Welcome Back and Class Information Breakfast

One of the best ways to find out what is happening in your child’s classroom in 2015 is to attend the Welcome Back Breakfast which includes a Parent/Teacher information session. The date has now been set for Friday 20 February. This Week 4 date enables our new kindergarten students to be part of this event and allows time for all students to be hopefully settled into school routines and their new class.

The aim is twofold, welcoming new and returning families and also giving parents/carers the opportunity to receive important class information from your child's new class teacher. We look forward to seeing many of our parents and carers in attendance.

Year 5 Excursion

I was fortunate enough to see firsthand how much our Year 5 students gained from attending the Active Education Centre at Central Mangrove as their major excursion for 2015. They were provided with opportunities to develop teamwork and social skills with their peers in addition to being taken out of their comfort zone and challenging themselves with activities such as high ropes, giant swing and the flying fox. I was incredibly impressed with how our students reacted to these situations. With great levels of encouragement from staff and peers the students’ attitudes really reflected the elements of our ‘You Can Do It’ program, especially CONFIDENCE, PERSEVERANCE, GETTING ALONG and RESILIENCE.

Thank you to Miss Metters for her organisation and Mrs Bradshaw, Mrs Greaves and Mr Johnson for volunteering the additional time away from home and for the tireless efforts supervising the students.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Wade and Miss Gately who have been offered the vacant relieving Assistant Principal for Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) position for this year. Both Mrs Wade and Miss Gately have demonstrated the leadership capabilities necessary to fulfill this role and I look forward to welcoming them as members of the
school’s executive team. This will be a shared role with Mrs Wade being in the role for Semester 1 and Miss Gately in Semester 2.

This position became available after Mrs Johnson accepted a position as a Literacy Leader for the statewide Early Action for Success program. We also congratulate Mrs Johnson and wish her well for the duration of this role.

**YOU CAN DO IT**

Hopefully readers of our newsletter took time to read last week the excellent description of our new student wellbeing program, **YOU CAN DO IT**. Both Mr Francis and I are strong advocates for the program having seen the significant benefits for students (and staff and parents) of this program at our previous school.

The Foundation Values of **CONFIDENCE, PERSEVERANCE, GETTING ALONG, ORGANISATION and EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE** are explicitly taught across the school and tied into an incentive program named **Lorikeet Legends**. Whilst popular in many schools throughout Australia our school has localised and modified it to make it unique to Gosford Public School.

All of this has taken a great deal of time and planning. I commend the efforts of Mrs Johnson, Mrs Bianchi, Mrs McCabe and Mr Francis for their hard work and themselves demonstrating the Foundation Values to have the program up and running for the beginning of the school year.

The greatest benefits will be evident if parents and carers also make the time to regularly speak to children about the Foundation Values and consistently use the **YOU CAN DO IT** language at home.

**150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations**

We are well into the planning stages of our commemorative garden which will incorporate bricks from the old school site. Bricks will be available for sale at a cost of $30.00 per brick. Brass plates will be secured to the bricks purchased and will display the name of the family or individual who purchased it. More information on the purchase of the bricks will be coming home shortly.

The school has been fortunate enough to have had second hand pavers donated from properties at Matcham and MacMasters Beach. We are looking for help with picking them up and transporting them back to school. We would love to hear from any family who has access to a small truck or any volunteers who would like to assist in loading and unloading them. If you or anyone else you know can help please contact our school office.

**Coming Up**

**Tuesday February 17** - Students can show off their swimming strokes at the **Twilight Swimming Carnival**. Starting at 4pm it is a proven sun safe option for our competent swimmers to test themselves at the Gosford Olympic Pool.

**Wednesday February 25** - Parents and carers are invited to come along to the Chapman Room at 7:30pm and become a member of our school’s P & C. With the school’s 150 Year Sesquicentenary celebrations this year we are especially encouraging parent participation to help with activities throughout the year. A light supper is served. All welcome.

**Friday March 6** - Students should bring their best SMILE and wear FULL school summer uniform as it is **School Photo Day**. This year is especially significant being the school's 150th year anniversary. For this special occasion we have commissioned a whole school 150 Year photograph taken by Master School Portraits.

