**Change to NSW DEC Attendance Policy**

Recent media attention has alerted many parents of the changes by the NSW Department of Education and Communities in their Attendance Policy.

The amendment that has gained the most attention is where the school principal was able to formerly grant an exemption for students to travel for family holidays upon request. This meant that the extended absence did not appear on the student reports or records.

The new policy states that "students travelling during school terms are not to be exempt. If the principal accepts the reason then leave is granted and the ‘Leave’ code should be used, consistent with the implementation of National Standards for Student Attendance Data and Attendance Register.... *Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons, which should be specified on the application*.”

However, an exemption can be approved for up to 100 days for students "participating in elite arts or elite sporting events or when the health, learning or social needs or disability of a child necessitating the continuation of an individual program supported by medical specialists not longer than six months after the child’s sixth birthday”

Whilst I understand that on occasions parents believe there are valid reasons as to why families take their children out of school during the school time it is encouraged that wherever possible parents plan holidays during school vacation times. Teachers often see the gaps in student’s learning when absenteeism is a regular or a sustained occurrence.
Sydney Swans Visit

Last week we hosted a visit from a representative of the Sydney Swans AFL team. Our students listened attentively to the key messages of promoting healthy lifestyles by encouraging students to register with local teams. Students were able to ask questions of the player representative, Xavier Richards and to take away souvenirs.

Congratulations to Hayden in class 6C who was presented with the autographed football for his efforts in the school’s Australian Football team.

I thank Mr Lincoln for coordinating this visit.

Road Safety Reminders

At last week’s P&C meeting it was requested that another reminder be issued about taking particular care when driving within our school zone.

A letter from a new parent was tabled with genuine concerns that I am sure echo many similar views from our parent body. In it, she suggests that the ‘Kiss & Drop’ zone be used more effectively so that the traffic flows at the busiest times. 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.

In her letter, a suggestion was made to investigate the use of the former AUSGRID site as an alternative parking space. Whilst the recently announced $300+ million dollar hospital upgrade included parking enhancements I
am unsure if this includes the purchase of any of the former AUSGRID site. Our P&C are keen to pursue parking options and correspondence regarding this issue can be forwarded to our school’s P&C at:

gosfordpspandc@gmail.com

However, at all times, 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.

Council Rangers and Highway Patrol officers regularly monitor our school at peak times and will continue to issue hefty fines for traffic infringements around schools.

Pictured here are Mr Anderson and Mr Lincoln presenting Hayden of 6C with the autographed AFL football he deservedly won

**School Promotions**

Once we moved into our fantastic new school it was decided by the School’s Promotion team that we should look at the best ways in which to effectively promote our new school. **Miss Gately**, who has a marketing background, volunteered to lead the design of a **Gosford Public School Prospectus**. Many months of planning,
drafting and consultation, working alongside a professional photographer and graphic designer has resulted in the recent publication of this document.

I believe it is an outstanding promotion of our school and is an information and promotional tool that we can all be very proud of.

Additionally, Miss Gately has been instrumental in creating our 150 Year logo that appears on the prospectus and now on each edition of the school’s newsletter. The logo will also be seen on specially designed sesquicentenary banners that will be placed onto our school boundary fences.

Thank you and well done Miss Gately.

Coming Up

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.

Monday - March 9: Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) meeting, Henry Kendall HS at 4:30pm. Please contact Mrs Sprague for more information. 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.

150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations

The momentum is building each week with the promotion of the school’s Sesquicentenary celebrations.

P&C President Stephen Thomas was able to get valuable air time during 2GO’s breakfast show last Thursday in which he spoke about the positive, community-based events we have to look forward this year.

Don’t forget to secure your commemorative brick soon! In fact, my 81 year old mother reminded me that I had to order three bricks for our family, as all three of her children completed their formal primary schooling at Gosford Primary School. The bricks which are from our former site will have an engraved plaque attached and will be incorporated in our Commemorative Garden. They are $30 each or $50 for a brick and a commemorative book. The book is also available for sale for $30. I thank Mr Lincoln for assisting me to collect the first of our recycled pavers that will also be used in the garden.

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.

This week's historic article concerns how children used to travel to Gosford PS way back before cars and how the class was seated. Times have certainly changed! 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.

Best Wishes

John Anderson

GPS - HISTORICAL FACT

When Gosford Public School first began in 1865, the majority of 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, as these were times well before the car. The children used slate boards and chalk for writing tools, with teachers using blackboards. Students sat in rows and the boys and girls were not allowed to sit next to one another. Schooling was not free during this time and generally only wealthy families sent their children.
GPS GIRLS CRICKET REPORT

Last Tuesday the girl's cricket team went to Toukley Public School to play their girls cricket team. Our team did a fabulous job but unfortunately were not successful. Each and every one of them was fantastic at fielding and bowling. Bridie, Gabby, Jasmine, Iona and Lara were great bowlers. Lara got two wickets and Amy got 1. Toukley finished with 75 runs.

It was then Gosford’s turn to bat. They all did really well. Iona got 9 runs and Bridie got 2. Unfortunately Gosford PS finished with 56 runs.

