**Principal’s Report**

What an enjoyable evening last Wednesday was when approximately 45 ex Gordon West students and their parents returned to the school to celebrate the completion of the 2015 HSC. It is lovely that these beautiful young adults choose to return to Gordon West on this auspicious occasion.

Thank you to Mrs Watt for her efficient organisation of the event. Tradition is that the parents of the school captains for the particular cohort celebrating the reunion are responsible for the organisation of the night. However due to unforeseen circumstances Mrs Watt stepped in at the last moment and did a wonderful job.

We look forward to many more reunions such as these that add to the spirit, traditions and culture of Gordon West Public School.

**School Organisation 2016**

At the final meeting of the Gordon West P&C, school organisation for the following year is discussed.

I am often asked why we need to form composite classes.

Schools are staffed on a pupil/teacher ratio of 1 to 20 for Kindergarten, 1 to 22 for Year 1, 1 to 24 for Year 2 and 1 to 30 for Years 3/6.

Given that children do not enrol in exact groups of 20, 22, 24 and 30 respectively, the need may arise for the formation of a class or classes which may comprise of students from two different class groupings eg a composite 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 etc.

Schools are permitted to form classes minimally exceeding the recommended ratios to reduce the formation of composite classes if required.

One of the challenges of discussing projected school organisation at this stage of the year is that numbers may change over the vacation necessitating further changes to class organisation. However explaining the actual class organisation process to the Gordon West P&C is very worthwhile and illustrates the challenges involved in this process.
Congratulations to all 12 students who were nominated for the position of prefect or captain for 2016. Under the election process six boys and six girls were nominated by their Grade 5 peer group. Each of the short listed students presented their prepared election speech to the whole school assembly. At the conclusion of the assembly all students Years 2-5 voted for two of the boy candidates and two of the girl candidates. Each staff member also votes for two boys and two girls. All nominees were very impressive, however, as in all elections there has to be winners. Congratulations to Ella Murray and Nick Nairn our school captains for 2016. Congratulations to Stella Lawler, Scarlett Sweeney, Will Key and Alex Truong on being elected as prefects for 2016. It is an enormous honour to be elected by and to represent your teachers and peers.

A big thank you to those parents who have so kindly offered their homes to host class and grade end of year Christmas parties. It’s a wonderful opportunity for all Gordon West parents to meet and celebrate the achievements of the year.

Responsible email usage is fundamental to a school community policy where members of the community make their email address available to facilitate efficient communication from the school or parent organisations. Please don’t abuse this trust by advertising via these email systems otherwise community members may withdraw their email addresses from the system. One also has to be careful in relation to what is written in an email and it is often a good idea to wait and take a deep breath before sending an email that a recipient may find negative. Parents are reminded that teachers can be contacted via the school email at: gordonwest-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au A response will be forthcoming within 24 hours.

Bus pass applications for 2016 will be changing over to the Opal card system. Please see the information regarding the new student Opal card enclosed in this bulletin.

The Ryde Schools’ Spectacular held at the Opera House last Monday was a wonderful experience for the Year 3 choir and the Senior Dance Group. Mrs Tambakis and her enthusiastic group had practised a repertoire of 18 songs since the beginning of the year for this memorable performance. The Senior Dance Group was magnificent and has been very successful since its formation earlier in the year and Mrs Dutra and Mrs Sutton have every reason to be very proud of the group’s achievement. To perform at one of the world’s most prestigious venues is something the children will remember for the rest of their lives.

Both the Gordon West String and Band groups have a very positive outlook for 2016 with record numbers of students joining both groups. The String Ensemble has 11 new members and over 60 children have indicated that they plan to join the band. Although there is a definite commitment and a lot of hard work in joining such a group the rewards are worthwhile and can be a wonderful life experience. We are fortunate to have such excellent string and band opportunities in the school.

J Huckerby
Principal
School students

Tap into

Opal

The smarter way for students to travel to and from school.

Transforming ticketing

Opal is the easy way to get around on public transport in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Southern Highlands.

Introducing the School Opal card

The School Opal card gives eligible students free or discounted travel between home and school, using the train, bus and ferry services you nominate in your application.

