Dear Gosford East families,

Parent Teacher Evenings
Thank you to all parents and guardians who have been able to take the time to come along to our Parent Teacher Information sessions this week. The teachers would like to acknowledge your kindness and support.

Medication
Our policy on the administration of prescribed medicines and tablets is based on Department of Education and training guidelines. Most medication for children these days can be administered at home before and after school. If this is not possible and needs to be given at school, could you please clearly label with your child’s name and the prescribed dosage. Medication must be given to office staff by a parent and it is the responsibility of the child to come to the office to have the dose, as well as to collect this at the end of the day. Parents are required to complete and sign the authority to administer medication note held at the office. No medication is to be left in children’s bags.

Parent Helpers
Research shows that when schools work in partnership with parents, outcomes for student learning are enhanced. I encourage all parents to take an active role in their child’s education. Parents are always welcome in the school whether it be to assist with school programs, attend school assemblies or to speak to teachers (by appointment). If you would like to know how to best assist your child’s education just contact the teacher of your choice or the school office on 4325 2178.

READING - Wednesday 6th March - World Read Aloud Day
Learning to read is a complex process. For children to read well, they need to develop a range of reading strategies. Reading and writing are closely connected. When children learn to read and write, they learn about how language is used for different purposes and different audiences.

Stage 1 - In Kindergarten to Year 2 children learn gradually to:
• understand that written text has meaning
• read literary texts such as stories, and factual texts that give information such as procedures, e.g. recipes, instructions
• recognise the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make
• use terms associated with books, such as author, illustrator, cover, title, page, contents, index, glossary
Principal’s Report cont.

• predict what a text will be about using such things as cover, title, illustrations and photos
• read their own writing to others
• blend sounds to produce a word, e.g. `d-o-g’
• break words into syllables, e.g. teach/er
• recognise words, full stops, capital letters and spaces between words
• recognise a number of sight words
• use appropriate vocal pitch, intonation and pace when reading aloud
• talk about illustrations and diagrams, and how these add to the meaning in texts
• read silently for short periods of time.

Stage 2 - In Years 3 to 4 children learn gradually to:
• read and retell a variety of texts read and/or viewed
• use knowledge of letter patterns to read new texts
• break words into syllables
• ‘sound out’ unfamiliar words
• correct mistakes in reading by pausing, rereading and/or reading on
• prepare, rehearse and read aloud stories, poems and scripted drama
• use appropriate pause and emphasis when reading aloud
• read and retell literary texts such as stories, folktales, traditional and contemporary fairy tales
• adjust their reading strategies for different texts, e.g. read for pleasure, scan texts to find information
• make comparisons between the ways information is presented in TV documentaries, news bulletins, encyclopaedias and newsletters
• explore character and gender stereotyping in texts
• discuss point of view in texts
• make comparisons between what they are reading and their own personal experiences
• read silently for an extended period of time.

Stage 3 - In Years 5 to 6 children learn gradually to:
• read aloud using appropriate pitch, pause, emphasis and intonation
• read and view a wide variety of texts
• consider characters and events in texts from different characters' points of view
• identify patterns in factual texts, e.g. instructions, editorials and essays
• identify patterns in media texts such as newspaper articles, radio drama and soapies
• explore how technology shapes media texts such as talk-back radio, television news and newspaper articles
• discuss the role of advertising in shaping texts
• use strategies such as skimming and scanning to find information
• use self-correcting reading strategies such as rereading and reading on
• use library technologies such as subject, keyword, author searches, data bases and CD-ROMs to locate resources
• evaluate information from different sources for accuracy and appropriateness for intended audience
• read silently for a sustained period of time.
Supporting your Child in Learning to Read

Reading should be enjoyable for you and your child. If your child becomes distressed or loses interest when reading at home, take a break from reading and try again later. All children, regardless of age, like to be read to. Make a special time whenever possible for reading with your child away from interruptions. You can help your child in reading when you:

- show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can
- provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, e.g. stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines, children's recipe books
- point out words on street signs, packets and labels
- encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations
- reread favourite books
- talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a TV guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book, an encyclopaedia
- point out the different size and shape of words
- point out the first sound of a word and encourage your child to think of other words that begin with the same sound
- encourage your child to read books for enjoyment as well as for information
- praise your child when they are reading, e.g. `well done - that was a difficult word'
- encourage a positive attitude to books
- encourage your child to talk about characters and events in texts
- encourage your child to make sound effects for the characters and events
- ask your child to think of possible beginnings and endings for stories read and heard
- praise your child when they are reading
  `sound out' difficult words and/or give clues to the meaning of difficult words
- encourage your child to have a go at reading words that are unfamiliar
- ask your child to read on past the unknown word to gain clues from the rest of the sentence
- show your child how to find the meanings of unfamiliar words in dictionaries
- encourage your child to watch films and videos of books they have read
- talk about the ways in which a film version of a book compares with the print version
- encourage your child to borrow books from the library.

If your child is having difficulty with reading, or not enjoying reading, ask your child's teacher for help.

