Reminder - (Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health) Indigenous Otitis Media hearing test will take place on Wed 4 March

Reminder - P & C Meeting this Wednesday 25 February at 7:30pm. All welcome

Welcome Back Breakfast and Class Information Session

We had a great roll up of students and family members for our school’s Welcome Back Breakfast which was followed by a class information session.

I know our staff worked hard both in preparing for the information session and in organising and assisting with the breakfast. Testament to their efforts was the number of parents who made time to thank the staff. As I am sure you have discovered we are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff who strive hard each and every school day to provide the highest quality of opportunities for our students in a caring and supportive learning environment.

In the coming weeks we will once again be sending several students to visit Stewart House where they will enjoy two weeks at the scenic location at South Curl Curl. While there they will receive free medical assessments and special excursions in and around Sydney. Stewart House is supported by NSW Public Schools and their staff and communities. I thank all parents and carers who contributed to the Stewart House fund at our Welcome Back Breakfast. In total we raised $311.00 for Stewart House.

I also thank Miss Smith, Mrs Powe and Mr Harrison for leading the organisation of the breakfast. The staff very much appreciated the parents and carers who were able to attend both the breakfast and the class information sessions. For more pressing matters parents can book an interview time with class teachers.
Well done to our school’s concert band who performed with aplomb at their first public performance for 2015. Mr Francis and I were pleased to be able to attend the Founders Day celebration for Scouts Australia on the Gosford waterfront last Sunday.

Even the inclement weather couldn’t dampen the spirits of our band members. It was pleasing to hear the honoured guest, Senator Deborah O’Neill make special mention of the students’ efforts. Thank you once again to band coordinator, Esther See and conductor, David Dallinger for their hard work in getting the band to such a high standard so early in the school year.

P&C Meeting

Our first P&C meeting for 2015 will be held in the Chapman Room on Wednesday February 25. It starts at 7:30pm and is a great way to contribute and stay informed about happenings in and around our great school. New members are made especially welcome. The P&C also provide a light supper at each meeting. We aim to complete each meeting by 9:30pm.

Swimming Carnival

Well done to all of our competitors at last week’s twilight swimming carnival. Congratulations to Mr Lincoln who organised a terrific carnival which was well supported by staff and parents. Thank you also to Mrs Hinton for her assistance and to the many staff who volunteered as an official.

I was especially proud of the sporting spirit demonstrated by the shaking of hands after events and the cheering for those trying their hardest no matter where they finished. I believe that it is this spirit that makes Gosford Public School such a great school!

Students will soon find out if they have been selected to represent the school at the Zone Swimming carnival.
150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations

With many exciting activities planned to celebrate our school’s 150 Year anniversary we are seeking parental assistance with activities.

Last week I was excited to see the results of the work from our class 6C students who have made their individual ceramic tiles under the expert guidance of teacher Mrs Boulton. This is the first class to contribute to the special 150 Year Sesquicentenary murals which will form a visual timeline of the history of our school. Eventually all students will have contributed to the ceramic murals. Upon completion, it is intended for them to be on permanent display around the top level of our quadrangle. Mrs Boulton’s outstanding work with students on earlier murals are on display outside of the administration office under the skillion awning.

We are also seeking sponsors for our 150 Year Sesquicentenary book. Please contact Mrs Newton via our office if your family or business would like to sponsor a page.

Don’t miss this week’s historic article on page 4. I would like to thank our Technology Coordinator and School Promotions team member Mrs McCabe for her research and compilation of our information historic articles.

School and Community News

From next week (Week 6) the newsletter will be published and available on Wednesdays. The decision to change the day for publication is because we will be able to gather and assemble items for inclusion that take place earlier in the week so they will be appear sooner rather than the following week, keeping our school community informed of the latest news.

COMING UP

Friday March 6: Students should bring their best SMILE and wear FULL school summer uniform as it is School Photo Day. Please remember the uniform shop is only open on Thursday from 2:15 - 3:30pm in the Chapman Room. Alternatively uniforms can be ordered on ‘Munch Monitors’. 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.

Monday March 9: Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) meeting at Henry Kendall HS 4:30pm. Parents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are encouraged to attend.

Thursday March 12: Selective High School placement test for current Year 6 students. Parents or carers MUST have previously completed and submitted applications and received notification.
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.

Best Wishes

John Anderson

GPS - HISTORICAL FACT

In 1865, when Miss McGrath started as the Head Mistress, she was only 18 years old. Miss Honoria McGrath taught 28 students in one room. The students used slate boards and chalk for writing tools and Miss McGrath used a large blackboard and chalk.

The students travelled from all over the Gosford District, as far south as the Hawkesbury River and Mooney Mooney, and north to Awaba. Transport to school was by boat, horse or on foot.

Miss McGrath was in charge of the school until 1876. She later married and became Mrs Coulter. In 1977, Mrs Coulter was recognised by the Police Magistrate, Mr Reeve for “...the good work of educating our children, so long, zealously, industriously, and efficiently...”

TECHNOLOGY NEWS
Are you keeping up to date with everything happening GPS?
With so much going on it can be difficult to keep track of all the things that you need to know. At GPS, we have a number of communication tools available to help you stay in touch with all the news at school, so you can choose how you will keep informed.

