Principal’s Report

Ryde Road Pymble  2073
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Fax:             9498 4436
Email:  gordonwest-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website:  www.gordonwest-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Children from  Kindergarten to Year 2 are eligible for a free bus pass regardless of how close they live to the school. Children who are in Year 3/6 are only eligible for a free pass if they reside outside a 2 kilometre radius from the school or 2.9 kilometre walking distance from the school. Parents of Year 3/6 children deemed ineligible for a pass can appeal the decision and request a review on the basis of the walking distance or for safety reasons. Please see the article later in this bulletin regarding applying for the new student Opal card.

The Year 6 Farewell on Tuesday evening was a memorable occasion with the host Year 5 students and parents certainly excelling themselves with the hall decorations, catering and general organisation of the Hawaiian themed night. Mrs Spanswick and her wonderful team of helpers did a memorable job organising the event. The sixth graders will certainly have fond memories of the evening where everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion and danced the night away.

A big thank you to Mrs Dudley, Mr Sparke and Mrs Waugh for being the teacher representatives on the organising committee.

Last but certainly not least an enormous expression of gratitude to Genevieve Peacocke (Oscar & Sasha Tate’s mum) for the amazing cake that she created for the event.

Please teach your children your home or preferably mobile telephone number.
A past incident where a Gordon West child became separated from her group at the Opera House during an extra-curricula event was successfully resolved because the child in question knew her mother’s mobile phone number.
A big thank you to Mrs Sutton and Miss Souter for organising a very successful Parent Helpers Afternoon Tea last Tuesday 17 November.
The teachers of Gordon West are incredibly grateful for the assistance of the parent helpers who support the school in so many ways.
The parents of Gordon West play an invaluable role through their formal involvement in Gordon West parent organisations, support of the school ethos in relation to the Gordon West Fair Discipline Code and by being positive in relation to our school’s vision.

Congratulations to the new office bearers of the Gordon West Parents & Citizens Association who were recently elected at the AGM on Monday 16 November.
A big thank you to the P&C committee for their wonderful contribution to the school in so many ways over the past year.
The Gordon West Parents & Citizens Association is the legal parent entity from which there are many important sub committees eg. FRASC, Uniform Shop and Canteen Committees who all contribute to making Gordon West a great school.
As mentioned previously in this bulletin one of the main strengths of Gordon West Public School is the level of support that we receive from the school community for which we are ever grateful.
We look forward to working with the newly elected committee for the benefit of the Gordon West student body.

Due to the large numbers of students in Stage 2 this year it was decided to hold separate discos for Year 3 and 4, but on the same evening. We also decided to introduce a disc jockey/instructor to supplement the structured dances practised by the children prior to the event.
Both dances were a resounding success with Brooke from “Bop Till You Drop” providing amazing dances and music.

Last Thursday the School Executive Team for 2016 was involved in a school planning day where our school strategic plan for 2015 was evaluated using the School Excellence Framework which provides a clear description of the key elements of high quality practice across the three domains of learning, teaching and leading.
The Framework describes 14 elements across these three domains which define the core business of excellent schools in three stages (delivery, sustaining and growing and finally excelling).
The previous week the executive had met with a representative from the DEC High Performance Directorate to ascertain and plan how the school’s self evaluation process could be best organised.
Overall the day was very successful and we look forward to sharing our strategic directions at a future P&C meeting and in future school bulletins.

J Huckerby
Principal

Thank you to all the families who have paid their Term 4 school fees. As these invoices are now overdue we would appreciate if these accounts could be settled as soon as possible.
Prompt payment will assist the office with their end of financial year rollover which occurs next week.

Mrs Kirkpatrick
School Administrative Manager

One of our Year 6 students has lost their clarinet. If anyone has seen a clarinet lying around could they please contact the school on 9498 4644 or Janne on 0403 250 259.
School students

Tap into

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.
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. Can you find the time to volunteer for one of the following?

- **Setting up** urns, trestles, platters, cups etc: 11—12 pm (3 helpers)
- **Serving refreshments** during the interval: 1.15 — 2pm (6 helpers)
- **Cleaning up** at the conclusion: 1.45 — 2.15pm (4 helpers)

Infants Picnic
After special activities organised by the teachers, the children will be treated to a special picnic lunch on Tuesday December 15. 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 the Red Note coming home with your child.

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Sat 28 Feb

**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

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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 Lewson
- **Year 1**: Saturday December 5, hosted by Gillian Southworth
- **Year 4**: Friday November 27, hosted by Bernadette Van Groenen
- **Year 5**: Friday December 11, hosted by Pip Reeves
- **Year 6**: Saturday December 12, Larissa Daniels.
**k-2 PARENTS**

**FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER IS THE K-2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

We are expecting a large audience for this wonderful end of year performance...

