We were certainly fortunate with our re-scheduled Athletics Carnival held at Bannockburn Oval on Wednesday 5 August where on a cool winter’s day everyone had a wonderful time. A big thank you to Mr Sparke our new carnival organiser for 2015. Also thank you to Mr Ellis who has organised the carnival for the past 18 years. As part of the Gordon West capacity building program Mr Ellis has trained Mr Sparke in the organisation of the carnival. The Gordon West capacity building program ensures that for every school responsibility another member of staff is being trained to take over that role should the need arise.

Congratulations to the Gordon West students and all teacher and parent helpers for having a great attitude and participating so readily on the day. Finally to the many spectators thank you for your ongoing support.

Our Year 5 and 6 staff and children returned from a very successful trip to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains last week. A big thank you to Mr Ellis, Ms Papic, Mrs Waugh and Mr Sparke for giving up their family time to ensure that our children had a memorable experience. By all reports the trip was wonderful.
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 pre-schoolers and ensure that they don’t play in the gardens or enter other restricted areas.

Parents are reminded that it is highly illegal and very dangerous to drop children off on Ryde Road. This very irresponsible practice has been brought to the attention of Council Rangers to hopefully prevent a serious accident occuring.

School Planning for 2016 has commenced and we seek your assistance in letting us know if you are planning on enrolling a child at our school for 2016 or if your child will not be attending Gordon West next year (excluding Grade 6 children). The office staff have been telephoning parents of children who have told us that they will not be returning in 2016. Our apologies to those parents who received a call as a result of children incorrectly telling us of their intentions to leave.

Kindergarten enrolments for next year remain very healthy and we would appreciate you letting us know of your plans so that we can more accurately forecast projected numbers. This becomes all the more important for applicants who are waiting on a school decision regarding enrolment availability.

It can be rather frustrating for school organisation if as late as the last week of school a parent enrols a kindergarten child for the following year.

Our projected 2016 staffing numbers have to be submitted to the Department of Education this week. One can appreciate the enormity of a whole state staffing system, so we would appreciate accurate numbers to be submitted as soon as possible.

Our emergency lockdown/lockout evacuation drills are practised regularly.

In summary we have two emergency procedures of which the children and parent helpers must be aware. The evacuation procedure signalled by one continuous ringing of the bell indicates to all people in the school at that time that they must proceed to the oval in an orderly fashion.

The second procedure is for lockdown/lockout. A continuous series of short bell rings indicates that all people on the school site are to proceed to their rooms immediately. Once they arrive in the rooms the children are to sit on the floor and await further instruction from their teachers. Teachers will lock the classroom doors.

All school staff has designated responsibilities for both procedures. In the case of a lockout/lockdown emergency follow up procedures will depend on the nature of the emergency. Please discuss these procedures with your children.

Congratulations to our Senior Dance Group on their successful audition for the Opera House Concert later in the year. This is the first time a Gordon West Dance Group has successful auditioned for this prestigious event. Well done to Mrs Sutton and Mrs Dutra, the teacher choreographers, and all the children in the group.

J Huckerby
Principal
STUDENTS NOT RETURNING 2016

Could all students (except Year 6) who are not returning to Gordon West in 2016 please complete this form and return it to the school office so that we can start looking at our enrolment numbers for 2016.

Student Name:………………………… …………………. Class:…………………………

Destination School:……………………………………………………………………..

Signed:…………………………………………………….  Date:………………………..

(Parent or Guardian)

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

We are delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education 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 us 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.

We want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. 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 14 August 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

Response to SurveyMonkey on Semester 1 reporting

Recently the school conducted a survey to evaluate the new reporting format provided to parents in semester 1, 2015. The school’s aim was to design and produce reports that were manageable for teachers, well-received by parents and most importantly, accurately reflect student learning outcomes. A number of changes were made including having a more user-friendly format and language, clear statements expressing what students have achieved, their need for further development as well as individualised feedback about a student’s personal and social skills. There were 88 respondents to the survey from 388 families at Gordon West.

Responses to the survey from our informed and supportive parent community were generally very encouraging. There were 27 written responses to the open ended comment section. While positive comments were in the majority, a number of parents raised concerns which the school will endeavour to address.

