A Busy Time of the Year

Just as families are preparing for the end-of-year festivities and activities our school staff are busy ensuring that student reports are finalised and ready to go home on Monday 14 December. We will be also looking ahead to next year as classes and staffing are decided upon. Also in the mix of activities being organised are class celebrations, volunteer helpers morning tea, presentation day, school disco and the OC class orientation ... just to name a few!

It's certainly the busiest time of the year but we always get over the line, somewhat exhausted but happy in the knowledge that we have had another good year.

Gosford City Council Greenhouse Awards

After attending the Gosford City Council Greenhouse Awards last Friday at Laycock St Theatre I was very proud of the recognition that Gosford Public School received for our environment program.

Throughout the year Mrs Wade has worked consistently to raise environmental awareness across the school with such excellent programs as the vegetable gardens, raising and caring for the chickens and Waste Free Wednesday. Our school was also acknowledged for reclaiming the bricks from our former school site and using them as a feature of our sesquicentenary native garden.

A highlight was for our group of performers to be awarded the Mayoral Award for the best performance. I know Mrs Barnfield was excited for the students who have been busy rehearsing to confidently convey their excellent environmental message on stage.
Also, congratulations to Aiden, a Year 1 student who completed an outstanding environmental poster and was awarded 2nd prize in his division. Thank you to Mrs Barnfield and Mrs Wade whose combined efforts ensured Gosford Public School has a quality environmental education program.

More Environmental News

Following the environmental awards presentation Mrs Barnfield, Mrs Wade and I travelled to Terrigal Public School to view the Stephanie Alexander garden project. Terrigal PS were acknowledged at the awards as having an outstanding ’garden to plate’ teaching and learning program and we were excited to see how it could be included in science and the other curriculum areas.

This program has the potential to engage parents cross-culturally and also the wider community in school-based programs.

Mrs Barnfield, Mrs Wade and I would be interested to hear from parents interested in assisting with the gardening and/or the food preparation aspects of this exciting program. At this stage we are yet to commit to this program as it would require a significant level of parent and community support for the school to proceed with it in 2016.

Cyber Alert

Following several instances that have caused myself and staff concern around cyber-safety, it is timely for parents and carers to be vigilant about the use of technology in the home.

In brief, the school’s advice to parents has been to:

- restrict your child’s computer use to a publicly used area of the household and to avoid any private rooms such as the bedroom;
- ensure online chat rooms and social media use is not permitted. ‘Google Hang Outs’ is one such program that has caused concern recently at school. Students are also negatively influenced by programs that have highly offensive language, sexualised behaviour and violence. As such, programs such as ‘Call of Duty - Black Ops’ are also completely unsuitable for children.

THINK FEST

Yesterday 5B and 6C students participated in the Opportunity Class Thinkfest competition at Cessnock West Public School.

Our Opportunity Class teachers, Miss Casamento and Mrs Bradshaw report that it was a fantastic opportunity for the two classes to meet like-minded students and display their creativity skills. Students worked in teams to solve a problem in the areas of science and engineering, English, history and mathematics through a skit. They also had to write a script, design and make a key prop, backdrop and create a short film to depict their problem.
solving journey. The day was a great success and Gosford Public School students received four awards overall. These included two ‘best script’ awards, ‘best performance skills’, and a ‘highly commended for evidence of teamwork’.

Well done to all students as they were excellent representatives of Gosford Public School. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and the school’s ‘You Can Do It’ values.

Thank you to Mrs Bradshaw and Miss Casamento for including their students in such a valuable program that is offered across the region to Opportunity Class students.

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**REVERSE SANTA**

Each year students and families from Gosford PS donate toys for Coast Shelter. A Christmas Tree will be set up in the foyer, and we would appreciate donations of new toys for any age. Please do not wrap the toys, just drop them off in our office, and the lovely staff at Coast Shelter will do the wrapping and work out which toy should go with which family. This is a great opportunity to talk with your child about the importance of caring for others, being grateful for what they have and doing something for those in need.
A reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the school’s P&C will take place this evening (November 25) commencing at 7:30pm. By attending there is no obligation to take on an executive position. The meetings are well catered for, scheduled for a maximum of two hours and will ensure you get to know what is happening at our great school.

I hope to see you there!

Important Term 4 Dates

You might like to include the following Term 4 events on your family calendar and/or diary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 November</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>Year 6 to 7 Orientation Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Morning Tea</td>
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<td>School Disco</td>
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<td>9 December</td>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>Final day for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 January 2016</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6 return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 February 2016</td>
<td>Kindergarten students begin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten 2016

Our office is continuing to take enrolments from parents and carers with a child who is due to commence kindergarten at Gosford Public School from the beginning of 2016.

