Dear Parents and Carers,

SASS (School and Support Staff) Recognition Week - This week public schools all over NSW are recognising the valued work of their SASS team. At Gorokan PS we recognise the range of skills and expertise that our SASS have and know that our school, like all other schools, would not function without these wonderful people.

Our SASS team includes Jenny Ehlers (School Administration Manager), Vicki Gainey and Sarah Bond (School Administration Officers) Patsy Young (Library Assistant) Simon Morony, Rebecca Taylor-Smith, Leanne Laundess and Carolyn Sullivan (School Learning Support Officers) Lyn Duncan (Aboriginal Education Officer) and Greg Harris (General Assistant). We also have a number of reliable casuals who fill these roles as required on a day-to-day basis who we also value and appreciate. Staff and students value the significant contributions provided by these dedicated people.

Planning Week – This week the teachers have been working in their stage groups to collaboratively plan explicit and systematic delivery of curriculum and extracurricular programs for the students in the term ahead. The library, science and music programs were suspended for this week to allow for the economical provision of this valuable professional collaboration to occur. Topics covered will included the monitoring student progress using departmental software, refinement of PLPs (Personalised Learning Plans), programming for the new Australian curriculum, differentiation for learning and student transition procedures.

Staffing Update – I would like to welcome Mrs McCann and Mrs Caruana to our school. Both of these talented teachers have joined our learning and support team and will be assisting students to improve their learning in K to 2 classes as part of the Early Action for Success program. Due to decreased enrolments over the past few years, the Deputy Principal position has been abolished as of 2015. As a result, Mrs Young who is currently deployed to the Employee Performance and Conduct Directorate in a consultancy role, has transferred to Niagara Park Public School. I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Mrs Young has made to Gorokan Public School over the years and wish her all the best for her new school.

Zone Athletics Carnival – Congratulations to all our talented students who competed in the Zone Athletics Carnival at Mingara on Friday. Mrs Farrell and Mrs Carty gave pleasing reports of sustained effort, sportsmanship and achievements. Congratulations to Clara who made it through to the Sydney North Carnival, to be held on Monday 8th September at Homebush.

Emergency Safety Drills – Last week the mandatory safety lock down drill was rehearsed to ensure the safety of all who are on the school premises in the unlikely event of a school emergency. An emergency evacuation drill will also be carried out this term. These drills are usually carried out smoothly, familiarising all with these important procedures.

Have you been to look at our Aboriginal garden lately?

Bilby Bash - Our Aboriginal students have been busy rehearsing a song called “Koolori” throughout the term in preparation for their performance at the annual “Bilby Bash” held at Budgewoi Public School on Wednesday 10th September. Their performance will not only include singing but also clap stick accompaniment and Djembe drumming - all performed by the group. They will represent our school wearing our fabulous GPS Koori Choir tee-shirts, embracing their Aboriginal cultural heritage with pride and confidence.

Whooping Cough – There have been a number of reported cases over the past 2 weeks. Please have your child checked by your family doctor if you have any concerns. Treatment is simply a course of antibiotics.

Father’s Day – The annual Father’s Day stall will be held on Friday. This week’s parenting support article is about being the best dad you can be and well worth a read. I would like to wish all of the Gorokan PS dads and significant father figures a wonderful Father’s Day for Sunday.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit - Principal
Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>29.8.14 to 10.9.14</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4.9.14</td>
<td>Yr 2 Wetlands Environment Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 5.9.14</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>Weeks 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Gorokan’s Got Talent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10.9.14</td>
<td>3rd Kinder Orientation 9.30 – 10.30am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 10.9.14</td>
<td>Bilby Bash</td>
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<td>Friday 19.9.14</td>
<td>Mufti Day Gold coin donation</td>
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<td>Friday 19.9.14</td>
<td>Last Day Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19.9.14</td>
<td>Mufti Day Gold coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7.10.14</td>
<td>First day Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8,10.14</td>
<td>4th Kinder Orientation 9.30 – 11am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 15.10.14</td>
<td>5th Kinder Orientation 9.30 – 11am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 22.10.14</td>
<td>6th Kinder Orientation 9.30 – 11am</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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<td>Monday 27th Oct.</td>
<td>Year 6 Surf Awareness</td>
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<td>Tuesday 28th Oct.</td>
<td>Year 5 C.A.R.E.S. Program</td>
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LOST PROPERTY - Please continue to check in the lost property box located in the office foyer for any jumpers etc. that your children may have lost. All jumpers without names will be sent to a local charity again at the end of term.

