Welcome back to what we anticipate will be another great year at Gordon West.
I hope your vacation was enjoyable and restful.
The first newsletter for the year outlines a number of school procedures and I apologise
to those parents who have read this similar information previously and for the length of
my message.
However not withstanding the information contained remains very important.
Parents can also request a hard copy of the Gordon West Information Handbook or access the
information on the school website.
We encourage all parents to use the website as an information source and we appreciate
suggestions as to how we can improve our website to facilitate better communication between
the school and the community.

Classes have been finalised and teachers and children have settled quickly back to work. Best
Start Kindergarten testing has been completed and the new Kindys have settled in well.
Thank you to all staff who worked so hard to ensure this would happen.

School Organisation 2016

KP  Mrs Colleen Percival  3A  Ms Danielle Alam
KH  Miss Emily Hortense   3H  Mrs Helen Tambakis/Mrs Trish Hirst
KS  Mrs Jessica Sutton    3/4M Ms Nicole Merchant (AP)
KZ  Mrs Zoe Davies (AP)   4F  Miss Jessica Fleming
1A  Miss Anna Archer     4R  Mr Michael Renkert
1P  Mrs Colleen Percival  4/5T Mrs Sue Hutton/ Mrs Nikki Lawson
1/2S Mrs Liz Sheldon (AP)  5D  Mrs Rosemary Dudley/Mr Mitch Stone
  Mrs Marika Stamatopoulos  5/6W Mrs Gita Waugh
1W  Miss Jessica Wolujewicz  6R  Mrs Hannah Robertson
2D  Mrs Cherie Dutra     6S  Mr Tim Sparke (AP)
2K  Miss Georgie Knox    2/3E Miss Amanda Souter
2Z  Ms Kasia Zieba       EAL/D Mrs Janice Brown
Library  Mrs Jada Whiteman  Mrs Robyn Chivers
LAST  Mrs Helen Hayward  Mrs Simone Strong
  Mrs Robyn Chivers
  Mrs Simone Strong
  Mrs Neruka Byrow
Composite Classes  Every year I am asked why we need to have composite classes. In fact this year we have 5 composite classes. The staffing formula for primary schools is a whole school staffing formula. Teachers are provided on the basis that no Kindergarten class need exceed 20 students, no Year 1 class need exceed 22 students, no Year 2 class need exceed 24 students and no Year 3 to 6 class need exceed 30 students. Unfortunately, children do not enrol in groups of 20, 22, 24 etc. necessitating on occasions the formation of composite classes.

At Gordon West we have 558 children enrolled and a set staffing formula. We then work out the best organisational model for the whole school taking all factors into consideration.

Once this exercise has been completed we get on with providing the best possible opportunities for the children of Gordon West. We encourage all Gordon West parents to become actively involved and be very supportive of their school.

As mentioned previously, we are very happy with this year’s organisation.

School policy is that unless requested by a parent a child is not placed in a composite class two years in a row. Should any parent wish to discuss the issue of composite classes or any classes for that matter please do not hesitate to call me. An enormous amount of effort goes into the selection of children for the classes and that is partly the reason that I am very reluctant to change children once a class has been formed.

School Times -
Morning Assembly 9.10am
Recess 11.15-11.35am
Lunch 1.05-1.55pm
Kindergarten Dismissal will be at 2.40pm until Friday 27th February.
Year 1-6 Dismissal 3.10pm

Official playground supervision commences at 8.45am. Parents must assume responsibility for any child arriving at school before this time. (Children involved in official before school activities are exempt from this regulation.) Regular school attendance is a parental responsibility and will help your child to succeed later in life. If your child has a justifiable reason to be absent could you please contact the school or provide a written explanation on your child’s return to school to assist us in keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Children arriving late to school or leaving early must check in with the administration office so that this information can be electronically recorded.

NSW School Terms -
All dates are inclusive
Term 2 27/4/2016-1/7/2016  Term 4 10/10/2016-16/12/2016

Change of Family Details  It is most important that you let us know immediately if there are any changes to address or phone numbers. Please complete and return the proforma sent home this week. It is essential that the school be notified in writing of Family Court Access Orders, especially if there are any access issues.

