Our School Evaluation and Planning Team have been working hard for the past six months leading the planning and consultation process with our staff, students and school community to develop our school’s new School Plan. This document will provide the key elements such as the major projects and improvement strategies which will guide our school’s directions for the next three years. It will also be the platform in which an already strong culture around student learning and well-being will be enhanced. Especially important is the strategic direction aimed at building and strengthening our school community relationships.

Our three strategic directions are:

- Curriculum
- Student well-being
- Community

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to this process. In particular, I am indebted to the work of the members of our School Evaluation and Planning team: Mr Francis, Mrs Newton and Mrs Szostak whose input has been invaluable.

In next week’s newsletter I will provide additional information about our Strategic Directions.
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

NAPLAN Test Dates

Test dates for all students in **Years 3 and 5 are the 12, 13 and 14 May.** The 15 May is a 'catch-up' date for students who are absent on a previous day of testing.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. **As such, I urge parents and carers to encourage children who are to participate in these assessments to simply ‘do their best’ and not to worry about them. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.**

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Wherever possible **please avoid making appointments** for students on these dates as the information obtained from the NAPLAN results is important to both teachers and parents.

Individual student NAPLAN reports will be sent to the school later this year. The school retains a copy and parents/carers will also receive a copy. Parents/carers can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents/carers may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au).

Road Safety Reminders

Monitoring of our school traffic zone along Faunce St West has continued over the past week with Council Rangers again in attendance along with myself and Mr Francis.

The main focus has been the 'Kiss & Drop' zone. It has been great to see more parents beginning to stagger the 'pick up' time between 3:00pm and 3:15pm. We have begun asking that siblings sit together and for all children keep a sharp eye out for their parent’s car to enable a quicker exit for vehicles collecting students. There are several other ways we can have students exit even more efficiently. A long term approach could be to build a covered platform just inside the school fence for the students to sit closer to the 'kiss and drop' zone. **However, in the short term, I am seeking volunteers to trial a system that is successful in other primary schools. It simply involves a name of the student/s being typed on an A4 size card. This is then placed inside the windscreen once the vehicle has stopped in the 'kiss & drop' zone.** The aim is for the teacher on duty on the footpath to relay the name of the student/s quickly to the teacher on duty in the skillion area where the students are seated. This is especially advantageous when children do not see their parent’s car pull into the ‘kiss and drop’ zone. It saves the parent having to remove themselves from the car and breach the ‘No Parking’ regulation if they have to walk into the school grounds to locate their child/ren.

**Should you be interested in trialling this new system, please contact the office (Ph. 43493600) and I will send home a laminated ‘name card’ with your child/children's name on it.** If it improves the flow of traffic, I will ask **all parents** collecting their children to avail themselves of a ‘name card’.

In the meantime, please remember that the traffic regulation states "**The driver 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**". Please ensure that unless an emergency situation arises that **students should be collected no later than 3:15pm.**

150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations

Our quest to spread the word about our 150 Year Anniversary celebrations is working well. At present we have been focusing on social media to promote our commemorative activities and already we have had a great deal of interest. In fact last week, Mr Vaughan contacted the school to purchase some of the special bricks salvaged from our former school for his family. We were surprised to hear that his father actually owned the local brickworks that the bricks were manufactured at!! Remember, we only have a limited number of these bricks so I advise you to be quick to order a brick/s for your family to avoid disappointment. They will be a feature in our new Commemorative Garden and come complete with your family’s name attached to an engraved plaque. **They are $30 each or $50 for a brick and a commemorative book.**
I would also like to remind everyone that we are currently seeking sponsors for our 150 Year Sesquicentenary book. Please contact our office if your family or business would like to sponsor a page. For families and ‘Not-for-Profit’ organisations it will cost $20 to sponsor a page and ‘for Profit’ organisations it will cost $100 to sponsor a page. To pre-order the limited edition 150 Year Sesquicentenary book please pay $30 to our office. Find out more about our 150 Year celebration activities by looking at our Gosford Public School app, website and Facebook page.

COMING UP

Wednesday March 18: Stage 1 Walkabout Park excursion.
Wednesday March 18-Friday March 20: Year 6 Canberra excursion.
Friday March 20: Gosford Public School celebrates Harmony Day.
Wednesday March 25: YOU CAN DO IT! Parent Information Session in the Chapman Room (2:15pm to 2:50pm). Hear from our ‘YOU CAN DO IT!’ committee as they explain such things as the 5 Foundation Values, the Catastrophe Chart and hear from and some of our Stage 1 students as they sing the ‘YOU CAN DO IT!’ song.
May 12-14: NAPLAN assessments for Year 3 and 5 students.

Best Wishes

John Anderson

GPS HISTORICAL FACT

Henry Parson and Charles Reeves were instrumental in getting the School of Arts built in 1870 to help educate the young men of the community. It wasn't long before “The School on the Hill” became too small to house all the students. So the School of Arts along with White Hall, just down from the School of Arts, were also used as classrooms. The buildings were rented by the P&C for 7/6 shillings and sixpence per week by 1918. Using the School of Arts was fraught with problems. The room was located below street level and had no windows with limited ventilation. Sickness was an endless issue.