The School Opal card replaces the old paper School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel pass.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants)
  - There's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary)
  - 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary)
  - 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

Most students who already have a school student travel pass won’t need to apply for the School Opal card. It will be sent to the student’s school at the beginning of the school year in 2015.

An application is needed if the student

- Has not had a travel pass before
- Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- Is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
- Is changing schools
- Is changing address

How to apply

Step 1
Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2
Print, sign and date the completed application, then submit it to the student’s school for endorsement.

Step 3
The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. Once approved, the School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.

A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over must apply for themselves.
Last week Gordon West held an information evening to provide the school community with information about the Inquire Program in 2016. Next year we will continue to offer a withdrawal program for students in Years 3-6. These classes are an academic program to cater for students displaying gifts and talents in the area of critical and creative thinking in literacy and numeracy. The program aims to provide opportunities to engage in problem based learning with students who have similar and/or particular abilities, aptitudes and interests. In 2016 Mr Jim Higgins will coordinate the program which will focus on challenges from Tournament of Minds. The challenges offer students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way. Tournament of Minds provides students the opportunity to:

•Provide the stimulation of real, open-ended challenges
•Develop creative problem solving approaches and techniques
•Foster cooperative learning and team work
•Promote knowledge and appreciation of self and others
•Encourage experimentation and risk taking
•Expand and reward creative and divergent thinking
•Stimulate a spirit of inquiry and a love of learning
•Develop enterprise
•Celebrate excellence

If you wish to nominate your child for the program because you believe they display such gifts or talents please complete the parent checklist which can be downloaded from the school website or collected from the office.

Please return the completed checklist to the office by Friday 13 November, 2015.

If you require further information please contact Gifted and Talented Committee Members, Mrs Donna Garland and Ms Nicole Merchant.

Head lice: THE FACTS
Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools.

- about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person's head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments

Treatment daily combing of white hair conditioner using a fine tooth comb is effective in getting rid of head lice and eggs (nits)

Tips for parents in reducing the spread of head lice. As infestations are particularly common in primary schools, it is best to choose a treatment that can be used over time. There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.

- regularly check your children's hair
- teach older children to check their own hair
- tie back and braid long hair
- keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.
Calling All K-2 Parents!

We have two very special end of year events coming up and would love lots of volunteers to help make the experience extra special!

Christmas Concert
The Christmas Concert is being held on Friday December 11 and we are expecting a large audience for this wonderful end of year performance. We need volunteers to help set-up urns, trestle tables, platters and cups. We will also need people to help serve and clean up at the end.

Infants Picnic
After special activities organised by the teachers, the children will be treated to a special picnic lunch on Tuesday 15th December. This event is catered and managed by the parents. As the final event of the year we’d really like this to be a HUGE SUCCESS! We will also need LOTS of volunteers!

Please contact Sarah Daniels on sardaniels@gmail.com with any queries or offers of assistance.

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS IN THE NEXT BULLETIN

Saturday 28 February

WELCOME FEST
If you have any ideas or would like to assist in the planning of this event please contact Megan on dmem4@yahoo.com

Christmas Cheer
Our end-of-year Christmas drinks for parents are coming around fast. See below for your year’s event...

Kindy: Friday December 4, hosted by Amanda
Year 1: Saturday December 6, hosted by Gillian Southworth
Year 2: Sunday November 22, 3pm Wendy Hawkins at Bicentennial Park
Year 5: Saturday November 21, Kylie Byrne.
Year 4: Friday November 27, hosted by Bernadette Van Grecken
Year 5: Friday December 11, hosted by Pip Reeves.
Year 6: Tuesday November 24, Flora Mance
Year 6: Saturday December 12, Larissa Daniels.
FRASC positions for 2016

Role of the Fundraising and Social Committee

The Fundraising and Social Committee (FRASC) provides a social network and financial support for the school community through a range of social and fundraising events. Funds raised are fed back into the school for the common good of all our children. We hope the positions listed below will be filled at the beginning of 2016.

