Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank the students for their sustained efforts as safe, respectful learners and hope that their Gorokan Public School experience so far this year has been a special time for them to remember. I also acknowledge the great work and dedication of our caring and skilled teachers and staff who provide the students with a rich, dynamic and engaging education.

**NAIDOC Week** - NAIDOC Week celebrations are well underway. Yesterday’s commemorative assembly and bush tucker morning tea was a very special community event. Those who were in attendance participated in the traditional flag raising ceremony, performances by our Koori Choir and dance troupe, and performances in dance and didgeridoo by Gorokan High School students (a number of whom were ex-Gorokan Public School students). Ms Megan Cain addressed the assembly with the theme of Dream, believe, succeed and there was also an Island Dreaming performance by Phil Geia. There will be a number of ongoing in-class and school activities continuing throughout the week including a mural painting, bush tucker sausage sizzle and mufti day on Friday. Our Darkinjung timeline was publically displayed for the first time, enhancing the school’s cultural resources for promoting local Aboriginal education.

**Sports in Schools** – Thank you to the parents and carers who came to the school last Friday to witness this great program in action. The feedback from the students, staff and parents has been very positive and has encouraged me to investigate subsidising the program again in 2016. 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.

**School Improvement** – Following the completion of the exterior painting of the school buildings last year, this year we are planning to start painting of the interiors in the coming term. This is a major project and will take several weeks to complete. The holidays will see the commencement of construction of the specialised disabled amenities so that disruption to learning will be minimised during the new school term.

**Rewards Day** – Congratulations to the majority of our students who participated in this term’s rewards days. I would urge all students to reflect on their behaviour cards over the holidays and set small goals for improvement in order to grow as safe, respectful learners in the term ahead.

**Reports** – Congratulations to the students for their efforts this semester. Reports will be sent home on Thursday and interviews will be organised at the start of the new term to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss their progress further. Please complete the parent teacher interview request note that will be enclosed with your child’s report. The teachers have nominated available interview times on their notes and will send a follow up note home to confirm interview details in the first week of the new term. If additional reports are required, please contact the school office.

**Public Speaking** – Congratulations to Millie C and Zac L who competed in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition at Niagara Park Public School last week. Both students performed confidently in both their prepared, and impromptu speeches. On Monday we hosted the third round of the Premier’s Debating Challenge against Lake Munmorah Public School. We narrowly lost but their arguments in relation to ‘Why pets should be compulsory for all children’ were very convincing and the adjudicator stated he had a very hard task of choosing a winner.

**P&C** – The last P&C meeting for the term was held on Monday. Thank you to all who were in attendance. It was great to reflect on the term that was, and to plan for the semester ahead.

Finally, best wishes for a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you in the new term when the students return on Tuesday 14th July. Sincere thanks are extended to parents and carers for reinforcing our school values at home and for your efforts in working collaboratively with the staff and myself to support the students to be their best.

Together we do make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal
**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th June</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th June</td>
<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th July</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th July</td>
<td>Students return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th July</td>
<td>Wetlands Excursion Y2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>Taronga Zoo Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd September</td>
<td>Reptile Park Excursion Year 1</td>
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**Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse**

Friday. The movie and popcorn afternoon proved to be a big success. Congratulations to those students who were successful at achieving a level 4, 5 or 6 throughout the term. The Stage 2 teachers are already planning the rewards day for Term 3, when hopefully the weather will be warmer!

**Reports** - Reports will go home this Thursday. Please remind your child to collect theirs if they happen to be absent on Thursday.

**Sports in Schools** - Thank you to all of the parents who paid the $5 fee for the Sports in Schools program. The students thoroughly enjoyed this program. It was wonderful to see the variety of activities that were provided and to see the students enjoying themselves as much as they did.

**Clothing** - A brief reminder to please label all of your children’s school clothing. Often, the transition between the playground and classroom can mean that students are taking their jumpers on and off and they unfortunately get left in various places around the school. It makes it easier to reunite an article of clothing with its owner when the item is labelled.

**Book Bank** - Students will be able to bring their Term 2 book bank book home this week in preparation for receiving their new book next term. All students have chosen the book that they would like to receive for Terms 3 and 4 and are eagerly anticipating their arrival next term.

**Rewards Day** - Congratulations to the children that attended rewards last Thursday. These children maintained a level 4, 5 or 6 for Term 2.

**Class Captains** - Class Captain badges need to be returned this week ready for next term’s captains. If you wish to purchase the badge or it has been lost the cost is $8.80.