Thank you to all the parents who transported and cheered on our team. Thanks to Scott for umpiring the game and thank you Miss Young and Miss Spackman for coaching the team.

Iona and Gabby

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 9 March - Glenda
Tuesday 10 March - Janene
Wednesday 11 March - Judy
Thursday 12 March - HELP NEEDED
Friday 13 March - Craig, Kylie

Multicultural Homework Support Group

This group was started several years ago to help parents understand how their child learns at school and how to support them at home. Come along on Monday 9 March from 2:15 to 2:45pm in the Chapman Room for an information session about this group and the involvement of other member of this group in school activities. This is an informal meeting where you can have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and this can be the start of new friendships and networking.

All parents are invited to attend and if you have already been involved it would be good to see you again to share your experiences with our new parents.

Jan Hinton
EALD (English Additional Language/Dialect) or ESL
Issue 2 of Book Club went home this week and is due back to school by Thursday 12 March. We would like to encourage all parents to complete the online ordering through the LOOP webpage or app wherever possible as this drastically cuts down the workload created by Book Club both for us and for our parent helpers.

Please remember: order forms / receipt numbers do NOT need to be sent through to the school when using the LOOP online website or app as this will result in double-ordering.
You can find instructions for ordering on the note that came home with your Book Club or on the school’s app and website. Please do not hesitate to call or visit the library if you have any questions.
Many thanks to those parents who ordered online last issue using the online LOOP system. This made a drastic difference to the time it took us to complete the order process. THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Olina 5R, Eliza 5R, Samara 4/5N, Bethwyn 6C, Bianca 6C and Amy 5B who did a fabulous job reading wonderful picture books to our juniors during Story Time this week! Well done and thank you for your assistance!
The children who attended had a fabulous time as always and can’t wait to come back again! ‘Story Time’ runs in the library every Thursday and Friday at 2nd half of 1st break.

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge is on Now!
Gosford Public School wholeheartedly supports the Premier’s reading Challenge. The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is available (and voluntary) for all NSW students in Kindergarten-Year 9. The Challenge runs from 2 March to 28 August (11:59pm) 2015.
The Premier's Reading Challenge can be accessed via the DET Portal or directly via the Premier’s Reading Challenge website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/. Students will need to select ‘Logon’ on the left side menu and then use their existing DEC username and password (the one they use to get into their portal) to logon.
To qualify for the Challenge, the required number of books read must be entered electronically. Online Student Reading Records are available on 3 March and books can be entered via any computer with internet access, or using the Microsoft app. Students must complete their online Student Reading Records by 21 August (11:59pm).
If you have any trouble logging on or you do not know your username or password, please come and see Mrs Frost or Mrs Harpur in the Library who will be happy to help you out.
At the end of the challenge, we will validate the student’s reading records for you and they will automatically be submitted in order for students to receive their certificates.
Remember: Books read from 1 September 2014 can count towards the 2015 Challenge
For more information on the Premier’s reading challenge, please go to https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html. Here you will find the official book lists, rules and other important information.
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
You Can Do It!

Resilience

Over the next three weeks GPS students will be involved in lessons around our foundation value ‘Resilience’.

Senior students have been brainstorming what ‘resilience’ means and looks like at school and in the community. Mrs Newton compiled these ideas and created this poster.

**resilience**

Being able to calm yourself down make yourself feel better when something ‘bad’ happens; bouncing back and returning

**In our room kids are ...**

- not catastrophising, but keeping things in perspective
- controlling their emotions and not overreacting
- not fussing over small things
- not making a big deal if they think something is unfair
- not being over-anxious or worried
- using positive self-talk and calming down quickly
- finding other ways to think about things or looking differently
- bouncing back to work and play
- showing happy faces, positive attitudes and being willing workers
- smiling a lot

**Ways of Thinking to Help You To Be Resilient**

- I won’t think about negative things that have happened in the past.
- I think it’s ok to make mistakes or not be good at something.
- I want to try something new and have a positive attitude.
- I understand that not everything is easy or fun.
- I know how to keep calm or talk to someone who can help me keep calm.

Values Education Committee
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
Yr 6 FINAL REVISION
for the NSW Selective Test in March 2015

★ 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.)

Yr 5 SUPER SELECTIVE TRIAL TEST COURSE

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. It is a 45 weeks intensive course (9/03/2015 – 28/02/2016) 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.

CALL Gosford JAC (02) 4300 0167
Over 45 branches nationwide
Central Coast
Community Women’s Health Centre
Cordially invites you to attend our

2015
International Women’s Day
Celebrations

This year’s theme is

“Let’s not wait another 20 years”

International Women’s Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring understanding and further action.

**Date:** Thursday 5th March 2015
11.00am to 2.00pm

**Venue:** Central Coast
Community Women’s Health Centre
37 Maiden’s Brush Rd, Wyoming
Phone: 43242533

Come along and join us for:
11.15: Guest Speaker, Denise Markham, Manager Bara Barang Corporation
12 noon: Gorokan school dancers
1.00pm: Drumming
Free Lunch, Massage & Calico Painting throughout the event

Children are most welcome and will remain under your supervision.

Funded by Gosford City Council