Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School our teachers nurture, inspire and engage their students. We believe that learning is an individualised experience and every effort is made to ensure that children are taught at their own level of need.

Technology for Learning – Our strong focus on technology continues with teachers receiving professional learning on the use of the recently purchased LED touch panels last week. Teachers were shown how these devices can be used to implement the curriculum across the key learning areas and were also shown how to access many related and relevant resources.

Life Education – This valuable program continues this week and I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have finalised payment. The Life Education program engages students in the health and safety components of the PDHPE syllabus (including drug education). Flexible payment arrangements can be made to support all students to participate in this program. Please contact the office for further information.

Boys’ Touch Football – Congratulations to our superstar boys’ touch football team who represented the school at the PSSA Gala Day last Wednesday. The boys played with skill and teamwork – winning two of the three games they played against other local schools on the day. Well done boys!

Jump Rope for Heart – Funds raised so far are in excess of $3,700. We are well on the way to raising our school target of $5,000. The students have been training hard for the “jump off” which is now only a few weeks away. The link to our fundraising page is https://jumprope.everydayhero.com.au/event/JumpRope2015-GorokanPublicSchool-109645

Kindergarten 2016 – Enrolments are currently being taken for Kindergarten 2016 and the Kindergarten transition program started today. A warm welcome is extended to all who attended. We trust that you enjoyed our parent talk on Technology in the Classroom and it was great to see the children settling in so well at “big school”. An outline of the program has been included on page 3 of this newsletter for your information.

Swim School – Living so close to the water, it is very important that children have water safety confidence and can swim.

The School Swimming and Water Safety Program provides students with the opportunity to develop water competency and confidence and will run for two weeks from Monday, 19th October to Friday, 30th October 2015. Notes have been sent home to students in Years 2 to 6. Spaces are limited so please pay your $10 deposit and return the permission note promptly if you wish to ensure your child’s participation in the program.

High School Transition – Students who will be attending Gorokan High School have been participating in activities to orientate themselves to high school. Congratulations to our Year 6 students who have already made a very positive impression of themselves at Gorokan High School. The feedback from the students has also been very positive. Further details about the orientation program can be located in the Stage 3 supervisor report on page 2 of this newsletter.

Class Movies Program - The Department’s partnership with ClassMovies allows NSW public schools to create short videos of their teaching practices and school programs. Raw footage captured by participating schools will be professionally edited in order to bring each school’s story to life in the best possible way. This is an exciting chance to showcase and share the innovative practices happening in classrooms and schools across NSW. Gorokan Public School will take this opportunity to share our great school and the wonderful opportunities that our students have to grow, learn and thrive. Watch this space for updates.

NAPLAN – Further to the information offered in last week’s newsletter I would like to extend an invitation to all parents and carers to participate in an information sharing session on this topic at next week’s P&C meeting to be held on Monday 31st August at 3:15pm in the school technology lab.

Before and After School Care – I am thrilled to announce that the contracts have been signed and we are in the very final stage of Departmental approval to begin what is going to be a fantastic service to our school community. Please register your details at the office if you are interested and have not already done so.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal
**Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne**

**Nutrition** - The children are very busy during the day and require food that is going to sustain them throughout the day. We ask that you do not send lollies and limit the amount of sometimes food. Please send a drink bottle with water in it to keep them hydrated.

**Lost Property** - Several jumpers were handed in last week but they had no names on them. Please ensure all your child's property is clearly labelled with their name.

**Notes** - Notes for the Kindifarm have been sent home recently. Please check your child's bag if you have not received this information or speak to your child's teacher.

**Photos** - There is a display of photos outside Mrs Flanagan's and Mrs Lansdowne's room. They depict the busy year Kindergarten have had so far. If you wish to purchase any of the photos, envelopes are provided that you can write the number of the photos you would like and place your money inside a before taking it to the office.

**Class Awards**
- KE/T - Brooklyn, Oliver
- KL - Toby, Olivia
- KS - Makayla, Bonnie

**Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs C Behringer**

**Lost Property** - We are encouraging the students to take responsibility for their clothes and belongings. This week we are asking them to make a big effort to claim back all their lost jumpers, hats and jackets from the lost property box in the foyer area. Could you also encourage them to do the same as we are hoping to develop their organisational skills.

**Nutrition** - Many students have made a massive effort to bring in healthy foods in their lunch boxes. The students from 2S get a big shout out of encouragement as they are all very keen and enthusiastic in their healthy food choices at school.

**Life Education** - This week is our last week of Life Education, please make sure your child brings their money in for this very important and informative drug prevention program.

**Reptile Park** - On Thursday of next week (week 8) all Year One students will be going to the Reptile Park for their excursion on Australian animals. Please make sure your child has paid and sent their permission note in.

**Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse**

**Website of the Week** - This week the students of Stage 2 are looking at the ‘GetSmart website which provides learning activities for students across a multitude of key learning areas. The address is: [http://getsmarts.weebly.com/s2.html](http://getsmarts.weebly.com/s2.html)

**Naplan Results** - Naplan results went home last week. If you would like to discuss the results with your child's class teacher, please phone the school to arrange a time for an appointment at your nearest convenience.

**Canberra Excursion** - Final payments are due this Friday 28th August. If the balance of the excursion is not paid in full by this date we will refund you any money that you have paid, less the $50 deposit. Last week information was sent home, including a medical form that needs to be signed and returned to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

**NAPLAN** results were sent home last week. If you wish to discuss your child's results with their classroom teacher or myself please make an appointment either through the office or with your child's teacher.

**Year 5** - The Careers Through Reading program that was run by the University of Newcastle concluded last week. Students were engaged in tailored reading sessions that related to careers that students may wish to pursue in the future. Students learnt a lot throughout the program and were exposed to valuable information by current undergraduates studying at the university.

**School News**

- Stage 2 Supervisor – Mrs R Ranse
- Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne
- Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs C Behringer
- Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse
- Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett
- School News
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 # 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.

Book Club - Brochures for Scholastic issue 6 have been sent home. Orders with money should be returned by Monday 31st August, 2015.

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 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)
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Canteen News

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 7 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Organiser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th August</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th August</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 31st August</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st September</td>
<td>Maria Poulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd September</td>
<td>Lisa Cook, Laura Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd September</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th September</td>
<td>Tina Jones, Shayne Dodds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL BEANIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CANTEEN FOR $10.00 EACH.

Community News

Soldiers Beach Nippers - Registration Days

Sunday 30 August , Saturday 5 September and Sunday 13 September 2015
9am-12pm at Soldiers Beach Surf Club
Join us to learn surf skills and have fun!
Existing members invited to re-register online.
More info at www.soldiersbeachsurfclub.com.au
Lost in concentration
Michael Grose

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you choose to be in the moment when you have children.

1. Build their language
Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. Teach your children about their world
Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher.

3. Impact their thinking
Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.

4. Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. It’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5. Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.