Welcome back to the final term for 2015. We hope that your holiday was enjoyable. Once again we have hit the ground running so as to speak! The Early Bird Orientation program commenced on Monday of this week. The Kindergarten children for 2016 had the opportunity of visiting the Kindergarten classrooms to become familiar with classroom and school organisation helping to make coming to school next year a less daunting experience. Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 have been very positive. If you haven’t enrolled your child or know of someone who hasn’t enrolled their child please inform them to do so, to assist school planning for 2016. A great deal of school organisation for 2016 has already commenced which I will expand on later in the Bulletin. Unfortunately due to the heavy demand for Kindergarten places we have been unable to offer placement for out of area applicants who don’t have a sibling attending Gordon West PS.

The Playground Refurbishment Committee has met a number of times over the course of the year to ensure that the school facilities are efficiently maintained and upgraded where necessary. This week the committee placed an order for a 4 metre Zenith Climbing net to be located adjacent to the current fixed equipment playground. This new facility should provide enormous enjoyment for the children of Gordon West. The current fixed equipment playground will be upgraded and repainted in the immediate future.

During the vacation the area between Ryde Road and the tennis court was asphalted and a new garden installed as a result of a discussion that arose from a recent P and C meeting where a parent raised some safety issues relating to this area. We would like to thank the parent who raised the issue and stress the importance of all school community members bringing possible WH&S issues to our attention. A big thank you to Sam our Building Maintenance Manager and to Adrian his assistant for all of their work in establishing this new garden. Sam has brought in an unusual succulent from his native Calabria to illustrate the significance of this project! As the term progresses we will be conducting makeovers of
existing gardens, painting tables and seats, replacing and upgrading parts of the chain fences in an effort to enhance the
school grounds to emphasise the importance of establishing a lovely work and play environment.
However our major project will be a redevelopment of the area adjacent to the school hall extending to the
regeneration area, bordering Ryde Road.
The Committee has commissioned a playground and landscaping company to create a concept design for this area.
Once the design is finalised the construction phase will be completed in two parts.
Artificial turf will be installed to replace the previously heavily worn grassed area that we have found so difficult to
maintain. The enormous usage of this area is due partly to an increase in school numbers.
The second phase of the project will be for an upgrade involving the installation of activities in the area under the
existing trees incorporating the current “diggers” area where our children love to climb on the rocks and excavate
freely at their leisure.
The committee hope to receive this initial plan by the end of October.
Both the school and P and C have applied for special funding to help fund both the Zenith Activity Net and other
major project aspects.
A big thank you to Mrs Guenther, Miss Harper, Mr Castelnuova and Mrs Sheehan for being members of this very time
consuming but very important committee.

As mentioned previously planning for 2016 is well under way. As part of our Strategic Directions 2015/2017 we
plan to incorporate You Can Do It the K-6 well being program into the school commencing Term 1 2016. Staff leaders
have been trained and work with all teachers to develop an implementation strategy so the program may commence
from the beginning of 2016.
The Information Technology format trialled over the course of this year has not proved as successful as we had hoped.
Consequently the school will revert to the structure of previous years where an IT professional will be employed in
2016 to work with individual classes/ teachers using our K/6 Scope and Sequence. This will ensure that explicit
technology skills are taught across the whole school.
The Gordon West Gifted and Talented program has been revised and will operate in Term 2 and Term 3 in 2016 with
the emphasis being placed on preparation for the Tournament of Minds competition held in September of each year.
A parent information evening will be held in Term 4 to explain the new format and the testing procedures that will
take place this term for entry to this program.
To further cater for individual differences we are developing a better school timetable for Year 3/6 2016 which enables
across class grouping for Numeracy. The idea is to cater for individual student needs including the gifted and talented
mathematicians.
More detailed information relating to the above mentioned programs will be forthcoming as the changes are
implemented.
School staff will present at the Parents and Citizens meetings and other forums in relation to these programs so that
parents are well informed and have an opportunity to seek clarification.

The final Band Intensive will be held this Sunday morning for all three bands in preparation for their end of year
concerts.
The program will commence at 9.00am and conclude with a pizza lunch at 12.30pm organised by Mrs Jackson. Thank
you to the parents who have volunteered to help Mrs Jackson on Sunday.
Although school activities held on weekends can impact on family plans we thank you in anticipation of your support
for these very productive Band Intensives.
Mrs Walmsley certainly runs an excellent band program.
Behind the scenes Mrs Findlay from the Office Administration staff ensures that everything runs smoothly and is
invaluable to our successful Band program.

We look forward to the Parents and Citizens meeting to be held next Monday evening (19 October 2015) where
Miss Harper will present an overview of the school Naplan results for 2015.
Ms Harper will show those in attendance how the school performed in this year’s test and how we are using teaching
strategies provided by ACARA to address areas of weakness identified.

J Huckerby
Principal
If any students from Year 3, 4 & 5 who are interested in joining the band next year and are not in any Band this year, there is an information evening on Thursday 22 October at 7:30pm in the school hall.

