YOU CAN DO IT!

We were fortunate to be able to offer professional learning last Thursday and Friday for 25 teachers from across the Hunter/Central Coast Region with the founder of the You Can Do It! (YCDI) program, Professor Michael Bernard of Melbourne University.

This professional learning opportunity was an initiative of our Deputy Principal, Mr Francis and was attended by our school’s YCDI staff coordinators, Mrs Bianchi and Mrs McCabe.

The feedback from participants was outstanding. For our school the training not only confirmed that our implementation of YCDI is on track to have very successful short and long term outcomes for our students but it has also provided ideas for expanding the concepts around ‘social and emotional competencies’ into relevant parent workshops.

Bring Your Own Device Program

Mrs McCabe is encouraging parents and carers of children in the classes trialling the Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD) to attend the information session this Wednesday 6 May between 3:30pm-4:30pm. It will be held in our school hall.

The classes trialling this program will be: 4/5N, 5M, 5R, 5B and 6C. The BYOD program has been founded on research which has shown that students are more engaged in learning using BYOD. It is NOT compulsory for each student from the classes trialling BYOD to have their own device. Students will NOT miss out on technology lessons should they not bring a suitable device.

Thank you Mrs McCabe for your hard work in setting up this trial.

Mother’s Day Celebrations

Our Mother’s Day stall takes place (tomorrow) Thursday 8 May. Gifts range from $2 - $5. The stall will also be open during the Mother’s Day Breakfast.
Our staff is once again looking forward to hosting the annual Mother’s Day Breakfast this Friday May 8 commencing at 7:55am. It will be held in the COLA between the canteen and the hall and we will be catering for a continental style breakfast. Entertainment will be provided by our school band and the breakfast will conclude at 8:55am, in time for lessons to commence for our students. We hope to see as many mums and carers as possible at our school for this important annual event.

NAPLAN Test Dates

Test dates for all students in Years 3 and 5 are the 12, 13 and 14 May. 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

150 Year Sesquicentenary Celebrations

Thank you to Mrs Douglas for organising the donation of over 40 square metres of landscaping pavers. These will be incorporated in the design of our school’s 150 Year Commemorative Garden. Mrs Douglas, along with Mr Harrison, Mrs Bradshaw, Miss Spackman and Mr Parker collected the pavers last Saturday. Their efforts are very much appreciated!

As part of the 150 Year celebrations students will complete a unit of work focusing on the history of our local area. This Saturday staff will attend a streetscape study of the local area as a professional learning activity with local historian and librarian, Mr Geoff Potter. I thank our School Promotions coordinator, Miss Smith for organising this opportunity for staff.

For our 150 Year commemorative book, the author Mrs Newton is hoping to organise with our school photographer, Master School Portraits (MSP), to commission a special aerial photograph that would include all current students and staff. We are meeting with MSP next week to finalise a date for this to take place.

A reminder that our reclaimed bricks from the former site are selling steadily 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 you or 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.
Thank You

I extend my sincere thanks to Mr Francis who has been in the Relieving Principal role during my recent absence. It has been a busy time especially with our school remaining open following the recent severe storms and the new School Plan being finalised.

During this time, Mrs Newton coordinated our very successful ANZAC 100 Year commemorative activities and is to be commended for her initiative and leadership.

Finally, our 2014 Annual School Report has now been uploaded to our school’s website. Relieving Assistant Principal, Miss Smith has coordinated the compilation of school related reports to make this document a true and accurate account of the school’s activities in 2014. I thank Miss Smith for her valuable work and in doing so, making available it available for our school and wider communities.

I wish all of our mothers a happy and hopefully relaxing Mother’s Day this Sunday.

Best Wishes

John Anderson

At last week’s assembly Tiarne of 3/4B was presented with her ribbons by Mr Anderson. Tiarne placed 1st in her events for 100m, 200m and 800m at the recent Athletics Carnival. Congratulations Tiarne.

Next week the newsletter will have results and photos for the Athletics Carnival.
GOSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT BANKING

Our school banking program continues to grow with many of our students using the opportunity to bank their savings on a weekly basis.

This year we have received approximately $268.00 in commission from the Commonwealth Bank.

Thank you to Amanda Juillerat for volunteering her time to process the banking deposits and for ensuring the children receive their incentive prizes.

We are still chasing overdue books. Overdue notes should find their way home sometime this week. If your child has an overdue book, please assist us by first searching for it at home, and then contacting the library if it cannot be found. If your child has lost their library book, we ask that they please pay for the replacement of that book before they borrow again.

Thank you to all of those students that have returned their overdue books to us this week, and a BIG thank you to all of those students that continue to return their books on time.

Book club orders were submitted for issue 3 last week. Orders usually take about a week to arrive and should be out to students hopefully by the end of this week. If you require any help with ordering, please contact the library staff.

If you would like to place a late order for issue 3 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.

