FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Welcome to a new year at Gosford East. We have had a very smooth start to the year, in fact the smoothest I have had in the many years that I have been here. A very big welcome to all our new students and their families. We have many students that have joined us from other schools and I thank you for choosing our great school.

Due to the large influx of students we nearly have the numbers to form another class. This of course may or may not happen in the short term. All of our classes are very full and if we do have some new enrolments over the next few weeks we may form another class which would result in some minor changes. We of course will consult with you about any changes should this occur.

NEW KINDERGARTEN

This year we have 60 new Kindergartens that started at our school yesterday. They have settled in so well already and I thank our staff and their parents for helping make this happen. Our Kindy kids all have their Year 5 and 6 buddies and it was so heartening to see the care that our senior students have shown already for their buddies. They will stay very close for the next little while until they are settled.

P & C

We have a quite small but extremely active P & C that do so much for the school. They provide so much for the school and give us lots of advice and support. The next meeting is on Tuesday 9th February in the Staffroom commencing at 7:00pm. Coffee and Tea will be available from 6:45pm. Your attendance at this meeting will be most welcomed.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our Swimming Carnival is on Monday 8th February at Gosford Pool commencing at around 9:30am. This is for students in Years 3-6 and for students in Year 2 that wish to participate and who turn 8 this year. Your attendance at the carnival is welcomed and we are always looking for assistance with help on the day. If you can help, please see Mark Emery at the carnival.
Our Class Information Night is being held on Wednesday 17th February. K-2 sessions will start at 5:00pm until 5:30pm. Years 3 and 4 from 5:30pm – 6:00pm and Years 5 and 6 will be on between 6:00 – 6:30pm. More information will be given out next week. This evening is not for individual interviews but so you can get general information on the how the class and or Stage will operate. It is very informative and will give you an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher.

Graeme McLeod
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDER

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<td>Text Book Buying Day</td>
<td>8th Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>9th Feb</td>
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<td>17th Feb</td>
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REGULAR EVENTS...

- Student Banking - Monday
- School Assembly – 1:45pm Friday in hall
- Uniform Shop – see Jo in canteen

SPORT NEWS

Last Friday we had the elections for the 2016 Sport Captains.
Congratulations to:

- **Chakola** - Captains: Oliver & Thalia
  Vice Captains: Liam & Talia C

- **Warrimoo** - Captains: Jackson & Kayla
  Vice Captains: Logan & Ebony

- **Kiara** - Captains: Larna & Lachlan
  Vice Captains: Eliza & Elijah

- **Carathool** - Captains: Sam & Tahlia
  Vice Captains: Tom & Mia

These wonderful students will be presented with their badges this Friday at the assembly.
Office News

New Finance System

During Term 1 and 2 both Nicole and myself will be attending an intensive training program for the introduction of a new finance system for schools. This will mean we will have new people in the office covering either one of us for a large portion of these terms. We are in the process of training two new ladies but as they have not worked in schools before they are starting from scratch. I thank you all in advance for your patience and understanding during this transition time.

Voluntary School Contributions

The voluntary school contribution for 2016 is $45.00 per student.

These funds are used to purchase art, craft and other consumable items for individual use in classrooms. These items are not funded by the government but must come out of the school’s budget.

This contribution can now be sent in via your child in a clearly marked envelope with your child’s name, class and what the payment is for. Envelopes are available outside the school office.

Payment Envelopes

Payment envelopes are available at the parent desk outside the school office. Please use these envelopes to send in payments for your child. These envelopes should be returned with the correct money/cheque and the permission note sealed inside, with your child by the due date. Please ensure you put the child’s full name as it appears on their enrolment form and their class name.

Envelopes are then handed by your child to their teacher in class and sent to the Office for receipting. Receipts are sent back to the class for distribution by the classroom teacher each day. Alternatively, envelopes can be handed in to the front office for receipting. The envelopes have a section for credit card payments to be sent in and processed manually as well.

EFTPOS is still available in the office between 9am and 3pm.

