Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gorokan Public School we believe that persistence is one of the most important keys to success in most aspects of school and beyond.

**Sporting News** – I am thrilled to announce that Gorokan Public School was the overall winning school at the Zone Swimming Carnival, which was held last Wednesday at Mingara. Congratulations to all twenty students who competed. Proof that persistence and dedication pays off are the standout achievements of two of our students who train every morning (before most of us are awake), Tyson M was awarded the 11 years boys’ champion and Caitlin M was awarded the 12 years girls’ champion. Caitlin also broke two records on the day – the 50 metre freestyle and the 50 metre backstroke. Congratulations and well done!

Congratulations are also extended to the students who attended the Zone trials for Rugby League and Soccer last week, with the following students progressing through to the Tuggerah/Wallarah Combined Trials:

**Soccer:** Dylan B, Harry C, Connor V, Nevaeh M  
**Rugby:** Cooper B, Bronson T

**Parents and Citizens Association** – A further reminder is extended regarding the P&C AGM that will be held on Monday 14th March in the library at 3:15pm. All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend. Nominations for positions close at 3pm Monday 14th March and should be forwarded to me by then.

**Parent Portal** – The Parent Portal is a new service that provides parents of students enrolled in NSW public schools online access to information about their child’s education. Parents and carers will soon be able to log on to the Gorokan Public School Parent Portal to make online payments for their children’s school fees and activities.

To access the Parent Portal you will require:
- a valid email address
- access to a computer with Internet access.

We are planning to launch this exciting new service in April. Further information will be provided in coming weeks.

**Clean up Australia Day / School Working Bee** – Thank you to the School Earth Rangers group for organising the school working bee last Sunday and to everyone who helped on the day. The school benefitted greatly from your collective efforts.

**Learning Management Business Reform (LMBR)** - Early next term we will be changing over all of our business systems (finance, human resources, student management and learning management) to a new platform. The whole of the Department of Education will be changing over to the new system this year. This will mean that over a two week period in May we need to manage the change over to the new systems. Parents and Caregivers, for the most part, won’t notice the change as the changes are all in the background, however we may be restricted in our ability to do business during the changeover – particularly in the collection and processing of payments. Please be aware of these changes and understand that there may be some disruption to our ability to serve you during these first two weeks in May. I will provide more information as we approach the changeover.

**Parent Teacher Interviews** – A further reminder that parent teacher interviews will be held in weeks 10 and 11 this term. I would encourage all parents and carers to take advantage of this great opportunity.

**Central Coast Council P&C** - Last Monday Gorokan Public School hosted the CCC P&C’s February meeting. It was a very informative event with guest speakers such as both Central Coast Directors of Public Schools and David Harris MP, Member for Wyong. Karen Morrow (our new music teacher) received a CCC P&C Recognition Award for her outstanding contribution to the teaching of Performing Arts across Central Coast schools. It was also a great opportunity to showcase our great school and I thoroughly enjoyed welcoming everyone and describing all the great things that are happening at our great school.
Staffing Update – Please join me in welcoming Sharon Calder who will be relieving Jenny Ehlers. Jenny recently underwent eye surgery and will be on extended sick leave. We wish Jenny well in her recovery. Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal

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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 11th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday 14th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14th to 25th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 24th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25th – 28th March</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 8th April</strong></td>
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**Multicat Classes - Ms Greentree & Ms Yates**

KY - Everyone is settling in well to KY and we have many exciting things planned for 2016. Our two beautiful class captains, Sienna and Isabelle received their badges at assembly on 15/2/16.

**Kindergarten Supervisor – Mrs K Lansdowne**

Best Start Feedback - The Best Start Feedback was sent home on Monday. Please remember that it is a snapshot of the child on that day and children have already begun to learn lots of new things.

Parent Teacher Interviews - Parent teacher interviews will be held during week 10 and 11 of this term. A note will be sent home shortly to arrange times. We would encourage you all to try and attend these interviews so we can continue to build a strong relationship.

Headphones - We ask that all children have a set of headphones so they can work independently on computers and iPads.

Reading Eggs and Mathletics - The children are enjoying working on these activities.

Lunches - It has been great to see such healthy foods. If your child has a yoghurt please ensure they have an ice brick and can manipulate the container it comes in. Please limit snack foods. Children should be bringing in a bottle of water every day.

Class Award winners:

- K/1B - Sophia
- KL - Kylan, Zoe
- KT/S - Leo, Lily
- KR - Elizabeth, Tynan
- KS - Logan, Olivia M

**Stage 1 Supervisor - Mrs C Behringer**

Counting - This week the teachers are focusing on Year One students being able to count forwards and backwards from any number up to 100. Year Two students are going beyond 100 and practising forwards and backward number counts from a given number. It would be great to make a game of this at home or in the car and give your child some practise at counting.

Reading - Listening to your child read their home reader is a must at this time of their school life. We want to instil a love for reading in all our students as it is a skill that they will enjoy well into adulthood.