Warm regards,

Cherie Bourke
Principal Gosford East (Acting)
Dates for your calendar

REMEMBER - Canteen is always closed on Tuesdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>Every month</td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting in staffroom 7:30pm – All Welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>Uniform Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Every week</td>
<td>School Assembly from 1:45pm</td>
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TERM 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>GEPS Swimming Carnival Ribbon presentation at School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See item below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>Brainstorm Years K – 6</td>
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<td>$6 due by Friday 8th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>Northcott Swimming Carnival K-4W</td>
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<td>18th March to 28th March</td>
<td>Swim Scheme – K-4W &amp; 3-6M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>10am – 2pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26th March</td>
<td>Epilepsy Day – Wear purple for a gold coin donation</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1st April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>GEPS Cross Country</td>
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NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 2013</th>
<th>Students' First Day</th>
<th>Students' Last Day</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 30th January 2013 ‘Yrs 1 – 6 Mon 4th February 2013 for new Kindy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 12th April 2013</td>
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<td>Term 2 2013</td>
<td>Wed 1st May 2013</td>
<td>Fri 28th June 2013</td>
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<td>Term 3 2013</td>
<td>Tues 16th July 2013</td>
<td>Fri 20th September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 2013</td>
<td>Tues 8th October 2013</td>
<td>Wed 18th December 2013</td>
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News from the Office

I extend a reminder to all that if at any time you find that you have a concern about anything to do with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and tell someone so that your concern can be resolved. It is our aim to work with all of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to ensure a productive, safe and enjoyable experience for our students and parent/carers. However, should you feel that you must raise a concern formally, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. A Complaints and Compliments Form is available from the school office.

Julie Griffith
School Admin Manager

The Lunar Calendar and Year of the Snake

The Chinese year 4710 begins on 10 February 2013 and is the Lunar Year of the Snake. Although the solar calendar is the most commonly used calendar today, many cultures around the world continue to use the older lunar (moon) calendar to identify annual dates for cultural and religious festivals. The lunar calendar is based on a twelve year cycle with the start of each lunar month determined by the moon. The complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five cycles of twelve years each. The beginning of each lunar year can fall anywhere between late January and mid February.

Each of the twelve lunar year signs are named after an animal. According to legend these were nominated by Lord Buddha and there are various explanations for their choice and order. In one legend Lord Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Only twelve came, and Lord Buddha named a year after each one. In another, the animals were rewarded for their attendance at Lord Buddha’s departure from the world. In the order they arrived the animals were Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. Lord Buddha announced that people born in each animal’s year would have some of that animal’s personality.

Ben Wilkinson & Sue Callachor

Community Notices and Paid Advertising:

This school newsletter contains paid advertisements which assist with the cost of publication. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW DEC or Gosford East Public School.

APOLLO NETBALL CLUB

The Apollo Netball Club East Gosford was established in 1972. The club is alive and well and is desperately seeking girls who are turning 11 this year to play in their 11s team. We are also looking for girls who are turning 7, 8, 15 and also any Mums who would like to play. First day of play is 6th April. Join up, have fun, get fit and make friends!

Contact Wendy Kiss 0419 975 376 or go to www.apollonetball.com.au

St Edwards RLFC

Players wanted for the 2013 season
U/6’s to U/16’s and open age
U/7’s and U/8’s (FREE registration to new boys to the club in this age group only. Includes insurance, shorts & socks.)
This offer is sponsored by Battery Allsorts West Gosford.
For any more information please contact:
Megan Kirby: 0405 141 481
Wayne Clarke: 0409 234 066

Warehouse Book Sale

40 to 90% off EVERYTHING!

Wed 6, Thurs 7 March
9am to 5.30pm
& Fri 8 March
9am to 1pm

Scholastic Warehouse
Gate 3, Building 2
76 - 80 Railway Crescent, Lisarow
Payment methods: EFTPOS, cash, cheques, Visa,
MasterCard and school accounts. No trade exchanges.
www.scholastic.com.au

Scholastic
World’s Largest Publisher of Children’s Books
Hi Everyone

Easter is coming very fast and we will be again having our hot cross bun drive. Hot cross buns and other treats will be available to order for pickup on Wednesday 27th March (just before the long weekend). Don’t forget that items are to be picked up from school between 11:30am and 2:00pm however if there is a problem and you need an alternative arrangement made please let me know. A separate flyer will be out this week so show your families, friends and neighbours.

From Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March it is Harmony Week and we will have special international lunch packs available for the children to choose from. Please see the attached flyer.

Don’t forget to check the roster if you have any time that you can spare. There are many vacancies.

Thanks
Jo C
HARMONY WEEK LUNCH SPECIALS

AUSsIE PIE & MILK $4.50
MEDITERRANEAN SPAGHETTI OR LASAGNE & MILK $5.50
AMERICAN HOT DOG & SAUCE & MILK $4.80
CHINESE FRIED RICE & MILK $5.50
HALAL HOT CHICKEN ROLL & MILK $5.00

YOUR FAVOURITE 2 YUMMY DRUMMIES & MILK $4.10

LUNCH SPECIAL AVAILABLE TO FRIDAY 22ND MARCH.
NO PREORDERING NEEDED.
NORMAL MENU WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

MONDAY 18TH MARCH