Congratulations Mrs Szostak

Well done to Mrs Szostak who last week was successful at interview for the promotion’s position of Assistant Principal at Woy Woy Public School. Mrs Szostak has provided eleven years of dedicated service to the students and families at Gosford Public School. In that time she has assumed many roles and responsibilities including relieving executive roles. A lasting legacy will be her passion for Physical Education, Health and Personal Development. Mrs Szostak initiated, developed and implemented programs to improve the health of students across the school.

An outstanding educator, Mrs Szostak will be missed but I am sure all of us wish her every success in her new position.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Survey Results

I encourage parents and carers to make time to view the BYOD survey results that are published in this edition of the newsletter.

I would like to thank both parents and staff for completing the BYOD survey; the data collected has been invaluable and will be used extensively throughout the planning and implementation process. From the survey results a significant majority of parents and staff are either in favour of implementing a BYOD program or are “open to the idea” after more information is provided. Also indicating support for the possible implementation is that nearly 80% of parents would either consider or be happy to purchase a suitable device for their child/children. This information is very important as it provides a guide for the school when considering budgeting for such a program. In the past we have been very fortunate that our P&C has supported
the school's technology program. With a BYOD program many of these funds can be redirected to other student programs. In today's technological world there are a diverse range of devices that can be considered for such a program. The trial with up to three classes for 2015 will provide a practical environment to assess the suitability of devices. However, as stated in the results, "in a primary school setting the use of mobile phones will not be considered an appropriate device."

We know that technology is an important learning tool. However it can be a great time waster and take away from the happy and healthy lifestyle that our climate affords us. The following advice from Mrs McCabe hopes to instill a healthy balance between technology use and other forms of recreation and is worth repeating. Some helpful tips may include:

- Limiting the use of technology/screen time to certain times of the day
- Turning off technology and playing outside, especially in fine weather
- Rewarding good behaviour with activities that don't involve technology
- Engaging children in sports days or clubs

The NSW Sport and Recreation website is a great place to find out what is going on in the Central Coast, during the holidays http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/active/whatson.asp?region=centralcoast

Many thanks to Mrs McCabe who as our school's Technology Coordinator does a fantastic job across all aspects of technology and communication at our school. I especially commend her for her work in ensuring that BYOD programs are educational, safe and equitable to all parties involved.

**School Band Performance**

Unfortunately last Thursday the recent inclement weather affected the Christmas Carols in the Hive concert which was to feature our school band members. At the exact time the outdoor concert was to commence lightening was present and the planned performance was cancelled. However Band Coordinator Esther See and some very patient students and parents waited until the weather cleared and the band was then able to provide an impromptu performance for the Christmas shoppers at Erina Fair.

**Thank You to our Valued Volunteers**

Last Thursday saw many of our volunteers attend a special morning tea. It was a great opportunity to recognise them for their untiring efforts throughout 2014. From our scripture teachers, to class helpers and student mentors from Henry Kendall High School we have many selfless people who give generously of their time and effort to assist our students and make our school a better place.

Thank you to the staff who set up the Chapman Room and who provided the wonderful food. I also thank Miss Shelton for the coordination of the morning tea.

**Presentation Assemblies**

The K-2 and 3-6 Presentation Assemblies will be conducted this Friday 12th December. The K-2 assembly will commence at 9:30am and is expected to conclude by 10:30am. The 3-6 assembly will commence at 12:00pm and conclude by 1:45pm.

A special assembly to acknowledge kindergarten students' first year of formal schooling will be held in the skillion area outside the school's administration office on Tuesday 16th December. It starts at 9:15am and is expected to conclude by 9:45am.

**Student Leaders**

I take this opportunity to thank our current school captains Sebastian and Capri and vice captains Siobhan and Kaelan. They have been great ambassadors for our school and on all occasions they have presented themselves with great aplomb.

I also would like to congratulate our students who are nominees for student leadership positions in 2015 and wish them well in their endeavour to achieve their goals.

