Congratulations to the whole school community on two very successful events held last week which really demonstrated the strength of the Gordon West community.

The rescheduled school swimming carnival was held last Friday and was a resounding success on many levels with the highest levels of participation on record. The weather was lovely and supported our decision to reschedule the carnival.

A number of school records were broken and everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion. Some of our students are incredibly focused on their swimming and train up to five mornings a week which was aptly rewarded by their wonderful performances. Many other students just joined in on the day doing their personal best and enjoyed themselves in the process.

Thank you to Mr Sparke and his very efficient team of parent and teacher helpers who so capably ran the carnival.

Overall a lovely day!

The Welcome Fest held last Saturday evening was efficiently organised as we have come to expect from Mrs Guenther and her team. 2016 was a more low key version of Welcome Fest, where on alternate years a number of carnival type rides and slides are included in the program.

In a beautifully relaxed atmosphere parents and children spread rugs, ate at the BBQs or treated
themselves to an array of scrumptious Asian food. It was great to see the community socialising and dancing the night away. It is nights such as these that bring the school community together.

A great night!

**Parent Teacher evenings have now been completed and we hope that they were as informative as intended.**

The school and its Parent Organisations are always evaluating school communication to hopefully ensure that all parents are informed as to the education of their child/children and feel comfortable approaching the school or parent organisation should the need arise.

In relation to evenings such as these parents have raised some concerns when they have been unable to attend class presentations for all of their children. This issue has also been raised in the School Satisfaction Survey sent home recently.

In 2017 we plan to hold all presentations on the same evening and to stagger the starting times to hopefully cater for those parents who have more than one child attending Gordon West.

In the past school policy has always been to commence school presentations at 7:30pm. However the new organisational model for 2017 will commence at 6:00pm.

A big thank you to Mr O’Keefe and to Ms Wenk for such an informative Gordon West Parent’s and Citizen’s Association presentation at the Parent Teacher Evenings.

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**Thank you for completing the school surveys that have been sent home recently.**

Although some people find completing surveys tortuous it is very important for the school to ascertain school community opinion as to school performance and direction.

Also certain surveys are mandatory for the completion of the 2015 School Annual Report which will be available online and in hardcopy at the beginning of Term 2.

From the school’s perspective the more parents who complete these surveys the better and please note that we have taken parent comments into consideration and have limited the number and the length of these surveys.

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**As mentioned in a recent Bulletin it is now mandatory for all schools to annually conduct an audit of all trees.**

Our tree audit was completed in December 2015 which resulted in one large tree being removed immediately. We are currently in the process of having all work identified as high priority work completed.

One of the challenges that we face is that in an environment such as ours trees are always shedding branches. For example a seemingly perfectly healthy Red Mahogany has shed three large branches of late over a high traffic area and has to be removed.

Tree management is taken very seriously at the school. However it is a very difficult task and certainly gives Principals grey hair.

We are keen to plant a number of new native species to replace trees lost.

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**Year 5 is organising an Easter Raffle to raise money for the Year 6 Farewell.** Year 5 students will be selling raffle tickets beginning next week, Monday 7th March. Tickets will be on sale before school and recess. Prizes will be drawn on Thursday 24th March during the Easter Parade. **Parents are requested to monitor the amount of money children bring to school to spend on tickets.**

Thank you for your support.

J Huckerby
Principal
Concert Band 2 is looking for a Grade 3 AMEB standard keyboard player.

Concert Band 2 rehearses on a Monday morning at 7:50am in the school hall and Tuesday lunchtime.

Interested students please contact the school office.
FUN AT THE FEST!

A fabulous afternoon was had by all who attended the Welcome Fest..... The sun shone, we ate sumptuous treats from the Asian Food Stall, snagged some sausages and danced the night away.

A HUGE thank you to all those who volunteered - we couldn’t do these events if it wasn’t for your help, it is always appreciated!

You can see pictures of all the fun in the next page of the Bulletin.

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CAKE DAY!

Years 1 & 6 will be supplying the delicious treats for this terms CAKE DAY on Tuesday 8th March.

Please bring goodies to the canteen between 8:30am - 9:30am.

Each item will be sold for 50c at recess.

Please contact Beth O'keefe on beth.okeefe@optusnet.com.au if you are able to assist on the day.

Please see Cake Day flyer coming home with your children.

