Principal’s Report

On Tuesday I attended the Ku-ring-gai and North Sydney Principal’s Network Meeting held at Chatswood High School. The keynote speaker was Greg Prior, Deputy Secretary Department of Education & Communities. Mr Prior outlined the progress achieved so far under the Local Schools, Local Decisions initiative introduced by the DEC and highlighted future plans in his presentation titled “Creating Futures Together”. The future direction of Public Education is very exciting with so many positive initiatives planned. A great deal of the best practice pedagogy being introduced is based on the work of Fulham (Ontario, Canada) and Hattie (New Zealand). One of our challenges is to effectively involve/inform the school community in relation to these initiatives. Miss Harper our Deputy Principal will present a three year planning overview at the next P&C meeting in addition to responding to parental opinion expressed in the recent school surveys.

Traffic Wardens have been active in the vicinity of the school and for the minority of parents who park illegally it is only a matter of time before you will get caught. Residents whose driveways have been blocked by cars parked illegally have been advised to immediately phone Council Parking Rangers. Although some residents find signs intrusive, for which we apologise, we have placed two large visible signs near the crossing at Pee Wee Park and adjacent to the no stopping zone on Kooyong Street to remind parents of their responsibilities. Some fines being imposed are in excess of $300 with an additional loss of demerit points. We hope the minority of community members who are breaking the law and endangering Gordon West children are more responsible in the future. Parents are encouraged to phone the Council Rangers to report the minority who continue to infringe.

Parents continue to ask why the school and Gordon West Parents and Citizens Association are not officially involved in “The Basin” camping adventure (March 6-8). Succinctly “The Basin” camping weekend does not meet the very strict risk management requirements of a school organised excursion. All school excursions have to have a very comprehensive risk management assessment completed. For example a school excursion may require all adult supervisors to read and sign a risk
management assessment of up to 16 pages in length as was the case with a Year 4 excursion last year. The Fathers and Children camping weekend is a wonderful adventure but the presence of alcohol, snakes, monitor lizards, camp fires, swimming, boating, fishing and other campers would make it very difficult to complete acceptable risk management procedures resulting in the necessary, total non involvement of the school and GW Parents and Citizens Association in the weekend. Every year we wish the campers well but continually emphasise that it is not a school sanctioned event.

Thank you to the many Gordon West Parents who responded to the recent SurveyMonkey school surveys. SurveyMonkey is certainly an effective method to survey parent opinion and use the results to reflect on and analyse current school practices. Overall, parents are very happy with school, with the survey results to be published in the Annual Report and presented at the next P&C meeting. Parents are reminded that email contact with teachers is through the school email: gordonwest-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

School policy is for a response time of less than 24 hours.

The Gordon West Inquiry Learning Program will continue in 2015 under the leadership of Mrs Garland.

In summary after comprehensive testing a number of Year 3-6 children will be withdrawn from class on two occasions per week to participate in the “Inquiry Program”.

In addition teacher representatives from each stage K-6 will be inserviced on the Inquiry Program methodology so that they can plan and teach units of work for all Gordon West children encompassing project based learning. This is a very exciting initiative and we thank all teachers involved for all of their research and efforts in designing the Gordon West Inquire Program.

The Concert Band 1 and Concert Band 2 Band Camp to be held at Vision Valley on 28th-29th of March is a school organised event.

I will be in attendance for the whole weekend together with my wife Julia, members of school staff and parent volunteers.

We look forward to a most enjoyable weekend of music and fun and hope that as many parents as possible are able to attend the Sunday Concert performance where both bands will showcase their talent.

A big thank you to Mrs Findlay from the Administration Staff for all of her efforts in the organisation of the camp and for efficiently coordinating the band tutorial program.

The Kindergarten to Year 2 Parent/Teacher evening on Wednesday night was a wonderful success with many parents taking the opportunity to listen to classroom teachers and Stage supervisors providing comprehensive overviews of class programs for the year.

Many parents also took the opportunity to join together at the conclusion of the presentation in the library to catch up and to celebrate the beginning of the school year.

A big thank you to Mr O’Keefe President of the P&C for welcoming all new parents to Gordon West and inviting them to be actively involved in the school parent organisations.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the school swimming carnival held at the new West Pymble Pool. The weather was fine, the competitors did their personal best, the spectators both children and adults were totally supportive of the participants and the carnival was superbly organised and efficiently run.

What more can you ask for of a school event?

A big thank you to Mr Sparke and his team of willingly teacher and parent helpers for ensuring that the day ran efficiently.

In our last bulletin we enclosed a summary of our Anti-Bullying Policy. Parents are advised that if they would like to read the full Gordon West Welfare Policy (reviewed in 2012) they can do so by contacting me.