**John Anderson**
REMINDER

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER IS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION DAY FOR YEARS K, 1 & 2!
TAKING PLACE AT GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS
CHILDREN ARE TO WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM WITH A CHRISTMAS ACCESSORY AND A SMILE!
CHILDREN ARE TO BRING A DECORATED LUNCH BOX

Please note: Decorated lunch box is an individual lunch for your child. Decorate the box with Christmas cheer and add a special treat!
Gosford Public School's Presentation Day assemblies will be held on Friday 12 December 2014 in the Multi-Purpose Centre of Henry Kendall High School. The K-2 assembly will begin at 9:30am and the 3-6 assembly will begin at 12:00 midday. Certificates and presentations are awarded to students to recognise their achievements in the academic, social and sporting areas.

If your child is receiving an award, a letter would have been sent home previously inviting parents to attend the Presentation Assembly.

Presentation Day awards punctuate an important phase in our students’ lifelong learning journey. It is a time when we are able to formally recognise outstanding effort and performance by many of our students. We reward all children throughout the year in line with our school merit system therefore this day is not intended to recognise the efforts of every child. This day is to recognise the special and extraordinary efforts and achievements students have made throughout their current school year at Gosford Public School.

Making a decision about which child gets an award is a difficult and well-discussed decision. Although many students are deserving of an award we have limited them to highlight their importance and significance. Awards are based on in school performance and effort throughout the year.

**What to do if your child is not receiving an award?**

**Q** Why don't we give an award to every child?
**A** If every child received an award, children would soon work out that the award was token and the value of the award would diminish.

**Q** What if my child has worked really hard all year and has received good results but is not given an award?
**A** Congratulate your child for their efforts. Remind them that they would have received awards and praise throughout the year from their teacher.

**Q** Many children deserve an award but only some children get one, why?
**A** Many children are considered for an award. Teachers take into consideration many children's efforts and performances. In the end however only a few children will receive an award.

**Q** My child is disappointed, how can I help them feel better about their efforts?
**A** This is an ideal time to impart the value of resilience and persistence. Encourage your child to congratulate their peers, learn from their friends and to plan ways to build on their efforts in the coming year.

Janine Szostak
Presentation Day Coordinator

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**CANTEEN ROSTER (final roster 2014)**

Canteen roster for week ending 17th December:
Mon 15th Glenda, Tues 16th Tanee Wed 17th

HOT DOG DAY FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER!

HOT DOG WITH CHEESE AND MUSTARD ONLY $2!
If your child is interested in joining the school band in 2015, or you would like some information on the band please contact Mrs See on 0408 241 098.

PAYMENTS
It would be appreciated if outstanding accounts are finalised prior to the end of the school year. Some families have requested payment options for various activities throughout the year and these were granted on the condition that accounts are paid prior to the end of the year. 
Don’t forget that payments can now be made through 'Parents on line Payments' (POP) via our school website. This option is preferable to transferring the funds directly into the school’s bank account as it is secure and all the information required by the school is securely uploaded.

Uniform Shop News
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

Technology News
**BYOD Update** – As you are aware, our school has been exploring the possibilities of a BYOD trial in 2015. Both the staff and parent community were surveyed to help the school decide if a BYOD trial would be suitable for our school in 2015.

The survey results revealed that a BYOD Trial would be supported by both staff and parents and as a result a BYOD Trial will be implemented with 2–3 classes in 2015.

**Survey Results Overview:**
*Both staff and parents were asked.....*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Would you support, in theory, a BYOD program being implemented at our school?</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64.71%</td>
<td>47.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>7.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need more information, but open to idea of BYOD</td>
<td>29.41%</td>
<td>33.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need more information, but sceptical of the idea of BYOD</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2015, teachers will be involved in extensive Professional Development in IT. The aim of training is to increase teacher confidence in managing a variety of devices in a teaching capacity and equip them with the skills to implement a BYOD program within the classroom. A parent forum will also be held to ensure our school community is informed about the concept of BYOD and involved in the planning and organisation of a BYOD Program at GPS.

