Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe in differentiation of instruction that comes from knowing each child and how they learn best. The teachers are constantly seeking ways to engage students in learning and have the expectation that every child will learn each day that they attend school.

**Technology** - Our focus on building a strong technology program continued this week with further iTeacher lessons. A number of teachers from Gorokan High School were invited to attend this round of lessons and were inspired by what they observed in our classes. Our film crew of senior students are making steady progress on their compilation of footage that will eventually become our school ClassMovie. I was amazed at their level of knowledge about the technicalities of filming when they interviewed me last week and can’t wait to see the finished product.

**Kindifarm** – Last Thursday Gorokan Public School played host to Kindifarm. This great experience engaged our Kindergarten students, helping them to achieve curriculum outcomes. The children experienced a fun and safe introduction to farm animals, with each student having a hands on experience of new sights, sounds, smells and touches. It was great to see the students enjoying this great opportunity for active learning.

**Reptile Park Excursion** – Our Year 1 students also experienced a great opportunity for hands-on learning when they visited the Australian Reptile Park last week. It was a memorable experience for our students - mixing education with fun. The children were outstanding in their behaviour and in listening to park staff, teachers and parent helpers - enabling them to maximise their learning opportunities on the day.

**Sydney North Athletics Carnival** – Congratulations to our talented athletes who participated in this year’s Sydney North Athletics Carnival that was held at Sydney Olympic Park on Monday. Our talented team represented the school at the highest standard both in their athletic skills and behaviour. Cameron C will proceed to the NSWPSA Championships to be held in October.

**School Banking** – Established in 1931, School Banking has been teaching money-management skills to generations of Primary school students. The program will be re-established at Gorokan Public School as a P&C initiative and will be launched shortly with a visit from CBA banking staff to provide information to parents and students. Children who participate will be rewarded with Dollarmites tokens that they can redeem for exciting incentives when they deposit regularly into their savings account. The program is supported with a range of fun and engaging materials to help them learn about money – and encourage them to save. A separate note, outlining further information is included with this newsletter.

**Regional Spelling Bee Final** – We wish our school finalist the best of luck in the Regional Spelling Bee Final that will be held tomorrow at Mannering Park Public School.

**Central Coast Chess Competition** - Our talented chess team will have another opportunity to use their great skills tomorrow when they compete in the Central Coast Chess Competition at Wyong High School. Best of luck to you all.

**Kindergarten Orientation** – A further warm welcome is extended to our new families who are participating in the Kindergarten orientation program. Participation over the last few weeks has been wonderful and our aim to transition the children to school smoothly is being achieved. Today’s program included a presentation by Michelle Everson our Learning and Support teacher on language development. This was the last session for this term and the program will resume on Wednesday 7th October next term. An outline of the program has been included on page 3 of this newsletter for your information.

**Jump Rope for Heart** – Funds raised so far are in excess of $4,230. We only have till Friday’s Jump Off to reach our $5000 target. The link to our fundraising page is: https://jumprope.everydayhero.com.au/event/JumpRope2015-GorokanPublicSchool-109645

**Father’s Day Stall** – Our Father’s Day stall was once again a huge success thanks to the support of our volunteers who patiently assisted the students with their Father’s Day gift selections. We hope that our dads had a great Father’s Day.

Together we can make a difference.

**Jesmond Zammit**

Principal
**Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne**

**KindiFarm** - Despite the weather last Friday the children enjoyed their hands on experience with the KindiFarm. The children fed, cuddled and giggled with a variety of farm animals that visited us. Keep a look out for our photos.

**Public Speaking Competition** - The Kindergarten Public Speaking competition began this week. The final will take place on the 15.9.15. Notes were sent home two weeks ago explaining the topic and requirements. We would encourage all students to participate.

**Attendance** - If your child is absent please remember to send a note to their class teacher on their return. You are also able to notify the school via return SMS or the school app.