Whilst we welcome orders in any format, we would like to encourage parents to use the online ordering system wherever possible as this drastically cuts down the amount of hours our volunteers need to spend at school processing orders. If you are not sure how to follow the online ordering process, please see the school’s library website for more information, or contact us at school.

We currently have a book covering group that meet in the library at 2.15 every Tuesday. Book coverers are also welcome any time after 1:35 on Thursdays and 1:05 on Fridays.

If you would like to help out but these times don’t suit you please let us know and we will find a time to suit.

We really genuinely appreciate the much needed help that our book coverers provide us, and many thanks to those that are already helping out!

All welcome!!
Story Time in the library re-commenced last week with great excitement! A massive thank you to Amy 5B, Arabella 5M, Tamika 6C and Bethwyn 6C for the wonderful job you did reading to our students during Story Time last week. This really is a wonderful program that displays how lucky we are to have such talented, good natured, responsible, enthusiastic seniors at its core. Well done girls!

Mrs Harpur and Mrs Frost
Teacher Librarians

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

As part of our strong and ongoing commitment to 21st Century teaching and learning, Gosford Public School will be trialling a Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD) from Week 5 in Term 2, 2015, with selected classes including, 4/5N, 5M, 5B, 5R and 6C.

The BYOD Trial is an optional program that allows students to have the opportunity to bring a personally owned and school approved device to school, for the purpose of learning. The BYOD Trial, is not a compulsory program, students who do not bring a personally owned device will have access to school technology and will fully participate in all learning programs within the classroom.

The Parents/Carers of students in 4/5N, 5M, 5R, 5B & 6C are reminded of the:

GPS TRIAL BYOD INFORMATION SESSION

Week 3, Wednesday 6 May, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

CHANGE OF VENUE – 5B & 6C Classroom at Gosford Public School

Please be aware that this is a session for parents/ carers in the participating classes only. If you wish to discuss the BYOD program, please contact myself via the school office.

If you would like further information about the BYOD Trial, please visit the Technology section of our school website where you will find information regarding the trial and its implementation with the participating classes.


Jodie McCabe
Technology Coordinator
You Can Do It!

In class students are learning about the skills needed to develop the foundation value of:

GETTING ALONG.

YCDI definition of Getting Along:
“Getting Along means that children work and play together nicely. It means that children are friendly, tell the truth, and care about others. Getting along means being able to fix problems without squabbling or fighting. When children get along, they follow the important rules of the classroom and home. They also want to help to make their school and home cleaner and safer.”

HABITS OF THE MIND related to GETTING ALONG
Along with these skills, students are being taught about the HABITS OF MIND (ways of THINKING and/or SELF-TALK) related to GETTING ALONG.

Teach your child the following types of thinking (self-talk)

- **Being Tolerant of Others**: We are all different. We all have good things about us.
- **Thinking first**: When someone has something that I want, asking “Can I play too?” or “Can I go next?”
- **Playing by the rules**: Following rules is good. Rules help us to be safe and happy.
- **Social Responsibility**: It is good to help others. It is good to make things clean and safer.

Ways to Praise Your Child for Getting Along:

- “You are good at helping others.”
- “You didn’t try to lie. Telling the truth is very important.”
- “Wow, you cleaned up your friend’s mess. Thank you.”
- “You are a good listener.”
- “Sharing helps you be a good friend.”
- “Thank you for being patient and waiting until I was finished talking. That is very grown-up behaviour.”
- “Good for you. You really are trying to get along with your friend.”

Mrs Bianchi and Mrs McCabe
P and C News

Mother’s Day Stall Thursday 7 May

During class times students will be able to attend the Mother’s Day stall.

Gifts available for $2.00 and $5.00.

Some gifts may also be available to purchase at the Mother’s Day breakfast Friday 8 May.

Uniform Shop News- UNIFORM SHOP back to normal trading this week

Next P and C Meeting 27 May 2015 @ 7:30 pm in the Chapman Room. Come along, only 50c membership for the year. All welcome.

Light supper provided.

Indigenous Courses - Parents Invited

Sista / Brospeak
Aim of the course is to build the capacity of schools to implement effective and culturally appropriate strategies to raise Aboriginal boys and girls.

Venue: Kariong Public School  
Date: 27 May  
Time: 9:00am - 3:30pm  

Please contact Mrs Liz Sprague if interested

Roster

Monday 11 May - Glenda
Tuesday 12 May - Janene
Wednesday 13 May - Judy
Thursday 14 May - HELP NEEDED
Friday 15 May - Lanssa, Mariko
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**
Mother’s Day Family Night

Time: 6 - 8pm
Date: Thursday 7th May 2015

Activities:

Free Mother's Day & Winter Heating family fun night! Fun for the whole family with a jumping castle, face painting, drumming workshop & delicious woodfired pizzas. Mother's day craft for the kids & a great DIY for the mums, as well as a special retreat area for mums to enjoy a massage & refreshments.

Bookings recommended for more information or to book speak to a team member in store or go to www.bunnings.com.au and locate your nearest store.
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Saturday, 30th May 2015
9AM to 3PM
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