Dear Parents and Carers,

Positive and engaging educational experiences have kept the students enjoying school and hooked on learning this week.

Education Week – Education Week was a huge success, giving our students many opportunities to show their talents and engage their parents, family and friends in what was such a positive experience for all involved. The annual school athletics carnival was a fantastic day of community spirit and a great way to finish Education Week. The sun shone brightly whilst the students enjoyed a balance of competitive and novelty events. Everyone’s efforts in both organising and competing are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Chess in Schools – Our chess team and other interested students have been extremely fortunate to have the expert guidance of Gary Losh this term. Gary is a chess master and is currently implementing a ten-week program to improve the skills of our students and to prepare them for pending competitions. The students who are participating are really enjoying this experience and learning many new skills. Sincere thanks are extended to Gary for his generous and dedicated contribution to our students.

Museum Express – The school provided students with the Museum Express incursion today. Museum Express delivers high quality and engaging science shows to primary schools. The shows are presented by expert Newcastle Museum staff and linked to the NSW curriculum. Our K-2 students enjoyed the Magnificent Music show with their toes tapping and brains drumming about the science of sound. Our 3-6 students participated in the Light Fantastic show, which demonstrated different ways to see, generate and explore light through a series of fantastic experiments.

iTeacher Parent Talk – The wait is over as the iTeacher parent talk will be held tomorrow, Thursday 6th August in the library straight after school.

Please come along and find out what the excitement is all about. It really is incredible how the students are using technology for learning.

Touch Football Gala Day – Congratulations to our girls’ touch football team who competed with great skill and sportsmanship today.

Public Speaking Competition - Best of luck to our public speaking finalists who will represent the school tomorrow in the 2015 Public Speaking Competition at Manning Park Public School.

School Improvements – 2015/2016 planned school maintenance works have been drafted and are available for viewing on request. They include the removal of cook tops and ovens from corridors, remodelling of some classroom doorways, and painting of corridors. The new disabled bathroom that is located near the K-2G classroom has been completed and we are very pleased with this great new facility.

Homework Centre – The Gorokan Public School Homework Centre started today. If you think that your child could benefit from attending, please speak to your child’s teacher for further information.

P&C – Thank you to all who attended the P&C meeting on Monday. It was great to see such interested community support for our school – sharing information and planning for the future. The next meeting will be held next Monday 31st August at 3:15pm in the technology lab. All welcome.

Kindergarten 2016 – Enrolments are currently being taken for Kindergarten 2016. The Kindergarten transition program starts shortly and is outlined on page 3 of this newsletter. Please contact the school office for further information.

Parent-Teacher Interviews – Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the recently held parent-teacher interviews. Your interest is gratefully appreciated.

Together we do make a difference.

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

**Education Week** - The Kindergarten team would like to thank the families that attended the captains’ assembly, classrooms, Book Parade and Book Fair last week. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting their children.

**Chickens** - Our chickens have now left, unfortunately only five chickens hatched. It was an interesting learning experience for the children.

**Head Lice** - Just a reminder to keep a regular check on your child’s hair for the presence of head lice. Hair should be treated immediately if lice are found. Girls with long hair should have it tied up in a plait or ponytail.

**Hats** - Many children are coming to school without their hat. Could you check that your child has their hat each day?

**Interviews** - Thank you to the families that have returned interview notes or have attended parent interviews.

**Stage 1 Supervisor – Mrs C Behringer**

**Jump Rope for Heart** - Will be launched this week. Sponsorship forms will be available and your child will be asked to practise their skipping skills. This program is a physical activity and fundraising program for schools. It is a great way to keep our kids healthy while raising vital funds for the heart foundation.

**Parent Teacher Interviews** started last week. Please see your child’s teacher if you haven’t booked in as yet, as all teachers still have available times for every student.

**You Can Do It** - Our value for the next 5 weeks is persistence. We will be teaching the importance of this value with the students and please feel free to do the same at home.

**Home Reading** - Please ensure that your child gets the best head start in his or her schooling life by reading to them each night and listening to them read to you. This is the most important aspect of their homework each night.

**Nutrition** - We are speaking to the children each day about the benefits of good nutrition. Please check that your child has a healthy lunch every day. There are a number of students coming to school each day without any lunch. A sandwich and a piece of fruit or yoghurt is a substantial and nutritious lunch each day. They will also require a bottle of water as well.

