Dear Parents and Carers,

Book Bank – I am thrilled to announce that Book Bank is coming to Gorokan Public School in 2015!

Book Bank is a unique literacy support program that aims to encourage primary students to cultivate a love for books and read every day. Students in participating schools are given a book of their choice from the Premiers Reading Challenge new release list, every term.

While students are encouraged to choose books within their reading abilities, Book Bank is non-competitive and success is measured by participation. Book Bank focuses on student choice, student book ownership and student engagement. It encourages children to share their books, their thoughts and their ideas about what they have read. Sincere thanks to Dymock’s Childrens Charities and Club Toukley for their support of the students of Gorokan Public School.

Gorokan Athletics Carnival – The sun shone down upon us last Friday for the GPS 2014 school athletics carnival. It was a fabulous day for the children and another opportunity for the community to support our students through their involvement. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, encouraging students in the vast range of athletic and novelty events that were offered to them on the day. Sport is all about teamwork and that teamwork was very evident in the smooth running of the day under the guidance of our sports coordinator, Gail Farrell.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts in making the day such a success and congratulations to the students for their fine efforts and exemplary behaviour and attitude throughout the day!

Public Speaking Competition – The Regional Public Speaking final was held at Manuring Park Public School last Thursday. Our Gorokan PS finalist competed well against the other students and experienced another opportunity to shine in public. Congratulations to Chloe M, Gabrielle, Nixon E, Pahal C, Cailan R, Cameron C, Madeline K, Rebecca D for their fine efforts and confidence in competing at this high level. Congratulations to Pahal who received a Highly Commended Certificate.

High School Transition – Congratulations to our Year 6 students who visited Gorokan High School on Monday for the taster day. It was great to hear reports from the students that they had such a positive experience and found the day extremely worthwhile.

Social Media – I would encourage parents and carers to read the article that is on the last page of this newsletter - Facing up to Facebook. Sharing is something that all human beings need to effectively know how to do. Being able to share things effectively in the social media world is important for children to understand. Education is the key, and this article will give you some very good ideas for supporting your children to use social media responsibly when they are old enough to participate.

Road Safety Reminder – Dudley Street attracts a lot of traffic and pedestrians need to cross the road with care. I am concerned that a truck driver came to see me last week in a shaken state after narrowly missing a young GPS student who darted out from the curb in front of his heavy vehicle.

Please reinforce the following NSW Transport road safety tips with your children as a matter of urgency.

- Always use pedestrian crossings.
- Never assume that an approaching vehicle can see you, or will stop for you – wait until all vehicles have stopped before you cross.
- At intersections, check for turning vehicles before you leave the kerb, and while you are crossing the road.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars or at the front or back of buses.
- Avoid using a mobile phone or portable media player (so you can hear vehicles and concentrate on crossing the road).
- At traffic lights, make sure that vehicles stop before you start to cross, and don't enter the road if vehicles are moving through the crossing.

Concerns have been raised at our OH & S meeting regarding parents entering the staff car park to drop off or collect students from the before and after school care.
It is important for safety reasons that parents drive in the direction of the arrows at all times. It would also be appreciated that the disabled car park be left vacant for visitors to the school that are disabled.

Boys’ Touch Football GALA Day - Good luck to our senior boys who will be competing in Friday’s Touch Gala Day.

Kindergarten 2015 – The Young Black and Ready for School transition to school program for Aboriginal children starting school in 2015 was held at school yesterday. It was great to have the opportunity to personally welcome participating children and their families to our awesome school and I trust they found the experience enjoyable and worthwhile.

A further reminder to parents of students who will be starting Kindergarten next year to complete the student enrolment form as a priority. Please contact the school office for assistance or further information.

