Congratulations to our Office Manager Mrs Kirkpatrick and her team on receiving such an outstanding report in the recent school audit process. Conducted over two days this very thorough audit highlighted the efficiency of our office staff. It is very reassuring to the whole school community to hear that the financial management of the school is being conducted so thoroughly and efficiently. Well done!

Congratulations are also in order for Mrs Heather Findlay for the sterling job that she has done organising the band program for 2016. Mrs Findlay does an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to ensure that our 120 band students and their tutors for 2016 are organised. The forthcoming Band Camp at Vision Valley was a huge task arranged by Mrs Findlay.

The fathers’ and childrens’ camping weekend planned at The Basin on 11-12 March and advertised in the last Bulletin is not a school or a P&C sanctioned event. Parents are advised that risk management procedures and supervisory practices are totally the responsibility of the camp participants with the school having no involvement whatsoever. We wish the campers an enjoyable weekend.

The K-3 Parent /Teacher evening held 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. The Year 4-6 evening is to be held next Tuesday.

At the inaugural meeting of the Gordon West P&C last Monday evening a great deal of discussion centred on how we can best communicate with our school community. In the near future the school will be circulating a School Satisfaction Survey to ascertain parent opinion about a range of matters including how to improve school organisation and communication.

Included in the Bulletin is information on the School Plan/Strategic Directions 2015-2017. This provides parents with a brief overview of the school’s focus areas which are being developed and implemented. Please contact the school should you require clarification of any aspect of this planning process. The plan is regularly evaluated against the NSW DET School Excellence Framework. Parents will have the opportunity to have this whole process explained in more detail by Mrs Sheldon and Miss Harper at a future P&C meeting.
Council Rangers will be issuing infringement notices for those few parents who continue to break traffic regulations in the vicinity of the school.

The Welcome Fest to be held on the 27 February celebrates the beginning of another year at Gordon West. The FRASC, under the leadership of Mrs Guenther has planned the Welcome Fest for this day. Although events such as these raise considerable funds for the school they also bring the community together which is incredibly important in creating and maintaining the school ethos of “our home away from home”. Congratulations to everyone involved in the planning of this most important event.

J Huckerby
Principal

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**SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS**

Please note the school office hours are from **8:00am to 3:20pm**.

All enquiries outside of these hours can either be emailed to the school or a message can be left on the answering machine.

Thanking you
Administration Staff

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**STAFF CAR PARK**

Due to student safety concerns and WH&S compliance parents are not allowed access to the staff carpark.

We have been alerted that a number of inconsiderate motorists have been using the driveway to turn around.

This practice is extremely dangerous and puts our students at risk.

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**Library News**

2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC)

The challenge will open on the 7th March 2016 and close on the 19th August.

Remember your logon is your username and password you use at school.

Start reading!
Mrs Whiteman
Teacher Librarian
School Plan 2015 to 2017

Implementation and Progress for 2016

**Strategic Direction 1**: Confident, engaged, reflective learners

*To establish Quality Teaching Rounds at GWPS and the regular use of Quality Teaching Framework (QTF) to foster confident, engaged, reflective learners.*

- Staff participating in QTR throughout rounds of the QTR program ensuring tangible practices are in place that will improve the quality of teaching in the school
- Increasing staff awareness of QTF elements and their impact on teaching practice and student outcomes
- Ensuring greater inclusion of QTF elements reflected in teacher programming
- Observing Professional Learning Communities (PLC) peer’s lessons, lesson coding, PLC contribution to sustained group discussions and professional reading supports teacher professional development
- Using a range of assessments to set learning goals which teachers collaborate to select and review
- Moderating student work samples to identify level of assessment

**Strategic Direction 2**: Successful learners with the skills to be active, informed citizens in the 21st century

*To develop the 21st century skills required for students to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.*

1. iPads:

- Ensuring high quality teaching and learning through the planning for and use of iPads into a wide range of lesson and learning opportunities, particularly for Year 4 students.
- Continuing to support and enhance K-6 student learning experiences, knowledge and skills by the development and provision of a multi-faceted ICT program designed to address individual student capabilities and needs across a number of different formats including PCs, laptops and iPads.

2. Literacy and Numeracy:

- Continuing to gain familiarity with the content of the K-10 English Syllabus and other DEC literacy related initiatives
- Continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching practices and collaborate to build teacher knowledge, skills and understanding
- Engaging in professional dialogue and provide guidance and support to plan effectively using English Textual Concepts Continuum
- Adjusting the mathematics scope and sequence for cross stage requirements and consolidate into a K-6 school scope and sequence
- Increasing knowledge, understanding and skills using the English and mathematics K-10 Syllabus and initiatives such as Focus on Reading 3-6, L3 and the Literacy and Numeracy Continuums, plotting student outcomes on the corresponding digital performance data resource PLAN.