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**Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse**

**Taronga Zoo Excursion** - Notes will go home this week to parents who were drawn out of the hat to help out for the Taronga Zoo excursion. If your child wants to attend the excursion, please be aware that the closing date for final payment is **Wednesday 12th August 2015**.

**Education Week** - Thank you to the parents, caregivers and friends who joined us last Tuesday for our open classrooms session and Book Parade. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing you and were amazed by the ingenuity and amount of detail that had been put into the students costumes. They all looked absolutely fantastic.

**Book Bank** - By now, all of our Stage 2 students should have received their Book Bank book for Term 3. If your child has not received theirs, please ask them to see their class teacher.

**Dance 2 be Fit / Stage Sport** - A reminder that all stage 2 students are doing Dance 2 be Fit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays now, so stage sport is on Friday. Students are asked to wear their yellow sports T-shirt on Fridays.

**Parent / Teacher Interviews** - Parent / Teacher interviews are still going on across the school. If you haven’t had your interview yet, please make an appointment with your child’s class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

**Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett**

**Year 6 Transition dates for 2015** - Here are some upcoming dates for you linked with transitioning your child to Gorokan High School. If your child is going to a different Government High School next year then please note that the Orientation Day on Wednesday 2nd December is state-wide and you should take your child to their High School that they will be attending next year.

**Monday 17th August** - Taster Day. Students arrive at GHS at 9:30am under the cola. A BBQ lunch is provided. Students need to be collected at 2:30pm from under the COLA.

**Thursday 10th September** - External entrance exam for 7C Enrichment Class. More details to follow.

**Thursday 22nd October** - Identified students extra morning tea 9:30-10:30am. You will be notified via the high school if they wish you to attend this.

**Wednesday 18th November** 9:30-2:00pm Sports Day. All students to attend a fun and friendly Sports Day. Parents to drop off and pick up at the High School.

**Thursday 28th November** - Morning tea for Aboriginal students and families. Time to be confirmed.

**Wednesday 2nd December** - Orientation Day 9:30-1:30pm. Students to be placed into classes. Parents can purchase book packs and uniforms.

**Wednesday 1st December** - Identified students extra morning tea 9:30-10:30am. Staff speeches - Parents welcome.

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**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th August</td>
<td>Parent information session iTeacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th August</td>
<td>Final payment Zoo excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th August</td>
<td>School Spelling Bee Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>Taronga Zoo Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>Basketball GALA Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17th August</td>
<td>Gorokan High School Taster Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th August</td>
<td>Final payment Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th – 16th September</td>
<td>Canberra Excursion</td>
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1:30-2pm Aboriginal students and their families meet Aboriginal Unit Staff and AEO.

**Canberra Excursion** - Final payments are due on Friday 28th August.

**Education Week** - Thank you to everyone who was able to support our Open classrooms, Book Parade and Education Week assembly.

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### School News

**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!

**Hunter Central Coast Public Speaking Competition**

Congratulations to all students who took part in the Gorokan Public School section of the Hunter Central Coast Public Speaking Competition. The quality of the speeches was outstanding and the adjudicators had a very difficult task. The successful students who won their stage sections compete in the finals on Thursday. Best of luck to the following students and congratulations for making it this far in the competition!

ES1: Lincoln & Cooper  
S1: Pahal & Nixon  
S2: Braiden & Zac

**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.

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### P & C News

**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. The price of gifts will range from $1.00 to $8.00. 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.

**Book Club** - Orders for Scholastic Issue 5 have been processed and books should be returned to the children next week.

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### Canteen News

**Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 4 Term 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th August</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7th August</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th August</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th August</td>
<td>Deb Bryce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th August</td>
<td>Vicki Smith, Paul Tydeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th August</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>Susan Cheney</td>
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**Canteen Week** - Friday Meal Deal

Due to the athletics carnival we had to postpone this meal deal. It will be held this Friday 7th August. The meal consists of chicken corn roll, 2 hash browns and lol drink for $5.00.

**School Beanies** - Are now available from the canteen for $10.00.

**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.

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Please note when enrolling your child you need to bring their birth certificate, proof of address (rate notice or electricity bill) and immunisation details.
Do you let your kids amaze you?
By Michael Grose

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?” Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks); rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.