**Road Safety Reminders**

Please ensure the safety of our students by obeying the road regulations within the school zone. That includes not exceeding the 40km/h speed limit in the mornings and afternoons and being aware of parking regulations. Please **DO NOT complete U turns in the ‘Children Crossing’ area or park in the ‘No Stopping’ or ‘NO PARKING’ zones.**
The ‘No Parking’ signs indicate that this area can be used as a drop off and pick up area (sometimes referred to as a ‘kiss & drop’ zone). **The driver, however, must stop for no longer than 2 minutes and if they need to remove themselves from the vehicle must remain within 3 metres of it.**

Council Rangers and Highway Patrol officers were present last week and will continue to issue hefty fines for traffic infringements around schools.

**Annual School Contributions**

Thank you to the parents who have contributed their annual school contributions. I appreciate the financial demands on families at this time of the year and appreciate the efforts to support our school financially. This year the voluntary contribution is $45.00 per child or a maximum of $90.00 per family. We also accept lesser or greater amounts. Remember that our office will accept payment in installments to assist families paying their contributions. Our office will continue to accept the annual school contributions throughout the year.

I trust your week will be a good one.

John Anderson

2015 School Leaders with one of our flags celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The flags have been donated by Year 6 2014
TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Today, Tuesday 10 February 2015 is Internet Safety Day. Internet Safety Day is an international campaign to promote Internet and computer safety awareness. The theme for 2015 is ‘Let’s create a better internet together’.

What can I do as a parent during Internet Safety Day?

Take this opportunity to sit with your child at the computer and learn about their Internet activities. It’s also important to talk with your child about their mobile phone activities as well.

It is important to work with your child so that they have safe and positive experiences online. The Cybersmart Website provides some simple tips on how to protect and educate your child; it is a fantastic resource for parents and offers support to your child too. It is especially relevant to parents with students in Stage 3. Visit the Cybersmart website at http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx

ICT Agreements

All students from K-6 are required to have a signed ICT Agreement that is reviewed each year. The agreement was to be read at home with parent support and signed by both parent/carer and child. This agreement is a crucial element of the student’s computer usage whilst they are at school. All students should have by now returned the signed agreement to their class teacher. If you require an additional notice please download one from the GPS website http://www.gosford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/principals-message/excursion-notes

Unfortunately, if your child has not returned their signed ICT Agreement by Week 4 they will not be permitted to use the ICT equipment at school. Once returned they will be granted use of the ICT Equipment.

Jodie McCabe
Technology Coordinator

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Did you know....There are several ways to obtain an electronic copy of the GPS newsletter? You never need to miss a thing, read your newsletter via:

- The GPS app – Download our Skoolbag app (apple & Android) and each week you will receive an alert when the newsletter is available.
- The GPS website – The newsletter is loaded onto the website each Tuesday afternoon ready for viewing http://www.gosford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/
- The GPS Newsletter Email Service – visit the school website and join the Chimpmail Email Service and each week your newsletter will be emailed to your nominated account.

We understand that some families are not able to access an electronic copy of the newsletter. If you require a printed copy of the newsletter, please contact the office and arrange to have a newsletter delivered to your child’s classroom. Please be aware that printed copies of the newsletter cannot be arranged through classroom teachers.

House Captain Elections Notice

It’s that time of the year again. Students from Year 6 will have the opportunity to run for the school leadership positions of ‘House Captain and Vice-Captain’. There will be a girl and boy elected for each position (captain & vice), making it 4 leaders (2 girls & 2 boys) for each house.
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Interested students will need to submit an application to Mr Lincoln by Thursday 12th February to be eligible to run. The application is only a short written piece (1-2 paragraphs) explaining ‘Why I will make a great house captain.’

Interested applicants must continue to follow the ‘School Leader Election & Nomination Policy’ and continue its mandatory criteria. (The school leadership criterion is available to students upon request).

House Elections will take place on Friday 13th February and will be announced in assembly that day. Eligible students will need to present a short speech to their house and simply communicate ‘Why I will make a great house captain.’ Successful applicants will be decided by a silent vote from their house, which include students from Years 2-6 and teaching staff.

