Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for 2015! I would like to also extend a warm and sincere welcome to all the new families who have recently joined our wonderful school community as well as to our new staff members.

School drop off zone – I am pleased to announce that during the holidays, Wyong Council has rezoned an area of Dudley Street close to the main entrance to the school. This no parking area will allow for students to be safely dropped off in the mornings and picked up after school. Please refer to the leaflet contained in this newsletter for further information.

Parent information sessions – The teachers are busily preparing information sessions, which will be held after school next week. These sessions will be a great opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and learn about what is planned for the year ahead. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Monday 9th Feb – Kindergarten
- Tuesday 10th Feb - Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
- Wednesday 11th Feb - Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)
- Thursday 12th Feb - Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)

Further information regarding these meetings is outlined in the stage supervisors’ reports contained in this newsletter.

Classes for 2015 – After much careful consideration, planning and organisation, the students in Years 1 to 6 were put in their 2015 classes last Thursday. As you can appreciate, many factors influence class structures and student placement including the number of children enrolled in the school and related staffing quotas. Further to this, 2014 school self-evaluation findings from parent, student and staff survey results, have led to the establishment of enrichment classes being formed across the school this year. In saying this however, please be assured that the teachers strive to differentiate the curriculum in every class in order to ensure that the learning needs of each student are met in order to engage students positively in their learning.

Parent / teacher meetings - Parents and carers will also be given the opportunity to meet individually with their child/ren’s teacher/s later this term. The purpose of these meetings is for parents to share information with teachers about their child that could assist in maximising student learning outcomes and ensuring a smooth transition to their new class.

Further information will be sent home in the coming weeks regarding the organisation of these additional meetings.

Gorokan Public School Out Of School Hours Centre (OOSH) - We have been working hard over the holidays to prepare the tender for the new GPS OOSH. The tender will be advertised on Friday 30th Jan and closes 13th Feb 2015. In the meantime, Helping Hands Network will be running maxi taxis to the Warnervale Public School OOSH to support our families needing to access care before and after school, until the tender process is complete. Booking will be essential and a small fee will be charged to cover the cost of the maxi taxis. More information on Helping Hands can be found at www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Or call 1300 612 462 to enrol to access this service and make a booking.

School Swimming Carnival - The school swimming carnival will be held at Toukley pool from 11.45am on Friday the 13th of February for students in Years 2 to 6 who turn 8 or older this year, and can competently swim 50 metres. Please ensure that permission notes are returned by next Wednesday the 11th February. Parent support at the carnival is very much appreciated and valued.

Gorokan Public School Facebook Page – School events are regularly posted on the Gorokan Public School Facebook Page as an additional source of information for you. I would encourage the school community to find us on Facebook.

Working together, we can make the greatest difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th February</td>
<td>Kinder Parent Information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th February</td>
<td>Yr 1 &amp; 2 Parent information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th February</td>
<td>Yr 3 &amp; 4 Parent information session</td>
</tr>
<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>2nd March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to all our parents and caregivers. Thank you for your support with Best Start Assessments last week and Kindergartens' first day of school on Monday.

Information Afternoon - Kindergarten teachers are holding an information afternoon on Monday 9.2.15 at 2.30pm in the hall. We look forward to seeing you there. This is not a time for parent interviews.

Food - Please ensure your child doesn't have too many choices in their lunch box as this can be very confusing for them.

Head Lice - It is important to check your child's head daily for any sign of head lice or their eggs. Please treat your child's hair immediately if you find any. If we all work together we can keep this little pest at bay.

Welcome Back - Welcome back to all our fantastic Year 3 and 4 students and their families. The students are very settled and eager to do their best work. We have a very busy year ahead with lots of fun and exciting learning activities and experiences planned for our Stage 2 students. Our Year 3 teachers are Mrs Ranse, Ms Clarke and Mr Gibbs. Our Year 4 teachers are Mrs Moon and Mrs Bridge. Miss Weyling will be taking a 4/5 composite class.

Parent/Teacher Information Sessions - We will be holding a Parent Information Session on Wednesday February 11th at 3:15pm. This session will be held in Mrs Ranse's room which is located through the front entry of the school building, up the big set of stairs on the left. It is the second classroom on the left.

At this meeting we will be outlining some the exciting learning activities and experiences that we will be involved in this year. Whilst this is a good opportunity to make initial contact with your child's teacher and see the classroom, it is not intended as an interview time. Opportunities for parent/teacher interviews will be made available in a few weeks time.

Equipment - Thank you for making sure that your child has all the necessary equipment to do their best work. All students need their own pencil case, HB pencils, glue stick and coloured pencils or crayons. As all classes are currently low on boxes of tissues, we would greatly appreciate any that could be donated to classes for student use. Students in Year 3 and 4 will also be using a Maths and Grammar Text book. Details will be sent home next week about how you can purchase these at a discounted rate.

All Stage 3 teachers will be present to introduce themselves and show you to their classrooms so that you are able to see where your child will be this year.

Parent and Teacher interviews will start on Monday 16th February and end on Friday March 6th. More details will be provided next week and your child's teacher will send out a booking slip for you to complete. We hope that you take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to start working collaboratively towards achieving the best results possible for your child this year.

Welcome to the start of 2015. I hope that you had an enjoyable break and look forward to working with you this year. The weekly newsletters are the best method of finding out what is happening within the school and in Stage 3. You can also download the school app, like us on Facebook and speak directly to us as other ways of finding out what's going on in our school.

On Thursday 12th February at 3:15pm you are all invited to attend an information session that will cover details of what will happen in Stage 3 this year that relates to your child. I will also provide details of excursions for the year and answer any questions that you may have.

P & C News

P&C General Meeting - This term's P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 16th February, 2015 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. All Welcome.

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. Nomination forms can be picked up from the office or the canteen. All nomination forms must be returned to Mr Zammitt via the office by Friday 27th February.
Bookclub - Scholastic Brochures for Issue 1 have been sent home and orders with money should be returned by Tuesday 17th February, 2015.

Canteen roster 2015 - Week 2 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th February</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th February</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Erica Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Collette Edwards, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

RULES & PRIVACY INFORMATION:

The Challenge runs from 1 March to 1 September 2015. Ongoing reading is encouraged. Books read from 1 September 2014 can count towards the 2015 Challenge.

It is a condition of entry that all students entering and successfully completing the Premier's Reading Challenge will receive an official PRC certificate and their names will appear on the PRC Honour Roll. To successfully complete the Challenge the student must have an online reading record entered and validated by 1 September 2015.

All students entering the Premier's Reading Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear in the PRC Honour Roll. The certificate shows the student's name and school. Only the students' name will appear in the Honour Roll with no other identifying list. Participating schools appear as a separate list.

Students who do not wish to receive a certificate or be on the Honour Roll should not register for the Challenge.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books needed to complete the Challenge</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books for your Challenge</th>
<th>Maximum number of personal choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklist selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3-4, 5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5-6, 7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:____________________________________
One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

There’s no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children’s learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child’s teacher to maximise your child’s chances of school success.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time.

Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.