Payment of School Accounts  Invoices for all Term 1 activities (including sport, stationery items, excursions, Band, Computer etc.) will be sent out shortly and the date for payment will be on the invoice. If you are unable to pay by the due date/s please contact me.
Administration of Prescribed Medications  If it is not possible for medications to be administered outside school hours the office staff will administer medications on an intermittent or emergency basis only. The following procedures must be followed:

1. Where possible the quantity of medication should be supplied on a daily basis, in a suitable container, clearly marked with your child’s name, giving details of the medication and the dosage.
2. An indemnity form is to be completed and signed by the parent. These forms are available at the school office.

Your child will be responsible for remembering when to go to the office for the medication, as it is not always possible for teachers or administration staff to remind children.

As you may be aware, asthma medications should be kept with the student and administered only when necessary. In the case of young students it is possible for the self administration of asthma medications to be supervised by administration staff.

Monday Morning Assembly—A formal flag raising ceremony is held on Monday mornings. The school captains and/or prefects lead the children in reciting the School Pledge.

Fundamental to the successful operation of our school is mutual respect for one another’s beliefs. Due to the cultural/religious diversity of our school there may be aspects of our pledge that may not be in keeping with your family beliefs. Please take the time to explain this to your children.

School Pledge -
This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let the rooms be filled with contentment
Let love abide here.
Love of God,
Love of one another
Love of life itself.
Let us remember that,
As many hands build a house
Many hearts make a school

I Honour my God
I am loyal to Australia
I love my School
I respect the Flag.

Supervision of Toddlers The Parents as Partners policy is paramount to the successful operation of the school. Toddlers (the future generation of our school) are welcome. However, it goes without saying that parents are responsible for the supervision of their younger family members when they are on school ground. Responsibility includes ensuring that normal school rules, such as not climbing trees or playing in the gardens, and leaving sticks and stones on the ground, are adhered to. Children irrespective of their age are not to ride scooters, cycles, tricycles etc in the school grounds when the school and related activities are in operation 7am-6pm.

As recently as last year we had a most unfortunate accident where a preschooler was knocked down by another preschooler riding a tricycle.

Parents escorting children to school. While we welcome parents escorting their children into school each morning, we would like to encourage particularly parents of K-2 students to ensure their children move up to the top asphalt area away from the OSHC rooms. In the morning before school this is an out of bounds area so we would appreciate if parents could direct their children to the supervised area to say goodbye. Please do not enter the classrooms without the teachers present unless invited to do so.

Children Unsupervised in the Playground After Hours Although we encourage responsible after hours usage of our beautiful grounds, the above practice is fraught with danger and parents are advised to exercise common sense and caution in relation to this. Skateboard riding is banned because of ongoing damage to school property. Children should not be in the playground unless supervised by an adult.

Vandalism or Suspicious Activities If you see any suspicious activities in the school grounds please report them immediately to the NSW Department of School Security Unit. The 24 hour contact number is 1300 880 021. Please do not hesitate to report any untoward events you witness on the school grounds after school hours.
Students Attending Lessons Outside School During School Hours  Legally attendance is required at all times when the school is open for the students’ instruction, unless the student is prevented from attendance for reasons of sickness, danger of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, a special religious ceremony, attendance at a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral), suspension or expulsion or some misadventure or unforeseen event.

Involvement in private lessons outside the school during school hours may not be conducive to the effective operation of schools nor to the education of the individual student concerned. Parents should, therefore be encouraged to arrange any extra curricula activities for their children outside of school hours.

In cases where attendance at a private lesson during school hours is of importance, eg sitting for examinations, principals may use their discretion in granting short leave. If parents withdraw their children for private lessons without approval during school hours, the absences will be recorded as unjustified absences.

Code of Conduct  Included with this Bulletin is our Code of Conduct specifically related to incidents of bullying. While incidents of bullying are relatively rare at Gordon West, they do occur. Therefore, we must empower our children to be able to sensibly respond to the situation should it occur. We seek your assistance in reinforcing this strategy if necessary. No, Go, Tell are three very powerful words that Gordon West children learn and hopefully use should the need arise.

