Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Half Yearly Student Progress Reports** – Reports were sent home today. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, these reports will provide an update of student achievement and effort for all key learning areas. The students have evaluated their own learning and this information will be included with the report. A parent teacher interview request note will be enclosed with your child’s report also. Please remember to complete the parent teacher interview request slip and return it to your child’s teacher as a priority before the end of the term so that interviews can be organised for early next term. The teachers have nominated available interview times on their notes and will send a follow up note home to confirm interview details in the first week of the new term.

**Stage 3 Assembly** – The Stage 3 students delighted the parents, carers, relatives and friends who attended their showcase afternoon. I was thrilled to see such a diverse range of items being presented and performed on the day. These included a Balinese inspired puppet show, art displays, singing, an anti bullying slideshow that had been prepared by our Year 5 students, and more. It was great to see so much community support, encouraging our students and acknowledging their efforts.

**NAIDOC Week** – NAIDOC Week celebrations are well underway. Yesterday’s commemorative assembly was a very special community event. It included a flag raising ceremony, performances by our Koori Choir and dance troupe, a didge solo and performances by Gorokan High School students (a number of whom were ex-Gorokan Public School students) in dance and didgeridoo. Mrs Smeaton addressed the assembly enlightening and interesting the students with her story. Fred Reid also entertained us as he and his team performed traditional Aboriginal dances, told Dreamtime stories and performed traditional music. There will be a number of ongoing in-class and school activities continuing throughout the week including mural painting, sausage sizzle and mufti day. Our Aboriginal garden is really starting to take shape and I would encourage you to have a look at it if you haven’t already done so.

**School Improvement** – A number of projects are underway at present. Last week saw the completion of the first stage of the exterior painting of the school. It really is amazing the difference a coat of paint has made to the school’s appearance. I am looking forward to the remainder of the school being painted in the coming term.

The bus shelter / outdoor learning area has been completed this week. This structure will make such a difference to the students who catch buses after school, as they will have a sheltered area where they can safely and comfortably wait for their buses.

The LED school sign has been organised and is due to be installed early next term. Further improvements included the installation of new gas heaters to the hall and throughout the school and the refurbishment of the library furniture.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to hearing from the children about their holiday when school resumes on Tuesday 15th July.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
Thank you - We would like to thank you for your support this term. It is very much appreciated.

Home work - Books need to be returned on Friday so they can be sorted and organised for next term.

Drinks - Even though it is winter the children still need to be hydrated. It is important for them to have water in their drink bottle.

Holidays - We hope you have a happy, relaxing and safe holiday. Please continue to listen to your children read in the holidays and take the opportunity to read to them. Hopefully the weather will be wonderful so they can enjoy the outdoors.

Class Awards:
KE/T  - Riley, Henry  KL  - Connor, Talia
KS  - Kenny, Jesse

Stage 1 News – Cathie Behringer

Rewards Day - Rewards day will be held on Friday this week and all students who have received levels 4, 5 and 6 will get to participate in a K-2 disco. This day will also be MUFTI and students are asked to wear red, yellow, and black for NAIDOC week.

Reports  - will be going home this week and you will receive a form to fill out regarding a time for you to come and speak to the teacher about your child’s progress.

NAIDOC Week - This week is NAIDOC week and we have lots of fun-filled and educational activities for the students to participate in. This should be a celebration of our country, our people and our heritage.

Thought for the Week  - A good education is not so much one that prepares a child to succeed in the world, as one that enables him to overcome a failure.

Special Swimming Scheme  - Notes will be sent home in Week 1 of next term regarding the Special Swimming Scheme which we expect all Year 2 children to participate in. Lessons are free but we are required to pay for the pool entry and bus fares. The cost will be approximately $40.00 for the 10 day program. Start putting money aside ready for this important event.

Thank you for all your support and have a relaxing peaceful and enjoyable holiday.

Class Awards:
2F  - Aliya, Scarlet  2V  - Oliver, Ezra
2G  - Tiana, Corey  1/2T - Matthew S

Stage 2 News - Supervisor – Belynda Gruden

Rewards Day - Stage 2 will be having a movie rewards day on Friday. Well done to all the students who maintained a rating 4, 5 and 6 this term.

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. We are looking forward to another busy term in term three.

Class Awards:
3M  - Britney, Shane  3/4B – Destiny, James
4H  - Gabriel, Jessica  4C - Jack, Hannah

Stage 3 News – Supervisor – Charlie Corlett

Rewards Day - Parents are reminded to send in permission notes and sausage sizzle money for the walk to Peace Park to be held this Friday.

Reports and Interviews - All reports have been sent home with a note requesting a parent/teacher interview. Please select a time that suits you and your child’s teacher will send you a confirmation note with the date and time of your interview.

School News

From the Library - This week students with overdue library books will be coming home with overdue notices. Please take these as a reminder to look for library books around your home over the holidays. Anything with a Gorokan Public School barcode on the front cover can be returned to the library. If your child believes that they have returned the book, please write a short note on the slip and place it in the returns box.

Holidays are a great time to make sure everything is in order for the following term. Please make sure your child has a library bag with their name on it to commence borrowing the first week back in term 3.

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING. As always our book parade and book fair will take place during education week in week 3. This year's theme is ‘Connect to Reading’. I'm sure we'll see some amazing costumes.

Yours in reading,

Emily Carty, Teacher Librarian

Canteen News

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 10 Term 3
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.

The P & C will be selling children's toys and novelties at lunch time on Friday 27th June. Cost will be from 50c to $3.00.

**P & C News**

**KINDERGARTEN 2015** - 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,

**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: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Male    Female (please circle)

Home Telephone Number: ___________________ Mobile Number: ___________________

Email:_______________________________________________________________________________________

I would like any correspondence addressed to:

Miss / Ms / Mrs / Mr / Mr & Mrs
Helping kids leapfrog their difficulties with these 5 ideas

A parent’s attitude to their child’s difficulties will determine how successfully they meet and overcome many of the obstacles and hurdles they meet.

Whether it’s going to school for the first time, making new friends or even going to school camp, children often experience difficulties that they need to overcome.

When children overcome problems and deal with unpleasant situations they learn they are capable, which is the basis of self-esteem and confidence.

Here are five great parenting ideas to help your kids leapfrog their difficulties:

1. **Frame the problem as a challenge:**

   Frame the difficulty as a challenge rather than a problem. Kids take their cues from their parents so the frame of ‘challenge’ gives kids something to rise to rather than be overwhelmed by.

2. **Coach kids to do well:**

   Talk kids through their challenges, give them ideas to cope and manage. Consider rehearsing some skills or language that they may need.

3. **Show confidence they will succeed:**

   Children generally meet their parents’ expectations so make sure your expectations are realistic, positive and supportive of their feelings.

4. **Give kids a chance:**

   Allow kids to approach challenges in their own way without constantly checking on them. Your nervousness is definitely catching.

5. **Celebrate their success:**

   Even if they were partially successful, such as they went to school camp for two out of the three days, then praise their efforts. They’ve got a great building block for next time. The attitude and approach of parents and teachers will determine how successfully children and young people meet and overcome many of the hurdles they encounter. That attitude needs to be courageous, sensitive and hopeful that your child will meet, and overcome with assistance, all the challenges they encounter.

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