**AEDC Survey** - Gorokan Public School will be participating in the AEDC survey next term. The AEDC results provide information for schools, communities and governments to more effectively allocate the services, resources and support that will help shape the future and wellbeing of Australian children. The Kindergarten teachers will be involved with this on the 21st July.

**Reading** - It is important for your child to continue reading throughout the holidays so that they can practice skills and strategies they have been learning and to assist their confidence.

**Thank You** - Thank you for your support once again in what has been a very busy and wet term. Have a relaxing and safe holiday.

**Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett**

We have come to the end of another exciting term of learning and gaining valuable experiences at Gorokan PS. We would like to wish you all a safe and rewarding holiday and look forward to seeing you at the start of next term.

**Parent Teacher Interviews** - We hope to be seeing you all personally for a parent teacher/carer interview that will be happening early in the term and to provide feedback on your child’s progress and their report.

**Year 5** - We are hopeful of our CARES bicycle excursion happening tomorrow. We are unable to control the weather and thank you for your support and understanding in being flexible with our reorganisation of this event. Fingers crossed it will be third time lucky for 5E and 5C!

**Year 5 & 6** - Please keep making regular payments for the Canberra Excursion to alleviate any stresses of paying a large final balance in the middle of Term 3.

**Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne**

**Rewards Day** - We had our Stage 1 rewards day last Thursday and it was a great afternoon with a movie in the hall.

**NAIDOC week** - There has been a presentation and an assembly in the hall and many other activities held on a daily basis.

**Reptile Park Excursion** - Is now on in September, hopefully it will be lovely weather.

**Progress Reports** - Reports will be going home on Thursday. Please bring them along to the parent teacher interviews that will be held in Week 3 of next term. A note will be going home with your child’s report regarding a time slot for you to meet with your child’s teacher. ALL teachers would like to see all parents regarding your child’s progress and achievements at school.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

**Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer**

**Rewards Day** - We had our Stage 1 rewards day last Thursday and it was a great afternoon with a movie in the hall.

**NAIDOC week** - There has been a presentation and an assembly in the hall and many other activities held on a daily basis.

**Reptile Park Excursion** - Is now on in September, hopefully it will be lovely weather.

**Progress Reports** - Reports will be going home on Thursday. Please bring them along to the parent teacher interviews that will be held in Week 3 of next term. A note will be going home with your child’s report regarding a time slot for you to meet with your child’s teacher. ALL teachers would like to see all parents regarding your child’s progress and achievements at school.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.
Parking - When parking in surrounding streets to pick up your children please be considerate of our neighbours and ensure they have access to and from their residences at all times.

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.

### 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 __________________________

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 3rd August, 2015 at 3.15pm in the technology room. All welcome.

LAST DAY TERM 2 - The P&C will have lucky dips ($1.00 or $2.00) and novelties (from 50c) available on the last day of term 2 at lunch time under the canteen cola.

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.
Michael Grose’s top 5 parenting tips for school meetings

By Michael Grose

Conferences and meetings between parents and professionals offer an opportunity to discover a child’s progress; share information or resolve social and learning challenges. They can also be the source of conflict and stress as views can differ so it helps to remember that everyone’s goal is to work from the best interests of a child or young person. Here are some tips to help make the meeting or conference more productive and less stressful for everyone involved:

1. Confirm the meeting
If the meeting has been called by someone at the school then confirm that you will be attending. Confirm also if someone such as another parent, family member, friend or professional will be attending the meeting. If in doubt, find out if more than one person will be attending from your child’s school, including an outside professional such as a speech therapist of other specialist.

2. Work from a fresh slate
Sometimes meetings can be marred before they start as negative past experiences can carry residual resentment. Every new meeting offers a fresh opportunity to create better outcomes for your child.

3. Prepare well
Before a meeting or conference, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep the questions short and to the point. Similarly, it may be useful to list some of your child’s strengths and areas of improvement that you’ve seen at home. Writing information down in advance ensures that your point of view is expressed and that critical information is covered. Similarly, make sure you take notes during the meeting so that vital information isn’t missed.

4. Listen first
Give the teacher a chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress or behaviour. This may sound obvious but some meetings never get off the ground because an enthusiastic parent takes over.

5. Ask what you can do
Show your commitment to producing better results by asking for exercises that you can do at home to develop skills. It may be a good opportunity to ask for recommendations for outside resources to help you and your child. Often teachers know about camps, activities, organisations or events that can encourage educational and social growth.

Parent teacher meetings and conferences take many formats including the direct involvement of children. Regardless of the format you will be more effective if you go in with a positive attitude, an approachable demeanour, and a willingness to work collaboratively with your child’s teacher to reach the best outcomes possible for your child.

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