Kindergarten News – Kim Lansdowne

Kindifarm - Our farm visit was very exciting and the children had a wonderful hands-on experience. Please encourage your child to recall this experience by asking them how they fed the animals, how they were asked to hold them and their opinion about some of the animals.

Public Speaking - A new competition will be held next week in Kindergarten. We encourage you to assist your child with their presentation. A note was sent home this week explaining the topic and requirements.

Life Education - Some of the children have already visited Healthy Harold in his van and have been learning about healthy choices.

Class Awards -
KE/T - Cooper, Zaine
KL - Ford, Gabriella
KS - Maddison, Owen

Stage 1 News – Cathie Behringer

Year Two – We hope you have a great day at the Wetlands in Newcastle tomorrow. It is a fantastic day for the students with many hands on experiences.

Life Education- Thank you for sending in $5.00 for your child’s visit to the Life Education van. It is a very worthwhile drug education program.

Rewards Day - is coming up in week 10 so please remind your children to be on their best behaviour in order to be a part of this very special day. This means that they need to get a 4, 5 or 6 on their behaviour cards.

Absences - Please don't forget to send a note in with your child explaining why they have been away. All absences are documented and have to be entered onto our school system.

School Uniform - Thank you to all parents who are diligent in ensuring your child is consistently dressed in full school uniform including hat and jumper. Also we have lots of lost property that include jackets and jumpers. Check to see if your child’s clothing is labelled with their name and class on it.

Thank you

Class Awards -
1C - Hayden, Sienna
1S/A - Teviat, Grace
1B - Ben, Connor

Stage 2 News – Supervisor – Belynda Gruden

Life Education - Life Education continues this week. The students have or will be participating in a great workshop on cyber-bullying whilst visiting Healthy Harold.

Swimming Scheme - Please continue to pay any money owing for swimming scheme. If you would like your child to attend please return their permission note and money as soon as possible. Only 26 more spaces are available.

Zone Athletics - Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the zone athletics carnival last Friday.

Student Absence - If your child is away sick or for other reasons please remember to send a note explaining their absence when they return. You can also use the school email or school app to explain absences.

Class Awards -
3G - Hannah, Mitchell
3M - Shane, Cody
3/4B - Hayley C, Ryan G, Dekoda N
4H - Ella, Daniel
4C - Mary, Mackenzie

Stage 3 News – Supervisor – Charlie Corlett

NAPLAN results will be out this week for our Y3 and Y5 students. If you wish to discuss your child's results please contact their classroom teacher.

As the warmer months are approaching please take the time to discuss with your child about maintaining good levels of personal hygiene.

Canteen News

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 7 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th September</td>
<td>Vicki Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th September</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th September</td>
<td>Jade Carberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th September</td>
<td>Jane Vine</td>
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<td>Wed 10th September</td>
<td>Colette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th September</td>
<td>Sue King, Shayne Dodds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th September</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Susan Cherney</td>
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**Father's Day Stall** - To be held this Friday 5th September 2014. Arrangements should have already been made for your child to receive Gorokan Dollars. Please ensure your child brings a plastic bag on the day so they can carry their gifts home in.

**Book Club** - Orders for Scholastic Issue 6 have been processed and books should be returned to the students next week.

**From the Library** - The term is coming to an end already. You may have noticed that students have been coming home with white slips indicating overdue library books. I appreciate that sometimes the system does not work as it should and some books have indeed been returned. Please take the slips as a notice to have a search around for any books at home with a Gorokan Public School barcode on the front cover. If you cannot find the book or believe you have returned it, please just write a note on the white slip and put it in the returns box. There will be no borrowing for the rest of the term in order to gather our resources.

**Wallarah Zone Athletics Carnival** - On Friday 29 August 45 students attended Mingara Athletics Track to take part in the zone carnival. All of the students should be proud of themselves displaying exemplary behaviour, great sportsmanship and doing their very, very best. The weather was a little tricky through the day but we battled through and I'm sure we all enjoyed the day immensely.