**Rewards Day** - Will be in Week 10. The students who have been given a level 3 or below this term will not be participating in Rewards day. They will be spending time with Mrs Behringer discussing some positive goals towards achieving higher levels next term.

**Nutrition** - The teachers are all very impressed with the healthy foods students are bringing to school. The students from 1B got our Healthy Food award this week. Congratulations 1B!

**Reptile Park** - The students had an amazing day at the reptile park. Check out our photos on Facebook.

**Mufti Day** - will be on the last day of term. The theme is sports colours.

---

**Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse**

**Website of the Week** - [http://www.abcya.com/](http://www.abcya.com/)

Abcya.com is a teacher-created website which provides fun and educational games and apps for kids to use under the guidance of their parents and teachers. The games do not collect personal information and children and adults are able to visit the site and play the games without providing any personal information to Abcya.com.

**Jump Rope for Heart** - Our stage 2 students have been busily practising their skipping skills in preparation for this week’s Jump Off. We have nearly reached the school goal of $5000. Thank you for supporting our students in this fantastic activity which not only provides resources for our school, but increases the fitness of our students as well.

**Little Cake Day** - A reminder that Little Cake Day is on this Friday. Year 4 students are asked to make a small donation of cakes, toffees or biscuits to go towards the stall.

**Year 4 Excursion** - To ensure a spot on the excursion permission notes and a deposit must be paid by Friday 11th September. Deposits are required by this date so that buses can be booked. Final payment must be made by Friday 16th October. Mrs Moon is coordinating this excursion so please contact her at the school if you have any questions.

---

**Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr C Corlett**

**Canberra Excursion** - A note regarding details for our excursion to Canberra on Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th September has been distributed today. If you have any queries please contact Mr Tyrrell, the camp organiser. If you have any information that needs passing onto your child’s teacher that has not already been done, please do so this week. **Please drop your child off at school on Monday at 6.00am for a 6.15am departure.** To ensure all students get the full program of their excursion we will not be able to wait for late arrivals. **On Wednesday 16th September we will be returning between 7.15 – 7.30pm.** We will notify you of any changes via our Facebook page and the school app.

**Rewards Day** - Our Rewards day for this term will be on Thursday 17th September. We are returning to Peace Park and your child has the chance to order a sausage sizzle lunch and drink. Please note that lunch orders will not be available this day and that your child may bring their own packed lunch if they wish. Students that have achieved a rating of level 4, 5 or 6 throughout the term will be invited to attend.
School Swimming and Water Safety Program - The Department of Education School Swimming and Water Safety Program is an intensive learn to swim program, which develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival. The program is conducted over ten days. Each lesson is 45 minutes and will be held at Toukley Pool from Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October. If you would like your child to participate in the swimming scheme please pay a deposit before this Friday. We still have a few spots left and need to know our final numbers by 11th September. Deposits cannot be taken after this date. For more information please contact the office. The last day of the swimming scheme coincides with the Year 4 excursion to Sydney Aquarium, this will not pose a problem with the swimming as the children will complete their assessments on the Thursday.

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 # 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.

Little Cake Day - This term’s little cake day will be held this Friday 11th September, 2015. Years 2 and 4 are asked to make a donation of cakes, toffees or biscuits to go towards Little Cake Day. These can be left at the canteen in the morning. We do ask that items do not contain nuts as we do have a few children allergic to them.

Running Down Stock - We will be changing from the winter menu to the summer menu next term. A new menu will be sent home in week 10. For this reason we will begin to run down stock. Please make sure your child has a second choice when ordering their lunch.

Canteen Roster 2015 - Week 9 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th September</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
<td>Friday 11th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th September</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th September</td>
<td>Lisa Cook, Laura Ferguson</td>
<td>Thursday 17th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th September</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Beanies - Beanies are available from the canteen for $10.00 each.

