Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what should be another term of stimulating learning and involved community participation. I trust that you all had a safe and happy holiday and that the students are well rested and ready to resume their learning.

School Development Day – Monday was a day of intensive learning for our teachers and teachers from the Wallarah Learning Community of schools. Over 200 teachers filled our school hall to learn about best practice in teaching students how to be effective writers. Stephen Graham – literacy consultant from Cengage Learning, presented an engaging day of professional learning and the teachers left with knowledge of effective, engaging strategies and practical ideas and resources for the teaching of writing and spelling. Thank you to Julie Salmon who led the team of volunteers to cater for the event.

Attendance – Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children. Students are strongly encouraged to be on time for school and to attend school every day. Establishing a consistent pattern of attendance is the right of every child and allows them to achieve to their capacity.

Arriving at school on time:

✓ ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert,
✓ helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine,
✓ gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
✓ reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

Further information can be obtained from:


iTeacher – Classes across the school participated in this engaging program that encourages students to effectively use iPad’s and related technology for learning.

If you would like to know more about this wonderful program, please come along to the parent information session/afternoon tea to be held in the school library on Thursday 30th July 3:10-4:10pm.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Please ensure that you take up the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher in the next few weeks to discuss progress and to collaborate with teachers to plan the best outcomes for the new semester. Notes were sent home at the end of last term but if you require another or any further information, please contact your child’s teacher.

School Uniform – It is very important that students take pride in their school uniform as it establishes a sense of belonging and team spirit. I would encourage the students to start the term well by wearing the correct Gorokan Public School uniform including a navy-blue broad brimmed hat and jumper. New purchases can be made from the school uniform shop on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:00pm and Fridays from 8:30-9:00am. Remember to label all garments so that they can be returned if lost.

P&C – It has been wonderful to observe the added interest in the school P&C with increasing numbers attending at recent meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd August at 3:15pm in the technology lab.

Staffing Update – Congratulations to Elise and Luke Smithson on the safe arrival of James, their first born child just before the holidays. A warm welcome is extended to Courtney King, who will join our wonderful team of teachers this term and to Kylie Yates, who will return from maternity leave on Thursdays and Fridays this term.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

Principal
Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne

Rumbalara - Thank you to the parents that assisted with our excursion last term. The children had a very busy and exciting time exploring, playing and learning about their environment. Keep a watch out for the photos that were taken.

Interviews - Interview notes were sent home with your child's reports at the end of last term. We would encourage you all to make a time to come and speak to your child’s teacher so we can continue to all work together. KL parents I have had to change the date for your child’s teacher interview times for the 6th and 7th August. A new note was sent home this week.

Sports Challenge - We will begin our sports challenge this week. Each week of the challenge there are 5 active smiley faces to be coloured. The children will colour one each day to show they have been active. Please let their teacher know on a Monday that they have been active on the weekend so they can colour in their chart. The challenge will last for the whole term.

ADEC Survey - Kindergarten teachers will be participating in the ADEC survey next Tuesday. A note will be sent home this week to explain more about the survey.

Homework - New homework and news topics will commence this term. Children need to return homework and home readers every Friday. Your child should be reading every night as this assist confidence.

Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs C Behringer

This term is going to be busy and we are looking forward to many fun and exciting learning activities both at school and outside of school. These activities include Education Week, Parent /Teacher interviews and our excursions-Year 1 to the Reptile Park in Week 9 and Year 2 to the Wetlands in Newcastle (this Thursday).

Interviews - Please remember to send in your interview forms ASAP to your child’s teacher as we are hoping to see all parents this term in order to connect with you and celebrate your child’s learning achievements with you.

The Premiers Sporting Challenge - starts this week so please encourage your children to get out, play games and enter into lots of physical activity. Research shows that sport and physical activity is excellent for our body, mind and spirit.
2015 Kindergarten Transition Program

Our aim is to allow your child to experience “big school” in an informal, supportive, caring environment. You and your child are invited to attend on the following dates:

Transition # 1 - Wednesday 26/8/15, Term 3- Week 7
(9.30-10.30am)
Children and parents to visit the school at 9.30am, enjoying morning tea under the COLA (children to bring a drink and morning tea in a lunch box.) Locating and using “big school toilets” and use play equipment. Parents to attend technology talk with Mr Gibbs.

