Principal’s Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

The year has commenced brilliantly and I would like to extend a sincere thanks to our great school community for their genuine and positive support of the school.

New Kindergarten Students – Over sixty new Kindergarten students started “big school” last week and we welcome them and their families. It was great to have such a smooth start on Monday with very few tears from the students (and parents).

School Improvements – the improvements to the school continue in 2015. Thanks to the generous support of the NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant of $28,500.00 and the fundraising commitment of our school P & C, the classrooms and library were fitted with air-conditioners during the school holidays. Our students are now enjoying a climate controlled learning environment – maximising the learning potential of all students. The old music room was also revamped with a coat of paint, new furniture and an electrical upgrade – transforming the room into a state of the art technology lab. The students have already been using the room and their feedback regarding this new facility has been overwhelmingly positive.

Book Bank Project – As announced last term, Book Bank is coming to Gorokan Public School in 2015! This unique literacy support program aims to encourage students to cultivate a love for books and read every day. Our Primary students will select books of their choice from the Premier’s Reading Challenge new release list, every term. The project will be officially launched on Tuesday the 17th February at 9:30 in the school hall. The Premier and Education Minister have been invited to attend along with children’s award-winning author Belinda Murrell. She is the author of many fantastic books included in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, such as the Lulu Bell series, The Forgotten Pearl and the Sun Sword trilogy. Parents and carers are most welcome to attend.

Before School Playground Supervision - School commences at 9.00 am. To assist with traffic congestion and safety we provide supervision from 8.30am. For their safety, students should not arrive at school prior to this time as they are NOT supervised prior to 8.30am. If your child happens to arrive prior to 8.30am they are to proceed to the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) and sit on the seats outside the office and wait until the teacher comes on duty.

Parents and Citizens Association – The P & C plays a vital role within the school. They provide feedback and advice on a range of issues, they have input into school planning and raise funds to support programs within the school. Next Monday (16th February) the P & C will hold their first meeting for 2015. The meeting will be held in the new technology lab at 3pm. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend.

Sydney North Basketball Trials – Congratulations to Lachie R from Year 5 who was selected from our zone to join the regional basketball team. We look forward to following his progress in this endeavour.

Whooping Cough – Parents and carers please be informed that we have had a student recently diagnosed with whooping cough. Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough. The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a “whooping” sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night. Please contact your doctor if your child presents with these symptoms and inform the school if a diagnosis results.

NRL Wellbeing Program – Last Friday we were thrilled to welcome players from the Sydney Roosters - Anthony Minichiello, Paul Momirovski and Jack Siejka to our school. The boys were good sports and spoke to our students about the NRL Wellbeing Program that focuses on nutrition, healthy eating and the importance of regular exercise. The children enjoyed interacting with the players and received NRL prizes for their efforts. There is an article in this week’s Express Advocate on page 20 about the visit.
Updating Contact Details – It is very important that the office has up-to-date contact details for parents and carers. If you have moved over the holidays or changed your phone number please ensure that you let us know.

Working together, we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Jesmond Zammit
Principal

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12th February</td>
<td>Yr 5 &amp; 6 Parent information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Toukley Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 3.10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th February</td>
<td>Book Bank Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten Supervisor – Kim Lansdowne

Parent Information Afternoon - Thank you to the families that were able to attend on Monday afternoon. We are looking forward to working with you in making your child’s first year of school a positive one. A note was also sent home with the information discussed.

Parent Interviews - A note will go home shortly for parent interviews. The interviews are another way for us to work together in assisting your child.

Home Time - Children are now finishing at 3.00pm. Teachers will walk the students to either the front or back gate whichever one you nominated on their first day. If there is a change to whoever is picking up your child please let their teacher know beforehand.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

We are already in Week 3 and all students have settled in beautifully. I have seen many children following the school rules and showing respectful, safe behaviour. It has been an awesome start to the year.

Parent Information Afternoon - The Year One and Two teachers (Stage 1) had their Parent Information afternoon on Tuesday in the library. Thank you to all the parents that came along. We understand that not all parents and carers were able to attend, so a note regarding all information discussed will be sent home this week with your child.

Parent Teacher Interviews - We will be having parent teacher interviews in week 4 and 5. This is a time where you can come and meet the teacher and share information you need to about your child. A note will be going home this week so that you can fill in a time that is suitable for you and your family.

Thank you to all parents who have remembered to send in a piece of fruit and a bottle of water with your child each day. It is so important that we look after our children’s nutritional needs to help give them the best chance for learning.

Award winners last week were:
1C - Riley and Zoe K/1H – Ellyse 1B - Aimee and Elijah
1T - Deaken and Gabby

Stage 2 Relieving Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Stage 2 News - Thank you to those parents who have kindly donated boxes of tissues and paper towel. They are greatly appreciated. Thank you also for ensuring that your child has the necessary equipment needed for their learning each day.

Sport - Our weekly sport session will take place on Tuesday afternoons. Students are required to wear their sports uniform on Tuesdays and perhaps even bring an extra bottle of water. Sport rotations will begin this week. Students will be involved in teeball, touch football, soccer, kickball and basketball this term.

Parent Information Session - A reminder that the parent information session is on Wednesday at 3:15 in the Library. All Year 3 and 4 parents and carers are invited to attend. An information sheet will be given out at the conclusion of the session which will provide an overview of content covered. This overview will be sent home with students whose parents could not attend the information session.

Class Routines / Teaching Learning Programs - Teachers on Stage 2 have been very busy assessing the children and expect to have the assessments completed and results compiled by the end of this week. This assessment is carried out to determine the individual learning requirements of each student, resulting in differentiated and tailored quality learning programs. Class routines are being formed as teachers get to know their students. Thank you for your patience.