Water Bottle - Please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle as we are discovering that some of our students are going a whole day without remembering to drink water. It is essential that they drink at least a litre of water a day for the health of their brain and emotional development.

**Stage 2 Supervisor - Mrs R Ranse**

Year 4 Excursion - The permission notes have gone home for the Year 4 excursion to the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. Students will be treated to a performance of the David Walliams novel 'Mr Stink'. Many of our Year 4 students are familiar with this author, having read some of his books last year. Please ensure you return your child’s permission note and payment as promptly as possible to ensure they are able to attend this fantastic excursion.

Thankyou - Thank you to those parents who have donated hand sanitiser, hand wash, paper towel and tissues. We really do appreciate your generosity. We are also very grateful for the donations of Easter eggs and chocolates which contribute to our Easter Egg raffle.

Sports In Schools - Stage 2 students are currently participating in the fabulous ‘Sports in Schools’ program. Please ensure that your child wears their sports uniform on Tuesday, as this program coincides with Stage 2 sports day. This program is funded by voluntary school contributions.

Headlice - Recently we have had some very noticeable cases of headlice amongst students. If left untreated, headlice can not only be physically uncomfortable for students but also socially disadvantageous. Please check your children’s hair on a regular basis. We are doing our utmost to monitor this situation at school and regularly send notes home when it is discovered.
Parent/Teacher Interviews - In Weeks 10 and 11 (02/4/16 - 10/02/16), parents/caregivers will be given an opportunity to meet with the classroom teachers to discuss their child’s progress. This is a worthwhile opportunity for the parents/caregivers to work collaboratively with the classroom teacher to ensure your child achieves success.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs – A reminder that all students have now been set up with Reading Eggs and Mathletics. Please see your child’s class teacher if you need further information regarding usernames and passwords. These great programs are funded by voluntary school contributions.

Term 3 Bathurst Excursion - Mr Tyrrell has organised an excursion to Bathurst on Wednesday, the 21st of September until Friday, the 23rd of September (Week 10), which is the last three days of school. The initial deposit is $40.00, which will secure a child’s place. The total cost of the excursion is $340.00 and a regular payment plan can be utilised, if it is required. Notes have already been sent home. Please see your classroom teacher if an additional excursion note is required.

Hands On Learning Day - A note has been sent home regarding a Hands On Learning Day excursion to Gorokan High School. This excursion is capped at 75 students and will occur on Friday, the 29th of April (Week 1 – Term 2). The cost is $2.00 per student. Please see your classroom teacher if an additional excursion note is required. This day will be organised by teachers from Gorokan High school, in conjunction with a company called ‘World of Maths’. This company is a unique travelling mathematics’ show that provides fun and colourful hands-on mathematical problem-solving activities for the students. This is a worthwhile activity that is also a fantastic method of transitioning our Year 6 students for high school next year.

Easter Guessing Competition - Tickets have been sent home for this competition and must be returned with money by Monday 21st March. The draw will take place on Thursday 24th March (previously advertised as Wednesday 23rd March at our fancy hat parade. Donations of Easter eggs or related goods are needed and can left in the basket which is located in office foyer.

Fancy Hat Parade Pizza Meal - Order forms for Eagle Boy’s pizza lunch to be held on Thursday 24th March, 2016 have been sent home. This lunch is open to all students in the school and their families. Orders with money should be returned by Friday 18th March.

Bookclub - Brochures for Scholastic Issue 2 have been sent home. Orders with money must be returned by Monday 21st March, 2016. Please keep in mind books will not be returned to the children until after the Easter weekend.

House Fire Appeal - Recently a family of Gorokan Public School experienced a house fire. If you wish to help them out with non-perishable foods, school snacks, stationery and/or toys, please see Julie in the canteen.

Canteen Roster 2016 - Week 7 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 10th March</th>
<th>Paul Tydeman, Laura Ferguson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Susan Cheney, Jodie Miller</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Kimberley Grant</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15th March</td>
<td>Linda Stewart, Lee McCann</td>
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<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>Kimberley Grant, Collette Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th March</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Laura Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
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Breakfast Club - Thank you to all those families who have donated bread and margarine towards our breakfast club. Thank you to Baker’s Delight for coming on board and donating the bread. We are still in need of margarine.

Little Cake Day - This term’s little cake day will be held on Friday 11th March, 2016. Years 1 and 6 are requested to donate cakes and biscuits which can be left at the canteen on the morning of the cake stall. Cakes will be sold at recess for 50c each. Help is needed from 10.30am to help set up and sell to the children.

Hat Parade: When: 24th March
Time: 12.00pm

K-2 students will make their hats at school, donations of craft materials appreciated.

3-6 students will need to make their hats at home. Hope to see you there.
Social skills for children

By Michael Grose

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners
Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing
Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. Holding a conversation
Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

5. Winning and losing well
Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. Approaching and joining a group
The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. Handling fights and disagreements
Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as: talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.

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