This past week has seen the second annual release by the State Government of funds through the Resource Allocation Model (RAM). The RAM reflects the principles of the ‘Gonski’ review of school funding and provides many benefits to public schools by:

- ensuring a fairer allocation of funding for all schools based on student needs
- allocating most funding on a per student basis
- allocating funding to recognise the different characteristics of each school
- providing increased funding that goes directly to schools, enabling certainty in school planning, evaluation and reporting from year to year:
- and providing the means for public schools to have greater management over its education budget allowing for increased decision-making in schools to meet student needs.

This funding has been very welcomed as its core it addresses the equity issues such as socio-economic background, Aboriginal background and this year the RAM includes a loading for English language proficiency and an adjustment for disability loading to support students with additional learning and support needs.

Remembrance Day – Congratulations
In last week’s newsletter, I acknowledged the efforts of our staff, school leaders and two band members for the wonderful contributions they made during our Remembrance Day ceremony. I would also like to congratulate Bianca T for being a wonderful representative of Gosford PS. We are very proud of Bianca’s efforts as she performed the ‘Last Post’ at Kariong PS during their Remembrance Day service.

Gosford Public School
Quality education in a nurturing, innovative learning environment

Term 4 – Week 8
Tuesday 25 November 2014
Gosford City Council – Environmental Awards

I would like to take this opportunity in congratulating the Environmental Club and dance group for their great performance at the recent GCC Environmental Awards at Laycock St Theatre. This year's theme, ‘Taking the Next Step’ was the central theme to our school’s performance at this year’s award ceremony on Wednesday 19 November, 2014. Thank you to Mrs Wade, Mrs Douglas and Miss Spackman for all of their hard work and commitment to making our students aware of the responsibilities we share for a more sustainable future. We would also like to thank the parents/carers for transporting the students.

Enrolments and Class Structures for 2015

We are currently looking at class structures for next year. Please advise the office immediately if you are leaving our school or know of any new students coming to our school that we may not be aware of. We would like to be as accurate as possible as to minimise any disruption next year in settling children into their new classes. At this stage we are looking at a 20 class model.

End-of-Year Reports

Class teachers have been working overtime on the students’ Semester 2 reports. They have been designed to give you a comprehensive report upon your child’s academic and social growth and development. The Semester 2 reports are currently being finalised by the teaching staff before being read by the school executive team. The Semester 2 reports will now be going home on Monday 15 December.

Visiting Student Workplace Learning

My apologies to Jessica for the misprint in last week’s newsletter. Jessica Neal (Lyell) will continue her work experience throughout the week. We also welcome Chelsea Boulton to Gosford PS as she also undertakes her Workplace Learning Program from Narara Valley HS.
School Captain Nominations and Elections
It is that time of year when we are thinking about School Captains for 2015. Next year there will be two (2) School Captains and four (4) School Leaders elected. Year 5 students who are eligible for these leadership positions are currently being nominated. Along with the honour of being elected, there is also the added responsibility to find a balance between their new leadership roles with their academic, extracurricular and social development. On Friday, Year 5 students will find out if they have been successfully nominated for the election process.
A special assembly will be held during Week 10 of this term (details to follow closer to the date), at which all successful nominees will present a short speech explaining why they would make the best School Captain. The new School Captains and School Leaders will be announced at our annual Presentation Assembly - Friday 12 December, commencing at 12:00 pm. Good luck to all nominees!

Cyber Safety
I commend Mrs McCabe for addressing the need for adults to be conscious about cyber safety for children. In this week’s newsletter Mrs McCabe writes a comprehensive article about how parents and carers can minimise the risk of inappropriate use of technology, especially online sites.
I urge all parents and carers to take the time to read this excellent article.

Sesquicentenary News
It was great to make contact with Gosford Public School’s first staff clerical appointee, Mrs Beryl Steward over the weekend. Mrs Steward was at the school for nearly two decades from 1971 and has quite a number of items of memorabilia to contribute to our 150 Year book.
Should you or someone you know have photographs, newspaper articles Mrs Newton would like you to make contact with her via our school office-phone 43493600.
Also available to purchase are the sesquicentenary bricks. These will be available for $30 and have been salvaged and cleaned from our previous school, ready to form a central part of the Commemorative Garden.
Please contact the office to register your interest as we have a limited number of bricks available.