For further information please come to the school office.

---

**Year 4 Powerful Project**

The Year 4 Powerful Project featuring the Southern Brown Bandicoot was completed in late Term 3. The 10 week learning journey culminated in the Expo Day in Week 10 which provided the Year 4 students with an opportunity to showcase their exceptional digital products to parents and visitors.

The Powerful Project provided students with the opportunity to participate in a learning experience where students engaged in critical and creative thinking. The students worked cooperatively to develop questions, engage in research, make conclusions and draw on their knowledge and creativity to persuade the community to save the Southern Brown Bandicoot. In doing this, the students further developed their ability to critically analyse and synthesise information. When creating their presentations, the students furthered their skills in technology and learnt how to effectively use and combine a range of iPad technologies. Some of the apps used included StopMotion, iMovie, Telestory, Toontastic, Explain Everything and Garage Band, as well as the use of camera and video to create multimodal texts.

As part of our evaluation of the Powerful Project we greatly value the feedback of the Year 4 students, teachers and parents. Your responses will assist us to continue to develop quality programs with our community of schools and with professional partners from the Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre.

Below is a link to a short parent survey for Year 4 parents.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYD8NR7

Year 4 students and teachers will be completing a similar survey online at school.

**Year 4 Teachers**

Mrs Merchant, Mrs Roberton and Mr Sparke

---

**Extension of survey window for the TELL THEM FROM ME parent surveys**

The survey window for the parent surveys has been extended, the surveys will now close on Friday 23 October 2015.

The survey can be located using the link

https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/j_aecgi_security_check?j_username=parent17946&j_password=Gor3943
SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB
The final Scholastic Bookclub orders for 2015 are due Friday 16th October
Payment accepted by:

- LOOP by credit card – online at www.scholastic.com.au LOOP is the fastest and most accurate means of placing your bookclub order
- Cheque made payable to Scholastic Australia
- Cash (accepted but not preferred) – notes and minimal gold coins. No change given. Please do not send heavy bags of silver coins.

If not paying by LOOP please fill in ALL parts of EVERY order form and return to the school.

Thank you for supporting the bookclub in 2015. Gordon West receives 20% of the total order value and this has enabled the school to purchase several thousand dollars of classroom learning resources this year.

Stacey Hayes
Parent Co-ordinator
0400 095 751

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION - 2016 INQUIRE PROGRAM
On Tuesday, 3rd of November there will be a parent information session held in the staffroom to inform parents about the Inquire Program for 2016.

Gordon West has a strong commitment to meeting the needs of all students and the Inquire Program complements this commitment by providing opportunities for students in Years 3-6 displaying gifts and talents, in the area of literacy and numeracy.

The program aims to engage and motivate students through providing an appropriate way for them to learn sophisticated content and high level thinking skills while building self efficacy, confidence and autonomous learning behaviours.

The information presented will be about the intended program for 2016 and explicit information surrounding the testing process and the parent and teacher recommendations that accompany the test scores.

Parents will be given the opportunity to ask questions and have anything clarified about the program.

We welcome parents of students in Years 2-5 this year that may be seeking information about the program for 2016.

Mrs Garland
Inquire Program Teacher 2015
Positions vacant:
Coordinator - Teachers Lunch
We still need two volunteers to coordinate a special end-of-year lunch for our teachers, which will be held on Monday December 14.
This is an easy and straightforward job, one volunteer will coordinate food while the other will roster the volunteers. There is plenty of information and notes to help you. To find out more or offer your time please email Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com

You are invited....
The Fund Raising and Social Committee will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5 November at 7pm. Everyone within the school community is welcome to attend.
Venue will be announced in the next Bulletin. Please RSVP to Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com by Friday October 26.

It's party time... for parents
End-of-year drinks for parents are a Gordon West tradition and a lovely way to celebrate the year that was with your school friends.
More details will come from your class parents but if you would like to host or organise a party for your year please contact your class representative. So far the following years have been organised:
Year 2: Sunday November 22, hosted by Wendy and Ian Eldershaw
Year 3: Saturday November 21, hosted by Kylie Byrne
Year 6: Tuesday November 24, hosted by Phil and Fiona Mance
Year 6: Saturday December 12 hosted by Larissa and Kym Daniels

dates for the diary
- Tuesday October 27
  Cake day (hosted by Years 6 and 3)
- Thursday November 14
  FRASC AGM, 7.30pm, Venue TBC

Cake day coming up....
The final cake day for the year will be held on Tuesday October 27 and hosted by Years 6 and 3. If you are able help receive cakes in the morning or sell at recess please email Vanessa Spanswick on aspanswick@bigpond.net.au
Remember to bring money to buy delicious treats!
# Kids!! Have fun learning to speak Mandarin

**Mandarin Language Club at Gordon West Public School!**

The Mandarin Stars program offers:
- Small class sizes.
- **FUN**, engaging and highly interactive Mandarin classes for non-native learners.
- An immersion based program that teaches strong listening and speaking skills in Mandarin.
- Language building activities such as role play, puppet shows, puzzles and games.
- A fun introduction to reading & writing Chinese characters!
- The discovery of Chinese culture, festivals, Calligraphy, Tai Chi and even Kung Fu!