School Sport  Children are required to sign a code of conduct as a requirement for participation in PSSA (Primary Schools Sports Association) sport. We thank you in anticipation of your exemplary behaviour at PSSA sport and school carnivals.

Class Contact Lists  A parent contact list for every class will be distributed to families shortly. If you do not wish to have your address and/or phone number included on these lists please indicate on the form contained in this bulletin and return to the office by Friday, 12 February.

Kindergarten Morning Tea  Thank you to Mrs Leesa Garrety for hosting this very enjoyable function. This event has become a regular feature of the Gordon West calendar and is an excellent means of welcoming new parents to the school. Thank you to our Deputy Principal Miss Karen Harper and our Assistant Principal Stage 1 Mrs Liz Sheldon for accompanying me to this event. A big thank you to Mr James O’Keefe President of the Gordon West P&C and to Mrs Megan Guenther President of the Gordon West FRASC for representing the Gordon West parent organisations on this very important occasion.

Prohibited Employment Declaration  Once again all volunteers will be asked to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration, which in summary declares that you are not a prohibited person under the terms of the Child Protection Act of 1998. If you signed a declaration last year there will be no need to sign another this year.

School Band  Mrs Walmsley continues to run an excellent band program. Our four tier program has proved very successful. Thank you to Mrs Heather Findlay from the school Administration team for her tremendous amount of work to ensure that the band program runs efficiently. We look forward to our band program going from strength to strength. Once again I stress the importance of immediate communication with the school should you have any questions relating to the band program.

Staff Development Days are extremely valuable for school organisation and teacher professional development.

We thank you for your support of these days as we realise Staff Development Days can be a challenge for parents. On our Staff Development Day on Wednesday 27 January we were able to provide an opportunity for excellent teacher professional development.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We welcome Antony Barraclough the new Senior Minister at St Matthews Anglican Church and his family to the West Pymble community.

Julia and I had the pleasure of representing our local government schools at the “Commencement Service” for Antony and his family last December.

Antony will visit the school on Wednesday 17 February.

A number of exciting ground improvements were completed during the vacation.

Our new 4 metre Zenith Net was installed and we look forward to may hours of enjoyment from this latest piece of playground equipment.

Upgrades to the existing play equipment have almost been completed with the replacement of the existing chains with similar rope to that of the Zenith Net expected to be finished shortly. The upgrade looks magnificent.
and parents are invited to visit the area and to observe first hand the improvements. A big thank you to Mrs Megan Guenther President of the Gordon West FRASC who secured a $15000 council grant towards the cost of the Zenith Net project. Soil removed during the installation of the Zenith Net was used to restore the depleted area of the playground adjacent to the tennis court. This newly grassed area looks great.

You will recall that a committee was formed in 2015 to examine the possibility of installing artificial grass in the area immediately adjacent to the school hall. After a huge amount of time evaluating the best possible usage for this area the committee unanimously decided not to proceed with the artificial grass at this point in time. Given the approximate cost of $140,000 together with questions relating to the maintenance and longevity of the product all contributed to the decision undertaken. The work completed during the vacation means that the school committee can revisit this project at anytime in the future should the need arise.

The committee would like to particularly acknowledge the tremendous amount of input provided free of charge by Mr Dion Tucker from Tiger Turf. Although we decided against artificial grass a great deal of work was implemented during the vacation to upgrade and to improve this area in question. Drainage was improved, footpaths and gardens were installed, the rock and digger’s area were extended and the whole area was edged to facilitate future ground improvements.

Plans are in place to further beautify and provide ground improvements for the area under the trees which is adjacent to this area.

Getting to Know Your Child survey will be sent home this shortly. Please talk to your child before completing these surveys and returning them to classroom teachers as soon as possible.

During the vacation Acacia Tree Services completed a Tree Inspection Report and Management Recommendations for Gordon West Public School. It is now mandatory for all NSW Government schools to complete such an audit on a yearly basis. The purpose of the report was to identify all trees at the site and describe those trees which had defects or potentially hazardous features and to specify appropriate tree management work.

As a result of this report Hornsby Tree Services has removed a large tree (adjacent to classroom 3/4M). Additional work will be completed as recommended in the report.

