Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe that teaching and learning should be sustained until the very last day of the school year. With the Christmas holidays being such a long break, it is critical that students remain in their learning routines, particularly in the areas of English and Mathematics. To this end I would also encourage all students to sustain their consistent completion of homework.

**NSW Junior Chess League** – 21 of our talented chess players participated in the NSW Junior Chess League Primary Schools One-Day Teams’ Tournament at Wyong Leagues Club last Thursday. The students played extremely well, placing our school in 2nd place overall (narrowly beaten by Lake’s Grammar School). This is truly an outstanding achievement. One of our teams also ranked 3rd overall and qualified for the NSW Junior Chess League Final to be held at Sydney North Boys’ High School later this month. Congratulations to Braiden C, Connor C and Noah C for this outstanding achievement!

**P&C Meeting** – Our last P&C meeting for the year will be held on Monday 23rd November at 3:15 in the school library. Parents and carers are invited to attend. I will be presenting the school’s NAPLAN performance for 2015 for discussion.

**Gorokan’s Got Talent** – Last Friday the school hosted the 2015 Gorokan’s Got Talent final. The line-up captured an array of talent including, singing, dancing, comedy acts, hooping and vibrant performances. It was wonderful to see the confidence that was displayed by our students. Congratulations to Corie T who was our overall winner on the day and to Che W and Mary C for placing in the top three.

**School Satisfaction Survey** – A survey is currently underway to measure parent, student and staff school satisfaction. Over the next week three parents from each class will be randomly selected and phoned. The same survey will be applied to the students and staff and the findings collated and published in the 2015 Annual Report. This feedback will allow the school to reflect on community perceptions of the school and drive school improvement into the future.

**Breakfast Club** – The canteen offers students breakfast club every day between 8:30 and 8:50am. This is a free service for students. I would like to acknowledge and thank the generous and ongoing support of the Red Cross and Beachcomber Hotel that has enabled the school to provide students access to a healthy breakfast each morning.

**Garage Sale and Market Day** – The Gorokan Public School Garage Sale and Market Day will be held on Saturday 21st November from 8:00am till 1:00pm. There will be stalls, a jumping castle, face painting and loads more. Community members can book a stall for a fee of $20 by contacting Julie Salmon on 43 924 200 or email julie.salmon2@det.nsw.edu.au. Come along and have some fun.

**Student Reports** – Student reports will be sent home on Friday 11th December. These reports aim to capture student performance over the last two school terms. The reports will include a five point achievement scale that summarises the standard of achievement associated with each grade and describes the depth of knowledge and understanding and the range of skills that students working at that standard typically show. Students will get the grade that best matches the standard of their achievement. Teachers are not limited to set numbers of each grade within their class or school. The five point achievement scale is one aspect of school reporting to parents. Other important tools include teacher comments, parent teacher interviews and information about student effort.

**2016 Classes** – A further reminder is extended to parents and carers that we are currently planning our classes for 2016. I invite parents to write to me if they feel there are social needs that need to be considered when placing students in classes for 2016. Whilst we will consider requests, the task of forming classes is complex and all requests may not be able to be met. All requests must be received by Friday 20th November.

Together we can make a difference.

**Jesmond Zammit**

Principal
Homework – Formal written homework for Kindergarten students has finished for the year. Congratulations and well done to all students who were persistent and organised and handed in their homework regularly. The teachers saw some amazingly creative homework throughout the last two terms. Some that come to mind are: great maps, masks, puppets, book displays, recycled art, lists of rules, homemade musical instruments and so much more. Well done and thank you to the parents and carers who supported their child with these activities at home.

Home Reading – Home reading will continue until Week 9. So keep returning home readers on Fridays.

Money – If your child is bringing money to school to spend at the canteen please make sure they have somewhere secure to keep it such as a zip or velcro pocket or in a small purse or wallet that has their name and class clearly labelled.

Award Winners – Congratulations to the following class award winners: K1H- Brock, KS- Dallas & Zoey, KL- Toby & Madisyn, KET – Bridget, Zayah, Toby.

Drink Bottles - The weather is heating up. Please ensure that your child has a bottle of water every day.

Walk to the Lake Excursion - We will be having a Stage One ‘walk to the lake day’ on Friday 27th November. This is in week 8. All students from Year One and Two will be going and participating in many activities that are related to the lake. These include fishing, netting, ball games, running games, water games etc. A note will be going home this week. There is no cost, however all students need to bring in a signed permission slip.
P & C News

P & C Meeting - The next P&C meeting will be held on 23rd November, 2015 at 3.15pm in the library. All welcome.

Little Cake Day - Thank you for all that helped bake and volunteered on Little Cake Day. We raised $252.00!

Graduation Bear - The P&C have a graduation bear available for $16.00 and these can be purchased from the canteen.

School Banking - Please be aware that you must complete the details of your deposit on both the deposit slip and the stub in your deposit book, this must also include your account number.

Gorokan’s Garage Sale/Market Day - To be held on Saturday 21st November, 2015 from 8am to 1pm. If you would like to have a stall or can help out on the day please contact Julie in the canteen. Attractions will be farm animals from 10.30am to 12.00pm, jeep rides, jumping castle and face painting.

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 7 Term 4

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 7 Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19/11</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20/11</td>
<td>Tina Jones, Shayne Dodds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>23/11</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>24/11</td>
<td>Maria Poulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25/11</td>
<td>Lisa Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>26/11</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Laura Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>27/11</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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Pizza Meal Deal Day - Will be held on Friday 4th December, 2015. The meal will consist of Eagle Boys Pizza/Minion drink or large water/surprise at a cost of $6.00. Order forms have been sent home and should be returned by Monday 30th November.

Uniform Shop - The uniform shop is located behind the hall. Holiday trading hours for 2016 are as follows: Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st January 9am - 12pm.

Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Polo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Polo</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Polo</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys’ Shorts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culottes</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zip Jackets</td>
<td>$28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats</td>
<td>$10</td>
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Cash or eftpos accepted.

Request for School report for parent/carers not residing with student

Please forward a school report for my child/children:

..............................................................Class...........

..............................................................Class..............
Developing your child’s social media scripts

By Michael Grose

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. “Is this worth posting?” The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2. “Have you taken a big breath?” A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind. The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

3. “Do you want the principal to see this?!” An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

4. “How does this post make you feel?” We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they’ve calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people’s minds when they haphazardly post a message.

5. “How will you fix this?” Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it’s fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It’s reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.