**FRASC Co-ordinator:** A shadow for current person to take over in 2017. Delegate duties for events. Help out where needed. Liaise with committee& school to run, create and update FRASC calendar of events. Liaise with Mr Huckerby & staff and attend P&C meetings. Write risk assessments etc...

**Secretary**
Write and distribute minutes. Help recruit class parents. Generate notes/reminders for events. Send information to communications officer for bulletin.

**Catering Co-ordinator (K-2)**

**Cake Day Co-ordinator**
Liaise with class parents to arrange each term’s cake day (previous notes provided) and arrange reminder note and promotion in The Bulletin.

**Co-ordinators - Athletics Carnival Canteen.**
Organise the food and volunteers for the canteen to be sold on the day.

**CLASS PARENT REPS**
Liaise with FRASC, class teachers and class families to involve each class in their year’s catering and social activities and school fundraising events. Separate note will explain duties.

All of these jobs come complete with a person to help you who has done it before, notes that are written and updated each year and wonderful parent helpers who make everything a lot of fun.

Please let Megan Guenther know if you are interested or would like to ask any questions. dmem4@yahoo.com or 0422 915 496.
Uniform Shop News

Did you know that you could buy school hats at the office?

You don’t have to wait for the Uniform Shop to open on Friday or for a Flexischool order delivery.

**ALSO....**
School Bags have arrived.
If you need one go to Felxischool before 4.50pm on Thursday for delivery on Friday or come in on Friday morning.

Uniform Shop Open Friday 8.30 – 9.30 am
gwpsuniformshop@gmail.com
Comments from a Gordon West Ethics Teacher:

The year I started teaching ethics I was very interested in my children having an alternative to non scripture. I really liked the idea that they would be engaged in relevant ethical discussions about their everyday life. So I went to the Ethics volunteers course in 2011 and have been teaching ever since. There was a huge variety of people there, from all walks of life; parents, grandparents, accountants, architects, teachers aids, lawyers and carpenters.

The course encouraged me to think with more depth about the importance of exploring multiple opinions and ideas; and for these differences to exist in the classroom, without judgement. I wanted my own children to reflect on the origins of their beliefs and be able to give explanations and examples of why they think the way they do.

I wondered what ethical topics are relevant to children? What I discovered was the topics are relevant for all ages. To name a few: Imagining how others feel - How do we treat living things - What is laziness - How do we disagree in a respectful way - Fairness

It has certainly generated excellent dinnertime conversations in our household. One of the wonderful things about the Ethics Program is that the teaching plans, time recommendations and possible ideas that the children might explore: are all laid out in the curriculum. The job of the Ethics Teacher is to deliver the lessons without offering any of your own conclusions or opinions.

Now that 2015 is coming to a close I look back on the Ethics teaching with these thoughts: I have contributed to my children's school community, I am delivering a program that is encouraging self reflection, compassion, empathy and tolerance of difference. I thoroughly enjoy my children's school and have a greater appreciation of the complex skills involved in teaching.

We are in need of more Ethics teachers in 2016. If there are not enough then it is simple...the program cannot be offered.

If you are interested (or just not sure) and would like more information have a look at the website http://www.primaryethics.com.au/ethicsteacher.html or email the GW school Ethics Coordinator on northshore-region@primaryethics.com.au
All parents, citizens and staff are warmly invited to attend the

GWPS P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2015
7:30PM IN THE STAFF ROOM

The goal of the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) of Gordon West Public School (GWPS) is to assist the staff and teachers of the school to ensure that all students at the school receive a quality education encompassing both academic and non-academic pursuits in an inclusive and safe learning environment. GWPS is highly successful due to the tremendous support and involvement of parents.

At the AGM each year, the P&C committee positions are declared vacant and election of all new Executive Committee and Sub-Committee Members will take place.

All members of the school community, both old and new, are invited to nominate for any of the positions, and are encouraged to attend the meetings, participate in the voting and become involved in the running of the school for the year to come.

The P&C meets once a month on a Monday evening during each term. The meetings are friendly and informal and we welcome all our school parents and any concerned citizens to join us and find out what is going on at your school and share your views and expertise.