With increasing enrolments at our school it is important to confirm the number of local enrolments for next year before we can offer non-local placements.

I would be grateful if current parents can encourage other parents who reside within our school boundaries to contact our office (phone 43493600) if they have children who are due to commence school in 2016.

Non Returning Students 2016

To assist us with planning for 2016, we would appreciate names of any students who may not be returning to Gosford Public School next year. Please contact the office by telephone or by email to notify us of any changes.

Best Wishes

John Anderson

Presentation Day

Gosford Public School’s Presentation Day will be held on Wednesday 9 December 2015 in our hall. The K-2 assembly will be from 9:30am - 11:00am, and Years 3-6 will be from 12:00pm - 1:30pm. Class awards this year will include the Chapman award, 3 academic awards and 2 YCDI awards.
Year 6 Farewell

If any parents are keen to volunteer to help in the lead up to the Year 6 Farewell, please contact Ms Smith on 43493600 or gosford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Technology News

Children today are ‘digital natives’. Prensky, an American educator first coined the term ‘digital native’ in 2001. He described a ‘digital native’ as “A person born or brought up during the age of digital technology and therefore familiar with computers and the internet from an early age”.

Our children have grown up with the internet; they use the internet to learn, to play and increasingly to socialise. Keeping our children safe in the online world and teaching them how to use technology responsibly is an essential part of a child’s education. At Gosford Public School, the students participate in age appropriate computer lessons where they are explicitly taught digital citizenship skills, which are developed and reinforced when technology is accessed within their classrooms and in the computer lab. However, these lessons are even more powerful when children are taught to be a good digital citizen within the home environment too.

What is a good digital citizen?
Being a good digital citizen is a lot like be a good community citizen, children need to know how to show respect, act responsibly and keep themselves and others safe. Digital citizenship skills include how to use technology safely and responsibly, covering using the information and tools they find online, including social communication tools. As children use technology in the home, parents should take the opportunity to teach their child how to be a good digital citizen. The School A to Z website is a good place to start, click the link to view tips on how to raise good digital citizens:

Jodie McCabe
Technology Coordinator

From 2016 students will no longer receive a paper travel pass. Next year eligible students will receive a School Opal card in Term 1. Just like current paper passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don’t need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators with the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply online for a School Opal card unless changing schools, their home address or moving from Year 2 to Year 3.

A fact sheet is available at our school website: www.gosford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

The application for the School Opal card can be found at www.transportnsw.info/

School banking

The last day for school banking for 2015 is now this Friday 27 November. All rewards already ordered will be distributed before school finishes for this year.

Thank you
Gosford Public School P & C Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Chapman Room on the 25 November 2015 at 7:30 pm.

All office-bearer positions are open for election
Minutes of previous AGM will distributed prior to AGM
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.

Casey’s Toy Warehouse VIP Shopping Night

P & C has organised a VIP night at Casey’s Toys at Erina on Tuesday 1 December at 6pm-8pm for our parents, carers, staff and friends of Gosford Public School. This is an opportunity to get some of your Christmas shopping out the way in a quiet and relatively peaceful environment. So as not to spoil Santa’s surprise Casey’s have indicated that this is an event not for the children. See flyer in this newsletter. 

RSVP 27 November either by tear off slip or to the gosfordpspandc@gmail.com

Uniform Shop News

Uniform Shop will be opened in the Chapman Room Thursdays 2:15-3:30pm. The new price list will commence from beginning of next week (Week 9) and will be distributed on Friday 27 December. New style school shirts will be available to purchase from Week 9 ready for students to wear in 2016.

Hats are always available from the school office. Library bags are always available from the library.

Uniform Shop Coordinators

30 Nov - Tanee
1 Dec - Janene
2 Dec - Jennifer
3 Dec - Narumi, Annette
4 Dec - Lanissa

Puzzle Master

The winner for last week’s Puzzle Master problem was Noah from 1/2B.
Well done to everyone for finding so many animals.
Issue 8 is now closed.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported our Book Club this year. The online orders make the process a lot easier for us at school. Mrs Claire Ross has been our Book Club coordinator for many years and we would like to thank her on behalf of the school for her wonderful support. We wish Claire and her family all the best. Mrs Ross has trained our new Book Club coordinator and so we would like to welcome Mrs Narumi Onozawa to the role for 2016.