**Can you find the time to volunteer for one of the following?**

- **SETTING UP** urns, trestles, platters, cups 11am-12pm 3 helpers
- **SERVING** refreshments during interval 1.15-2pm 6 helpers
- **CLEANING UP** at the conclusion 1.45-2.15pm 4 helpers

Please let me know if you can help!

Thankyou in advance!!

Sarah Daniels
sardaniels@gmail.com

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**FINAL K-2 CELEBRATION OF 2015**

**TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER ~ INFANTS’ PICNIC**

After special activities organised by the teachers, the children will be treated to a special picnic lunch – catered and managed by us (their parents)!!

As the final event of the year we’d really like this to be a huge success!!

To ensure the correct quantity and variety of food is supplied, each family will be sent home an **red note** identifying exactly what they need to provide...

**Assistance is also needed on the day:**

- **RECEIVING FOOD** in canteen 8.45am-9.30am 2 helpers per year group
- **SETTING UP** picnic and **SERVING** 10.30am-12.30pm 5-6 helpers per year group
- **SERVING** and **CLEANING UP** 12.00pm-2.00pm 5-6 helpers per year group

Please let me know if you can fill one of these positions...!

Thankyou in advance!!

Sarah Daniels (FRASC Catering Co-ordinator)
sardaniels@gmail.com
Uniform Shop Open Hours
remainder of 2015

- Friday 27 November 8.30 – 9.30am
- Friday 4 December 8.30 – 9.30am

Please note that we are closed for stocktake on the last Friday of Term, Friday 11 December.

Twilight Christmas Market

Thursday 3rd December
5:30-8:30pm
Turramurra High School,
Maxwell Street Turramurra

Stunning jewellery, handmade cards and gift wrapping, delicious Christmas delicacies, French homewares, unique gifts, Arcadian Artists stalls and many more!

Entry: Gold Coin Donation

turramurrahigthschool.com.au
MODBALL RESULTS
Special congratulations to the junior modball team for making it through to the semi finals this year where they defeated Pymble 8-1.

The team then proceeded to the grand final on a sweltering hot day to play Roseville, a team they had not won against this season. They played a magnificent game, showing their improved ball skills and worked together as a team to play two innings. The first innings was very close and they were down 3-4. They regrouped and went out into the second innings determined to score more home runs. They were batting first and achieved 7 home runs. They then took the field to get Roseville out as quickly as possible. The juniors were successful in this and ended up winning the game 10-8.
Well done juniors!

TOUCH FOOTBALL RESULTS
Congratulations to both the senior boys and girls touch football teams for reaching the Division 1 grand finals in PSSA. The boys, undefeated in their matches this year, won the final 4-2 defeating Lindfield East.
Unfortunately, the girls lost their final 2-4 to Lindfield East. The junior girls team reached the semi final after placing 3rd on the ladder but unfortunately after a nil all draw, did not proceed. Well done to all the teams for their brilliant effort this year.
Holiday Tennis Programs

Holiday tennis clinics will be conducted at Gordon West Public School during the school holidays catering for beginners to advanced standards:

Clinic 1. December 17th-18th (Thurs-Fri)  9am-3pm  $100
Clinic 2. December 21st-23rd (Mon-Wed)  9.30am-12pm  $80
            9.30am-2.30pm  $140
Clinic 3. January 18th-20th (Mon-Wed)  9.30am-12pm  $80
            9.30am-2.30pm  $140

Enquiries and enrolments to Scott 0414 554 612

Term 1 Tennis Lessons 2016
Enrolments are being taken for before and after school tennis lessons catering for beginners to advanced.

Enquiries to Scott 0414 554 612

Canned Food Drive

Dear Parents/Carers,

To support families and individuals in need this Christmas, the SRC has decided to run a Canned Food Drive. The non-perishable food items we collect will be donated to The Salvation Army. If you are interested in supporting this cause we will be begin collecting cans in Week 9 and 10. Please bring in the cans to your child’s classroom.

Thank you for your support.

The SRC members
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<tr>
<th>18/11/2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KD</td>
<td>Will Pile, Bella Hutchinson, Oliver Fisher</td>
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<td>KH</td>
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<td>Isaac Au-Yeung, Elena Rostami, Angelina Woo</td>
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<td>Joel Christoduss, Kate van der Laan de Vries, Caitlin Blackburn</td>
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<td>Isaac Denney, Scarlett Appleyard, Orlando Douglas-Giles</td>
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<td>4/5S</td>
<td>Georgia Spanswick, Jimin Kim, Lara van Bilsen</td>
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<td>5D</td>
<td>Lui Covey, Chloe Mudadu, Ronan Kohlhoff</td>
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<td>6E</td>
<td>Ella Daniel, Layla Darwich, Mia De Riz</td>
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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

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

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CAROLS IN THE PARK

Special Guest
Colin Buchanan

The Australian Waratah Girls Choir
Golden Kangaroos Concert Band

Saturday 12th December, from 6pm

Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park    off Lofberg Road    West Pymble

For more information:
www.carolsinthepark.org