GPS communicates through:
- A GPS app - available on both iOS and android devices
- An email newsletter service. Register for the service by clicking the link and each week the newsletter will be emailed directly to you.
- Facebook – Like us /gosfordps (all GPS news) and Like us /gps150 (news related to our 150th celebrations, coming up on 17 October, 2015)
The website is regularly updated and is a great place to start if you need to know something about life at GPS.
Quick Tips:

- Want to know more about the You Can Do It program (YCDI) – View the GPS website to learn more http://www.gosford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/caring-for-students/you-can-do-it-program
- Did you know GPS has an online payment system? Pay for an Excursion, Voluntary Contribution or Sport Fee. Go to the GPS Website and Click ‘Make A Payment’ link (look for the $ sign logo) on the home page of the GPS website. This is a secure online payment system.

Jodie McCabe  
Technology Coordinator

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen still requires volunteers so please come in and see us if you can spare some time. Only 3 hours a month is all you need to volunteer!

Roster

Monday 2 March - Tanee
Tuesday 3 March - Janee
Wednesday 4 March - Jennifer
Thursday 5 March - HELP NEEDED
Friday 6 March - Lanssa, Mariko

Wanted Indigenous parent helpers:  
On Mon 2 March we need parent helpers to work with our students in creating pottery tiles for the 150 years celebration mural.

Meet Mrs Sprague in 3/4B at 12:00pm

Thank you!
YOU CAN DO IT! Parent Information Session

When: Week 9, Term 1, Wednesday 25th March

Time: 2.15 to 2.50pm

Where: Chapman Room

- **“You Can Do It” song** will be sung by some Stage One children.


- Mrs Bianchi will give an overview of the ‘You Can Do It’ program and speak about the Gosford Public School student achievement program (student award YCDI booklets).

- Mrs McCabe will show the updated Values Education/YCDI section on the school website.

- Mr Francis will discuss the use of the ‘Catastrophe Chart’ and the ‘Emotional Thermometer’.

Gosford Public School students are enjoying their weekly YCDI lessons. Children from Kindergarten up are learning about our five foundation values and are trying to apply these values in their lives. I’m sure your child would love to tell you how many stickers they have in their YCDI student award booklet. Some students only need a few more YCDI value stickers to reach the first YCDI bronze certificate.

Look forward to seeing you at the information session.

Mrs Bianchi and Mrs McCabe
Gosford Public School runs a successful Tutor Program (Y1 - Y6) to assist children having difficulty with Reading and Maths. In the past, we have had the generous support of many parents, grandparents, neighbours, aunts, uncles and community members.

Tutors receive special training which enables them to provide the support that is required for these children. We train tutors in the key strategies needed to assist the development of independent readers and problem-solvers. These strategies are used by teachers every day and are essential for all beginning readers. Depending on student needs, tutoring may involve sight word practice, revision of spelling words, listening to a child read and hands on Maths activities.

We appreciate any time you can spare. Time slots are 40 min, so the more tutors we have, the more children we can help.

Parent/Community tutors make a real difference to a child’s education. In the past, many tutors have found that helping these students is an extremely rewarding experience. In fact it may even help you to support your own child or grandchild at home.

If you would like to be involved in this highly rewarding experience, please complete the section below and return it to the front office by Thursday 5th March 2015. The training will be held on Thursday 12th March.

Thank you for your support,
Karen Ansell, Genevieve Henry and Liz Sprague
Learning and Assistance Team

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<th>Name:</th>
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Grade preference: 1 - 2, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, all ages. Highlight preferred grades, and days / times below:

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Be a part of the celebrations!

Excitement is building for the 17th October 2015 as we look forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary! Founded in 1865 in Gosford, and more recently relocated to Faunce Street West, West Gosford, ‘The school on the hill’ has a rich and proud history for providing quality education in an innovative learning environment.

As we approach our sesquicentennial anniversary, it is time for the school community to come together to recognise and honour the school’s 150 remarkable years!

JOIN US ON THE DAY: Check out Gosford Public School Sesquicentenary Celebrations section of our website for details. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

KEEP UP TO DATE: Make sure you have our Gosford Public School, Skoolbag mobile App and check out our Facebook page and school website.

SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE GPS STORIES AND MEMORIES: We know you have them! Great memories and stories to share of your time at GPS – we want your personal story to become a part of the School’s shared history. You can submit copies now of photographs and documents to be used for our 150th anniversary book. Email them to: gosford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or drop in to our front office. All submissions will need to be received by the end of April.

BUY A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FOR THE SCHOOL GARDEN: We are currently selling reclaimed bricks from the old school site to be used in a commemorative garden. Each brick purchased will have your family name displayed! Bricks can be pre ordered now for $30 each.

Gosford Public School
Quality, Nurturing, Innovative Learning Environment

Ph: (02) 4349 3600

Faunce Street West, West Gosford
Multiplication times tables

Once again the Gosford Regional Show is having a section for children to enter produce that they have grown either at home or at school. Last year the display put on by the children of the Central Coast was amazing. The Show committee look forward to another successful year with children from all backgrounds entering produce that they have grown. This year we are also holding a baking section for those children who love to cook.

Other activities are Art, Photography, Senior & Junior Showgirls and Produce Judging with the winner proceeding to the Royal Easter Show.

Please check our web site for more information. www.gosfordregionalshow.com.au