Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Parent Information Meetings** – At Gorokan Public School we value and encourage the support and partnership between home and school. To this end, a number of parent information sessions were organised for this week. These meetings are well underway and I hope that parents and carers have found them informative and useful. Thank you to all who attended and to the dedicated teachers who ensured the success of these meetings. Later this term parents and carers will have the opportunity to have a one on one meeting with their child’s teacher and more information about this will follow in next week’s newsletter.

**Class Captains’ Assembly** – Congratulations to this term’s inducted Class Captains. To those of you who are new to our school, each term two students from each class are voted in as class captains by their peers. The captains are officially inducted in a whole school assembly that took place on Monday. Parents and family members of successful candidates are invited to this special presentation. I look forward to watching our Term 1 Class Captains undertake their duties with confidence and dedication, setting a great example to their peers of how to be safe, respectful learners. This year’s sports House Captains were also inducted at this assembly. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Captains Brooks** - Tiffany D, Cash D
- **Vice Captains** - James C, Brianna D
- **Captains Thwaite** - Jessica W, Bronson T
- **Vice Captains** - Odin R, Abi S
- **Captains Gascoigne** - Nevaeh M, Josh N
- **Vice Captains** - Mia O, Joel M
- **Captains Buck** - Mackenzie H, Jake H
- **Vice Captains** - Mia H, Ashton J

**School Carpark and Safety Concerns** - Parents are not to enter the school carpark in the mornings or afternoons. We have a number of authorised vehicles dropping off and picking up students from our support unit and any additional vehicles create safety issues. I understand that parking is difficult but please do not put other’s safety at risk for your own convenience. Further to this parents are asked to be considerate of local residents when parking near the school and not to park across driveways of houses. This is an offence, which can result in costly fines if law-enforcing authorities catch offenders.

**Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)** – Gorokan Public School enjoys a strong and active P&C who support and enrich the education of our students through a number of activities. Thank you to the parents and carers who were in attendance at Monday’s P&C meeting. New people are always encouraged to attend as we value the opportunity to hear new ideas and grow this dedicated team of school supporters. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Monday 29th February at 3:15 in the school library. The result of this meeting will be detailed in the newsletter published on Wednesday 2nd March.

**School Swimming Carnival** – This year’s annual school swimming carnival was held at Toukley pool on Tuesday. The main purpose of the carnival was to select students to represent the school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Thank you to the children who participated and demonstrated their swimming ability and sportsmanship. Congratulations to the students who will be progressing to the Zone Carnival in the coming weeks.

**Arrival At School** - Students are not to be at school prior to 8.30am as supervision is not provided before then. Students entering the school must proceed directly to the seats under the large Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) and sit down to wait for teacher instruction. Parents who need to leave for work prior to 8.30am please arrange to drop your child to a friend’s house or use the before school service. Once students are dropped off they must proceed directly into school and into the supervised playground areas.
Departure From School - Students are released from class on the final bell of the day at 3pm. Once released students should leave the school grounds without delay. Students who catch buses should go directly to the bus shelter and wait there quietly and sensibly for teacher instruction. Parents and carers who are at school collecting their children, must ensure that they supervise their children. No supervision is provided at the Suncrest Parade exit. Students exiting via the Suncrest Parade gate should be collected by a parent or guardian and walked out of the school.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<td>Thursday 18th Feb</td>
<td>Parent info session - Kinder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th Feb</td>
<td>Kindergarten free eye assessment</td>
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<td>Friday 19th February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Fundraising meeting</td>
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<td>Monday 29th February</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Fancy Hat Parade</td>
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<td>25th – 28th March</td>
<td>Easter Long Weekend</td>
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<td>Friday 8th April</td>
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Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne

Front Gate Back Gate - Thank you for your support over the past week while we assist the children learn how to leave the school grounds safely each afternoon. Front gate children will assemble at the concrete wall where it is not so congested. If you change who is picking up your child please inform their class teacher.

Information Afternoon - Our Kindergarten information afternoon will take place tomorrow at 2.20 in the hall. If you are able to assist in your child’s classroom please let your child’s teacher know and they will give you the paperwork that is required during the afternoon. Tomorrow is not a time for parent interviews.

Class Award winners:  
K/1B - Jai  
KL - Tylah, Chantel  
KS - Tanayah, Troy  
KR - Mai, Claudia  
KT/S - Zaidan, Samantha

Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer

Parent Information Session - Thank you to all the parents that came this week to our parent information afternoon. If you couldn’t attend then your child will bring home a note concerning the information that parents received at the meeting.

Water - Please remember to send in a bottle of water with your child each day. They will be given water breaks at specific times in the day.

Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Rans

Collecting Students - If collecting your child from school early, please report to the school office. The office ladies will then phone the classroom and your child will be sent down to the office with their schoolbag. Unfortunately it can disrupt the learning of an entire class if parents and carers are making unscheduled visits to the classroom. Similarly, if you need to see your child’s teacher regarding an issue please see the office ladies or phone to make an appointment. Teachers are very busy preparing for the day in the morning and are often involved in professional learning and meetings after school. To ensure that you receive their undivided attention, an appointment is essential.

Parent Information Session - Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the information session yesterday. For those of you who were not able to attend due to work commitments, rest assured that all of the necessary information will be coming home over the next few weeks. The important points are that we have an excursion to the theatre planned for Year 4 in Term 1 and an excursion to the theatre planned for Year 3 in Term 2. We are currently waiting for quotes for bus companies however the anticipated cost will be approximately $30 per student.

