**Principal’s Report**

**P&C Meeting** A small but very enthusiastic group of parents attended the P&C meeting on Monday last. We are very fortunate at Gordon West to have such supportive P&C and FRASC parent organisations. One of the challenges we do face however is how we convey the wonderful programs being implemented at our school to the community that we serve. On Monday evening I spoke briefly on the School Excellence Framework that supports all NSW public schools in their pursuit of excellence by providing a clear description of the key elements of high quality practice across the three domains of learning, teaching and leading. Each year schools will assess their practices and Strategic Directions (published in a recent Gordon West bulletin) against the Framework. Subsequently the P&C will conduct a survey to ascertain how we can most effectively convey this information to you.

It has been brought to my attention that some of our “fathers” would like to be better informed of school activities. Parents are reminded (particularly fathers) that if they would like access to the Skoolbag App they can follow the instructions below. Skoolbag is a fantastic app that allows all parents access to Bulletins, notes home and any events on our calendar. It also sends out alerts when events are coming up. The school website also provides this information for all parents to access. A reminder is sent out via email every fortnight to advise the bulletin is available on our website. If any fathers would like to be added to the email list for Bulletin reminders please contact the school office with your request. If you would like the class parents to add you to their email list for class social/fundraising notifications please contact the class parents.

Whilst it would be preferable to add the father’s email addresses from our database, the DEC does not have a program available that will allow us to extract these separately from the family and mother’s email addresses.

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**HOW TO INSTALL SKOOLBAG ON YOUR SMARTPHONE**

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device
2. Type your school name in the search
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “free” then “install”
4. If iPad change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications when asked
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, the “Setup”
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**HOW TO INSTALL SKOOLBAG ON YOUR ANDROID**

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app

1. Click on the “Play Store” button on your Android Device.
2. Click on the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name
3. Click on the school name when it appears in the search
4. Click on the “install” button
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note we do not modify any of your personal data on your device)
6. Click “Open” when installed
7. Click the “more” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable to you.
Council Rangers have been “booking” parents for traffic infringements in the vicinity of the school. For the safety of Gordon West children please adhere to traffic regulations. Fines range from $132 for stopping across a driveway to $318 for infringements near the Pee Wee Park crossing. All offences also attract a loss of two demerit points from your licence.

Parents are very important partners in our school. As is the situation with all successful partnerships both parties have responsibilities to ensure that the partnership flourishes. Our duty of care responsibilities ensure that the school is legally responsible for the supervision of children once they enter the school premises during designated school hours. Given how serious our duty of care responsibilities are, at some schools parents are requested to say goodbye to their children at the school gate and then meet them at the gate after school. This approach is totally against what we are trying to achieve at Gordon West where parents are welcome in the school. However, we do need your cooperation to ensure that the partnership operates efficiently.

When dropping children off in the morning please ensure that your child moves to the designated supervision area as quickly as possible. Please don’t remain near the classrooms because your child will remain with you and more often than not attract other children who should be in the supervised area. Parents are also expected to be responsible for the supervision of their preschoolers and ensure that they don’t play in the gardens or enter other restricted areas. We thank you in anticipation of your assistance with these very important matters.

In accordance with the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 and Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013 we require all volunteers including class helpers to complete a Working with Children check. Class teachers have been asked to ensure that all parent helpers have signed this declaration which is kept in the Administration Office. Parents only have to complete the declaration on one occasion.

Naplan tests have been completed for another year. Teachers and students from Years 3 and 5 are to be congratulated for all the work they have done in preparation for these tests. Thank you to Miss Harper for coordinating the Naplan program. As I have stated many times before Naplan is a wonderful diagnostic tool with excellent resources available to address areas of identified need.

Communication Direct email contact between parents and teachers isn’t provided at Gordon West. Currently teachers can communicate with parents by interview, writing in homework books, student diaries or by telephone. Parents can also respond via these medium. Contact can be made by telephone through the office (9498 4644) or by email (gordonwest-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) with the office passing the message on to the teacher. School policy is for the teacher to respond to the email, note or telephone call the same day as received. Mrs Sheehan and Mrs Findlay, members of the office staff continually update and improve our website which is an excellent source of information pertaining to the school. Parents are encouraged to use it regularly and to make suggestions as to how we can make the site even more effective. All School Bulletins are available on the website for your perusal as are our Annual Reports. Important dates can be located on the right hand side of the front page of the Bulletin. Thursday is the designated “notes home” day and students are encouraged to assist in all notes making it home safely. Given the importance of communication the school is continually looking at ways we can improve in this area and welcome your suggestions.

J Huckerby
Principal
Grandparents and Special Guest day

Wednesday 27th May is Gordon West’s
GRANDPARENTS and SPECIAL GUESTS’ DAY

Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are catering
and serving refreshments on the day!!

We would greatly appreciate donations of the following:
Milk, Cakes, Muffins, Slices, Biscuits (nut free), Sandwiches.

We will also need lots of volunteers to help set up, serve and
pack away. If you are able to assist please email
Sarah Daniels on sardaniels@gmail.com

Sweet Treats!