Communication It is essential that excellent communication exists between the school and the community which we serve. Please contact us should you have any queries no matter how minor you feel they may be. If it is important to you, it is important to us. Our parent surveys continually emphasise the importance of improving communication between the school and the community.

The school is completely accountable and sincerely hopes that every member of the school community would feel comfortable in approaching a staff member at the school, should the need arise. Mr James O’Keefe, President of the P&C, also welcomes feedback on any aspect of the school organisation. We look forward to a good year with Gordon West realising its vision to be a school of excellence with a definite purpose and direction and equally as important being a happy, safe and secure home away from home for all children.

J Huckerby
Principal

Please ensure your Student Contact Details sheet (yellow form) is sent back to school (due tomorrow) so that we can compile our class contact lists for this year.

Thank you
CODE OF CONDUCT

BULLYING

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Show respect towards people and property.
2. Do your personal best.
3. Work and play safely and cooperatively.
4. Listen to and follow directions carefully.

BULLYING POLICY

Definition of Bullying “Bullying is the conscious desire to hurt, threaten, frighten or exclude someone by physical or verbal means”

Bullying includes:
- name calling
- physical violence eg pushing, shoving, hitting
- spreading nasty rumours about another student
- damaging another student’s property
- threatening other students
- extortion eg stand over tactics to obtain food and money
- forcing students to do something they do not wish to do
- teasing another student about their opinions
- students, as a group, intimidating another student or group of students

POLICY STATEMENT

At Gordon West:
- Every student has the right to expect that he or she will spend the whole school day - both in and out of the classroom - free from bullying.
- Students have the right to feel happy and safe at school.
- Bullying is unacceptable.
- Students are responsible for their own behaviour.
- Students are required to respect other individuals.
- A school free of bullying allows students to do their personal best.
- Students are encouraged to report bullying N0-GO-TELL.

Bullying - The “Do’s” and “Don’t’s”

DO
BE ASSERTIVE
Explain how you feel to the bully in a firm but honest way.

DON’T
AGRESION - “He/she deserves it back verbally/physically” (This will only result in you also being punished or hurt. You should not be the loser)
DO NOTHING “Nothing can be done.” The situation will only continue and you will continue to be a victim.

CONSIDER YOUR BEHAVIOURS TELL NO ONE “I’ll keep it all to myself”. If you do you will feel alone and the problem will get worse.

TELL A TEACHER on duty.
TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT A “trusted adult” is a person in the school with whom you feel comfortable.
TALK TO YOUR PARENT Discuss the situation with your parents. If you need further assistance encourage your parent to phone the School.

AVOID VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF RESOLUTION

Procedures to Deal with Bullying

(Not all bullying incidents will attract consequences and sanctions as listed below, as many incidents are successfully dealt with by teachers in the classroom and playground.)

- Interviewed by class teacher or teacher on duty, Grade Supervisor and/or Principal.
- Parents may be contacted.
- Detentions, Loss of Privileges.
- Interviews with parents/guardians.
- Suspension

GOOD DISCIPLINE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING

The NSW Public School Discipline Policy

Sections of the policy which are relevant to bullying

- Every student has the right to expect that he or she will spend the school day - both in and out of the classroom - free from bullying and intimidation.
- Students have the right to be safe and happy at school.
- Students have the right to be safe in and around the school.

NSW Schools have the following requirements of all students:

- respect for other individuals
- no violence, discrimination, harassment, bullying or intimidation
- peaceful resolution of conflict
- compliance with school discipline policy
WELCOME FEST
Bush Dance
Saturday February 27th

Lots of volunteers are needed to ensure another successful event. We are putting together a roster to help serve on the Sausage Sizzle and the Asian Food 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 afternoon. If you are able to assist then please contact Ian Eldershaw (Sausage Sizzle) on wozlewally@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:
http://www.trybooking.com/180113
Look out for further information in this bulletin.

We need more Class Parents!

Don’t be shy!
The class parent role is incredibly easy. It’s main purpose is to email FRASC information to the rest of the school community.