Twelve comments were in regards to the parent teacher interviews process. Most of these comments were from parents who found the interview very helpful and report that teachers shared “excellent insight” into student learning and progress and that the meetings were “inclusive”. One respondent suggested that the 10 minute interview was too brief and another that where possible having interviews earlier and later in the year would be more beneficial. The school is always available for parents to contact and arrange a parent teacher interview at any time and we acknowledge early notification by teachers of concerns about student progress is desirable. Generally the online system was seen as a reliable, accessible method to book parent teacher interviews but earlier notification of this event would be appreciated by busy members of the school community. The school will endeavour to place the formal interview booking event online as early as possible. We recognise for some the 10 minute interview time is restrictive so we greatly encourage teachers and parents to schedule a follow up interview when necessary.

Another comment related to the different scales used throughout the report. One feature of the new report was the alignment of the scales for assessment and effort with the same 5 point scale being utilised for each of these aspects for the first time. The Social Development/Commitment to Learning however remained a 4 point scale as the school determined these descriptors continued to clearly and adequately match the statement indicators.

The inclusion of learning goals, a new feature in semester 1’s reports was well received, with parents commenting that these learning goals provided more personalised information on student learning. Teachers reported that these goals often became the focus of the parent teacher discussions. Although some reflected on the brevity of the general comment, parents liked its inclusion on the semester 1 report. A general comment will now appear on both semester 1 and semester 2 reports.

Two respondents expressed their concern with the grading. Consistency of teacher judgement is a high priority for our school and Gordon West sets aside time to enable teachers to participate in professional discussions about outcomes and levels of achievement. Central to the success of such work is the collection and collegial discussion of moderated and annotated student work samples which teachers use to further their understanding of the different levels of achievement. The reporting of learning remains a very complex and contentious matter. Advice is not given from the DEC on how many assessments need to be done to establish a student’s level of achievement for the stated outcomes. With the recent implementation of new syllabus in English and mathematics and the imminent arrival of the history and geography syllabus, further opportunities will be provided for teachers to continue to discuss student work samples within or across Stages to moderate and develop consistent and comparable judgements.

DEC guidelines for assessment strategies include observation, work samples, performance assessment, self-assessment and both school based and standardised tests. Our school’s task is to continue to review our assessment strategies, provide more open ended and challenging assessment tasks to better ascertain the range of student abilities and continue to build collegial and shared understandings of student achievement and assessment grading.

We greatly appreciate the community’s support and feedback. The importance of parental involvement in their child’s education is of tremendous value. Gordon West will use the information provided to inform future modifications to our reports. We will continue to evaluate our practice and aim to improve all aspects of reporting and assessment for parents, teachers and students.

The graph below collates the responses from GWPS’s Semester 1 Reporting Survey (Question 1 to 9).
Fund Raising & Social Committee News

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

Dress is Black and White | Bush to Ballgown | BYO Dinner & Drinks | Great prizes

Saturday 15th August
7-11.30pm in the School Hall

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

We need VOLUNTEERS to help set up the hall on Friday 14th August.
Please contact Megan Guenther on dmem4@yahoo.com if you can assist.

Family Photo Day
Sunday 23 August 2015
This year Laura 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 0403 335 950

CAKE DAY
This term’s Cake Day will be held on TuesdayAugust 25, and will be hosted by Year 5. We will be needing volunteers on the day so if you are able to assist in any way please contact Vanessa Spanswick on aspanswi@bigpond.net.au

THANKS! To everyone who volunteered at the Athletics Carnival. It was such a fun day – your assistance is always appreciated!
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.
IMPORTANT

Starting *next term* the Uniform Shop will

NO LONGER ACCEPT CASH.

We will still accept:

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Cheque
- Eftpos
- Flexischools online

Gordon West Uniform Shop, Open Friday 8.30 – 9.30am
gwpsuniformshop@gmail.com
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/ILQI**
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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St Ives Junior Cricket Club
Registrations for Season 2015/16
NOW OPEN

REGISTER ONLINE at **www.stivescricket.org.au**

**AGES 4-7:** in2CRICKET - a fun filled introduction to cricket for boys and girls with our superb team of professionally accredited coaches. U8 T20Blast - developed to ensure junior cricketers can progress with confidence from in2CRICKET to competitive club cricket competitions

**AGES 8-16:** U9 through to U16/17 teams play against other North Shore teams on Saturdays or Sundays depending on the age group:
- **Sat am:** U9, U10, U11, U12/13  
- **Sat pm:** U12, U13, U14  
- **Sun am:** U13/14, U14/15, U16/17

**GIRLS:** Girls aged 4 to 7 can join in the In2Cricket or U8 T20Blast program (mixed boys and girls)
Girls can play in the NSJCA comp U9 and above with the boys
Girls aged 9-16 can play in the girls only T20 Sat pm comp