**Classes on Tuesday afternoons**
- 3:15pm – 4:00pm for K- Yr2 Students
- 4:00pm – 4:45pm for Yr 3-6 Students

Please contact us directly & BOOK A FREE TRIAL LESSON!
Email: dailin@mandarinstars.com.au

**www.mandarinstars.com.au ★ enrol@mandarinstars.com.au ★ Ph: (02) 8437 2498**

---

## Parenting Anxious Children

**SEMINAR FOR PARENTS - TERM 4, 2015**

- **Thursday, 19 November**
- **Time:** 10am-12pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am-11am</td>
<td>Discussing: The nature of anxiety and the different ways it may present in children. Risk factors and potential implications for parents and children, as well as identification of practical strategies &amp; resources to assist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>The seminar will be facilitated by CWHS staff (which includes Psychologists, Social Workers &amp; Family Therapists). The seminar will be run at Hillview Community Health Centre, 1334 Pacific Highway, Turramurra. Entry via Boyd Ave. Please allow enough time for parking and arrive 10 minutes before the registered start time. Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare facilities and are unable to have infants attend with their parents. The seminar is available to families who live in the Hornsby Ku-ring-Gai local government area. The cost of attendance is $10 but there will be no charge for concession card holders. Registration is essential as groups fill quickly. To confirm your place please call CWHS on 9485 6155. Participants will be asked to complete feedback forms. The service reserves the right to postpone or cancel seminars in the case of insufficient registrations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Hornsby Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CWHS)**

**Northern Sydney Local Health District**

**NSW Government**

**Health**
KU West Pymble Preschool
Enrolling now

Operated by KU, one of Australia’s leading not for profit, community-based providers of early childhood education, our preschool offers:

- A safe, natural learning environment
- Qualified, experienced teachers and staff
- Educational, play-based learning programs
- A full transition to school program for children aged 3-5 years old

For more information, or to enquire about placing your child on the centre’s waiting list, visit our website www.ku.com.au or contact:

KU West Pymble Preschool
T 02 9498 7285
F 02 9418 4680
E ku.westpymble@ku.com.au

www.ku.com.au

Kids 7yrs and under FREE registration

Club races for children and adults of all ability

Fun for the whole family to enjoy

KU-RING-GAI AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Season starts Saturday, 10th October 2015
at Ku-ring-gai Fitness & Aquatic Centre, Prince of Wales Drive, West Pymble
from 7.00 am – 10.30 am

Visit our website: kuringgai.swimming.org.au to register

Ph: 02 9498 3574 or Chris Perry - Registrar - 0417 216 902
STUDENT NEWS

MODBALL RESULTS
9/10/15
Snrs vs St Ives Nth won 12-3
Jnrs vs Lindfield East won 7-1

CRICKET RESULTS
9/10/15 vs Lindfield
Juniors lost 90-124
Seniors lost 94-111

TOUCH FOOTBALL RESULTS
9/10/15
Jnr Girls vs St Ives Nth won 1-0
vs Killara won 2-0
Snr Girls vs St Ives Nth won 3-0
vs Beaumont Rd won 2-0
Jnrs vs Lindfield East drew 1-1

ASSEMBLY AWARDS
14/10/2015

KD  Shem Christoduss, Serena Cummings, Joy Hall
KH  Ashwin Srivatsan, Christopher Gower, Joshua Trinh
KS  Naveen Agnew, Zara Darwich, Aditya Kadiyala
KZ  Andy Jin, Dannon Pichler, Dylan Groves
1F  Timofey Stepanov, Charles Ha, Haley Chung
1P  Kai Herbert, Jean Chou, Summer Mudadu
1S  Jazleen Kandola, James Boots, Alexander Ryan
1W  Jacob Phillips, Skye Wienand, James Lineen
2D  Kevin Xu, Rhea Soni, Erin Cho
2S  Lucy Hudson, Jack Simpson, William Majetic
2W  Susie Chen, Imogen Rankin, Lucas San
2Z  Jake Groves, Elena Rostami, Naomi Baker
3A  Charlotte Betts, Mitchell Fisher, Will Rajadhyaksha
3H  Ahaaf Rakeen, Scott Daniels, Adelia Arslan
3T  Caitlin Emmerson, Scarlett Rawlinson, Lachlan Herbert
4M  Jack Daley, Sam Key, Ryan Dillon
4R  Artin Salehi, Saba Kiani, Luke van Dijk
4/5S  Philip Tokareff, Xavier Webster, Julia Makin
5D  Sophie Crowfoot, Ronan Kohlhoff, Selina Yang
5W  Bianca Martin, Will Key, Josh Singh
6D  Emily Kamata, Chad Wang, Jamie Holdsworth
6E  Caitlin Fletcher, Ping Han Tsai, Lucy Perosin