Together we can make a difference.
Jesmond Zammit
Principal

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**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>22nd August</td>
<td>Little Cake Day</td>
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<td>2.9.14</td>
<td>Kindifarm</td>
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<td>4.9.14</td>
<td>Yr 2 Wetlands Environment Excursion</td>
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<td>5.9.14</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>8.9.14 – 10.9.14</td>
<td>Life Education K - 6</td>
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<td>20.10.14 – 31.10.14</td>
<td>School Swimming Scheme Yr 2 - 6</td>
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**Kindergarten News – Kim Lansdowne**

**Chickens** - We have said goodbye to our chickens. We had 4 hens and 12 roosters hatch.

**Spelling Bee** - The Kindergarten spelling will be held at the end of this term.

**Health** - We have had many children sick in the last week. Please remind your child of the importance of washing their hands with soap and water after they have been to the toilet or placed a dirty tissue in the bin after blowing their nose.

**Attendance** - If your child is absent from school please send a note to their teacher on their return to school.

**Class Awards:**
- KE/T - Makani, Gordon
- KL - Montanna, Brayth
- KH - Charlee
- KS - Riley, Traevorne

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**Stage 1 News – Cathie Behringer**

Week 6 is here already and we are all well and truly into our teaching and learning programs. Next week is National Literacy and Numeracy week and Stage 1 will be having group rotations in each classroom with many different and engaging activities for all the classes.

Year Two - will be going on an excursion in week 8 to the Wetlands in Newcastle. Please try and get your notes and money in as soon as possible.

**Absences** - If you child has been absent from school please don’t forget to send a note explaining why they have been away.

**School Uniform** - Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform including hat and jumper. We have a lot of lost property at the moment that include jackets and jumpers. Check to see if your child’s clothing is labelled with their name and class on it.

**Class Awards:**
- 1C - Tiarna S, Hayden W
- 1H - Amelia
- 1S/A - Michelle, Tyreese
- 1B - Bethany, Liam
- 1T - Hanna

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

**Swimming Scheme** - is now open for all students from Year 2 to 6. Please pay a deposit to secure your child a place as positions are limited.

**Athletics Carnival** - Well done to all the students who participated in the athletics carnival, and thank you to all the parents and carers who came to watch.

**You Can Do It** - Well done to the students who received persistence awards at the You Can Do It assembly.

**Life Education** - Please continue to send in permission notes and money for Life Education.

**Class Awards Week 4:**
- 3G - Andrew, Matilda
- 3M - Alex, Xavier
- 3/4B - Braiden C, Cash D, Tiffany D, Akasha
- 4H - Jacob, Delta
- 4C - Macy Jack

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

**Gorokan High School Taster Day** - Year 6 had a positive experience for their High School Taster Day on Monday and were exposed to a wide variety of mini lessons throughout the day. They were confident to go out and mingle with the other High School students during their recess and lunch and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

**Reading Logs** - Please ensure that reading logs are signed regularly and that behaviour cards are signed weekly as a means of communication between home and school.

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**Canteen News**

**Canteen roster 2014 - Week 5 Term 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21st August</td>
<td>Sue King, Shayne Dodds</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd August</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th August</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th August</td>
<td>Jade Carberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th August</td>
<td>Collette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th August</td>
<td>Sue King, Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th August</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Book club - Brochures for Scholastic Issue 6 have been sent home and orders with money should be returned by Friday 29th August, 2014.

Little Cake Day - This term’s little cake day will be held on Friday 22nd August, 2014. Years 1 and 3 are asked to make a donation of cakes and biscuits which can be left at the canteen on the morning of the stall. The cost of the cakes will be 20c or 50c and will be sold at recess. Help is needed from 10.30am to help set up and sell to the children.

Father’s Day Stall - To be held on Friday 5th September, 2014. Your child must have Gorokan Dollars if they wish to buy a gift at the stall. The price of gifts will range from $1.00 to $7.00. You can make arrangements for Gorokan Dollars by sending money in an envelope marked with student’s name, class and amount enclosed or see the ladies in the canteen.

Graduation Bears - The P&C have a good quality Graduation Bear available for $16.00. If anyone is interested in seeing or purchasing this bear please see Julie in the canteen. We are offering a layby plan where the bear can be paid off over the last two terms of this year.

2014 Kindergarten Transition - We would love you to attend our 2014 Kindergarten Transition program. Our aim is to allow your child to experience “big school” in an informal, supportive and caring environment. You and your child are invited to attend on the following dates:

Transition 1 - Wednesday 27/8/14 (9.30 – 10.30am) - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend technology talk with Mr Zammit and Mr Mitchell Gibbs in the KL Classroom.

