Dear Parents and Carers,

Interschool Chess Challenge Central Coast – Connor C, Noah C, Braiden C and Zac L competed in the Interschool Chess Challenge heat at Green Point Christian College on Friday 20th March. This formidable team shone as individuals and also as a team - achieving first place overall in the Primary School division. The boys were amazing to watch, skilled in their play and very supportive of less able players. Special thanks to Devina and Tina for transporting the boys to the venue and encouraging them throughout the event.

Harmony Day - Harmony Day was celebrated on Friday 20th March to draw attention to the continuing message of everyone belonging. The children participated in a range of fun activities that aimed to promote respect, fairness and a sense of belonging. Dressing in orange mufti helped to remind everyone about the message of the day.

Sea FM Visit – Sea FM’s Byron and Kristie did their Breakfast Broadcast from our school on Tuesday 24th March. The broadcast was a great community event and a lot of fun for the students who participated. Thanks to the Halekulani Bowling Club for kindly donating a sports pack valued at $500 to the school and to Byron and Kristie for their great efforts on the day.

Principal's Report

Intensive Learning Tables – Every classroom has received an intensive learning table for use in small group guided instruction. Teachers and students are really enjoying using the tables for learning.

Academic Olympics - Congratulations to our senior students who participated in the Academic Olympics at Gorokan High School last week. The students had a great day expanding their knowledge and participating in the day’s activities. One of our teams achieved a silver medal - coming second out of all the other competing teams from local schools. Thank you to Gorokan High School for hosting this event. Well done team Gorokan!

Homework Centre – The school is currently exploring the viability of running a self-funded Homework Centre after school during Term 2 as the funds that were previously used to staff The Hub are not available this year. The Homework Centre would provide assistance to students with weekly classroom homework, as well as technology-based homework. Please complete the EOI in the Parenting Ideas section of this newsletter if you would be interested in your child attending.

School Banking – Thank you to the parents who have shown an interest in school banking by completing the survey that was sent home last week. This program teaches crucial money skills to students and it would be great if we could get this program off the ground. Please forward completed surveys to the school by the end of the week.

Voluntary School Contributions – A big thank you to those who have already sent in their voluntary school contributions. Families have been asked to contribute $15 per child or $25 per family. Thanks for your anticipated support and prompt payment.

Stranger Danger – A number of incidents of children being approached by strangers in vehicles across the Central Coast have been recently reported. Ensuring that children are aware of protective strategies at home and at school should help keep them safe. Please encourage your child to not talk to strangers and ensure that they walk to school with others.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
Class Captains - Class Captain badges will be collected at the end of this week. If you wish to purchase the badge it is $8.80. If your child has lost the badge it will cost $8.80 to have the badge replaced for next term’s captains. Money should be sent to the office in an envelope via the class.

Harmony Day - Thank you for supporting Harmony Day on Friday.

Fancy Hat Parade - Thank you to the families that have donated supplies for making our hats. The children are very excited and are keen to express their creativity.

Term 2 Excursion - As mentioned last week Kindergarten will be going on an excursion next term and because we will be travelling by coach the cost will be approximately $20.00.

Homework - It has been wonderful to see the families taking the opportunity to read with their children as part of our Read To program in Term 1. We ask that all books be returned next week on Thursday 2nd April due to the shorter week.

Kindergarten Performance - Just a reminder that you should have received a special invitation last week about our performance on Monday 30th March at 2.15pm in the hall. Looking forward to seeing you there.

KE/T - Noah, Toby
KS - Stefcon, Dianna

Fancy Hat Parade will be held on Thursday the last day of school for Term 1.

K-2 will be asked to bring in a small donation of Easter craft in order to make their own hats in class time. Thank you to all parents that have already sent in their Easter craft.

Harmony Day was a great success last Friday. We had many activities that the students participated in and enjoyed. Much of our discussions centred around the diversity of people and living harmoniously together-accepting other’s differences.

Rewards Day will be next Tuesday and all students that have received a level 4, 5 or 6 will definitely be participating in all the great activities provided to celebrate their successes.