Staff was asked …..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What type of devices do you think students should bring to school as part of a BYOD program?</th>
<th>Staff Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iPads</td>
<td>82.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptops</td>
<td>70.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Android Tablets</td>
<td>52.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in 1 Device (Tablet/ Laptop)</td>
<td>58.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phones</td>
<td>5.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any type of device</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB – In a primary school setting the use of Mobile Phones will not be considered an appropriate device

Parents were asked ……

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Child owns their own personal device.</th>
<th>Shares with Sibling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.76%</td>
<td>22.06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Would you consider buying a suitable device for BYOD?</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.31%</td>
<td>20.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both staff and parents were asked to state their concerns regarding the BYOD program. The results revealed that security of the device, including transportation to and from school was of most concern to both parents and staff, followed by data security, student equity and appropriate use of the device at school. These issues are definitely valid and will be addressed during the planning stage of the BYOD Trial which will involve a consultation process between staff and parents.
BYOD – Where to next? In 2015 GPS will:

• Develop BYOD Policies in consultation with staff and parent community to address parent and staff concerns & equity issues.
• Implement a BYOD Trial with 2 – 3 classes. Students, parents and teachers will work closely to ensure all potential issues are addressed within the trial period
• A Parent Forum will be held, at conclusion of trial period
• Teacher training will include extensive Professional Development in IT in the classroom.

A BYOD program will only be effective if it is supported by the whole school community, including staff, parents and students. The planning and organisation process will involve parents, staff and students to ensure that the BYOD Trial and any future BYOD Programs are educational, safe and equitable to all parties involved.

I would like to thank both parents and staff for completing the BYOD survey’s, the data collected has been invaluable, and will be used to extensively throughout the planning and implementation process.

How to maintain a balance between Screen time and Down Time during the holiday break?

As the holidays approach many parents are considering how to entertain their children throughout the Christmas break. Often children spend hours playing games on iPads, X-box, using or viewing technology, but did you know that activities that do not involve screen time are essential to the physical and mental health of children. So, how do you maintain a balance?

Some helpful tips may include:

• Limiting the use of Technology/ Screen time to certain times of the day
• Turning off technology and playing outside, especially in fine weather
• Rewarding good behaviour with activities that don’t involve technology
• Engaging children in sports days or clubs.

The NSW Sport and Recreation website is a great place to http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/ and to find out what’s going on in the Central Coast, during the holidays http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/active/whatson.asp?region=centralcoast

Jodie McCabe
Technology Coordinator

JULIE’S CORNER

It has been an amazing year, lots of changes and growth which comes from being pushed out of our comfort zones!

I would like to wish you all a special Christmas and a brilliant New Year.

"I met health, love, peace and joy. They needed a permanent place to stay I gave them your address I hope they arrive safely"

Hope to see you next year.

Julie
Chaplain

Quality education in a nurturing, innovative learning environment
KIDS FISHING WORKSHOP

Ettalong Beach
10.00am – 2.00pm on
Thursday 22 January 2015

Give your child the opportunity to learn to fish during the school holidays. The day involves fishing techniques such as knots and rigging as well as casting, bag/size limits and ethical fishing practices. The workshop is designed for kids aged 8-14 years.

$40 per child

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 25 and bookings are essential.

Fee includes rod and reel, shirt, hat, tackle kit and show bag for the kids to take home. The workshop is led by experienced staff and volunteers from NSW DPI - Fisheries Division. Full supervision is provided on the day.

For Bookings call:
Jamie Burns
Fisheries Education Officer
P: 02 4980 9204
M: 0408 609 332
E: jamie.burns@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Venue:
Reserve on the waterfront near the intersection of Beach Street and the Esplanade, Ettalong Beach

Transport is the responsibility of parents. Remember to slip, slop and slap and to prepare for inclement weather if the need arises.
summer fest 2015

a school holiday event that’s fun for kids... and relaxing & informative for parents!

only $6 per child

$12 per family

JANUARY 5-9
9.00AM TO 11.30AM
AT EV CHURCH,
331 TERRIGAL DRIVE, ERINA

Check website for more information
www.sfest.org
Attention Yr 5 Students!

Dear Parents & Students,

❖ James An College offers a **10-Day Special Intensive Trial Test Course** for Year 5 Students during this Summer Holiday!

❖ This 10-Day Special Intensive Trial Test Course will offer essential preparations for the upcoming March 2015 Selective School Placement Test in English, Mathematics, General Ability & Writing.