CAKE DAY is on the Tuesday 19th May and
years K & 4 are catering for the event.
Don’t forget to bring 50c to buy some goodies.

WE ALSO REQUIRE LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS!

To make your child’s Cake Day a success we need
4 volunteers from parents in Year K & 4 to
receive cakes in the morning 8.30-9.30am
and 8 volunteers to sell at recess time 10.45-midday

If you are able to help out please contact your
class parents with your name, class and the time
you can help or contact Vanessa Spanswicj
directly at aspanswi@bigpond.net.au

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

dates for the diary

- Tuesday 19th May
Cake Day
- Wednesday 27th May
Grandparents Day
- Saturday 20th June
Movie Afternoon

Coming in Term 3....
- Saturday 15 &
Sunday 16 August
Family photo’s

Gordon West goes to the movies

Our highly anticipated annual movie afternoon is on Saturday 20 June
from 2.30pm at Roseville Cinemas, Roseville. Come and see the latest
movie from Pixar Inside Out. This beautiful movie presents a deeply
humane, high-concept look at life, youth and nostalgia. Look out for
the separate flyer in the bulletin or contact Wendy Hawkins on
8901 3007 or at wendyhawkins293@gmail.com for more information.
Our highly anticipated annual movie afternoon is on **Saturday 20 June** from **2.30pm** at **Roseville Cinemas**, Roseville.

Come and see the latest movie from Pixar **Inside Out**. This fabulously entertaining movie presents a deeply humane, high-concept look at life, youth and the complex beauty of nostalgia.

**Ticket prices as follows:**
- Adult $16.50  |  Child $13.00
- Child and choc top $16.50
- Child and small popcorn $16.50

**Booking is EASY with Try Booking**
Copy the links below into your web browser:
- [http://www.trybooking.com/HUCD](http://www.trybooking.com/HUCD)
- [http://www.trybooking.com/136607](http://www.trybooking.com/136607)

**Remember to bring your tickets to the Cinema.**

Please contact **Wendy Hawkins** on 8901 3007 or wendyhawkins293@gmail.com for more information.
The 2015 | 2016 Sydney/Sydney North Entertainment™ Membership is coming soon with thousands of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers!

Still just $70 giving you over $20,000 of value!

Pre-order your entertainment Membership before April 20 and receive bonus offers valued at over $150.00

Pre-order today at  www.entbook.com.au/20040o2

Thank you for supporting our fundraising.

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD DIAGNOSED WITH AD/HD?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR POSITIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CHILD’S BEHAVIOUR?

Is your child between 6 and 12 years old?

You are invited FREE OF CHARGE to attend a well-known parenting program at Macquarie University

The program is part of an evaluation study and participants will be asked to:
- attend evening sessions
- fill in questionnaires (anonymously)

This study has been approved by the Ethics Committee at Macquarie University

For more information or to express interest in this study please contact:
Julie Chesterfield (Department of Psychology, Macquarie University)
E-mail: julie.chesterfield@students.mq.edu.au
Phone: 0412 414 114

Experience the world of another home by hosting Daiki with AFS from May 2015

Would your family like to host a young person from overseas? Gain friendships that can last a lifetime?

AFS is seeking host families at Northern Sydney area who are interested in hosting an AFS student.
Daiki from Japan is currently attending Killara High School and needs a new host family. He is a happy active teenage boy who likes sports especially swimming, enjoys reading and studies hard.

If your family is interested in hosting him or one of our students, please contact Sharon Toohey on 1300 131 736 or visit www.afs.org.au/host for more information.

“Someone on the other side of the world saying your name as if you are a member of their family. This is the AFS experience.”
Naomi, AFS Host Mother
2015 information for parents and carers

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child’s school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s level of adjustment
- the student’s broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and decision-making.
programme improvement for students with disability.

WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff will identify the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.


IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and report information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child’s school principal and the relevant education authority or association of independent schools.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, the school is still required to provide support to your child with education needs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may involve your child.


An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/.
STUDENT NEWS

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge

Haley Chung 1F
Annabelle O’Halloran 3A
Jacinta Dyer 4R
Joseph Wang 4R

Sabrina Cooke 2D
Romina Cooke 3H
Kieran Keith

SPORTS RESULTS

Netball Results
8/5/15
Jnr 1 vs Gordon West 2 won 15-1
Jnr 2 vs Gordon West 1 lost 1-15
Jnr 3 vs St Ives Nth 2 won 2-0
Jnr 4 vs Chatswood 3 won 10-1
Snr 1 vs Lindfield East 1 won 21-16
Snr 2 vs Lindfield East 2 won 9-7
Snr 3 vs Chatswood 1 won 17-9
Snr 4 vs Roseville lost 3-5

Soccer Results
8/5/15
Div 1 vs Roseville
Senior A drew 1-1
Junior A1 lost 0-1
Junior A2 won 5-0
Div 2 vs Roseville
Senior B lost 2-3
Junior B1 won 8-0
Junior B2 won 5-0