________________________________________________

Home Telephone Number: _____________________ Mobile Number: ____________________

Email:_______________________________________________________________________________________

I would like any correspondence addressed to:

Miss / Ms / Mrs / Mr / Mr & Mrs (please circle)______________________________________________
Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

- **Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

- **Broaden your focus away from academic performance** to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

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