Register online: **www.stivescricket.org.au**

For more information: contact Tracy Poulton at **operations@stivescricket.org.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

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BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Saturday, 8th August 2015
6:30pm—8:30pm

Age U/13 years
Tickets: $5
Canteen available—including chicken nuggets and hot dogs

PCYC Performing Arts Centre
22 Waitara Ave, Waitara

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

PRE BOOKING ESSSENTIAL LIMITED TICKETS AT THE DOOR

NO ALCOHOL - NO DRUGS—NO PASSOUTS
RAISING KIDS THAT COPE
Two workshops sessions for the Gordon West Public School community

1. Parent evening:

*Raising Kids that Cope - Building an Optimistic Mindset in Children*

**DATE:** Wednesday 26th August  
**TIME:** 7.00pm - 8.30pm

2. Year 4-6 Parent and student evening:

*Raising Kids that Cope - Building Strong and Resilient Young People*

**DATE:** Wednesday 2 September  
**TIME:** 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
**LOCATION:** Gordon West Public School Hall

Parents are welcome to attend either or both sessions

Resilience and optimism are essential for helping children to bounce back and keep going during transition and the challenges of life.

These 2 sessions build on each other: The first workshop introduces parents to the Resilience Doughnut model and the second helps parents and children from Years 4-6 to learn the model together.

This seminar will:
- look at some practical ways that we can reduce anxiety & foster optimism in children
- explain some of the resources and coping skills that help children to deal with difficulties
- equip you with some simple tools for recognising and encouraging the strengths and supports in your own child’s life during transition stages

About the presenter ...

Cay Camden has an extensive background across a range of health and welfare areas and with Education Offices in the NSW school system. Cay has presented the Resilience Doughnut to staff, education professionals, parents and community members, sharing practical strategies and useful tips.

Find out more about Cay at our website below.

Website: www.theresilencedoughnut.com.au
Saturday 22nd August
11am - 4pm
Hornsby Girls’ High School,
Edgeworth David Ave
Opposite Westfield Shopping Centre
- Huge international food fair
- Cake stall - New rides
- Cultural performances in music and dance
  - Henna, origami and face painting
  - Hornsby Rotary Book Fair for Lifeline
  - Robotics display - Trash and Treasure
West Pymble Scouts
2015 Fertiliser Drive

Does your garden look a little sad?

Come and see us
Saturday 15th August
8.30am - 1pm at West Pymble Shops

We have different types of fertiliser & mulch available and we’ll deliver them FREE to your home. We’re sure to have something to suit your garden.

There will be also be cakes & sweet treats to buy & raffles to be won!

Free delivery to local homes

Orders will be delivered on
Saturday 5th September 2015 between 9:00am & 12:00pm.
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.

Isabella Mark KD
Marco Cardinale 1S
Vivian Chi 1F
Nadine Chan 3H
Thomas Fitzgerald 4M
Laura Chappell KZ
Billy Hewson KD
Sophie Eldershaw 2Z
Charlotte Betts 3A
Christopher Chappell 3A
Mia De Riz 6E
Angie Ho KD
Katie Rajadhyaksha 2Z

SPORTS RESULTS

Netball Results
24/7/15
Jnr 1 vs Gordon West 2 won 16-2
Jnr 2 vs Gordon West 1 losy-2-16
Jnr 3 vs Killara won 7-1
Jnr 4 vs St Ives lost 2-10
Snr 1 vs Beaumont Rd won 45-13
Snr 2 vs Masada lost 11-12
Snr 3 vs Roseville won 25-11
Snr 4 vs Roseville lost 7-8

31/7/15
Jnr 1 vs Roseville won 11-7
Jnr 2 vs Lindfield won 10-5
Jnr 3 vs Lindfield East won 4-3
Jnr 4 vs Chatswood won 18-0

Snr 1 vs Roseville won 27-7
Snr 2 vs Killara won 15-5
Snr 3 vs Chatswood won 18-16
Snr 4 vs Chatswood lost 5-6

Soccer Results
24/7/15
Div 1 vs Killara
Senior A won 1-0
Junior A1 drew 0-0
Junior A2 lost 0-1
Div 2 vs Beaumont Rd
Senior B lost 1-2
Junior B1 won 4-1
Junior B2 won 9-0

31/7/15
Div 1 vs St Ives
Senior A won 8-0
Junior A1 lost 1-2
Junior A2 won 9-0
Div 2 vs Lindfield East
Senior B lost 1-2
Junior B1 lost 0-4
Junior B2 lost 0-2