Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe that teaching and learning is enhanced by the students working in a quality learning environment. We have gone to great lengths to improve the standard of our facilities to this end and will continue to do so into the future.

**Friday's Heatwave** – The school was well equipped to ensure the wellbeing of our students last Friday when the outdoor temperature rose above 40 degrees Celsius. The staff supervised the students in their cool classrooms during recess and lunch, making the most of the air conditioners that were installed at the start of the year.

**Rotary Citizenship Awards** – Congratulations to Mary C and Lachie R who were our worthy recipients of this year’s Northlakes Toukley Rotary Club Citizenship Awards. Both students have sustained exemplary behaviour and have been outstanding role models to other students over several years at Gorokan Public School. Mary, Lachie and their families celebrated this special event at the Halekalani Bowling Club where the awards ceremony was held last Wednesday evening. Thank you to the Northlakes Toukley Rotary Club for affording our students this opportunity of recognition.

**Garage Sale and Market Day** – The Gorokan Public School Garage Sale and Market Day was held on Saturday 21st November. The sun shone and the day was a great community event. Thank you to the P&C and staff who were involved in the organisation and running of this great day, raising $1257.52 to support our students.

**School Satisfaction Survey** – A further reminder that 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.

**Year 6 Mini Fete** – This year marks the start of what is hoped will be a long standing end of year tradition at Gorokan Public School. Under the guidance of their dedicated teachers, our Year 6 students planned, organised, resourced and delivered many fun activities for their fellow students at today’s highly successful Year 6 mini fete. The preparation for both students and staff was significant and ensured that the event was highly successful. Thank you to the parents and carers who donated items for this event. The general students population showed outstanding behaviour throughout the course of the day, ensuring that fun was had by all. Congratulations and well done Year 6!

**P&C Meeting** – Our last P&C meeting for the year was held on Monday 23rd November. The school’s NAPLAN performance results for 2015 were presented and discussed. It was a great opportunity to compare our school performance to like school groups rather than the state as a collective, as our results when viewed in this way are very impressive. Congratulations and thank you to our dedicated and hardworking P&C members for the excellent work they have done in supporting our students and the Gorokan Public School community in 2015.

**Enrolment in 2016** - If you have a child who will not be returning to our school next year (excluding Year 6) could you please inform the ladies in the office? The number of students we have plays a vital role in our planning of class structures. As in previous years our classes will commence the new year with the students returning to their 2015 class, where they will remain for the shortest time possible until our final student numbers are confirmed. We have found this to be the best practice to ensure a smooth transition for the students. All students will commence the new year being engaged in their grade appropriate work for 2016.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal
Notes – It is becoming a very busy time of the year. Please check your child’s bag for notes that have been sent home.

Head Lice – We have had some notifications of head lice in Kindergarten. Please check your child’s hair regularly and treat immediately if required.

Library – The school library stocktake is underway. Borrowing from the school library has finished for the year. Please ensure all school library books are returned. Remember the public library at Lake Haven is available to continue borrowing great books.

Whooping Cough – There have been cases of whooping cough notified at school. If your child is unwell please seek your doctor’s advice.

Award Winners – Congratulations to the following class award winners:

K1H - Leah, KS- Bonnie & Nayeon, KL- Capri & Toby, KET – Jacob H & Jacob T

Hot Weather - The weather is heating up so please ensure that your child has a bottle of water at school every day.

Walk to the Lake – Stage 1 will be having a Stage One ‘Walk to the lake day’ this Friday 27th November. All students from Year One and Two will be going and participating in many fun activities. These include fishing, netting, ball games, running games, water games etc. Please ensure that you have signed the parent permission note for your child.

Special Helpers’ Morning Tea - If you have helped in any way this year at Gorokan Public school then you are invited to our morning tea on Thursday the 3rd of December. This starts at 11.00.

Mini Fete - The Year 6 students have put a great deal of time and effort into the planning of the mini fete which was held today. We are sure that all students had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experience.

Rewards Day - Stage 2 Rewards Day will be held on Friday 11th December. Students who have maintained a 4, 5 or 6 on the behaviour card will be invited to attend. At the moment, we are planning a walk to the lake for a healthy picnic followed by some fun sports and games. This may need to change if the weather is inclement but we will be sure to let everyone know exactly what is happening closer to the date.

Parent Maths Survey - On our school Facebook page, we have placed a link to an important survey about Maths. We need as many parents as possible to complete the survey so that we can make Maths teaching and learning experiences even better for our students. If you are unable to access our facebook page, the address for the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCWKTXP

Year 6

High School Orientation Day - To be held on Wednesday 2nd December. If your child is going to Gorokan High School you need to take your child to the high school for a 9:30am start. Parents and Carers are encouraged to attend staff speeches from 9:30-10:00am and will be able to purchase book packs and uniforms on the day. The day will finish at 1:30pm and students will need to be collected from the gymnasium. Aboriginal students and their families can meet Aboriginal Educational Officer, Leslie, from 1:30-2pm. Getting your child to and from the venue is the responsibility of parents and carers.
Year 5

School Leaders 2016 - Well done to our newly elected school leaders for 2016. Our School Captains and Vice Captains will be announced on Presentation Day on Tuesday 8th December.

