Dear Families

Welcome back for the 2015 school year. I hope that your family has had an opportunity to rest, relax and rejuvenate in preparation for an exciting year ahead.

I would like to especially welcome all new families who have commenced at our school this year. Students are to be congratulated for the manner in which they have started the school year. Despite the wet weather, students and staff enjoyed a happy and successful first day.

With increased enrolments we were able to establish an additional (twenty first) class. In total, we have eight new staff commencing at Gosford Public School this year. We have welcomed Miss Cassamento (6C), Mrs Bradshaw (5B), Mrs Lee (3L), Miss Young (2Y), Mrs Arena (1L), Miss Robson (1S-Wednesday only) Miss Henry (Learning and Support) and Mrs Loschi (Administration-Thursdays only).

2015 promises to be an exciting year and one the staff are very much looking forward to. This year will see our first full year in our outstanding new teaching and learning facilities. Students are already engaged in new syllabus activities, many of which were planned and prepared by teachers working with our Curriculum coordinator, Mrs Newton and stage supervisors. Years 5 and 6 students are no doubt keenly anticipating their major excursions to camp and to Canberra in the upcoming weeks. A major initiative commencing across the school is the implementation of the highly acclaimed ‘You Can Do It’ program. It focuses on developing the five critical well-being foundation values of: Getting Along, Persistence, Emotional Resilience, Confidence and Organisation.

Additionally, planning is well underway with our 150 Year (sesquicentenary) celebrations and students will also be participating in the 100 Year Gallipoli Campaign commemoration activities.

One of the best ways to find out what is happening in your child’s classroom for 2015 is to attend the ‘Welcome Back Breakfast’, which will include a Parent/Teacher information session in classrooms. The date for this is Friday 20th February and the times will be advised in our weekly newsletter. The aim is twofold, welcoming new and returning families and also giving parents and carers the opportunity to receive relevant class information from your child’s new class teacher. I hope to see you there.
It has also been terrific to see the new kindergarten students arriving for their Best Start assessments and keenly anticipating their first day at ‘big school’ next Monday.

Several reminders and requests…

Families with a new kindergarten child starting school in 2015 are reminded to meet in our school hall at the following times: KD (green)-9.20am; KG (yellow)-9.40am; KS-10.00am (blue) and; K/1O (red)-10.20am. Please note, that for the first two weeks only, kinder students will finish at 2.30pm to allow them to avoid being caught in the end-of-school rush and to catch up on a little rest. The students will be assembled in the area outside of our administration office (‘The Skillion’) ready to be collected by parents/carers.

A note from our Special Religious Education (SRE) coordinators, Mrs Owens and Miss Smith will go home this week. Parents and carers have the choice of Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Ethics classes for their child/ren to select from. I strongly encourage the return of these notes as SRE classes are scheduled to commence early this term. A non-return of the note will mean students are placed in the same group as last year.

Our school canteen and uniform shop are seeking volunteers who are able to assist the coordinators. If you can spare some time, no matter how limited, please contact Joy or Nena in the canteen or phone Helen Talty, our uniform coordinator- 0418687379. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Also, our P&C President, Stephen Thomas and I extend a warm invitation to new parents and carers to our first P&C meeting for the year, to be held in the Chapman Room on Wednesday, 25th February, commencing at 7.30pm.

I am looking forward to another year of quality education experiences for our students at Gosford Public School.

John Anderson

Principal
January 29, 2015