J Huckerby
Principal
The new school website is now up and running. Google is still directing to the old website, however it should cutover soon. In the meantime please type in the link below and save it to your favourites to access the new site:


The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

J Huckerby
Principal

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**NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE**

The new school website is now up and running. Google is still directing to the old website, however it should cutover soon. In the meantime please type in the link below and save it to your favourites to access the new site:


**STAFF CAR PARK**

There have been incidences in recent weeks when parents have been parking in the staff car park.

*Parents are not permitted to park in the staff car park.***

**Please consider the safety of our students.**
Gordon West Welcome Fest
Saturday February 28th

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

We are incredibly excited that the Welcome Fest is nearly here.. We have **bouncy castles**, **tea cup** and **flying chair rides**, **Adrenalin Rush**, **fairy floss**, **snow cones**, **BOP TILL U DROP** and so much more!!! Bring your own picnic or try some yummy treats from the **Asian food stall**.

We urgently need **volunteers** to ensure another successful event. We are putting together a roster to help serve the **Snow Cones**, **Fairy Floss** and **Asian Foods Stall**.

Volunteering is the perfect way to get to know other families within the Gordon West community and also ensures we all have a fabulous, fun filled day. If you are able to assist a small amount of your time then please let us know by contacting **Fiona Mance (Fairy Floss and Snow Cones)** on fpmance@optusnet.com.au or **Queenie Sia (Asian Food Stall)** on sia_queenie@yahoo.com.au.

To purchase tickets enter the following link into your browser: www.trybooking.com/booking/bookingeventsummary.aspx?eid=121355

Look out for more details in this bulletin.

More Class Reps needed

Don’t be scared! It’s an incredibly easy thing to do and only involves forwarding emails from FRASC to the rest of the class as well as organising an occasional social event such as morning teas or nights out... Give it a go! We need more parents / carers for the following classes. Either a boy or girl parent is ok.

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Missing Something??

We have a number of platters, bowls and plates left over from last year’s FRASC events. If you are missing any items please collect them from the office.
DON'T MISS THE 2015
WELCOME FEST
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Rides for the Kids
1.30pm - 5.30pm

Bop Till You Drop
6.00pm - 8pm

Entry price $15 per child, $5 per adult
Asian Food Stall • Fairy Floss • Sno Cones

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY
BOOK ONLINE WITH TRYBOOKING

Gordon West Public School
Ryde Road, Pymble NSW 2073
www.gordonwest-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
PREMIER DANCE SCHOOL

LESSONS IN THE SCHOOL HALL WITH MISS LYNNE

JAZZ, HIP HOP, MUSICAL THEATRE & MORE.

FIRST LESSON FREE FOR NEW STUDENTS & HALF PRICE TERM 1.

After school care children will be brought to the hall and picked up after class.

For all enquiries, please call Lynne

0437 737 967.

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: enrol@mandarinstars.com.au

www.mandarinstars.com.au ★ enrol@mandarinstars.com.au ★ Ph: (02) 8437 2498
BREAK DANCE/HIP HOP LESSONS FOR BOYS

SAM CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO DO LOT’S OF FUN TRICKS SUCH AS
Back-spins, Helicopter, 6 step, Baby freeze & Windmills

WITH PROFESSIONAL BREAK DANCER - SAM FREE

CLASSES WILL BE HELD IN YOUR SCHOOL HALL

FIRST LESSON FREE TO HAVE A TRY OUT AND THE REMAINDER OF TERM 1 HALF PRICE SPECIAL.

ENQUIRIES CALL LYNNE ON 0437 737 967

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TURRAMURRA HIGH SCHOOL
Maxwell Street, South Turramurra

OPEN AFTERNOON
Tuesday 24 February 2015
4:00pm to 6:45pm

Let our students show you the rich variety of opportunities available at our high achieving school.
www.turramurrahighschool.com.au
Marion Fix School of Ballet

9487 1821   0416 065 373

Specialist Tuition in young children
All Classical Ballet classes conducted by the Principal with individual interest and care
Excellent Examination Results

When: Tuesday afternoons
Where: Gordon West Public School

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Kids Upfront Drama Academy

We give kids Confidence

Gordon West P.S Hall
REGISTER FOR A
FREE Trial Drama Class!
VALUE $10.00
ENROL NOW FOR TERM 1 2015
THURSDAYS IN THE HALL
K to Yr 2    3:20 to 4:20 pm
Yrs 3 to 6    4:20 to 5:20 pm

www.kidsupfront.com.au   9953 4040

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NRL Backyard League Clinic

Year 7, 2016
Gifted and Talented Placement Test

Year 6 students have the opportunity to sit the placement test
for our Year 7 gifted and talented class for 2016 on
Friday 6 March 2015
9:30am to 2:00pm
in the school’s Multi-Purpose Centre

Please note: There will be only one test date and
pre-registration and prepayment is required. A test place
cannot be guaranteed if you attempt to register on the day.