Relieving Executive Positions
Welcome back to Mr. Anderson who returns to school after a short period of leave. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the work and efforts of those staff who took on relieving positions during this time - Mrs Owens, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Newton and Mrs Szostak.

Cheers
Greg Francis

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking has finished for this year. All awards will be distributed by the last day of term which is Wednesday 17 December 2014.
We have been very fortunate to have Amanda Juillerat processing the school banking this year and we thank her for donating her time.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YEAR 2 BUS TRAVELLERS
Children currently in Year 2 must have a new bus pass application completed for 2015 as they will not automatically receive a bus pass for next year.
Applications can be obtained from the school office and returned when completed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YEAR 3, 4 AND 5 BUS TRAVELLERS
Students in Years 3, 4 and 5 who currently hold a bus pass will need to apply for a bus pass for 2015. This is due to the re-location of Gosford Public School this year.
Applications can be obtained from the school office and returned when completed.
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Thank you to the parents who completed the BYOD Parent Survey. The survey is now closed and your feedback is being analysed. Your feedback will assist the school to decide if BYOD would be a suitable Technology program to include within our school.

Cyber Safety

Are you worried about your child's safety when they use online Technology?

Each term, the students at Gosford PS are taught age appropriate skills that can empower them to stay safe while using the internet, such as password safety, personal safety strategies (No, Go, Tell), safe use of email and data protection using anti-virus software.

When the students use the internet at school, they are using a service that is managed by the DEC and are provided filtered access to the Internet to minimise the risk of students accessing websites that contain inappropriate material. The student’s internet usage is closely monitored by the classroom teacher and individual websites can be blocked to ensure each child has a safe online learning environment.

Cyber Safety can also be a concern when students use technology at home. The following points can assist you to keep your child safe when they use the internet:

- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them. Discuss the kinds of sites that are ok to explore and those that are not.
- Communicate openly with your child about their use of technology and set rules from an early age.
- Consider using parental controls such as filters to help manage your child’s online access.
- Become informed about some of the issues that your child may face on the internet. The Cybersmart website is an excellent place to start. Visit http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx

The Cybersmart website contains information and related links to support parents in keeping kids safe online. Cybersmart is a national cyber safety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Australian Government’s commitment to cyber safety. The program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children, young people, parents and teachers. Resources include practical advice, videos, games, support, and research-based information, and everything is free of charge.

Jodie McCabe
Technology Coordinator

PUZZLE MASTER

This week's Puzzle Master winner is Daniel from 2/3B.

Congratulations!

Karen Hodgson
Coordinator

CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen roster for week ending 5 December 2014:
Mon 1st Tanee, Tues 2nd Janene  Wed 3rd Jennifer, Thu 4th Colin, Fri 5th Lanssa
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS - WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER
Gosford Public School P & C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Chapman Room this Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 7:30 pm
All office-bearer positions are open for election
Minutes of previous AGM will distributed prior to AGM
P & C now also has an email address:
gosfordpspandc@gmail.com
The AGM consist of Presidents annual report, treasurer's annual report and any other relevant annual reports. All reports must be strictly relevant to the AGM. In addition new by-laws will be tabled for adoption. These draft documents will be distributed by email. The positions determined at the AGM are;

- President
- Two vice Presidents
- Secretary - Correspondent
- Secretary - Minutes
- Treasurer
- Canteen sub committee
- Uniform sub committee
- NSW P&C Federation delegate
The Auditor for the following year will be determined at the AGM

ALL WELCOME, ONLY FINANCIAL P & C MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO STAND OR VOTE FOR A POSITION

Uniform Shop News
The uniform shop will be open every Thursday between 2:15 till 3:30 pm till the end of term. Last day of trading for this term is Thursday 11th December 2014.
Munch monitors is available to till the end of term and also orders can be placed with payment in the uniform box in the school office.
Uniform shop will open on 27th January 2015 in the Chapman Room between 9am-3pm.
Volunteers required. If anyone can volunteer an hour of their time during the day that would be appreciated.
Orders can be placed on Munch monitors (Before 9am that day) ready for collection on the 27th January 2015.