The School of Arts building was destroyed by fire in 1927 and the building was rebuilt on the existing foundations. It continued to be used for school purposes until 1955 due to the ever increasing school enrolments.
School Banking Account Opening Day

Gosford is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to make deposits into their personal Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

School Banking day is THURSDAY. Please Hand your bank book to your teacher for collection.

End of Term 'You Can Do It!' Reflection Sheets

Congratulations to students that are close to earning their first 'You Can Do It!' certificate (Bronze certificate). We have a number of students who may obtain this certificate by the end of term and many more who are working toward achieving it during Term Two.

A 'You Can Do It' Reflection Sheet will be sent home at the end of each term. Students will spend time in weeks 9/10 recording how many stickers they have earned related to each of our foundation values: Resilience, Persistence, Getting Along, Confidence and Organisation. Please discuss with your child their progress and sign the reflection sheet. (If possible, please return before the end of term).

Flow of Certificates/Recognition

Bronze certificate - 25 foundation value stickers (5 in each of the 5 values). This certificate is given out in class.  
Silver certificate - 25 foundation value stickers to complete the silver certificate page of the student YCDI booklet. This certificate is given out in stage assemblies.
Gold certificate - 25 foundation value stickers to complete the gold certificate page of the student YCDI booklet. This certificate is given out in the whole school assembly, presented by Mr Anderson. Parents will be advised and invited to attend. This is a great achievement!

Lorikeet Legend Badge - to achieve a badge, students complete an additional Lorikeet Legend Badge YCDI booklet. Parents are invited to a whole school YCDI assembly. Lorikeet Legend Badges are the highest honour. Students are recognised for their exemplary behaviour and consistently displaying our five foundation values. These children will enjoy extra privileges and responsibilities. Students may wear their Lorikeet Legend badge the following year as they continue to model excellent behaviour. Lorikeet Legend students can work toward a new badge each year. Some students may obtain multiple badges in their time at GPS. We are very excited about the YCDI program.

Mrs Bianchi & Mrs McCabe
Co-ordinators

Book club orders were submitted for issue 2 last Friday. If you would like to place a late order for issue 2 you can do this online via the LOOP website, however all late orders will incur a $5 delivery fee and will be delivered to your home address, not to the school. Orders usually take about a week to arrive and should be out to students either later this week or early next week.

It's Story Time
Many thanks to Mackenzie 5R, Montannah 5R, Tara 5M and Katie 5R who did a wonderful job reading to what was rather a large audience this week! Our readers definitely had to show confidence this week and they did a fabulous job as always. Well done to these students!

'Story Time' runs in the library every Thursday and Friday at 2nd half of 1st break.

Booktopia online has a wonderful list of Premier's reading challenge books that is very visual for students to search through. It can be found by going to the booktopia website, clicking on the tab ‘Books’, the ‘schools and academic’, then ‘Premier’s Reading Challenge’. Under subjects on the left, please click on ‘NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge’. (Alternatively, the website is: http://www.booktopia.com.au/books-online/children-
This is by no means the full list of books, but it will give students a good place to start as the list on the PRC website is not as visual (they are working on an app to be released in June). Please remember to double check these books against the premier’s list as there may have been changes made that the booktopia site does not reflect.

Uniform Shop News

Please note that this Thursday 19 March the Uniform Shop will close at 3:15pm

Normal times will resume the following Thursday. (Thursdays 2:15 - 3:30pm in the Chapman Room.)

Orders can be placed via Munch Monitors or the Uniform Shop box in the office foyer. All items ordered will be packed and delivered on Thursday to the child’s class. Exchanges are welcome if you have your receipt, items are in original condition with all tags and labels still attached.

We have some second hand items for sale ranging in price from $1.00 to $5.00.

P & C News

Next P & C Meeting is 25 March 2015 at 7:30pm in the Chapman Room

Any items for the agenda need to be to the Secretary by Friday 21 March 2015.

P & C email address gosfordpspandc@gmail.com

All welcome, light supper provided.

Harmony Day

We have a very large multicultural population at Gosford Public School and we strive to make each day a harmonious one. Friday 20 March is a symbolic day when we remember the importance of having an understanding and tolerance of others around us. Some of our celebrations will be on going throughout the year.

The Canteen has a special Multicultural lunch for the day as well.

Multicultural Homework Support Group

On Monday 23 March Mrs Newton, AP for Stage 2, will be talking about Years 3 and 4. Mrs Newton has a wealth of knowledge about the new curriculum for all years K-6.

These sessions are open to all parents. Meet on the seats outside the Chapman Room by 3pm and I will direct you to the room. Sessions finish about 3:30pm.

Jan Hinton

EALD Teacher

Roster

Monday 23 March - Mick

Tuesday 24 March - Janene

Wednesday 25 March - Judy

Thursday 26 March - Danielle

Friday 27 March - Rebecca, Amber
Harmony Day Menu

(for Munch Monitors customers looked under ‘specials’) 

Australia - sausage sandwich with sauce $2

Japan - chicken or tuna sushi $1

Mexico - nachos with sour cream $3.50

Italy - spaghetti bolognaise with garlic bread $3.50

China - vegetarian fried rice $2

GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

7          Quality education in a nurturing, innovative learning environment
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**