We understand that parents have numerous commitments outside of the school arena and it’s very hard to fit it all in. For those parents working, or at home with toddlers during the day, being involved with the executive or a committee that meets in the evening is a great way to stay connected and informed of what’s happening at our school.

The committees and the activities organised by the P&C cannot continue without parental help and the input of new parents is both essential and much appreciated.

Please read the below descriptions for each of the Executive and sub-committee roles. There is a nomination form for the positions. You are also encouraged to become a member of the P&C to ensure you can influence and vote on matters at the meetings.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Many thanks,

James O’Keefe
P&C President

28 October 2015
GWPS P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nomination form - GWPS P&C Committee Member for 2016

I hereby nominate:

Name: ________________________________

For the position

Position: ______________________________

Nominated by:

Name: ________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ DATE: ____________

I second the Nomination

Name: ________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ DATE: ____________

I accept the Nomination

Name: ________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ DATE: ____________

Please Note: To serve on a P&C sub-committee or the Executive you need to be a financial member of the GWPS P&C Association. The $1.00 annual membership fee may be paid at the AGM on 16th November 2015 with the application form or returned to the school office addressed to the P&C Secretary prior to the AGM.

Nomination Form to be forwarded to Gordon West Public School P&C Secretary

Received by P&C Secretary on ________________
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION
GORDON WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009)

APPLICANT

I ..............................................................................................................................
(Full name of applicant)

Of ..........................................................................................................................
(Address)

........................................................................................................ thereby apply to become a member of the Gordon
(Occupation)

West Public School Parents and Citizens Association. In the event of my admission as a member, I
agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

........................................................................................................ ..................
(Date) (Signature)

NOMINATOR

I .............................................................................................................................. a member of the association, nominate
(Full name of nominator)
the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the association.

........................................................................................................ ..................
(Date) (Signature)

SECONDER

I .............................................................................................................................. a member of the association, second
(Full name of nominator)
the nomination of the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the association.

........................................................................................................ ..................
(Date) (Signature)

Please include payment of the $1.00 annual membership fee with this form and return to the
school office addressed to the P&C Secretary.

GWPS P&C Membership Form – November 2015
Overview of roles and responsibilities

P&C Executive Committee Positions

President – Chairs meetings which consist of one executive and one general meeting per term, plus any other special P&C meetings called. Supports the school principal as and when required in a range of activities. Attends P&C functions when able. Liaises with the parent body and other committee convenors on issues raised, either privately or at P&C meetings.

Vice-President (x2) – Attends all P&C meetings when able, chairs meetings in the absence of the president. Supports the P&C President and the school principal as required. Attends P&C functions when able.

Secretary – Takes minutes at all executive and P&C meetings and circulates to attendees and P&C members. Handles correspondence as required after consultation with the executive committee. Prepares notes for the school newsletter regarding P&C activities as required. Assists the president and vice presidents in their duties as and when required.

Treasurer – Responsible for receipting and banking of all monies from P&C fundraising and any other sources relevant to the P&C. Controls the bank accounts, maintains cheque books, deposits and online banking, and ensures outstanding accounts are paid after approval. Prepares a financial report for each P&C meeting and prepares the P&C accounts for auditing each calendar year, and arranges for the audit to be carried out in a timely manner. Attends all meetings and if unable to attend submits a financial report for the meeting. Liaises with treasurers of other P&C subcommittees and is an ex-officio member of these committees.

P&C Sub-Committees

In addition to specific roles on the P&C committee, there are a wide variety of opportunities for you to make a difference. The P&C has a number of sub-committees to address the main areas of P&C activity. Each Committee is chaired by a Convenor who organises committee meetings, co-ordinates the activities of the committee and represents the committee at P&C meetings. Other committees may be formed if required.

The sub-committees also have a Treasurer who works closely with the P&C Treasurer and is responsible for managing the sub-committee accounts and quarterly reporting to the P&C. These Convenors and Treasurers are elected at the AGM each October.

Fundraising and Social Committee – The FRASC Committee organises the social events and fundraising drives which help create and bond the school’s vibrant community spirit. This group meets as required (once or twice a term) and they have as much fun organising events as those who participate!