Congratulation to Jackson D. 5/6C, third in 12/13yr boys Shot Put, Clara S. 6B 1st in 13yrs 100m, Odin R, 3/4B, third in jnr boys high jump. A massive thank you to all the parents, grandparents, carers and friends that came to enjoy the day. We all appreciated your good cheer.

Gail Farrell and Emily Carty

**Gorokan's Got Talent** has begun. A big congratulations to all those students who are participating.

**MUFTI DAY** Last day of Term 3 will be mufti day. Children are asked to wear their favourite sporting team colours. Gold coin donation.

**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 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.

**Rego Day - Soldiers Beach Nippers**

Sunday 31 August and Sunday 14th September 10am – 2pm at Soldiers Beach Surf Club

**Toukley District Athletics Registrations are OPEN!**

Come join us for season 2015.

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.imostq.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&OrgID=914](https://memberdesq.imostq.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&OrgID=914)

First meet Friday 26 September 2014, come along to meet everyone.

Competition begins on the 10 October 2014.

For more information please contact Toukeydistrictathletics1@live.com.au or [http://www.toukeydistrictathletics.org.au](http://www.toukeydistrictathletics.org.au)

Visit our facebook page. [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toukey-District-Athletics](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Toukey-District-Athletics)

**ARE YOU MOVING?** If you know you will be moving over the up-coming school holidays and your child/ren will not be returning to our school after the break please advise the ladies in the office before the end of term.

**P & C News**
Being a great dad

There’s no doubt that fathering has changed in recent years. Gone is the distant dad of the 1960’s and 70’s who saw his main job as keeping a roof over his family’s head and bread on the table. An occasional game in the backyard and dishing out the heavy discipline that mums couldn’t deal with was the extent of his involvement with his kids.

Here are seven ideas to help you form close relationships with your kids, and maximise your effectiveness as a parent and a partner.

1 Find something in common with your kids

Dads need something in common with their children. They relate better when they have a shared interest or shared passion with their kids. Many men relate to their kids while being active, and teach many important lessons through games and play. But if sport is not your bag, find something else that you and your kids have in common. A common interest is a great help for fathers who live apart from their kids who are looking to maximise the time they have with them.

2 Spend time with your sons

A dad can do little wrong in the eyes of a young boy. From around the age of five years a boy thinks his dad is like superman. Ironically, he may give his mum a hard time at this stage. Dads need to spend as much time with their sons in these impressionable years as possible. They just need to be careful not to push their sons too hard or turn every game into a lesson. That’s when boys turn off their dads.

3 Don’t whimp out on discipline

Dads are traditionally the kings of play, but they can go missing when it comes to discipline. They get their kids excited in a game before going to bed, then expect their partner to settle them down. It helps if both parents can take their share of managing children’s behaviour.

4 Treat your daughters well

There are strong links between close fathering and the healthy development of girls. Dads teach their daughters strong lessons about how they should be treated by males. So dads need to treat their daughters respectfully so they learn to expect this treatment in their future relationships with men.

5 Say good bye Superman, hello Clarke Kent

Adolescent boys are programmed to challenge their fathers. It’s part of the growing up process. Australian author John Marsden refers to this phenomenon as the ‘old ram, young ram syndrome’. He’s right. It’s a type of rite of passage that plays out in many Australian homes. Verbal jousting matches are a popular father-son game where boys take great delight in proving their fathers are fallible. A dad at this stage needs a sense of humour as well as a willingness to stand back and allow other mentors in to his son’s life.

7 Change as your child changes

Kids grow up at the speed of light and change before you know it. They’re kids one day and teenagers the next. They can catch many fathers unaware. The most effective dads are those who change their parenting to suit the needs of their kids at each stage of development, rather than stubbornly hold to outmoded ideas of how they think their kids should be.

Those fathers who are a little apprehensive or lack sufficient confidence should become involved in as many aspects of parenting as they can. The best way to learn about parenting is by doing it. Children are a terrific resource for fathers - men can learn about children from children themselves. By being alert, watchful and learning to listen to their children fathers can learn all they need to know about parenting.

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