Congratulations on the 105 students who completed the challenge for 2015. The certificates have been printed and have been given to your class teacher. I look forward to having more students take on the challenge in 2016.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS
We have quite a few outstanding library books borrowed from the library. Please return them as soon as possible so that we can begin our ‘Stocktake’. Borrowing will cease for the year next week (week 9). Thank you for your support.

Christine Harpur
Teacher Librarian

"Journey to Recognise" Stage 3 Government Unit

On Friday 4 December at 10:00 am a speaker will visit our school to give a short talk to Stage 3 students about constitutional recognition.

By way of background, Recognise is the Campaign to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia’s Constitution and to ensure there is no place for discrimination. Recognise is part of Reconciliation Australia.

The Journey to Recognition is a national relay raising awareness of and support for Constitutional Recognition. To date we have travelled over 35,000 kms through VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT and parts of NSW. We have held over 305 events in 282 communities ranging from a community walk to a morning tea with casual questions and answers to school visits to a formal panel discussion.
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

BE PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Join the Journey to Recognition on the Central Coast

We invite you to join the Journey team for lunch and a chat about constitutional recognition.

Date: Friday 4th December 2015
When: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Where: Naidsa Dance College – 31 The Avenue, Karinga

RSVP at recognise.org.au/thejourney

WHAT IT’S ABOUT

The Journey is an epic relay across our country campaigning for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution and to ensure there is no place for discrimination in our founding legal document. Be part of the movement as it travels through your town.

LOWES

SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR

HENRY KENDALL HIGH SCHOOL.

SPECIAL SALES WEEK
LOWES GOSFORD

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT
Off the regular price on all school uniform items for YEAR 7 students.

PLUS

BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT
additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS
Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS
Lowes will pay your school annual 5% rebate on every uniform purchased in-store.
**GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS DISCO**

**THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER**

K-2 4:30PM - 5:30PM
3-6 6:00PM-7:30PM

**ENTRY COST: GOLD COIN**

**VENUE: SCHOOL HALL**

**A SAUSAGE SANTA SIZZLE WILL BE AVAILABLE!**

**ORGANISED BY GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL PARLIAMENT**

**SPONSORED BY GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL P & C**

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**JAMES AN COLLEGE**

* History Proven System
* Most Updated Materials
* Experienced Expert Teachers
* High Quality Courses

**Congratulations** to our Year 6 students at James An College Gosford who have been offered a place in a Selective School.

14 out of 16 (87.5%) students have been successful in this year test.

Great effort by all our students and best wishes for your future studies.

**Yr 5 SUPER SELECTIVE TRIAL TEST COURSE**

(Only 9 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 2016. The Course focuses on the Subjects of English, Mathematics, General Ability and Writing.

**HURRY! PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!!!**

The more you do, the better you become...

It all boils down to Competition!

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2015 - 2016

**JAC Year 4 O.C. Trial Test Course**

5th Oct 2015 - 17th July 2016

**Congratulations** to our Year 4 students at James An College Gosford who have been offered a place in a Opportunity Class.

4 out of 7 students have been successful in this year test.

Exclusive to James An College, the Year 4 O.C. Trial Test Course prepares students to sit for the O.C. Placement Test by practising and solving over 2,400 test questions.

**CALL Gosford JAC (02) 4300 0167**

Over 45 branches nationwide

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Quality education in a nurturing, innovative learning environment
**TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 6-8PM**
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL VIP SHOPPING NIGHT

Caseys Toys along with Gosford Public School have created a VIP shopping night for all parents & friends. Come along & take advantage of our specials, drinks & nibbles & quiet shopping environment. Your school will receive a voucher back of 20% of sales made on the night – so the more you spend, the more they get!

Please complete slip below and hand into the office to RSVP by Friday 27th November if you are attending. *Please note any purchases at Christmas Warehouse will not contribute to the gift voucher to Gosford Public School.

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**CASEYS TOYS**
24 Karalta Road, Erina
(02) 43951831

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RSVP

I will attend the Caseys Toys VIP night on Tuesday 1st December and there will be _____ guests in total.

Name: 

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**BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE**
**WEST GOSFORD**

**Christmas Family Fun Night**

Thursday 10th December
6pm – 8pm

Lots of fun for the whole family including:

* Petting Zoo * Kids Disco

* Drumming workshop * Face Painting

* Kids craft * Christmas costume competition

* Free sausage sizzle

For more information and to book, visit www.bunnings.com.au/stores/new/west-gosford, email westgosfordaco@bunnings.com.au, or see a team member in store.