Recent major events include the 2014 & 2015 Gordon West Welcome Fest, 2014 Bollywood Trivia Night, 2013 & 2014 Movie Events and 2012 Girls Night Out. These socials - which often include silent auctions, raffles and art auctions - result in fantastic goodwill and memories for school families.

The Fundraising and Social Committee is also responsible for catering for school functions such as the teachers Lunch and K - 2 Christmas Parties and providing morning teas for visitors to our school on special occasions like the Showcase Open Day and Grandparents’ Day.

Canteen Committee - The Canteen Committee manages and runs the School Canteen, which follows the Department of Education’s recommendations for a Healthy Canteen.

Uniform Shop Committee - This Committee oversees the smooth operation of the school Uniform Shop which operates before school on Wednesdays. The shop sells the full range of new school uniforms at very reasonable prices and also offers good quality second hand clothing at significantly discounted prices.
**STUDENT NEWS**

**CRICKET RESULTS**

30/10/15  vs St Ives North
Juniors lost 83-132
Seniors won 148-102

6/11/15 washed out

**MODBALL RESULTS**

30/10/15
Snrs vs St Ives North won 11-1
Jnrs vs Lindfield east lost 8-10

6/11/15 washed out

**TOUCH FOOTBALL RESULTS**

30/10/15
Jnr Girls  vs Chatswood won 7-0
vs St Ives Park won 3-2
Jnr Boys vs Chatswood lost 1-2
vs St Ives Park drew 1-1

6/11/15 washed out

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**WAHROONGA FC & WEST PYMBLE FC COMBINED 2016 SELECTION TRIALS**

**AGES:**  G11, G12 & G14 For girls turning 10 – 14 years old in 2016
**DATES:**  SUNDAY 08 NOVEMBER AND SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
**TIMES:**  4:30 – 6:00PM
**VENUE:**  Charles Bean Oval, Eton Rd, Lindfield
**BRING:**  Water bottle & sunscreen

**CONTACT – Stephen Wilson 0412 501347 or g12.agemgr@wahroongafc.com.au**
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

11/11/2015

KD  Tiffany Wong, Serena Cummings, Flynn Mallaby
KH  Lillian O’Halloran, Ethan Yu, Janelle Chai
KS  Archie Thompson, Nareen Agnew, Victor Lin
KZ  Alex Burrell, Laura Chappell, Stephanie Sun
1F  Sophie Fisher, Carter Armstrong, Rose Gilbert
1P  Aarav Mistry, Kai Herbert, Amy Daniel
1S  Hayley Jang, Hamish FitzGerald, Marco Cardinale
1W  Nicole Molina Vassallo, James Lineen, Tiffany Wong
2D  Ivy Montgomery, Gerald Su, Declan Findlay
2S  Kate Walters, Yue Leon Chia, Leo Shen
2W  Tiffany Yang, Cameron Fisher, Livia Lin
2Z  Amelie Zhao, Joseph Whittaker, Laura Key
3A  Tiffany FitzGerald, Rhys Pichler, Hamish Rankin
3H  Izzy Stack, James McGee, Jason Kim
3T  Amelia Watkins, Isaac Phillips, Sienna Perego
4M  Yun Ya Wang, Alex Muscat, Jaye Daniel
4R  Connor Chin, Kimberley Kamata, Sam Speed
4/5S  Anni Huang, Xavier Webster, Keela Simpson
5D  Maz Steel, Izabella Perego, Daniel Ward
5W  Ella Gibietis, Yun Hun Chia, Adele Kim
6D  Jaden Chong, Eleanor Wheatley, Rachel Ling
6E  Thomas Huang, Harry Donehue, Chatthep Donphruenk

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Real Christmas Trees

Please support your local West Pymble Girl Guide Unit

Order and pre-pay at:
www.trybooking.com/JOMH

From $60

3 tree sizes available at great prices:
6ft - $60, 7ft - $70, 8ft - $80
(Approx sizes)

Pick up at West Pymble Bowling Club carpark
Saturday 5th December 2015, 8am - 11am
(home delivery available for an extra donation)

Orders close Friday 27th November 2015

For more information contact Lizzy at:
WestPymbleXmasTrees@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from West Pymble Guides