Good luck to all the Year 6 students applying and remember to always demonstrate your school spirit!

Mr Lincoln
Class Teacher and Sports Coordinator

P and C News

Welcome to Gosford Public School to all our new students and families and welcome back to all our returning students and families.

Gosford Public School P & C meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month during term time at 7.30pm in the Chapman Room. All are welcome.

During the last year P & C have provided funding for the air-conditioning at our new school, K-2 fixed equipment, home readers, curtains for the hall, awards at presentations day and many other resources to assist our students and teachers.

Membership is just 50c for the year so come along and have a vote and meet other parents.

P and C is always looking for volunteers in our canteen and uniform shop if you have some spare time, just come into the canteen and see Joy or Nena.

To place items on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting, email to The Secretary at gosfordpspandc@gmail.com, or in writing to the school office addressed to The Secretary P & C. by the 20th February 2015 3pm.

Next meeting is 25th February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Chapman Room.

All welcome, light supper provided.
**CANTEEN NEWS**

The canteen still requires volunteers so please come in and see us if you can spare some time.

**Roster**

Monday 16 February - William
Tuesday 17 February - Janee
Wednesday 18 February - Jennifer
Thursday 19 February - Colin
Friday 20 February - Lanssa, Mariko

**Borrowing and Library Bags**

Library lessons have commenced and so has borrowing for years 1-6.

Please remember that children require a library bag for borrowing. If your child does not have a library bag, they can be purchased from the library or the school uniform shop for $10.

Kindergarten will be allowed to borrow in week 4. This allows for children to get settled into school, obtain a library bag, and learn the correct handling of books and the correct procedures for borrowing.

Library days:

- Monday- 3G, 3L, 1S, 1/2B and 1C
- Tuesday- 5B, 5R, 4G, K/10
- Wednesday- 4/5N, 2W,2Y
- Thursday- 6C, KD, KG, 3/4B
- Friday- 6S, 6L, 4H, 5M, KS

**Book club**

Book Club was distributed last week. We hope you found the changes to the system easy to access.
All orders are due in on Thursday 12 February or they will incur a delivery fee from Scholastic.

Books will probably arrive over the next few weeks and will be sent to your child’s class.

Thank you for your support.

**Library Volunteers**

Book covering group will meet in the library at 2:15pm every Tuesday.

All welcome

Mrs Harpur and Mrs Frost

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**Uniform Shop News**

*Uniform shop is open Thursdays 2.15pm till 3.30pm in the Chapman Room. CASH or CHEQUE only.*

There are several methods to order your students uniform for your convenience.

Directly purchased from the Uniform Shop - opening time and location as above.

Orders can be placed online at Munch Monitors

www.munchmonitor.com

Orders and payment may also be placed in the uniform shop box located in the school office. Orders will then be delivered to the student by the end of the week, please ensure sizes and number of items required are clearly indicated on the order form.

Coordinators would like to thank Suzanne, Amber, Jennifer and Emily for giving up their time to help in uniform shop on the 27th January, their assistance was much appreciated.

**The starter packs for RSG and Year 5 QC 2015 are now discontinued.**

Wendy and Helen

Uniform Coordinators.

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**Values Education**

Meet our 5 ‘You Can Do It!’

Foundation Values puppets

Kinder, Year One and Year Two are enjoying visits from:

Oscar Organisation

Pete Persistence

Connie Confidence

Gabby Get Along
Our students K – 6, have been learning about ‘Being Successful and Happy’. They have identified examples of their own successes and how these have resulted from their efforts and not just the efforts of parents and teachers. Students are developing awareness that doing their “personal best” helps them to be successful especially when faced with something hard to learn.

Values Education Committee
Yr 6 SUPER SELECTIVE TRIAL TEST COURSE

James An College offers an intensive Selective Trial Test course for all year 6 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 (Only 4 weeks left) 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.

FINAL REVISION

★ Date: Saturday 7 March 2015
★ Time: 10am – 4pm
★ Apply by: Saturday 28 February 2015
◆ Test papers are not available outside of this course.
   (Parents/guardians will not have access to papers.)

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