We need more parents / carers for all our classes this year.
Contact Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com

FRASC help!
We are currently seeking volunteers for the following FRASC positions:
- Secretary,
- K-3 and 3-6 catering coordinators
- Cake Day coordinator,
- Athletics Carnival canteen coordinator

For more information or to volunteer please contact
Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com

Want to be involved? Please come along to the first FRASC meeting for 2016. This will be held on Friday 4th @ 9.15am in the special purpose room (next to the library). All welcome.
DON'T MISS THE 2016
WELCOME FEST
27TH FEB 4 - 8PM. $15 PER FAMILY.
BRING YOUR PICNIC, DRINKS AND YOUR DANCING SHOES.

BUSH DANCE
5PM START

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY
Book Online with Trybooking
http://www.trybooking.com/180113

Gordon West Public School
**West Pymble FC**

8 week MiniRoos program

Boys & Girls

Ages 4 – 7 years

Contact: Arthur Jang – miniroos@wpfc.asn.au

Venue: Norman Griffith Oval, West Pymble

Day: Thursday 4 – 5pm

Start date: 11th February, 2016

Cost: $100 (New participants)

$80 (Returning participants)

Register at miniroos.com.au and search “2073”
Tennis Coaching

Before and after school tennis lesson enrolments are now being taken including ANZ Hoshots program catering for beginners to advanced standards.

Enquiries and enrolments to Scott:
0414 554 612

MARION FIX
SCHOOL OF BALLET

✦ Professional Tuition in Classical Ballet
✦ Specialist Tuition in Young Children
✦ Pre-School Age to Advanced
✦ All Classical Tuition conducted with individual interest and care by the PRINCIPAL
✦ Excellent Examination Results

Contact Marion on 9487-1821 or 0416-065-373
Classes on a Tuesday at Gordon West Public School

Dads & Kids Camping Weekend

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

When: 11th - 13th March 2016: 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: $32 per adult/$8 per child per night.

Booking: Click to book. Alternatively contact the Customer Experience Team on 1300 072 757.

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 or mb: 0402 807 090.

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)
• 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.
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

**PREMIER DANCE SCHOOL**

TERM 1 HALF PRICE SPECIAL FOR NEW KINDY & YEAR 1 STUDENTS

1ST LESSON FREE TO SEE HOW MUCH FUN DANCE CAN BE
JAZZ, HIP HOP, MUSICAL THEATRE &MORE
JUNIORS LESSON (KINDY & YR 1) TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 3.30 to 4.30.

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

Premier Dance has been operating on the North Shore for 30 years. I do not do stressful exams or competitions. Instead we have a professional end of year concert held in the Showroom at Hornsby R.S.L.

For all enquiries, please call Lynne 0437 737 967.

KWP Community Rugby
Rego & Info Day
Sat 6th Feb
8am – 2pm
West Pymble Shops
(or register online: kwp rugby.com.au)

**Why should I let my child play rugby?**

- Us & Yo’s tags only fun tackle.
- Safety coaching with skills progressed with age.
- Learn great skills and be part of a team player.
- Great leadership which lasts for years.
- Rego starting fees $135 inc. uniform.
- We play Sundays, so you can keep your Saturday commitments.
- US & Yo’s from Friday nights & the club is open for kids dinner and parents drinks.
- It’s a lot of fun for the kids and parents too.
- All Welcome, boys and girls

MACKENZIE ARCHITECTS INTERNATIONAL
Brookfield McGrath
DATACOM

CONTACTS: Michelle Franzi +61 413 709 519
emil@kwprugby.com.au
enquiries@kwprugby.com.au
BULLETIN HARDCOPIES

This bulletin is available on the school website every fortnight for all parents to view. To reduce our impact on the environment the printed copy of the bulletin will only be provided to families who specifically request a hardcopy.

Please complete this form and send to the school office if you require the bulletin in hardcopy format:

Eldest Child’s Name: ................................................................. Class: ......................
Parents Signature: ............................................................................................

FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS

We do not wish to have our family contact details distributed to other parents in our child’s class.

Child’s name: .................................................................
Child’s Class: .................................................................
Parents Signature: ................................................................. Date: ......................

Please complete this form and return to the office if you do not wish to be included on the class contact lists for your child’s class.