Dear Parents and Carers,

Book Bank Program – Yesterday we celebrated the launch of the Dymocks Children’s Charities (DCC) Book Bank Program at our school. A special assembly was held and many special guests were in attendance including Lisa Muir - Director of Public Schools, Ron Marlin – Director Club Toukley RSL, Dymock the Duck, DCC Managing Director – Steve Cox, DCC General Manager – Paul Swain, award-winning children’s authors Belinda Murrell and Jacqueline Harvey. The children received their Term 1 books and participated in the engaging activities that were presented by the visiting authors. The program aims to promote reading through the children choosing their own books. The positive impact that this program has had in the other select schools which are involved is very impressive.

Changes to the School Attendance Policy - The new National Standards have resulted in a change in the way absences are treated due to travel and family events outside of school holiday periods. This is already the case in most states and territories and brings NSW into line with other jurisdictions. An exemption from attendance at school can no longer be granted for vacations taken outside of school holiday periods. For further information about the School Attendance Policy please visit the following link: [https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/PD20050259.shtml](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/PD20050259.shtml)

School Swimming Carnival - Our Swimming Carnival was held last Friday. Thank you to Mrs Farrell who organised this event, to the staff who supervised the carnival and to the parents and community members (including GHS students, Sheila and Neville Perry) who assisted on the day. Gascoigne House was the overall winning team. This year’s Junior Champions are Tyson M and Britany P. The Senior Champions are Zac L and Caitlin M. Three records were broken at the carnival by Caitlin (the 200m medley, 11 years 50m backstroke and butterfly). Congratulations to all our swimmers for their fine efforts and personal achievements. We wish those students representing the school at the Zone Carnival on Wednesday 4th March all the best.

Parents and Citizens Association – The P & C held its first meeting on Monday 16th Feb. It was great to see some new faces in attendance. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th March in the new technology lab at 3pm. All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend. Nominations for positions close 2pm Monday 9th March.

Parent Information Sessions – thank you to the parents and carers who attended the parent information sessions last week. They were well attended and the feedback that the school has received has been very positive. A note will be sent home this week about parent-teacher meetings and I would strongly recommend all parents and carers to attend, as this is a valuable opportunity to share information with the teachers about your child in order to maximise learning over the course of the year.

School Leaders’ Induction Assembly – This assembly was a very successful event acknowledging the achievements of those students who gained student leadership positions this term and beyond. Congratulations to our elected Year 6 school leadership team and to our elected House and Class Captains. Further congratulations are also extended to the school Captains and Vice Captains who confidently and capably led the assembly, to the children who provided entertainment with their Djembe drumming performance, and to all the students who demonstrated their very best manners, making our first whole school assembly a great success.

Voluntary school contributions – A separate note will be sent home this week regarding voluntary school contributions. The money collected will benefit the students directly by providing them with classroom items and subscriptions to Mathletics and Reading Eggs. There will not be additional fees for these computer programs and they are able to be accessed from home for additional learning opportunities. Families will be asked to contribute $15 per child or $25 per family. Thank for your anticipated support and prompt payment.

Working together, we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Jesmond Zammit

Principal
Information Afternoon - It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at our information afternoon last Monday. Thank you for your support.

Class Supplies - Thank you to the families who have sent in class supplies and head phones it is very much appreciated.

Morning Lines - For safety reasons we ask that you do not stand on the steps or near the entrances to classrooms. The children and teachers require a visible path to their rooms.

Notes - Parent interview notes were sent home last week. We ask that you make a time to see your child’s class teacher so that we can work together to make their learning experiences a positive one. Please check your child’s bag daily for any notes.

Homework - Homework began this week. The children have a “read to” book and an activity book. They also have their Reading Eggs and Mathletics passwords. We ask that homework be returned each Friday. Remember it should be fun.

Helpers - It would be appreciated if anyone could help in the class rooms on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

KE/T - Zahah, Jacob
KH - Lincoln
KL - Cassie, Riley
KS - Cooper B, Tabatha

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

It is now Week 4 and the students and teachers have all been very busy settling in and getting used to routines and expectations.

Sports Day - Year 1 and 2 will be having sport on Thursday afternoons so this is the day your child should wear their sports uniform.

Grade Gathering - We will be holding ‘Grade Gathering’ on Fridays and awards will be given out to the students to encourage them.

Text Books - Remember to pay for your child’s Grammar Text Book when you can, as the teachers will begin to use them soon and it would be beneficial for your child to have their own book to write in.

Parent Helpers - We would love to extend an invitation to all parents to help in our classrooms especially with home reading and sight word lists. This could be for half an hour in the mornings or half an hour in the afternoons before home time.

Kindergarten Supervisor – Kim Lansdowne

Parent Information Session - Thank you to those parents who were able to make it last Wednesday afternoon for the parent information session.

We hope you found it valuable and enjoyed getting to know your child's teacher and where your child will be doing the bulk of their learning this year. If you were not able to attend, a green note detailing all of the information covered has been sent home. Please see your child’s teacher if you did not receive it.

School Excursions - We have an excursion planned for all Year 3 students to Taronga Zoo on Friday, August 14th 2015. The Year 4 excursion will be to Sydney Aquarium and the date is Friday, October 30th 2015.

We are currently negotiating the entry fee and transport cost and will send a note home with further details once this information has been confirmed. Thank you for your patience.

Maths / Grammar Textbook - Students in Stage 2 will be using the Maths Plus and Grammar Conventions books this year. A blue note went home last week. The cost of this book pack is $30, which is a discounted price provided to our students. Please see either the office staff or your child's teacher if you did not receive the blue note.

Stage 2 Relieving Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Parent Information Session - Thank you to those parents who were able to make it last Wednesday afternoon for the parent information session.

We hope you found it valuable and enjoyed getting to know your child's teacher and where your child will be doing the bulk of their learning this year. If you were not able to attend, a green note detailing all of the information covered has been sent home. Please see your child’s teacher if you did not receive it.

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Stage 3 Supervisor – Charlie Corlett

Parent Information Sessions - Thank you for your attendance at last week’s parent information session. We hope that you found it informative. If you have any follow on questions please contact me at the school through the office and I will get back to you.

Expression of Interest Year 7, 2016 - Forms were sent home this week for “Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2016”. These need to be filled out and returned to school by Friday 13th March.

Surf Fun Day - A note went out for our Surf Fun Day excursion to Toowoon Bay. All information is on the letter and spare copies of the note can be found on the school website.

Reading Logs - Reading logs will also be sent out this week. Please encourage your child to read daily.
Canteen roster 2015 - Week 4 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th Feb</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th Feb</td>
<td>Tina Jones, Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th Feb</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th Feb</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Collette Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th Feb</td>
<td>Sue King, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th Feb</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P & C News

Book Club - Orders for Scholastic Issue 1 have been processed and books should be returned to the children next week.

P&C Annual General Meeting - Due to Mr Zammit being unavailable on the 2nd March this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th March, 2015 at 3.10pm in the Technology Room. 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 February. Nomination forms are available from the office or the canteen.

School News

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: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________
Mobile Number: __________________________

Award-winning children’s authors Belinda Murrell and Jacqueline Harvey
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/