Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to our students for their excellent start to the term. The term has definitely started with momentum with the introduction of the iTeacher and Dance 2B Fit programs being launched last week and meetings with Department personnel about major playground facility upgrading and the commencement of the Remembrance Park project. I look forward to sharing further information with you about this in the coming weeks.

Attendance – Following last week’s reminder about the importance of regular and punctual attendance, I would like to inform you that the school will be sending daily text notifications home to parents and carers of students who are absent. This message will be sent by 10:30 each day and will provide an easy and effective way for absences to be explained by return text (no further explanation is required). For this to work it is imperative that contact information is updated regularly with the office. If your contact number has changed please ensure that you let the office staff know as soon as possible.

Education Week – Every week is education week at Gorokan Public School. Next week however, is the official week to recognise the work being done in Public Schools across the state. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our planned Education Week activities.

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<tr>
<th>Gorokan Public School Education Day Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th July, 2015</td>
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<td>9:15 – 10:00</td>
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Transition Programs – This term the school will be running two major transition programs – Kindergarten 2016 and Year 6 moving into Year 7 next year. Further information will be provided regularly in this newsletter and I would encourage maximum participation in all activities that are on offer in order to assist the students.

iTeacher – The students have been totally engaged in the iTeacher program which was launched last week. I would like to extend an offer to parents and carers to attend the information session that will be held next Thursday 30th July in the library straight after school. Come along and find out why the students are raving about this wonderful program.

School Uniform – Thanks for your attention to ensuring that your children are attending school in their correct school uniforms – including hats and jumpers. New purchases can be made from the school uniform shop on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:00pm and Fridays from 8:30-9:00am.

P&C – As mentioned last week, it has been great to observe the added interest in the school P&C with increasing numbers attending at recent meetings. A further reminder is extended to all parents and carers that the next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd August at 3:15pm in the technology lab. All welcome.

Kindergarten 2016 - Do you have a child ready for Kindergarten in 2016 or do you know someone with a child due to start school next year? If so please encourage them to drop into school and pick up an enrolment package. It is important that we are aware of all students who will be starting school in order to effectively transition students and plan for the year ahead. New families can also book in for a tour of the school. Please contact the school office for further information.

Woolworths Earn and Learn Program - Once again we will be participating in this valuable program which enables the school to earn engaging resources for our classrooms, library, music and sport programs etc. It is very simple to participate - when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Earn and Learn stickers from the checkout operator or through an online order and place them on an Earn and Learn Sticker Sheet. Once completed simply place the Sticker Sheet in the collection box in our foyer.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit

PRINCIPAL
Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne

Chickens - The children have been very excited with the arrival of some chicken's eggs. The children will be observing, graphing and writing about chickens over the next 2 weeks.

Interviews - We encourage all parents and caregivers to make a time to speak to your child’s teacher. Please return notes as soon as possible so we can arrange a convenient time.

Sports Challenge - We began our sports challenge last week. Children will be participating in physical activities each day at school and we encourage them to do so at home.

Farm - We will be having the Kindifarm coming to school later in the term. The cost will be approximately $11.50.

Spelling Bee - The children will be taking home the words they will be asked to spell for our Spelling Bee. We would ask that you spend time assisting your child to learn these words. More information will be sent home shortly about the Spelling Bee.

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

Hunter Wetlands - The Year 2 students had an awesome time at the Hunter Wetlands last Thursday and enjoyed looking under microscopes, net fishing and learning a lot of new information about wet and dry environments.

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

Premiers Sporting Challenge - The challenge started last week. Parents can document the out of school activities that your child is involved in. These would include swimming, soccer, netball, football and other sports that your children are involved in outside of school hours.

Education week - Education Week is next week (Week 3). Please remember to send your child to school on Tuesday dressed as a character from a book. All parents are welcome to visit your child’s classroom on this day for open day. This will be a time where your child will showcase all their work from term 1 and 2.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ransie

Parent Teacher Interviews - A reminder to send in your parent teacher interview forms as soon as possible. We would love to see all parents this term to celebrate the achievements your child has made so far.

Premiers Sporting Challenge - All students in Stage 2 are now participating in the Premiers Sporting Challenge. This involves students documenting how much physical activity they do during the week. As a result, they are then awarded a bronze, silver or gold level. At the end of the challenge, students will be awarded a certificate based on how much physical activity they have done. Students are busy documenting their physical fitness activities at school and are encouraged to include any sporting activities they do out of school as well.

Excursions - The deadline for final payment on the Taronga Zoo excursion is Wednesday 12th August 2015. The Taronga Zoo excursion is on Friday 14th August 2015. Notes will be coming home this week asking for parent volunteers. Mrs Moon is in the process of finalising notes and payment cards for the Year 4 aquarium excursion.

Dance To Be Fit - Dance to be fit is on Tuesday and Wednesdays. As a result, we will be changing our sport day to Friday. Could you please ensure that your child wears their sports uniform on Fridays from now on.