Transition 2 - Wednesday 3/9/14 (9.30 – 10.30am) - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend Best Start Assessment talk with Mrs Myree Kent in the Before and After School Centre.

Transition 3 - Wednesday 10/9/14 (9.30 – 10.30am) - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend a talk about speech and language with Mrs Michelle Everson in the Before and After School Centre.

Transition 4 - Wednesday 8/10/14 (9.30 – 11.00am) - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

Transition 5 - Wednesday 15/10/14 (9.30 – 11.00am) - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

Ark Van Visit - Lakes Anglican Church, 274 Wallarah Road, Kanwal - 6.30pm Thursday 4th September, 2014. Rod Walsh will present his scale models of Noah’s Ark and scale models of animals. How did the animals fit on the ark? Where did all the water come from? And many more questions. How does Rod answer these questions?

Where: Lakes Anglican Church, 274 Wallarah Road, Kanwal
When: 6.30pm Thursday 4th September, 2014

Rego Day - Soldiers Beach Nippers
Sunday 31 August and Sunday 14th September
10am – 2pm at Soldiers Beach Surf Club
Why not join us to learn surf skills and have fun!
More info at www.soldiersbeachslsc.com.au

Toukley District Athletics Registrations are OPEN!
Come join us for season 2015.

Toukley District Athletics are a family orientated club aimed at raising skill in athletics while enjoying each other’s company.

Competition nights are Friday, held at Warnervale Athletic Field, Cnr of Warnervale Rd and Virginia Rd, Warnervale, 5:30pm - 8:00pm.
Ages:Tots (U5) and above.
Registrations are online through https://memberdesq.imgstg.com/index.cfm?fus ection=main&OrgID=914
First meet Friday 26 September 2014, come along to meet everyone.

Visit our facebook page.
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toukley-District-Athletics
Facing up to Facebook

If you have a pre-teen or a teenager, you need to become familiar with Facebook and other technologies they are using. Ignorance is no excuse these days.

Kids know more than their parents when it comes to the Internet and social media according to recent research. The Optus Family Communication survey reveals that over half (55 per cent) of Australian children outsmart their parents in technology knowledge before they are 13 years old. A further 30 per cent of parents admit they are behind their children by the time they are 15 years old.

Facebook, MSN and other forms of social networking media are here to stay, so my advice for parents is to learn about social media, even if you don't want to embrace it. It can be confronting when your child knows more about technology than you, but smart parents these days let their kids teach them what they know about technology.

So if you have a pre-teen or a teenager you need to become familiar with Facebook and other technologies they are using. Ignorance is no excuse these days.

Facebook doesn't permit kids under the age of 13 to access the site for reasons of personal safety. It doesn't require proof of age to access the site, so it's a guideline only. Facebook's recommendations however, may be useful reference points if you are involved in negotiations with your child over using social networking sites.

More importantly, if young people are using Facebook and other networking sites, they need to fully understand the rules of safe use. Here are some tips:

2. Help your young person adjust the privacy settings so they suit their level of comfort. Review them often.

3. Reinforce with your child the importance of never sharing their password, not even with their best friend, a boyfriend or girlfriend.

4. Discuss other safety tips such as the types of information and pictures that should and shouldn't be placed on their pages, as well as what to do if someone sends inappropriate information or initiates unsolicited communication.

5. Monitor your child's use by making sure the computer they use at home is in a common area of the house.

6. It's reasonable to expect that you should know your child's password and log-in details so you can keep a check on their friends from time to time. This type of monitoring is age-related and may well not be suitable for older teens.

7. Consider getting your own Facebook page and use it as a way of communicating with your child. This has the added bonus of enabling you to keep one eye on what's happening on your child's Facebook.

Parents of past generations did their best to keep their kids safe as they negotiated a wider world. I recall teaching my kids stranger danger, drilling safety tips into them as they gained more independence.

As a parent you need to help kids navigate safely and securely in an online world, just as you do in an offline world. Know what kids are doing; spend time teaching them common sense, safety lessons and limit their use of technology so that they stay connected to you and others in your family.

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