Toukley District Athletics Centre - Registrations are open for current season 2015/16. Toukley District Athletics Centre registers athletes from 4 and up (including masters). Athletes are involved in skill training and competition weekly with the emphasis on fun, fitness and improvement. Come join the fun evenings! Toukley District Athletics competes on Friday evenings at Warnervale Athletics Field (5.30 - 8.00pm), BBQ and canteen are conducted each week with lots of new friends to meet and new skills to learn. Orientation evenings begin 25/09/15 (2 weeks) with points for competition beginning on the 9/10/15. Please note that registrations are only accepted ONLINE. For ONLINE REGISTRATIONS Go to: www.lansw.com.au and select Toukley District Athletics Incorporated from the drop down box to register online AND bring printed receipt/invoice and proof of age (e.g. Birth Certificate, Passport) to first competition day -THIS IS MANDATORY. For more information email toukleydistrictathletics1@live.com.au  website: http://www.toukleydistrictathletics.org.au/index.html phone Registrar: Vanessa Thompson 0407 065 691President: Paul Carty 0499 76 11 58

Past and present families are invited to join us in celebrating 40 years of Gorokan Preschool.

Where: 8-12 Balmoral Drive Gorokan
When: 10am – 2.00pm on
       Sunday 18th October.
Fun, games, lucky dips, raffles, cake stall, BBQ, entertainment. Consider buying a Commemorative Paver details available from the Preschool. Phone 43922374
Swap cards – craze or just plain crazy

By Michael Grose

Banning activities such as the use of swap cards robs kids of valuable learning opportunities, as well as the fun!

In a world where children’s toys and playthings constantly become mechanised, digitalised or sanitised it’s good to see some things haven’t changed – the use of swap cards.

The allure of collecting and swapping cards with your friends at school is something many generations can remember. People of my vintage probably can recall collecting and swapping footy cards, celebrity cards and even cards with the favourite pop groups of the time. What swap cards were popular when you were at school?

There was nothing quite like the feeling of satisfaction which comes from collecting the full set. However getting the full set was an expensive exercise as it usually meant buying more of the products that they were packaged up with. Inevitably you’d have five or more of one card and plenty of holes in your collection. How frustrating was that?

But there was nothing as frustrating as almost having a full set and not being able to find anyone at school who was willing to swap with you at the going rate. So on went your negotiation that as you’d try to outsmart a budding extortionist.

While the fun was in the collecting, the thrill was definitely in the chase.

Fortunately kids can still have the same fun as past generations, as well as the opportunity to learn the same lessons we had. Sometimes the best social lessons kids can learn come from the more dubious interactions they have during lunchtime and recess.

There can be problems

There is no doubt that the swap card craze can cause consternation for adults. Some children can and do take advantage of others in the hierarchical world of the playground. While the majority of interactions kids have with each other at school are positive, there are times when they can be negative, difficult and in extreme cases of a bullying nature.

Kids need the freedom to negotiate their own interactions so they can learn from those experiences both good and bad. The street smarts that children pick up from their free and unrestricted play can be a huge advantage when negotiating tough social situations in school and beyond.

But there are solutions

Teachers and parents need to coach kids in the skills and techniques that they need to negotiate the many situations they meet in the schoolyard. They also need to be cognisant of the fact that some children may take advantage of others. Even so unpleasant experiences can provide great social lessons such as how to avoid the same situation next time, how to handle the disappointment of being taken advantage of and how to negotiate better outcomes.

Parents and teachers need to be aware of bullying behaviours, which by definition are repetitive, intentional behaviours by one or more children on another that robs that child of any power to change the situation. If swap cards are at the centre of bullying then act to protect kids. If not, then it may be best to coach kids to cope or to be smarter next time.

Banning activities such as the use of swap cards robs kids of valuable learning activities. Similarly a parent who buys a full set of cards for a child robs him of the thrill of the chase, as well as the chance to practise persistence, be organised and negotiate well, which are still valuable skills to have at school and most workplaces as well.

Swap cards. So much fun and so much learning. How good is that!

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