Stage 3 Supervisor – Charlie Corlett

Parent Information Session - Stage 3 are looking forward to welcoming you all to our parent information session this Thursday at 3:15 in Mr Corlett’s room.

School Uniform - Thank you for your efforts in supporting us in ensuring that all students wear correct school uniforms, including hats, daily to school. It goes a long way in making sure they are all part of our positive school culture.

Parent Teacher Interviews - We will be having parent teacher interviews in week 4 and 5. This is a time where you can come and meet the teacher and share information you need to about your child. A note will be going home this week so that you can fill in a time that is suitable for you and your family.

Canteen News

Canteen roster 2015 - Week 3 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Jade Carberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Lisa Cook, Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th February</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th February</td>
<td>Tina Jones, Erica Richardson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Book Club** - Scholastic Brochures Issue 1 have been home and orders with money should be returned by Tuesday 17th February, 2015

**P & C Annual General Meeting** - This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March, 2015 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. At this meeting all positions will be vacated and nominations taken. If you are interested in holding a position you must be a financial member. You can become a financial member at the General Meeting for $1.00. All nominations must be handed into the office by Friday 27th March. Nomination forms are available from the office or the canteen.

**School News**

**ALL AREAS SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

**Free Parent Workshop** - In 2014, Gorokan PS participated in Speech Pathology Sessions for students from Kinder to Year Two.

This year, the school would like to continue this initiative and provide a Free Speech Workshop for Parents to support their children at home regarding: speaking clearly, pronouncing speech sounds correctly, overcoming speech sound errors, talking in full sentences, using correct grammar & vocabulary skills, attention & concentration skills, following directions & understanding concepts. In the Speech Workshop, the Speech Pathologist conducting the session will be sharing lots of practical ideas to help support your child’s speech and language development.

**The workshop will be held on:** Thursday, 12th March from 9.30- 11.00am at the school in the SACC Centre.

Please return the below form to your child’s teacher by Monday 23rd February. We look forward to seeing you there.

Name/s of person/people attending _______________

Child’s name: ________________________________

Mobile Number: ______________________________

Email Address: ______________________________

**NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015**

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to start reading books for this year’s NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. Students in Year 3 who completed the challenge in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 will be in the running to receive their Gold certificate!

Students from Years 3-6 may collect Reading Record cards from their teacher or from the library and start reading for the challenge. Online reading logs will be available from March. Students in Years 3-6 must enter their books onto their online reading log to successfully complete the challenge. These will be available from March on the PRC website.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 will be completing this year's NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge with their class. If you do not wish your child to participate in the challenge please see your child’s class teacher. Students completing the K-2 challenge are not required to complete an online reading log unless they are reading books independently from the Year 3-6 booklists.

See Mrs Henderson (K1H), or Mr Henderson in the library if you have any questions.

**The simplest way...to stay healthy in summer.**

Here's some fun ways to get your kids eating more fruit + veg this summer...

- freeze fruit or mint leaves into ice cubes to chill + flavour water
- add vegie sticks whenever you have a dip
- throw some veg on the BBQ – e.g. capsicum, tomato + zucchini
- keep a tray of fruit pieces like orange wedges or melon slices in the fridge for quick snacks
- freeze bananas, peeled and wrapped in gladwrap, your kids will love the icecream taste
- make easy smoothies with frozen fruit + reduced-fat milk.

Remember: try to eat fruit + veg at every meal!
Making the most of parent-teacher interviews

Parent-teacher interviews are a great way to find out how your child is going and show your interest in your child’s learning and school life.

Parent-teacher interviews: the basics

Throughout your child’s time in preschool, primary school and secondary school, you’ll be invited to attend parent-teacher interviews, usually once or twice a year.

These interviews are usually just short meetings – about 10-15 minutes – between you and your child’s teacher or teachers. Every parent is invited to attend at least one interview a year. It doesn’t mean there’s a problem.

Interviews might be held during school hours, before or after school, or in the evening. Your child will usually bring a note home that outlines the available times. If you can, it’s great if both parents can go along. If you can’t manage those times, you could call the school to try to arrange an alternative time.

Why it’s worth going to parent-teacher interviews

Parent-teacher interviews give you a great opportunity to:

- learn more about your child’s academic, emotional and social development;
- meet and get to know your child’s teachers;
- help your child’s teachers understand more about your child;
- make plans with the teacher about how you can both support your child, and
- build a relationship with your child’s school.

If you don’t have any particular concerns, you might wonder whether it’s worth going to parent-teacher interviews. But going along is one way to show your child that you’re interested in his learning needs and what’s happening for him at school.

Of course, if you do have concerns, it’s a chance for you to raise them with your child’s teacher if you haven’t done that already.

You might feel a bit nervous about going to parent-teacher interviews. That’s normal. It might help to know that teachers can feel the same way, especially if there are difficult or sensitive issues to discuss, or if they’re not used to giving parent-teacher interviews.

What to talk about at parent-teacher interviews

To get the most out of parent-teacher interviews, it helps to be well prepared. It can help to take your list of questions with you so you remember what you want to talk about. The interview time tends to pass quickly.

It’s useful to have a few other questions in mind too. For example:

- What are my child’s strengths?
- What does my child struggle with?
- How much homework should my child be doing every night?
- What can I do at home to help with my child with schoolwork?
- What can you tell me about my child’s behaviour in class?
- How is my child getting along with other students?
- What support services are available for my child at this school?

If you don’t get through everything you want to discuss, you might need to arrange another meeting with your child’s teacher.

http://raisingchildren.net.au/