Congratulations

Last Sunday I was fortunate to be able to travel to the Dame Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre at Penrith to watch our school concert band participate in the State Band Championships.

Being a first time entrant in this competition it was a real adventure for the over 60 students who participated. Even having to perform first didn’t daunt our students as they went about their three performance items with a style and ease that did the school very proud. In fact, when the final scores were tallied Gosford PS was second to North Turramurra PS just missing out on first place by the barest of margins (one half of one percent!).

Congratulations to our **band members, conductor Mr Dallinger and co-ordinator Mrs See** for all of their hard work on the day and leading up to the championships. A big thank you to **Mrs Barnfield** for volunteering to assist with supervision on the day and to all of the **parents** who braved the inclement conditions to travel to Penrith and support the band. I believe music is already being planned for the 2016 championships!
NAPLAN

Last week parents and carers of Year 3 and 5 students received a copy of their child’s NAPLAN results.

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.

Parents/carers can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. However, it is important to remember that NAPLAN is a one off snapshot of student achievement levels and progress. Unlike other exams such as the HSC, opportunity class and selective high school tests, where the final result has significant input via a school assessment, the NAPLAN scores reflect the abilities of the students in a test situation on a given day.

As a school we value these results but know that they do not always reflect the definitive outcome of student achievement.

Our initial analysis of our school’s NAPLAN results is very pleasing with excellent Year 3 and Year 5 results in Literacy and Numeracy compared to the state average. The area of GROWTH for our students which is obtained as a collective comparison of individual student results from Year 3 to Year 5 was significantly above the state average scores in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

Parents/carers may wish to discuss their child’s NAPLAN results with their child’s class teacher/s.

Well Done

I was pleased to be able to attend the Central Coast Public Education award ceremony held at Lisarow High School on Monday.

Congratulations to parents Judy Worth and Amanda Juillerat who were recognised and acknowledged for their work in the respective areas of school promotions (and the sesquicentenary celebrations) and student banking. The staff at our school value the contributions they make on a regular basis.

Performing Arts

It has been a busy time at our school in the area of Performing Arts recently. Last week our concert band and senior dance group performed at Laycock Street Theatre in the annual ‘Showcase’ production. Mrs Douglas, our school’s performing arts co-ordinator was very pleased and proud of the combined efforts of all students who participated on the night. My thanks to school staff members, Mrs Douglas and Miss Spackman and band personnel, Mrs See and Mr Dallinger for their assistance in preparing and supervising our student performances.

This week will also see the Gosford Learning Community produce the annual Performing Arts Night (PAN). This event is a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate their abilities in a variety of the performing arts activities. I hope you can attend.

School Traffic Update

Last Friday I attended a traffic meeting with representatives from NSW police, Gosford City Council and our bus companies.

The main discussion focused around parking in Faunce Street West. In general, there was evidence to show that parking systems the school has introduced has minimised the queuing that occurs between approximately 2:45pm and 3:10pm each school afternoon.

I appreciate the assistance of the parents who use the ‘name-cards’ as it enables the duty teachers to call for children early and have them waiting once vehicles reach the parking bays. If you do not yet have a name card I request that parents contact the office (4349 3600) and one will be sent home with your child.
The Gosford City Traffic Rangers were represented at the meeting and have indicated they will continue to patrol and monitor the traffic around the school. Your assistance in obeying traffic and parking regulations will ensure a safe school zone and save a significant fine being issued for an infringement.

To further alleviate the queuing along Faunce Street West a proposal was put forward to investigate the section from Young to Batley Streets being designated as a ‘one-way’ section of road with all traffic heading in an easterly direction.

**Literacy and Numeracy Week**

National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) is being celebrated across Australia from 31 August until 6 September.

Gosford PS students will be involved in activities based on the books ‘Banjo and Ruby Red’ and ‘The Stone Lion’. Dorothea Mackellar’s poetry is also a focus.

In Numeracy, students will explore shapes, in particular, shapes that tessellate.

This is the 17th NLNW and we are excited to celebrate these critical areas of learning with schools, students, parents and teachers across Australia.

This year, parents are encouraged to get involved and participate in the week because positive parental engagement and involvement influences good student learning outcomes.

The website: [http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au) has additional information, literacy and numeracy activities and many interesting and useful resources.

Thank you to Miss Shelton for co-ordinating our school’s activities this year.

**Help wanted**

As we prepare for the second half of Term 3 our School Promotions team are busy ensuring that all is in readiness for the Community Fair at the end of Week 2, Term 4 (17 October).

Our School Promotions team are responsible for the organisation of the school’s sesquicentenary celebration activities. Miss Smith, the team leader, sent a note home last week seeking items for the white elephant stall and a request for parent and community volunteers to assist our organising team prior to the Community Fair with:

- The white elephant drive
- Cake stall coordination
- Obtaining donations from businesses
- Selling raffle tickets, etc

**And on the day of the Fair assist with…**

- Running the BBQs
- Selling drinks
- Running the cake stall
- Running the white elephant stall
- Face painting
- Selling in the canteen
- Handing out programs, etc...

The more volunteers (even for an hour or two on the day) the greater will be the success. We expect many of our current and past families and staff will be present on the day. I see it as an ideal opportunity to show what a large school community can do when as a collective we all do our bit to help. You can indicate your intention to volunteer simply by filling in the form that was sent home, downloading it from our website or phoning our office (43493600).