Taronga Zoo Excursion - Thank you to those parents who have either paid for the Taronga Zoo excursion or have made a deposit. It is much appreciated.

Stage 2 Showcase - Thank you to everyone who came to support our students in presenting the Stage 2 showcase. The children were super excited to be able to show off their hard work and we look forward to holding another one later in the year.

Rewards Day Supplies - Thank you for the donations of icing sugar, lollies and milk arrowroot biscuits for the Stage 2 rewards day which will be held on Tuesday 31st March. Teachers are busy planning some fun and exciting activities for those students who have maintained a Level 3 or above on their behaviour card this term.

Fancy Hat Parade - Students in Years 3-6 are reminded that they need to make their own ‘fancy hat’ at home this year. The fancy hat parade is on the last day of term and students are encouraged to make use of recycled materials where possible.

Stage 3 Assembly - Thank you for showing your support at our Stage 3 showcase assembly. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as our students have enjoyed preparing their items to show to you.

Rewards Day - Our Stage 3 rewards day will be held on Wednesday 1st April. Notes have been sent home this week with an order form for a sausage sizzle and drink at the park. Students who have received a rating of 4, 5 and 6 this term are invited to attend.

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 9 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Officer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Janette Vran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th March</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st March</td>
<td>Maria Poulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
<td>Lisa Cook, Deborah Bryce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd April</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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Week 1 Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st April</td>
<td>Deborah Bryce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22nd April</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Collette Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd April</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Janette Vran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24th April</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RUNNING DOWN STOCK - The end of term is coming up very quickly. We will start to run down stock. Please make sure your child has a second choice when ordering their lunch. Pies, sausage rolls and sandwiches will always be available.
**P & C News**

**EASTER GUESSING COMPETITION** - Tickets with money should be returned by Friday 27th March, 2015. The draw will take place on Tuesday 31st March and winners will be notified that day. Donations of anything to do with Easter is needed and can be left in the basket in the office foyer. Thank you to all those who have already donated, it is greatly appreciated.

**HAT PARADE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** - Orders with money should be returned by Monday 30th March, 2015.

**Community News**

Wyong Shire Council Libraries  
**Animals of the Rock Pool**

At this FREE event, children will learn about rock pool creatures, do some hands on sorting of shells and play a game of rock pool bingo.

**Wednesday 8 April, 10:30am-11:30am**
Tuggerah Library – 4350 1560

**Tuesday 14 April, 10:30am-11:30am**
Bateau Bay Library – 4350 1580

**Bookings are essential.**

Children under 12 years must have a parent/carer attend to provide assistance. Children 12 years and over must have a parent/carer remain on library premises during the event.

**School News**

**Fancy Hat Parade** - We would like to invite you to our Fancy Hat Parade at the end of this term. The children will be encouraged to design and create their own hats using a variety of materials both new and recycled materials. We hope that you can come along and enjoy the end of a very busy and rewarding term 1.

**When** - Thursday 2nd April  
**Time** - 12.00

**Students K-2** will make hats at school. We ask that you send a small donation of craft items such as cardboard, glitter, crepe paper, stickers etc. that they would like to use and share with their classmates to create their hats.

**Students in Years 3-6** should make their hats at home. Children are to wear school uniform on the day.

**School Photos** - Students were given envelopes for their school photos this week. Photos will be taken on 6th May. Please ensure that you carefully read the instructions on the envelope regarding methods of payment. Payment is to be made to the photographer on the actual day.

Envelopes for family photos are available from the office. Please make sure that your child is in school uniform on photo day – Wednesday 6th May, 2015.
Lost in concentration

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you choose to be in the moment when you have children.

1. Build their language

Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. Teach your children about their world

Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher.

3. Impact their thinking

Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.

4. Build relationships

Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour.

I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. It’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5. Build memories for you

As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.

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Homework Centre Expression of Interest

Dear Mr Zammit,

I would be interested in my child

………………………………………………. of class ……….

attending the school homework centre.

I would be able to pay a small fee of $30 per term

Yes / No

Signed: …………………………….. Date: ……….