Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week of great teaching and inspired learning was had at Gorokan Public School. There is no sign that we are in the last few weeks of term as learning and extracurricular activities are strongly sustained.

**NAIDOC Week** - NAIDOC Week will be held in the last week of this term. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. The students will participate in a cultural performance, craft activities, bush tucker tasting and other engaging culturally based activities throughout the week. Our new Darkinjung timeline and Aboriginal garden will also be showcased throughout the week.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the school’s NAIDOC assembly next Tuesday at 10am in the school hall followed by a bush tucker morning tea.

**Sports in Schools Invitation** – This well resourced and highly engaging program finishes this Friday and I would like to invite all interested parents and carers to come to the school to witness this great program in action. Please refer to the stage leaders’ sections of this newsletter for class times. Payment should be finalised by the end of term to ensure the program’s viability in the future. The payment slip can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

**K-2 Toilets** – Work will begin shortly to modify the wall outside the K-2 playground toilets. Despite the pleasing aesthetic street appeal of the wall, supervision of this area has proven to be problematic. The work to be done in this area will ensure improved general visibility of students in this area whilst protecting the students from being seen from the street whilst using the facilities.

**Central Coast Dance Festival** – Congratulations to our senior girls who performed their *Where’s Wally?* dance at Laycock Street Theatre yesterday. The girls were a standout on the night and did the Gorokan Public School community very proud. Congratulations to you all!

**Technology** – Gorokan Public School hosted a technology expo last Monday for the Wallarah Learning Community of schools. The focus of the afternoon was to view the latest classroom technologies and to share information and expertise across the local schools. This event was well attended and we have gained much inspiration and knowledge for future advancements in this key area.

**iTeacher** – The school will be partaking in the iTeacher consultancy program for six days early in the new term. The program offers specialised training in all aspects of best classroom practices for using iPads in the classroom. iTeacher demonstration lessons will help our school to embrace and best utilise our substantial fleet of electronic devices for learning.

**Minecraft (Education Edition)** – Minecraft is a clever, award-winning program that is being utilised in schools around the world. The learning benefits of this highly popular and engaging program include visualisation and reading comprehension, problem solving - inspiring students’ higher-level and critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and the practice of ratio and proportion to name a few. The school has purchased a site licence for this highly engaging educational tool.

**Senior Boys’ Soccer** – Congratulations to our senior boys’ soccer team who competed in the PSSA Gala Day at Toukley last Friday. The boys made it through to the final, which was an excellent achievement. The boys were narrowly defeated by Lake Munmorah despite their fantastic teamwork, skill and sustained effort. Well done team!

**P&C** – The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 22nd of June at 3:15pm in the school’s technology room. An invitation is extended to all parents and carers to attend.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal
Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne

Rumbalara Excursion - Our excursion is on the 24.6.15. Unfortunately the response has been very limited. Extra notes were sent home last week. If we do not get more participation we will have to cancel the excursion.

Public Speaking - Congratulations to the children who have participated in Public Speaking this week.

You Can Do It - This term the children have been working on organisational skills. We would appreciate it if you could assist your child with these skills by having them help you pack their bag each day so they know they have their hat, lunch and jumper. Also on specific days their library books, homework and monitoring cards.

Sports in Schools - Parents and Carers are invited to watch Sport in Schools this Friday at 11.25 am for Year 1 and 10.30 am for 2S.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

Rewards Day - Rewards day is on Friday of this week. We will be having a movie in the hall. Your child can bring in a packet of chips to eat while watching the movie.

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

NAIDOC Week - NAIDOC Week is next week. All the students will be participating in some fun and informative activities throughout the all week.

Reptile Park Excursion - The Reptile Park Excursion has been postponed until Thursday 3rd September.

Parent Teacher Meetings - Meetings will be held from week 3 onwards in Term 3. A note will be going home this term with your child’s report. Please ensure that you fill out the time slot as teachers would like to see all parents regarding your child’s progress and achievements at school.

Sports in Schools - Parents and Carers are invited to watch Sport in Schools this Friday at 11.25 am for Year 2 and 12.25 pm for Year 1 and 10.30 am for 2S.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse

Recess and Lunch - Unfortunately we have some students coming to school without recess and lunch. With no food to eat during the day, it makes it a long day for our students and it can be difficult for them to concentrate on an empty tummy. We are asking all parents and carers to make sure that students have sufficient lunch and recess each day.

NAIDOC Week Performance - We have an amazing NAIDOC week performance planned for next week. The cost is $4.50. If you would like your child to attend, please return the notes and money to the office as soon as possible.

Sports in Schools - Parents and Carers are invited to watch Sport in Schools this Friday at 10.00am for Year 3 and 10.30am for Year 4.

Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett

Stage 3 Overnight Excursions - Thank you for your patience as we have been re-organising aspects of our overnight excursions due to insufficient numbers to run separate Y5 and Y6 excursions. We have offered the Y5 students that paid a deposit for Bathurst the opportunity for a refund or to attend the Canberra excursion. We are unable to make the excursion available to students that did not pay a deposit for either excursion. This is due to the accommodation and buses that are available to us. Please continue to make regular payments.

Consequently Stage 3 will attend overnight excursions as a combined group of Year 5 and 6 students. We have made a tentative booking for 2016 to Bathurst and another for 2017 to Canberra. These excursions book up incredibly quickly and we have organised these ahead of time to ensure that nobody misses out on a spot in the coming years.

Rewards Day - Please note that the sausage sizzle being offered for our Stage 3 rewards day is optional. Students can bring their own lunch with them or order from the canteen as per usual as we will be having our rewards day at school.

Sports in Schools - Parents and Carers are invited to watch Sport in Schools this Friday at 9.00am for Year 6 including 5/6C and 9.30 for Year 5 including 4/5W.
Canteen Roster 2015  -  Week 10 Term 2

Thursday 18th June  Paul Tydeman
Friday 19th June   Susan Cheney
Monday 22nd June  Belinda Bermingham
Tuesday 23rd June Maria Poulos
Wednesday 24th June Deb Bryce, Lisa Cook
Thursday 25th June Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith
Friday 26th June  Tina Jones, Shayne Dodds

On the 19th June the canteen will have spiders available at lunch time for $2.00.

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

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.

Free Sight Assessments - Optometrist Bernard Tan will be coming to Gorokan PS on the 28th July to complete free sight assessments on students K-6. Please complete the consent slip below and return it to your child's class teachers by Friday 24th July if you wish to participate. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your children’s sight assessed by an experienced optometrist at no cost.

We urge parents and caregivers to support this initiative to ensure students at Gorokan PS are given every opportunity possible to enhance their learning.

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Sight Assessment Permission Note

I ____________________, give permission for my child/children to have their sight assessed by optometrist Bernard Tan during school hours.

Name/s ______________________________
Class/es ________________________
Signed________________________________
Date___________________________
Parent/Guardian_________________________

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

Please forward a school report for my child/children:

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

Parent/Carer Name: ...........................................
Postal Address: ................................................
....................................................................................
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

By Michael Grose

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As a Parent:

✔ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
✔ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
✔ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
✔ Consider catching-up on missed work.
✔ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Published by Michael Grose Presentations. All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for all you’re parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au