Year 3 & 4 Tennis - Starts next Friday 31st July (week 3). Cost is $20 for 10 lessons (30 min each). Please return permission note and money as soon as possible.

Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett

Education Week - Next week is our Education Week and we look forward to inviting you into our classrooms during our Open Classrooms sessions. This will provide you with an opportunity to enter your child's classroom and observe some of the work items that they have been working on.

Parent and Carer Teacher Interviews - Interviews will be commencing as of next week. Please check with your child for specific information for their class regarding booking interviews to discuss their academic, social and emotional wellbeing.
Premiers Reading Challenge - The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) finishes this term. All students in years 3-6 that are completing the challenge should be logging their books online at the PRC site at [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html). Students need to have finished reading their books and have them all entered online by Friday 14th August 2015 so that entries can be validated and awarded certificates for their reading.

Happy Reading!

Sight Assessments - Due to Education Week the sight assessments scheduled for the 28th July will now be completed on the 3rd August.

Library News: Book Week Celebrations
Hello Happy Readers! Next Tuesday the 28th of July we will be celebrating Book Week. On this day students are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character and participate in the Book Parade! The Book Fair will be held in the library with the proceeds being used to purchase shiny new and exciting books for our students to borrow and read.

The Book Fair is coming!

**Date:** Tuesday the 28th of July

**Time:** 10am – 11.30pm and during lunchtime

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, proof of address (rate notice or electricity bill) and immunisation details.

Lost Property - There are a lot of jumpers in the lost property box which are not school uniform and do not have names on them. Please come and check the box for lost items before they are sent to a local charity at the end of this week. Please remember to label all of your child’s clothing so that lost items can be returned.

School Photos - Photos of our Year 6 students, Choir, Chess, Dance, Sport and Debating Groups are available for viewing in the foyer. There is also a booklet of all of the groups available for viewing at the office. Orders and money for these photos must be returned to the school by 10th August.
You can make arrangements for your child to receive Gorokan dollars by sending money in an envelope marked father’s day stall, amount enclosed, child’s name and class. Last day to make arrangements will be Tuesday 1st September.

**Canteen News**

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<th>Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 2 Term 3</th>
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<td>Thursday 23rd July</td>
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**Athletics Carnival Canteen**
The canteen at the athletics carnival will have the following items for sale:
- Large pie $2.50 Water $1.50
- Sausage roll $2.00 Juice $1.50
- Sauce $0.30 Tea/coffee $1.50
- Hot dog $2.40 Fruit salad tub $1.00
- Sultanas $0.50 Jumpys $1.00
- JJs $1.00 Red Rock Honey Sit $1.10

**Fruit & Veggie Friday** - This term’s fruit and veggie day will be held on Friday 7th August, 2015. Menus for this day will be advertised outside the canteen. Lunch orders will be as normal.

**Juice** - The supplier of our juice is no longer supplying 200ml pop top juice. It is being replaced by Harvey Fresh 250ml juice (not a pop top), which will cost $1.80. We can supply a 200ml Just Juice popper for $1.50.

**Book Parade** - Please note there will be no lunch orders available on the day of the book parade due to the sausage sizzle.

**Parenting Tips**

**Keep children safe in public with these 5 ideas**

By Catherine Gerhardt

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of “never talk to strangers” to “never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first”. A child who has been taught to never talk to strangers may feel they have nowhere to go if they find themselves lost in a shopping centre or other public place.

Five ways to enforce the new rule:

1. **Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first**
   This is the new fundamental rule to keeping kids safe. This rule must NEVER be broken.

2. **Your personal alarm**
   Children have an innate sensitive personal alarm, which we can teach them to use. This is their natural defence system.

   Use tempting scenarios that are relevant to your child, such as puppies or toys, and discuss safe options and strategies in each case.

3. **Trust your instincts**
   Have you ever gotten “the creeps”? Maybe it’s the idea of snakes, mice or heights that does it for your child.

   Instincts are those feelings you get when something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Instincts are the physiological changes that happen to our body when our personal alarm goes off.

4. **Personal space vs. safety zone**
   Most kids understand the concept of personal space.

   Most kids understand the concept of personal space. How many times have we heard, “Stop invading my personal space!” Most people feel comfortable within an arm’s length of others. However, do your kids recognise their safety zone? Teach your child to be aware of their surroundings. If a “strange” person is too close, suggest they back away and maintain their safety zone. A safety zone is much bigger than your personal space – at least three giant steps bigger.

5. **Safe places, safe people**
   There are times when a child must ask for help quickly and instinctively. We already know that not all strangers are bad, that most strangers will help a child who is lost or upset. It is situations that are safe, not places. Talk with your child and reinforce that he or she must ALWAYS use his or her skills with ALL people, including those presumed safe. Encourage your child to tell an adult they trust when someone or something has frightened them.

   As parents we need to empower our children with self-confidence and trust in their ability to sense when something is just not right. It doesn’t matter if they can articulate it; they just have to feel it.

   To find out more about Catherine Gerhardt's great work about keeping kids safe online and offline visit Kidproofsafety.com.au

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