Uniform Shop Coordinators

LIBRARY NEWS
This week we had our second round of story time. Many thanks to Sarah, Maya, Racheal and Lilly (all in 6c) who all did a fabulous job reading wonderful stories to what was once again quite a large audience in the library. It is not an easy job putting yourself up in front of all of those people, however the girls managed to present their
World of Maths Fun Days

On Wednesday the 19th and 20th November, students from Gosford, Point Clare Public School and Henry Kendall High School participated in a ‘hands on’ mathematical experience. As a part of our community of schools this was an insight for the Year 6 students to become familiar with high school as a transition initiative.

On both days, students were able to enjoy an array of engaging activities available such as orienteering, problem-solving with planks, maths trivia and the ‘World of Maths’ workshop. Overall the fun days were a great success!

A big thank you to Henry Kendall’s staff and young achievers class, Point Clare’s staff and students, and to our staff and students. It could not have been done without you.

Nathan Lincoln
Yr 5 SUPER SELECTIVE TRIAL TEST COURSE (Only 10 weeks left)

James An College offers an intensive Selective Trial Test course for all year 5 students who are going for the NSW Selective Test in March 2015. The Course focuses on the Subjects of English, Mathematics, General Ability and Writing. It is a 45 weeks (10 March 2014 - 1 March 2015) intensive course with subject:

SEM (Selective English and Mathematics) 3hrs 2x40min tests
SWS (Selective Writing Skills) 1.5hrs 20min test
SGA (Special General Ability) 2hrs 40min test

A total of 138 sessions and a combination of 10000 questions (including homework questions)!

Each week, students will sit a test and a professional teacher will explain every question in the test paper. For each subject, students will be expected to complete a unit of homework before the weeks lesson begins. Through these courses, students will develop an advanced level of writing skills, mathematical abilities and problem solving techniques necessary to give them an advantageous position over others in the Selective High School Placement Test.

CALL Gosford JAC (02) 4300 0167
Over 45 branches nationwide

Choosing a book for your child
What makes a good book for young kids? Usually anything that they want to read. Resist the desire to choose only books that you read as a child. Good books teach kids things subtly while still telling a great story.

Hanen TalkAbility (TA) Orientation:
Gosford

‘TalkAbility’ (The Hanen Program) is a parent training program, designed specifically for families who have a verbal child who is on the Autism Spectrum. It is an internationally recognised, evidence-based program that provides parents with practical tools to develop their child’s social communication skills.

What will you gain by participating in TalkAbility?

- Learn how your child carries on conversation and the next steps to take to help him have back-and-forth conversations
- Learn how to encourage your child to pay attention to the social messages people send non-verbally
- Learn how to talk so your child can tune in to what others are thinking. Learn how to help your child tell stories and play imaginatively
- Learn how to help your child make friends
- Connect with other parents in similar situations

What does TalkAbility involve?

Date
29th January 2015

Time
9:30am - 11:30am

Location
Gosford Leagues Club
Dane Drive
Gosford 2250

Click here to view map
TalkAbility is presented by Hanen-certified clinicians, who are Building Blocks speech language pathologists with years of experience working with children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

TalkAbility is a 14 session parent training program to be run over 4 months. It includes ten face-to-face group sessions and four individual home consultations.

TalkAbility sessions can also be attended by other family members or carers who also provide direct care for your child to encourage a consistent approach.

A TalkAbility Orientation will be held, where you can find out more information, and have your questions answered about the program.

What is the cost of TalkAbility?

This program is fully funded by Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and free to attend.

For all enquiries regarding this workshop please contact Corina Hassett on 0409 923 814.

Register by 23rd January 2015

Website: http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/content/events-and-workshops