Class Captains - Congratulations to the fabulous Stage 2 students who were chosen to represent their class as class captains this term. Well done! I am sure you will do a fantastic job.

Stage 3 Supervisor – Mr M Densmore

Parent Information - Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the information session on Monday. For those of you who were not able to attend the necessary information will be coming home over the next few weeks.

Maths Text Book - During 2016 All Year 5 and 6 students will require a Maths Plus text book. Students will be using these books every week in class to enhance their mathematics learning. The cost of this book is $20. This is a discounted rate offered to Gorokan students.
Please purchase your books by 26th February as all classes will start using these books on Monday 29th February.

**Sport** - Years 5 and 6 will be having their sport on Wednesdays of each week.

**Tennis** - We are happy to offer tennis as a sport option for our students. There will be a limited number of places (30) for students who would like to receive professional tennis coaching during sport time on Wednesdays. If you would like your child to attend please pay $15 before 24.2.2016.

**P & C News**

**P&C Meeting Term 1 2016** - The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 29th February at 3.15pm in the library. At this meeting all executive positions are vacated and nominations taken to fill those positions for 2016. The last general meeting for Term 1 will be held on Monday 14th March at 3.15pm.

**Fundraising Meeting** - A meeting to discuss ways we can fundraise this year will be held on Friday 19th February, 2016 at 2.00pm, meet outside the canteen. If you have any ideas for fundraising events or you wish to contribute your time please come along. Refreshments will be provided and children are welcome.

**Bookclub** - Orders for Scholastic issue 1 have been processed and books should be returned to the children next week.

**Canteen News**

**Breakfast Club** - Thank you to Baker’s Delight at Lake Haven for donating the bread towards our breakfast club. It is greatly appreciated by all the children.

**Canteen Roster 2016 - Week 4 Term 1**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<td>Thursday 18th Feb</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Laura Ferguson</td>
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<td>Friday 19th Feb</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
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<td>Monday 22nd Feb</td>
<td>Kimberley Grant</td>
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<td>Tuesday 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Maria Poulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th Feb</td>
<td>Kimberley Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th Feb</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th Feb</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Susan Cheney</td>
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**School News**

**Gorokan Public School SRC**

(St udent Representative Council)

**Clean Up Australia Day**

**Sunday 6th March 10am – 2pm**

Are you looking for an area to clean up? What about our own school? We are having a working bee on Clean up Australia Day. Our Student group Earth Rangers have been working hard to weed and plant the gardens but there are lots of things to do after the summer holidays. We have moved a mountain of mulch into the new frog pond area and into the garden, but there is still much to bring from the rest of the playground area. There are also jobs to do that children can’t manage like:

- Build a wooden deck for viewing the pond.
- Butting safety wire to cover the pond.
- Concreting seats into the ground for a class science lesson area within the pond area.
- Even if you can only spare one hour. If eight people could do one hour, that makes a whole day’s work for one person.

When you come along please bring gloves, hat and tools (wheelbarrow, garden fork, hammer etc.) We will have ice blocks and sausages for all volunteers. Look forward to seeing you there.
Creating good study and work habits in secondary school

By Michael Grose

Here are seven ways to develop healthy, strong study skills that will serve your young person well this year and throughout their lives.

1. Establish a thorough homework process

Encourage your young person to:

- Write down an assignment when it’s given orally
- Ask the teacher clarifying questions if he doesn’t understand anything
- Use a planner or some other organiser to plan his or her time
- Place his homework in a designated place as soon as it’s finished.

2. Establish a Study Zone at home

Choose a consistent study or homework space that’s conducive to working. Encourage your young person to stick to this space. Some young people need absolute quiet when doing homework, while others work better with soft music. Contrary to the opinions of many teens, studies consistently show that loud music and/or TV are highly distracting to students. Don’t let your young person develop the habit of working in bed as this will make it difficult to go to sleep. Keep work and sleep spaces separate.

3. Establish a regular study time

The establishment of a consistent and specific time to do homework has been linked to academic success. Help your young person work out the best time for him or her to crack the books – before or after dinner, or both. Encourage your young person to take regular breaks to keep their brain alert.

Every hour – or whenever she feels frustrated or angry – she should get up and walk around, get a snack and let her brain recover.

4. Establish a way to stay organised

Getting organised reduces stress levels and improves the chance of success. Consider a colour-coding system to keep assignments organised by selecting a single colour for each class (like science or history). Use that colour for that subject’s folder, highlighters, sticky notes, etc. The colours will not only keep your teen organised but will also enhance his or her recall of the subject.

5. Establish good time management skills

The best way to help your young person organise their time is to use a large wall calendar so they can jot down study, leisure, family and other activities. The visual nature of the wall calendar will enable you as a parent to help them stay on track as well.

6. Eliminate time robbers

Many teens work inefficiently wasting time on mobile devices and other activities. Help your teen recognise time robbers and eliminate them so they can finish homework quickly and have more time to do other things.

7. Conduct a regular extracurricular audit

Take a hard look at your young person’s overall time commitments. Help them reprioritise their commitments if much of their time and energy is taken up with a part-time job, extracurricular activities, and their social lives. While it’s important that young people have interests outside school, it’s equally important that these commitments don’t overwhelm or impact negatively on their study.