3. Social Awareness

- commencing the social emotional program, You Can Do It (YCDI) Education
- providing further teacher professional learning to support explicit teaching that promotes positive student wellbeing through regular fortnightly sessions.
- Integrating YCDI in school wide activities such as student feedback, award presentations and school assemblies.
- Introducing parents to YCDI and learning how to support students using YCDI through planned parent and community forums.

**Strategic Direction 3:** Shared Quality teaching that inspires success

*To collaborate in a Professional Learning Community, develop Quality Teaching and achieve personal and academic success for students and teachers.*

- Engaging the whole school Professional Learning Community in Teacher Professional Learning specifically designed to improve teacher practice
- Collegiately addressing student and staff learning needs by setting shared goals, planning for Quality Teaching and Assessment, moderating student work samples and evaluating practice in a supportive environment.
- Developing and maintaining meaningful and appropriate Performance and Development Plans with staff
- Designing and implementing a mentorship program to support Beginning Teachers and teachers working toward accreditation
New Online Payment Options

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, **Other is the preferred option if you are making a complete payment of a school invoice.**

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Invoice number on the top right hand corner of the student invoice.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.
The Scholastic bookclub is seeking a new volunteer parent co-ordinator for 2016. The role involves approximately 12 hours per bookclub and Gordon West has elected to hold 3 bookclubs per year at the start of terms 2, 3 and 4. The role includes ordering, receiving and dispatching to classes catalogues and books, reconciling and banking monies received and placing reward points orders on behalf of the school. If you are interested in this role please contact me to discuss it further.

Stacey Hayes
Parent
Co-ordinator
0400 095 751
Bring your dancing shoes...

for Gordon West's very popular

Welcome Fest

Our host for the evening will be the fabulous DJ Kit Kat

Delicious food from a Sausage Sizzle or Asian Food Stall can be purchased on the night

Sausage Sizzle & Asian Food Stall will run from 4.30pm to 7.30pm

DJ Kit Kat will be in action from 8pm to 8pm

This is a fantastic event where we get to welcome the new families to Gordon West while also having a fun evening catching up with friends.

More volunteers needed to help with the Welcome Fest ....

To ensure another successful event we need more helpers to serve on the Sausage Sizzle and the Asian Food stall.

These will both run from 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

If you are able to help please contact Ian Eldershaw (Sausage Sizzle) on wozziewally@optusnet.com.au or Queenie Sia (Asian Food Stall) on sia_queenie@yahoo.com.au to add your name to the roster.

CAKE DAY!

Our first Cake Day for 2016 will be held on Tuesday March 8th and will be hosted by Years 1 & 6.

We will need volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. If you can assist please contact Beth O'Keefe on beth.okeefe@optusnet.com.au

More class reps please....

..A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to be class parents for 2016. We still need more volunteers for the following classes: KH; 1F; 1/2B; 2D; 4/5T; 6/6W and 6S. If you would like to find out more about this simple and straightforward role please contact Megan Quenther on dmeme4@yahoo.com

dates for the diary

- Tuesday March 8
  Cake Day, hosted by year 1 and 6

- Saturday Feb 27
  Gordon West Welcome Fest
It’s Cake Day!
Tuesday 8th March

This Term, Years 1 & 6 will be hosting CAKE DAY

This is a popular once-a-term treat for all students to enjoy, where they can purchase goodies for 50 cents at recess time.

We are asking parents from Years 1 & 6 to contribute to Cake Day by bringing...

- cupcakes
- jellies (in little cups with own spoons please)
- cookies
- muffins (sweet or savoury)
- fruit salads (in little cups with own spoons please)
- watermelon slices
- popcorn in a cup/bag

PLEASE ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS AS AN INGREDIENT

- Please bring your contribution to the canteen on cake day between 8.30am – 9.30am.
- Label all containers and lids with your child’s name and class so we can return them to your child on the day

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE?

To make your child’s Cake Day a success we need 4 volunteers to receive cakes in the morning (8:30 – 9:30), 8 volunteers to sell at recess time (10:45 – midday). It’s always a fun morning and the kids love to see their mum, dad or grandparent helping out!

Please contact your Class Parents with your name, class and the time you can help or contact me directly beth.okeefe@optusnet.com.au

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Beth O’Keefe
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
**S’ANDY’S CORNER PLAYGROUP**

For children with special/additional needs and their families

0 – 5 years
Thursday
10am - 12noon
(During School Terms)

@ St Andrew’s Uniting Church,
Corner of Vernon and Chisholm St
South Turramurra

CONTACT:
Christine Palmer 9449 2129
Val Weakley 91447324

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**PLAY RUGBY WITH**

WAHROONGA RUGBY CLUB

TIGERS

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**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!**

**JUNIOR RUGBY FOR BOYS AND GIRLS U6 TO U16**

**TAG RUGBY FOR U6 & U7**

For more information contact:
Martin Brown – VP Minis (U6-U9)
0407 893 537
minis@wahroongarugby.com.au

Gavin Dingley – VP Juniors (U10-U16)
0403 159 019
juniors@wahroongarugby.com.au
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

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.