P&C Meetings Term 1 2016 - Next year's first general P&C meeting will be held on Monday 15th February, 2016 at 3.15pm in the library. Any parents who wish to join or hold a position on the committee should attend this meeting. The annual general meeting will be held on Monday 29th February at 3.15pm in the library. At this meeting all executive positions are vacated and nominations taken to fill those positions for 2016. The last general meeting for Term 1 will be held on Monday 14th March at 3.15pm.

Garage Sale/Market Day - Thank you to all those families who came to support this fundraiser, fun was had by all. Thank you to the following people who worked tirelessly to make this day possible: Sarah Browne, Wendy Rowe, Simone Griffiths Jade Griffiths, Isabella Griffiths, Paul Tydeman Annalyse Tydeman, Samantha Tydeman, Tina Jones, Braiden Cox, Vicki Smith Travis Smith, Mitchell Gibbs, Jenny Ehlers Carolyn Sullivan and Jade Sullivan.

Also a big thank you to the following companies who gave up their time to support us: Radleys Farm Pet Produce, Kanwal Farm Animals, Shaun & Jade McKinney Jumping Castle, John & Anne Fry Mini Jeeps.

Thank you to Impulse Foods for your generous donation towards our raffle.

Results of Garage Sale Raffle:
1st Elise McMahon 5F
2nd Jane
3rd Bella McMahon 2V
4th Maria Poulos
5th J. Hawson
6th Summer Oxenbridge 4B

Running Down Stock - As we are in week 8 of the term we will start to run down stock. Please make sure your child has a second choice when ordering their lunch. Pies, sausages and sandwiches will always be available.

Christmas Pizza Meal Deal - All orders must be in by Monday 30th November, 2015. Please note there will be no other lunch orders available on the 4th December.

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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<tr>
<td>Junior Polo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Polo</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Zip Jackets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats</td>
<td>$10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cash or eftpos accepted.

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

Please forward a school report for my child/children:

Class

Parent/Carer Name: 

Postal Address: 

...
Parents using kids as bargaining chips

By Michael Grose

It’s been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn’t take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents’ disputes.

In particular, kids of all ages can be impacted by games of one-upmanship that can be played out even when parents are together.

It happens when one parent criticises the other parent’s child-rearing either verbally or non-verbally: a raised eyebrow can send a strong message. This type of criticism creates doubt and uncertainty in children.

It happens when one parent intentionally overindulges children by buying them toys, gadgets and clothes or granting them excessive freedom out of spite. Competitiveness and disloyalty cause confusion and unhappiness in children.

It happens when a parent withholds affection and attention to children to punish their partner for some transgressions they may have committed. Callousness leads to feelings of unhappiness and guilt in children.

Consistency is the greatest gift parents can give

Kids crave consistency from their parents. They love to be able to predict how their parents will raise them as this puts them in control, which is vital for their healthy development. When they grow up in a predictable, caring environment they are more likely to take the learning risks necessary to grow and develop. In unstable, unpredictable environments kids either go into their shells to keep safe or they rebel. Consistency requires parents to use predictable routines, to stick to a known set of rules and to act always in their children’s best interests when raising them.

Avoid negative partnership spill over

Families have many relationships within them. Parents have relationships with children as individuals and as a group. Children also have relationships with each other and with each parent, if there are two. Parents also have a relationship with each other, which can be compromised when there is family breakdown.

The challenge for parents is to prevent a breakdown in their relationship impacting on their other relationships including each person’s relationship with children. Positive parent relationships also have a positive effect on children’s learning and wellbeing. Conversely, anecdotal evidence suggests that the spill over to children from their parents’ negative relationships is significant indeed in terms of negatively impacting children’s learning and their wellbeing.

Kids are mood detectives

If two parents are in dispute there is an absolute imperative for the parents to keep the breakdown or conflict between themselves and to minimise the negative spill over to children. Inevitably, children will experience a tension if it exits between couples no matter how well their parents try to keep a dispute private. Kids are mood detectives. They’re generally better than we think at picking up the nuances of relationship tensions.

Stick to the business of parenting

It helps if parents in dispute can stick to the business of parenting and don’t confuse it with the business of partnering. If a parent isn’t getting along with a partner, then this is a problem to be worked out between them. Acting in the best interests of children means that we separate the partnering from the parenting when it comes to childrearing. This means that parents may have to compromise about many issues ranging from the straightforward, such as bedtimes, to more complex issues such as how best to manage children’s behaviour. Giving some ground to the other parent maybe problematic when relationships are troubled, but it’s not impossible. Plenty of separated couples do so successfully by consciously putting their children’s best interest before their own.

Putting aside differences in children’s best interests

Relationship breakdown can bring out the worst and the best in people. It brings out the worst when parents put their individual interest before their children’s, particularly when they interact with each other. Parents show their best side when they don’t let emotions rule their heads when they are in dispute with their partner. That means refraining from using kids as bargaining chips when interacting with their partner or ex-partner. Instead they stick to the business of parenting and make decisions in the very best interests of their children rather than their own interests. That’s the adult thing to do.

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