As mentioned in the last bulletin the religious education implementation procedures in public schools was updated on the 25 March 2015. The thirteen page document outlines the policy and procedure for implementing religious education in schools. In summary Section 32 of the Education Act of 1990 requires that in every government school time is allowed for the religious education of children of any religious persuasion with parents having a right to choose not to have their children attend special religious education.

A formal request has been made by a community member for community consultation in relation to the current Infant’s Prayer, School Song, School Pledge and School Commemorations and Religious Observances and the types of occasions on which they will be used.

No changes are proposed or will be made to the organisation of Scripture Classes at Gordon West Public School. The Act succinctly explains the organisation of such classes.

Given that there has been limited consultation in relation to these items mentioned above the school and Parents and Citizens Association felt it appropriate to evaluate our current practices (most of which haven’t been evaluated for over 50 years.) Also as the cultural diversity of the school community has changed it is an opportune time to implement such a review.

Under the Education Act of 1990 schools are permitted to use or write prayers. These prayers are to be interdenominational Christian or multi faith to reflect the diversity of the school. Parents have the right to have their children exempted from such activities.

In summary we would like to survey the school community feelings and expectations in relation to these issues. If you would like to be a member of this committee please contact Mr O’Keefe or myself.

A SurveyMonkey Half Yearly Report Evaluation was sent home yesterday and we would appreciate your opinion as to the effectiveness of our revised reporting system.

As a result of parental feedback the school has modified aspects of the report to hopefully make it more user friendly and informative. Parents are reminded that all SurveyMonkey evaluations are anonymous unless a parent wishes to identify themselves and in some circumstances requests an individual response to their comment.

A big thank you to all members of staff and parents who have been involved in the ongoing evaluation and development of our reporting/interview process.
A big thank you to all staff, parents and children who braved the elements prior to our Athletics Carnival being postponed last Thursday.

In the adverse conditions that we experienced it was wonderful to observe the great community spirit evident when staff and parents worked together to pack up all tents, flags, markers etc.

Even when we returned to school parents were offering to dry children’s sporting apparel and were just being very supportive.

As yet we haven’t a definite date to reschedule our carnival. Inadvertently we were not informed that Council had changed their policy and were allowing schools to book “backup” dates which has made finding a new date more difficult.

However we do have contingency plans that will be implemented should the need arise.

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful school environment which we share with animal and bird species.

At the present time we have an abundance of lorikeets that love to feed on leftovers in the playground. Unfortunately these birds are becoming rather brazen and are taking food directly from the students and on some occasions even perching on the children. Please reinforce with your children the school policy of not feeding or touching any of the birds.

Rabbits are also presenting challenges especially in the beautiful new gardens that were constructed during the recent school vacation.

Renovations to the Uniform Shop have been completed and the shop will reopen this Friday.

Thank you to Mrs Baxter and her team for so efficiently organising the removal of all items in preparation for these renovations and painting.

We are most fortunate to have such efficient people running our Uniform Shop and School Canteen.

Both of these school organisations use the Flexi Schools Online Ordering Systems with the Uniform Shop attempting to emulate the incredible success of the canteen in achieving 100% online ordering.

The 2015 Kindergarten Orientation Evening will be held on Tuesday 25 August in the school library.

Mrs Davis and her Kindergarten team look forward to welcoming prospective 2016 Kindergarten parents to this informative evening where both staff and parent representatives provide a comprehensive overview of school organisation.

Every year parents have to be reminded to ensure that they have enrolled their Kindergarten children so the school can implement forward planning.

Given that Gordon West is very popular we also like to inform our out of area applicants as to whether their applications have been successful or not as soon as possible.

Tell Them from Me, Partners in Learning parent survey Earlier in 2015 students in Years 4 to 6 responded to a survey Tell Them From Me about student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at our school, from the perspective of students. A second snapshot survey for these students will take place later in Term 3 to provide the school with comparative data. We are also taking this opportunity to survey Gordon West teachers and parents.

The Partners in Learning parent survey is for all parents and carers of school students. It is designed to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parents/carers and school by gaining insights into parent/carer and staff communication, activities and practices at home, and parent/carer voice on school support of learning and behaviour. The survey results will help to build an accurate and timely picture that our school can use for practical improvements.

The Partners in Learning parent survey complements the student and teacher surveys.

All Gordon West parents/carers can take the survey online in their own time following the opening of the survey later in Term 3. The survey usually takes less than 30 minutes and is anonymous.

There will be further information provided to parents about both the student and parent surveys in the next Bulletin.

J Huckerby
Principal
BINGO

BLACK & WHITE

BINGO and BAND

BONANZA

Saturday, 15th August
7 - 11:30pm in the School Hall

Dress in anything Black and White... from Bush to Ballgown

$15 / person

Buy your tickets online at http://www.trybooking.com/140014

B.Y.O Dinner and Drinks.
Great prizes on the night.
BLACK & WHITE Bingo and Band Bonanza!

Have you got your tickets for the social event of the year?
Be quick, spaces are filling up fast.

