Dear Parents and Carers,

Another brilliant week was had at Gorokan Public School this week.

**Debating** – Our talented debaters travelled to Gwandalan Public School last Friday for round two of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Mille C, Emily M, Macy B and Brianna S strongly argued that “violent computer games should be banned” but were narrowly defeated by their opposition. I congratulate the girls on their confident debate and excellent representation of our school in the community. Great work girls.

**Fundraising** – Thank you for supporting the recent *pyjama and beanie mufti day* to raise money for *Give Me 5 for Kids* and brain cancer research. The students and staff really enjoyed coming to school in their pyjamas and I am pleased to announce that both worthy causes were sent approximately $200 each. Thank you for your gold coin donation.

**World Environment Day (WED)** – WED is celebrated every year on 5th June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. This was a great opportunity for our teachers to explore with the students this year’s theme of sustainability of resources to support the world population of 7 billion people.

**Sports in Schools Reminder** – This well-resourced and highly engaging program continues this week for all students. Please ensure that the nominal $5 per student payment is finalised as soon as possible to ensure the program’s viability in the future. The payment slip can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

**School Chaplain** – Our new school chaplain, Wendy Daly was warmly welcomed to Gorokan Public School on Tuesday. Wendy will be at school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays supporting the staff, students and community. Wendy will ensure the provision of pastoral care services to students and promote strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of students and the broader school community. Wendy can be contacted via the office.

**Sydney North Cross-Country** – Congratulations to our talented runners who will be competing in the Sydney North Cross-Country Carnival tomorrow. Good luck to Abi S, Joel M and Connor V.

**Planning Week** – This week the teachers have been working in their stage groups to collaboratively plan explicit and systematic delivery of curriculum and extracurricular programs for the students in the term ahead. The library, science and music programs were suspended for this week to allow for the economical provision of this valuable professional collaboration to occur. Topics covered included teacher training in the *Focus on Reading* program, differentiation of learning – learning support and enrichment, programming and assessment, and student transition procedures.

**Homework** – Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. At Gorokan Public School homework is set to allow all students the opportunity to reinforce what is learned in class and to provide an extra opportunity for students to consolidate fluency of skills – in particular reading, spelling and basic maths facts. It is intended that students should be able to complete their homework with the minimum of help and should not take more than 20 minutes each day to complete. I thank you for your anticipated support in ensuring that homework is consistently completed in your home on school nights.

**Senior Girls’ Dance Troupe** – A final reminder that our girls will perform at the Central Coast Dance Festival next Tuesday 16th June.

Together we can make a difference.

*Jesmond Zammit*

Principal
## Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne

**Pyjama Day** - Thank you to the families that supported Pyjama Day last Thursday.

**Rumbarala Excursion** - Our excursion is on the 24.6.15. Remember to keep the **information section at home**.

**Performance** - The performance Kindergarten had planned for Monday 15.6.15 unfortunately is cancelled.

**Clothing** - Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a school jumper or jacket. The weather has been quite cold.

**Colds** - Many children at the moment have running noses and coughs. Please assist your child in how to blow their nose correctly, dispose of used tissues and washing their hands.

**Headphones** - All Kindergarten classes go to the computer lab each week and work on iPads in class. We would appreciate each child having their own set of headphones so they work independently on tasks.

KE/T - Toby, Tristan  
K1/H - Jye  
KL - Olivia, Samuel  
KS - Bonnie, Nicholas

## Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

**Reptile Park** - Please keep sending in your money for the Year One excursion to the Reptile Park on Thursday 18th June which will be next week.

**Wetlands Excursion** - The Year 2 excursion to the Wetlands will be on the first week back of term 3. So please try and get your money in this term.

**Sports in Schools** - We have an amazing program running each Friday called Sports in Schools. It is provided at a very discounted rate of $1.00 a week and students are asked to bring in $5.00 to cover the costs that would include the rest of the term.

**Afternoon Pick Up** - There has been much congestion around the school gates of an afternoon with many parents and students congregating near the bus lines area. Could we please ask, that when you have your child could you move quickly away from the bus lines area so that the teachers can organise the students for their buses.

## Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

**University Student** - This week we welcome Miss Samantha Marlin who is a university student training to be a teacher. Miss Marlin will be assisting in 3G during weeks 8, 9 and 10 of this term.

**Useful Websites** - From time to time I will be putting a useful learning website into the Stage 2 section of the newsletter. The website may be to do with anything that I think students may enjoy or learn from. This week the website is:

http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm

This site provides activities and games in: words and spelling, grammar, punctuation and writing.

## Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett

**Year 5 CARES Excursion** - Our rescheduled CARES bike riding safety excursion is happening next Wednesday and Thursday. The bus will depart at 8:45am and be back by 2:45pm. Students need to wear either full school uniform or their sports uniform and bring with them their recess and lunch and a drink.

5/6C and 5E are attending on Wednesday.  
5W and 5F are attending on Thursday.

**Year 5 and 6 Canberra Excursion** - There are a few further details that we will hopefully have confirmed regarding our overnight excursion by next week before conveying all of the details to you. Thank you once again for your support.

## School News

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

Please forward a school report for my child/children:

.........................................................Class.............
.........................................................Class.............
.........................................................Class.............

Parent/Carer Name: ........................................
Postal Address: ........................................

.........................................................
P&C Meeting - The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 22nd June, 2015 at 3.15pm in the technology room. All welcome.

Little Cake Day - This term’s little cake day will be held on Friday 12th June, 2015. Years 1 and 5 are asked to make a donation of cakes or biscuits to go towards little cake day. Any donations can be left at the canteen in the morning.

Entertainment Book – The Entertainment Book is a new fundraiser at Gorokan Public School and we’re sure it will become one of our favourites. The Books sell for $60 and we keep $12 from every one we sell. The Entertainment Book gives you access to thousands of up to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers for Newcastle, the Hunter, the Central Coast and Port Stephens’ best restaurants, cafes, attractions and theme parks. Plus it has best in market prices for over 1,500 hotels and resorts that you can use whenever you like until 1st June, 2016. Please see the ladies in the canteen if you would like to purchase one of these books.

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 9 Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th June</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12th June</td>
<td>Tina Jone, Shayne Dodds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15th June</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th June</td>
<td>Deborah Bryce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th June</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Collette Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th June</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19th June</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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On the 19th June the canteen will have spiders available at lunch time for $2.00

Sport in Schools Program

Please complete and return to your child’s teacher

I hereby give permission for my child

Class ..................

To attend the specialist PE program in Term 2.

Payment of $5.00 is attached.

Signed.................................

Date ..................
Reading your child’s report

By Michael Grose

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

*Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .*

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

**Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

**Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

**Broaden your focus** away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

**Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

**Discuss the report** with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.