For further information and application form:
www.turrramurrahighschool.com.au

Turrramurra High School has developed and implemented
highly successful programs and options for gifted and
talented students.

Principal: Mrs Stephanie McConnell

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NRL Backyard League Clinic

Where: Koola Park, East Killara
Who: Kids aged 4-12 looking for an introduction to rugby league
When: Every Wednesday up to 11th March, 4pm to 5pm
Cost: $10

Every participant will receive:
- 4 week NRL Backyard League program where all participants will have the opportunity to learn, practice and refine their Rugby League skills
- Qualified NRL Game Development staff
- NRL Steeden Football for each child
- Information and give-a-ways from the Ku-ring-gai Cubs. The Cubs are an exciting new Rugby League team playing in the North Sydney District. We are looking for boys and girls 4-12 years of age to start playing.

To register go to:
facebook.com/KuringgaCubs

For further information contact:
Bruce Walker
Mobile: 0429 902 860
cubrugbyleague@gmail.com

Proudly supported by

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Dads & Kids Camping Weekend

It's on again! Dads & Kids are going away for the weekend!

When: 6th -8th March 2015: Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Can’t make it for the whole weekend (sporting commitments etc.), just camp for 1 night or come across for the day and say hello!

Where: The Basin Campground, Pittwater

Camping Costs: $28 per adult/$7 per child per night.

Booking: Click to book. Alternatively contact the Customer Experience Team on 13000 72757.

Activities: Swimming, touch footy, soccer, cricket, fishing, bushwalks, bonfire (bring marshmallows) etc.

Bring: Tent, sleeping bag, cooking equipment, food & beverages, sun protection, swimming gear and sports gear (Bring everything!).

Food: The weekend is self-catered (it’s recommend dads share catering & each cook one group meal). There are free gas BBQs (you can also buy ice and bait each morning)

Groups: If you would like to join a group but don't know where to start, please contact Scott Makin: e: scottmakin100@gmail.com

Getting there: The Basin campground is on the western foreshores of Pittwater in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. To get there:

- Take the Palm Beach ferry which departs on the hour between 9am - 5pm from Palm Beach Wharf ($15.40 Adult/$7.70 Child return)

- If you own a boat, anchor in the sheltered bay opposite the picnic and campground.

- Drive and park along West Head Road, then walk along the 2.8km Basin Track to The Basin.

Facilities: Amenities block, cold showers, flush toilets, gas/electric barbecues, wood barbecues (firewood supplied), drinking water and public phone.

Note: This is not a School or P&C sanctioned event. Parents are advised that risk management procedures and supervisory practices are the responsibility of the camp participants with the school having no involvement whatsoever.

DON’T FORGET!
The Smash Walking Bus is available from GWPS & WPPS.
Check out the website for details and permission forms.

Who: Kids in Yrs 3-5

Where: St Matthew’s Church Hall
        2 Eppleston Pl, West Pymble

When: Fridays during term time
        3:15-5:00pm

What: Fun, games, food, Bible time, craft and more!

How much: $7 per week (incl. afternoon tea)

For more Info: Gai Aylward

Join us on Friday afternoons for SMASH as we...
St Ives High School
Vernant Road, St Ives, NSW 2075 Phone: 9967 2174
www.stiveshighschool.nsw.edu.au

Open Afternoon
Tuesday 3 March, 2015; 4 - 7 pm
Come and join us as we school swings into action for you to see the diverse programs and opportunities for your child.
Meet our students and experienced teachers who are proud of their school and keen to answer all your questions.
Learn about our Gifted & Talented Program and extension classes.
Visit our library, cultural areas, and see our various teaching spaces.
Check out the diverse programs and opportunities for our students.

WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
A Leader in Girls Education

Please join us for

OPEN NIGHT
Wednesday 11 March 2015
5.00 – 7.30 pm
School Hall

Principal: Ms Elizabeth Diprose
Phone: 9958 4141
Fax: 9967 2174

Extension Class Placement Test for Year 7, 2016
Year 6 students will have an opportunity to sit a placement test for our Year 7 extension class for selected students.

Saturday 14th March 2015
9.15 – 11.30 am
School Hall

Please ring the school for further information and to book a test place.

Principal: Ms Elizabeth Diprose
Phone: 9958 4141
Fax: 9967 2174