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
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

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**PREMIER DANCE SCHOOL**

JAZZ, HIP HOP MUSICAL THEATRE & MORE.

**LESSONS IN THE SCHOOL HALL WITH MISS LYNNE**

PROFESSIONAL END OF YEAR CONCERT

**FIRST LESSON FREE FOR NEW STUDENTS**

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

**For all enquiries, please call Lynne**

0437 737 967.
KISSING POINT SOFTBALL
FREE Come & Try sessions

Kissing Point Softball Club - part of North Shore District Softball Association
- Family orientated club celebrating our 50th year!
- Teams for females of all ages
- Season runs from Saturday April 23rd - Saturday September 3rd, 2016.
- Junior games - same time each week at St. Ives Village Green (8:30pm or 10:00pm)
- Senior games - varying times in the afternoons (12:00-1:45/3:30)

FREE “Come and Try” teeball & modball sessions
Tuesday Feb 16 and Tuesday Feb 23
5:00 - 6:00pm Teeball (5-9 years)
6:00-7:00pm Modball (10-15 years)
KPSC Clubhouse, Auluba Oval, Auluba Rd, South Turramurra
All equipment supplied
For more information contact Laura Owens via email kissingpointsoftballclub@gmail.com or mobile: 0404 486 032

West Pymble FC
8 week program
Boys & Girls
Ages 4 – 6 years
Contact: Arthur Jang – miniros@wpfc.asn.au
Venue: Norman Griffith Oval, West Pymble
Day: Thursday 4 – 5pm
Start date: 11th
Cost: $100
Free Participant pack
Register at miniros.com.au and search ‘2073’

WILLOWBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
A Leader in Girls Education

Please join us for
OPEN NIGHT
Wednesday 9 March 2016
4.45 – 7.30 pm
School Hall

Principal: Ms Elizabeth Diprose
Phone: 9958 4141
Fax: 9967 2174
Extension Class Placement Test for Year 7, 2017

Year 6 students will have an opportunity to sit a placement test for our Year 7 extension class for selected students.

Saturday 12th March 2016

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

U13 BLUE LIGHT DISCO

Saturday, 19th March 2016
6.30pm—8.30pm

Tickets: $5
Canteen available—including chicken nuggets and hot dogs.

PCYC Performing Arts Centre
22 Waitara Ave, Waitara

Tel: 9477 2310 Email: dailars@pcycnsw.org.au

NO ALCOHOL - NO DRUGS—NO PASSOUTS
Ethics classes at Gordon West Public School

Dear parents and carers,

Could you be an Ethics Coordinator or Teacher for Gordon West Public School?

We require volunteers for the roles of ethics coordinator and teacher if the ethics program is to accommodate all interested families for 2016 and beyond to future years.

The ethics coordinator communicates with school staff for classroom arrangements, organises the training and background checks for the teachers, and liaises with Primary Ethics, the not-for-profit organization approved to design curriculum and training for the program.

This role provides a great opportunity for a working parent who might be unable to volunteer during school hours. The time is flexible, requiring approximately 1 hour per week predominantly online.

Ethics Teachers receive training by Primary Ethics, which consists of a 2-day workshop and online learning modules. Curriculum and access to teaching resources is provided. Suitable volunteers have an interest in children’s education and developing their critical thinking skills and must be available to take their class each week for a year during school terms.

In ethics classes, children learn how to think logically, disagree respectfully and support their arguments with evidence, rather than act according to habit or peer pressure.

Children discuss topics such as:
- imagining how others feel
- how do we treat living things?
- what is laziness?
- how do we disagree in a respectful way?
- fairness

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au or contact the Volunteering Manager, Maria McCarthy, at maria.mccarthy@primaryethics.com.au or 0410 348 574 or 8068 7752.
**ASSEMBLY AWARDS**

17/2/2016

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<tr>
<td>KZ</td>
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**SCHOOL ZONE TRAFFIC OFFENCES**

Increased penalties for School Zones. Current as at 1 July 2015

**NO STOPPING**
Under no circumstances are you allowed to stop here unless there is a medical or other emergency.

Penalty: $319 + 2 Demerit Points

**NO PARKING**
You may stop here for no more than 2 minutes but only when engaged in picking up or dropping off passengers. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle, otherwise no stopping is permitted.

Penalty: $177 + 2 Demerit Points

**BUS ZONE**
You are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.

Penalty: $319 + 2 Demerit Points

**DOUBLE PARKING**
You are not permitted to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb.

Penalty: $319 + 2 Demerit Points

**CHILDREN'S CROSSING**
You are not permitted to stop or park your vehicle or near or on a Children's or Pedestrian Crossing.

Penalty: $425 + 2 Demerit Points