Transition # 2 - Wednesday 2/9/15, Term 3- Week 8
(9.30-10.30am)
Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend Best Start Assessment talk with Mrs Myree Kent.

Transition # 3- Wednesday 9/9/15, Term 3- Week 9
(9.30-10.30am)
Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend a talk about speech and language with Mrs Everson.

Transition # 4- Wednesday 7/10/15, Term 4- Week 1
(9.30-11.00am)
Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

Transition # 5- Wednesday 14/10/15, Term 4- Week 2
(9.30-11.00am)
Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

Transition # 6- Wednesday 21/10/15, Term 4- Week 3
(9.30-11.00am)
Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

RSVP the school by 24.8.15 by phoning the school to inform us that you and your child will be attending.

School Phone Number- 43924200

Please note when enrolling your child you need to bring their birth certificate and immunisation details.

School Photos - School photos will be going home with the students today. Photos of our Year 6 students, Choir, Chess, Dance, Sport and Dance Groups will be available for viewing in the foyer. Orders and money for these photos must be returned to the school by 10th August.

FATHER’S DAY STALL - The father’s day stall will be held on Friday 4th September, 2015. Your child must have Gorokan dollars if they wish to purchase a gift from the stall. Arrangements can be made by sending money in an envelope marked with child’s name, class and the amount enclosed or see the ladies in the canteen. The final day for Gorokan’s dollars will be Tuesday 1st September. The cost of gifts will be from $1.00 to $8.00.

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 1 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th July</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th July</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20th July</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st July</td>
<td>Maria Poulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22nd July</td>
<td>Lisa Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd July</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24th July</td>
<td>School Canteen: Belinda Bermingham Carnival Canteen: Tina Jones, Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Athletics Carnival Canteen - There will be a canteen available at the athletics carnival to be held on Friday 24th July, 2015. Menu for the day will be advertised in next week’s newsletter.

P & C News

P&C Meeting - The first P&C meeting to be held this term will be held on Monday 3rd August, 2015 at 3.15pm in the technology room. All Welcome.

BOOK CLUB - Scholastic brochures issue 5 have been sent home. Orders with money should be returned by Friday 31st July, 2015.
Mindsets that will radically improve your parenting
By Michael Grose

The best intentions may not be enough to raise happy kids. Here are 10 mindsets to help you on the path to parenting success.

All parents want to be successful and raise kids to be happy and contributing members of our community. Good intentions are not enough. Often there is no difference between one parent and another in terms of skills, knowledge and understanding of kids. However, the biggest difference can be found in parents’ mindsets, rather than their parenting skills and understandings.

Here are 5 of 10 mindsets for parenting success:

1. Believe in your child

This is easy if you have an early maturer, a child who has talents you value, or one who easily achieves anything he or she puts his mind too. But it’s a different story if you have a child who struggles at school or to make friends, or just has a different interest to you. Your belief in your child’s abilities is revealed through your expectations, your body language, even the expression on your face.

2. Look for the best

What you focus on expands so if all you see is misbehaviour, weakness and poor performance than you’ll get more of those things. Set your antennae for children’s strengths, abilities and social behaviours and you’ll invariably get more of those.

3. Think family

Successful parents have found a way to lead their family in one direction.

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To do this you must think in terms of parenting ‘the gang’ rather than individual children. “What’s in the best interest of my child?” has replaced “What’s in the best interest of the family?” as the guiding family principle. This has partly come along as a result of small families, and partly it’s a social imperative that is common among aspirational parents where wanting the best for your kids means wanting what’s best for each child as an individual, rather considering what may be in the best for the entire gang.

4. Accept challenges

There are always challenges raising kids. It’s important to embrace these challenges whether they are behavioural, or a child has struggles at school, or he is moving into puberty. It’s these challenges that will make you a better parent.

5. Trust the process

Sometimes the desire to want the very best for our child can lead us to interfere at school, preschool, childcare, even when kids are at their grandparents. It’s best to trust the process and allow people to educate, care for and look after your child in their own way.