$15/person

This is going to be a SUPER fun evening.
Dress is Black and White | Bush to Ballgown
BYO Dinner and Drinks | Great prizes on the night.

Saturday 15th August
7-11.30pm in the School Hall
Buy your tickets online at http://trybooking.com/140014

Can your business offer any prizes for this social event?
Please contact Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com if you can assist.

Family Photo Day
Sunday 23 August 2015
This year Laurel Jean Fundraising will be our photographer for the day
Don’t miss out on this fabulous fundraiser
See further information in the Bulletin or contact
Anja Lineen on 0413 335 950

Cake Day
This term’s Cake Day will be held on Tuesday August 25, and will be hosted by Year 5.

THANKS! To everyone who volunteered for the “washed out” Athletics Carnival.
A notice regarding rescheduling will be sent out soon.
Family Photo Day
Sunday 23 August 2015

- 10”x13” family portrait in a wooden frame (one per family)
- 15 minute photo sitting
- 2-6 optional poses; children only option available;
- A fun experience for you and the family!
- Relaxed, outdoor setting (the hall will be used if it’s raining)

**Book early!** Bookings will be taken in 15 minute slots 9am - 4pm
**Only bookings that are pre-paid will be accepted.**
You can book and pay at Trybooking: [http://www.trybooking.com/ILQ1](http://www.trybooking.com/ILQ1)
When you have paid, email anjalineen@yahoo.com.au with your preferred sitting time.

**Conditions:**
- Pre-paid orders only
- Available once per person/family (ie no person may appear twice).
- Additional photographs offered at discounted rate
- Colour or b&w (request on photo day)
- Parent/guardian to collect own portrait/s on viewing day or postage and handling shall apply

**Contact Anja Lineen 0403 335 950 (Charlotte 5W)**

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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

A Date for Dad’s Diary

Come along and meet other GWPS dads at the West Pymble Bowling Club on 8th August after 3pm. Stick around for a bite to eat and the Bledisloe cup rugby later in the evening. This is an informal event, which has no connection to the school or P&C.

If you are planning to be there for the game please let me know, as we will need to book tables.

Tom Lineen
lineentom@yahoo.com.au

Woolworths Eam & Leam 2015

Dear Parents,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Eam & Leam program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Eam & Leam Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Eam & Leam Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Eam & Leam Sticker onto a Woolworths Eam & Leam Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at your local Woolworths.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/eamandleam
ANNUAL OPEN DAY
and Visual Arts Exhibition
(Opening Night 7 August at 6.30pm - includes HSC Artworks)

Monday 10 August 2015
12.00pm – 5.00pm
❖ Students at work
❖ Classes to visit in all curriculum areas
❖ Individual and group student performances
❖ From 7.00pm – Year 12 Music Night in the Theatre

Children and families from our local primary schools especially welcome

KISSING POINT BASEBALL CLUB
TRY BASEBALL DAYS
SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST
SUNDAY 9th AUGUST
9.00-11.00
AULUBA OVAL 3, FIELD OF DREAMS
CNR KISSING POINT RD & VERNON ST
SOUTH TURRAMURRA
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
BASEBALL FOR GIRLS AND BOYS 5-18 YEARS
ALL WELCOME
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MEL@MELG.NET or visit baseball.kpsc.asn.au

Registrations Open
1 August 2015
Baseball.kpsc.asn.au
STUDENT NEWS

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

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

The Challenge will finish on Friday 21st August.

Lillian O’Halloran KH
Sayaka Chuah 1S
Tiffany Fong 1W
William O’Keefe 2Z
Kate Walters 2S
Joshua Bilney 3T
Tiffany FitzGerald 3A

Jaren Sun KS
Hamish FitzGerald 1S
Elizabeth Tang 2W
Kelly Zhu 4R
Tiffany Cho 5D
Billy Lineen 3T
Adrian Kung 4/5S
Charlotte Lineen 5W

DID YOU KNOW?

Congratulations to Mike Gong (6E) on his outstanding performance in winning the NSW under 12 Junior Chess Championship. Mike scored 9.5/10 which was 2 points ahead of 2nd place.
**Whooping Cough**

A student who attends Gordon West Public School has been diagnosed with Whooping Cough (pertussis).

**What are the symptoms?**
Whooping cough usually starts with a runny nose, followed by persistent cough that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by vomiting and a whooping sound as the child gasps for air. Whooping cough can cause a severe illness in young children particularly those aged under 6 months.

**How is it spread?**
Whooping cough is usually spread by direct contact with the droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person produced whilst coughing. People at greatest risk of getting the illness are those who have had a considerable amount of face-to-face contact with a person with the disease. Whooping cough can occur in people previously vaccinated.

**What should parents do?**
Anyone developing symptoms should consult their local doctor and mention that there has been a case of Whooping cough in the school. Children who are diagnosed with Whooping cough need to stay away from school until they have taken 5 days of a special antibiotic.

For further information please refer to the NSW Health factsheet on whooping cough attached or contact the Northern Sydney Public Health Unit on 9477 9187. If you have any further issues or concerns regarding our discussions I may be contacted at the Public Health Unit (Hornsby) 9477 9187.