❖ Each day, students will be given a Trial Test Paper covering all four subjects (English, Maths, GA & Writing). Each test question will be marked and fully explained by experienced teachers. Students’ progress is closely monitored during this 10-Day course period.

❖ This course is a must for those students who would like to take this great opportunity during summer holiday and give their learning ability & study marks a final boost before the Big Test!

*Please note: All test papers & questions (including all diagrams and vocabulary) are NOT available outside of this course in any shape or form.*

**TIMETABLE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 5th Jan ~ Friday 16th Jan 2015</th>
<th>10:00am ~ 3:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(No Classes on Sat &amp; Sun)</td>
<td>(Lunch Break 1:00 ~ 1:30pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☆☆☆ Pay & Enrol by 10th December 2014 and get a 10% discount! ☆☆☆

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

Please complete the enrolment form below and return it to the office.

**ENROLMENT FORM –Year 5 Summer Holiday 10-Day Special Intensive Trial Test Course**

Name: ___________________________ D.O.B: ____/____/____

Address: ________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Mobile:__________________

☐ Yes, I would like to enrol in the Y5 Summer Holiday 10-Day Special Intensive Trial Test Course.
Central Coast Conservatorium presents

Strings Summer School 2015

19 - 22 January 2015

Exciting Repertoire!

Suited to all levels of playing including beginners

Pizza Party

Make friends at Summer School

FUN musical tuition, games & activities

Beginners - Learn the violin in 4 days

Special program for pre-school age students

INCLUDES AFTERNOON SESSIONS FOR INFANTS AGED 5 TO 7 YRS

9am to 4pm - FULL DAYS @ $65/child/day
1pm to 4pm - HALF DAYS @ $35/child/day

HOW TO REGISTER:
* Scan the QR Code with your Smart Phone
  App to go directly to the registration form, OR
* Go to our website and register, OR
* Phone the office

Central Coast Conservatorium
45 Mann Street Gosford NSW 2250
Ph: (02) 4324 7477

www.centralcoastconservatorium.com.au

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE
JANUARY 9th 2015
Join the Naturally Wild School Holiday program at Gosford City Libraries. The holiday program features a variety of low cost or free activities for school aged children. Activities include a visit to the Australia Wildlife Walkabout Park, a chance to explore the world of Narnia at branch libraries or a special visit to Laycock Street Theatre; nature crafts where children can create their own dream catcher and many more.

**EXPLORE**

**SING READ AND RHYME**

Erina Library
6 to 12 months
9.45am to 10.15am
12 to 24 months
10.45am to 11.15am
Sing, Read and Rhyme is an early literacy program for babies and their parents or carers.
No bookings required.

Gosford Library
10am to 11.30am
Make a dream catcher with a variety of natural materials and create your own organic pet.
Ages 7 to 12 years.
No bookings required.

Lumina Library
10am to 11.30am
Celebrating the series of books by C.S. Lewis, this Narnia program will include a reading from one of Lewis’s books and some exciting crafts.
Ages 5 to 10 years.
No bookings required.

**NATURALLY WILD**

**SCATS AND TRACKS**

Woy Woy Library
10am to 11.30am
Explore and create wild things at this Scats and Tracks program. Hear some interesting stories and create a fun craft.
Ages 5 to 10 years.
No bookings required.

**GO4FUN**

Kincumber Library
10am to 12noon
An interactive program for families that focus on healthy living.
Ages 3 to 10 years.
No bookings required.

**NARNIA**

**STORIES AT THE THEATRE**

Laycock St Theatre
10am to 12 noon
Come along for a morning at the theatre with stories, craft and a snack.
Ages 6 to 12 years.
No bookings required.

**CAVES AND CREATURES**

Wyong Library
10am to 11.30am
Create your own creepy, creepy cave creatures.
Ages 6 to 10 years.
No bookings required.

**SCIENCE**

Gosford Library
10am to 11.30am
A special science program featuring a variety of experiments.
Ages 3 to 7 years.
No bookings required.

**PRIMARY BOOK CLUB**

Erina Library
3pm to 4pm
Ages 6 to 12 years.
No bookings required.