I continue to request assistance from our current school community members to please inform any former students and staff about our reunion assembly and morning tea commencing at 10:00am in the school hall on Saturday 17 October. Special coloured ribbons are being organised to indicate the decade that you were at the school to make it easier to catch up with former peers and colleagues.
Commemorative Garden working bee

In the next couple of weeks we hope to have the paving of the school’s commemorative garden completed by Simon Head and employees from his company, Simply Foliage. Following this we will be ready to plant our native garden under the guidance of one of Australia’s leading native plant horticulturists, Angus Stewart. We would like our students and their families to be involved in this process to develop a sense of ownership and pride in the garden. Tentatively, we have set the afternoon of Saturday 12 September as the date for a working bee to plant the many plants that Angus has selected and organised for us. Confirmation of this, details of what to bring and the starting and finishing times will be promoted in the coming weeks.

Father’s Day Breakfast

If possible, please set aside Friday morning 4 September which is the date of the Father’s Day Breakfast at Gosford PS. Hopefully as in previous years we will have a large number of dads, granddads and step dads in attendance to enjoy a special time with the younger members of the family.

The breakfast starts at 7:30am and concludes at 8:30am. Cooked and continental breakfast (eggs and bacon, fruit, muffins etc) will be available at $2 per head or maximum $5 per family. The junior choir will be performing at 8:30am.

This is a great chance for students to see dad or a significant family member at our school and show that they too value education and support our fantastic school.

Kindergarten 2016

Our office has commenced taking enrolments from parents and carers who have a child who is due to commence at Gosford Public School in kindergarten from the beginning of 2016. With increasing enrolments at our school it is important to confirm the number of local enrolments for next year before we can offer non local placements.

I would be grateful if current parents can encourage other parents who reside within our school boundaries to contact our office (phone 43493600) if they have children who are due to commence school in 2016.

Kindergarten transition program:

Parent information session Wednesday 9 September from 6:30pm
Children school visits every Tuesday for 6 weeks from 9:15am - 10:45am commencing 13 October and concluding on 17 November 2015. Total cost is $40 per child.

John Anderson

P & C Meeting Wednesday 26 August - time change
Meeting commences at 7:00pm in the Chapman Room with a staff presentation regarding the 150th Centenary celebration. Any agenda items need to be submitted by the Friday before the meeting to the P & C gmail account. All welcome. Light supper provided.

HISTORICAL ITEM

Did you know Mr Anderson was a student at Gosford Public School from 1964 to 1970? Somewhat later, from 2002 to 2006, Mr Anderson was the Deputy Principal at GPS and then in 2013, Mr Anderson was appointed to the position of Principal.

This week the ‘Historical Item’ has been written by Mr Anderson, as he recalls some of his childhood memories whilst attending Gosford Public School. In 1966, Mr Anderson was in Year 2.

Mr Anderson remembers ….

“Especially before my siblings commenced school, my mother would have loose change for me to spend at the school canteen. 1966 was the year decimal currency was introduced and much of my loose change was in shiny new one cent pieces. The leftover crusts from the sandwich loaves, which were coated with ‘secret’ chocolate spread.
made by canteen manager Mrs Lawley, were my favourite. (I remember it being much nicer than our current day Nutella). Who would have thought that one cent could buy such scrumptious treats?!

The area of Callistemon Creek was a strand of weeping willow trees which ran all the way to the train carriage. The weeping branches were thin and could be used to weave head pieces... and during play time the boys used to delight in chasing the girls and pretending to whip them... of course I wouldn't have done that! My favourite past time was the cricket game that still exists in a modified form. I recall the bus trip to school was spent taping a tennis ball with electrical tape so that it would skid and bounce off the bitumen. (In fact, one such well-worn taped ball was discovered in Mr Harrison’s shed prior to departing the Mann St site).

Classes had many more students. My Year 1 class photograph has 41 students in it... and perhaps there were more, as some students could have been absent on the day! Lessons were very structured and textbooks were recycled from year to year. Multiplication tables drills often preceded the day’s formal lessons. At the beginning of each year, each student was provided with a hard covered folder with strings along the inside of the binder. This was used to insert each month’s school magazine. It had well-written stories by famous authors and also contained poetry and plays. This magazine and the newspaper my father gave me each day became my main reading material leading into secondary school. During Year 6 with Mr Scully as my teacher, I recall craft lessons where we were allowed to use a special sharp knife to complete our lino print templates. We were under strict instructions and supervision to be very safe and cut away from our body. My Year 6 classroom was inside the School of Arts building that still exists on Mann St today.

Although, in many ways, schooling has changed for the better I will always be grateful for the excellent education I obtained in my formative years at Gosford Public School.”
Library

Library Monitors excursion with Frane Lessac

On Friday the 21 August we learnt how to illustrate with Frane. Eleven library monitors went to Our Lady of the Rosary school.

We had lots of fun. I learnt about writing books and about illustrating.

We learnt how to draw Ned Kelly from her book ‘Ned Kelly and the Green Sash’ and we drew Duffy the donkey from her book ‘Simpson and his donkey’.

Emily, Lara, Amy, Zoe, Yasmine, Lilliana, Katie, Kiah, Eliza, Anastacia and Viola.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is now closed. Congratulations to all students who completed the challenge. Your lists have been validated and certificates will be sent to me later in Term 4.

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who pop in to help in the library. We are happy for more volunteers to come along to help us out by covering and re-shelving our books. Any help is much appreciated, any afternoon - all welcome!

Book club orders were submitted for issue 6 last week. If you require any help with ordering, please contact the library staff. If you would like to place a late order for issue 6 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 close on Friday 28 August 2015.

Mrs Christine Harpur
Teacher librarian
Congratulations to our Year 6 students at James An College Gosford who have been offered a place in a Selective School. 14 out of 16 (87.5%) students have been successful in this year test. Great effort by all our students and best wishes for your future studies.

Yr 5 SUPER SELECTIVE TRIAL TEST COURSE (Only 20 weeks left)

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.

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