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We need YOU!

A little bit about volunteering for FRASC:
FRASC operates so well because we have volunteers who are able to help in a variety of ways. Maybe a few hours, as a one off or, on a more regular basis. Most of our volunteers work or have younger children. This is simply one of the best ways to get to know the other families and make new friends.

Research consistently shows that parents who engage in their child’s school community can actually improve the success of their child’s education.

We are looking for volunteers to organise the following:

- Athletics Carnival Canteen in Term 2
- Open Day/Showcase morning tea in Term 5
- K - 2 Concert morning tea in Term 4
- K - 2 Christmas Party in Term 4

Taking one or more of these roles DOES NOT mean you do it yourself. We have all the notes, timelines, handouts and everything you would need including someone to go through it with you. You gather your friends and other parents around to help and get to know more people in the school. It’s a fantastic way to keep the community of GWPS regenerating.
Fund Raising & Social Committee News

Annual Welcome Fest...
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.

West Pymble Football Club

Registrations are open

We welcome new players across all age groups. We cater for boys and girls from under 6 all the way up to men and woman Over 35/45, so the whole family can play! Season Proper starts in April after the Easter break but teams are being allocated now.

Please Register via our website
www.wpfc.asn.au
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.**
Bears of Hope Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support

8th Annual Benefit Ball

**DATE** Saturday 3rd September 2016  |  **VENUE** Waterview in Bicentennial Park
**ADDRESS** Bicentennial Drive Olympic Park NSW (Entrance off Australia Ave)
**TIME** 6:30pm till 11:30pm  |  **DRESS** Formal  |  **COST** $130* plus booking fee
**TABLE OF 10** $1250* plus b/fee  |  **EARLY BIRD TICKETS** $115** plus b/fees

Adults only event. Ticket price includes canapés and drinks on arrival, beer, red, white and sparkling wine, soft drinks. 3 course alternate serve meal, candle lighting ceremony, live entertainment, dancing, fantastic prizes and auctions.

* Ticket purchases are non refundable
** Early Bird tickets must be purchased before 31/3/16

**ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS**
BALL@BEARSOFOPE.ORG.AU | WWW.BEARSOFOPE.ORG.AU

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**St Ives Junior AFL Club 2016**

**Registration**
The St Ives Junior AFL Club is looking for new players for 2016 and we want you to join us for a season of fun, fitness & friendship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Age Players (9-17 year olds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Age based teams play on Sundays against other clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Auskick (4-8 year olds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Skills sessions on Sunday mornings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How do I register?**

**Online**  www.stives afl.com
**More Info** For more information please go to the St Ives AFL website at: www.stives afl.com or e-mail: registrar@stives afl.com

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**NO STOPPING ZONES**

No Stopping signs mean you must not stop here at any time.
If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction applies only at those times.
An unbroken yellow kerb line is a no stopping line. You must not stop for any reason.

Fine exceeds $319 + 2 demerit points

**BUS ZONE SIGNS**

A Bus Zone is a No Stopping zone for vehicles other than buses.
If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction applies only at those times.
You must not park your vehicle less than 20 meters before or 10 metres after a bus stop.

Fine exceeds $319 + 2 demerit points
### Kindergarten Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>William K, Jasmine Z, Zara F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Sheema L, Connrel N, Emily A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Frangipani W, Sally A, Hannah R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZ</td>
<td>Matilda D, Ryan Z, Frankie R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Angie H, Scarlett G, Shem C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Jonah Z, Talin S, Camilla D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Serena C, Jonathan C, Naveen A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Alana F, Oliver P, Emily H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Leo S, Archie G, Daniel G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>Carter A, Cailin N, Summer M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Z</td>
<td>Kota G, Tabitha R, Oliver D</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3E</td>
<td>Jasmine K, Jioh K, Gerald S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Isabella C, Tom R, Mahalia A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3H</td>
<td>Tegan M, Amilie Z, Yue Leon C</td>
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<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Oliver E, Scott D, Sienna P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Ava L, Eddie G, Nick J</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5T</td>
<td>Luke H, Izzy S, Jacinta D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5D</td>
<td>Blake K, Caitlin B, Mayu G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6W</td>
<td>Finlay E, Ella M, Tom S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6R</td>
<td>Katie Mc, Lui C, Chloe L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Ella G, Gemma G, Nick N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten award recipients.