Canberra Excursion

Just a reminder that our Stage 3 students are off to Canberra this year. The dates for Canberra are Wednesday 30th March to Friday 1st April. The next instalment of $80 is due by Friday 12th February, with the final payment or total payment ($320.00) due by Friday 26th February.

Soon you will receive some more information about the trip with some medical information forms we will need completed. These forms are compulsory to be completed or your child will not be able to attend the excursion.

Student with Health Conditions

If your child suffers from a health condition like asthma, allergy etc you will need to complete up to date forms for 2016. We will send home new forms soon. Can you please ensure you complete them and return them promptly to the office.
FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed address, phone numbers or would like to update your emergency contact details, can you please send a written note in to the school office with the new details. Alternatively you can collect a change of details form from the office. It is most important that your details are up to date for medical or other emergencies or for teachers to be able to contact you about your child.

SPARE CLOTHES

We need donations of old school clothes for our sick bay. We have some very little clothes so really need larger sizes 10, 12 and 14. If you have any old school clothes that you could donate please drop them off to the office.

GOSFORD POLICE

We have been advised by Gosford Police Station that they have a school bag belonging to one of our students at their station. The information that they have is the name KALVIN and the initials or class KE.

Gosford Police Station would like to speak to the owner/family. If this is your bag please contact Senior Constable Brooke Howard on 4323 5642 at the Gosford Anti Theft Unit.”

Julie Griffith

School Admin Manager

SCHOOL BANKING

As you are probably aware, we have been asking for new volunteers for school banking for some time now. Tracey, one of our long time school banking volunteers, has changed work days this year and also only has this year left at the school. Tracey has volunteered to change the day of school banking for four weeks, commencing Tuesday 9th February, to help train a new school banking volunteer. If we are unable to find someone new to take on the position, school banking will be discontinued.

School banking only takes up two hours of your time, one day a week. All that is involved is counting the children’s banking, entering into the CBA school banking portal, ordering rewards when required and taking the banking to the bank and dropping into the deposit bin at the bank.

If you think this is something you would like to volunteer for, please leave a message with the office and Tracey or one of the P&C members will contact you.

Until further notice, school banking will now be on MONDAYS, commencing on Monday 8th February 2016.

Thank you,

Darren Owen

P&C
LIBRARY NEWS

This year’s World Read Aloud Day is on Wednesday 24\textsuperscript{th} February. We will keep this as a small event this year with Community News about the importance of Reading Aloud to Young Children being published in the Newsletter, plus a Secret Guest Story Teller at Recess in the Library and at lunch time a selection of Senior Students will read to small groups in special areas around our playground, plus I will create an online forum where children, parents and carers can post an online review about a favourite book they have shared together.

I hope you will not be disappointed that we will not have parents and carers visiting your class this year. Felt it would be nice to shake up the format and impress upon families to be sharing books aloud.

Thanks,

Lyndall Coles
Teacher Librarian

P & C NEWS

P & C FUNDRAISER – WEST GOSFORD BUNNINGS BBQ

Saturday Feb 20\textsuperscript{th} from 6:30am till 4pm.

This is a great fundraiser and we have made over $1,000 before. We need plenty of helpers on the day to work in 2 hour shifts. A note will be sent home this week – so please keep an eye out for it in your kid’s bags.

Check the “Gosford East Public School P&C” Facebook page, School App and P&C Information board in the Canteen Foyer for more info.
Welcome back everybody. Our GEPS P&C is back in action ready for 2016!!

Our Canteen Manager, Jo C has been busy with Uniforms and the Canteen is fridges are filling back up with food.

Next week there are Swim Carnival Special Lunches avail on Monday 8th (pre order) and on Wednesday 10th it is Pancake Day (pre order) – so dont miss out!

To keep up to date with Canteen news please join the “GEPS Canteen & Uniform Shop”.

Our P&C group meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month in school terms.

All welcome to come along and help make school a great place for all our kids.

Please make a note of these dates:

Next P&C Meeting is Tuesday Feb 9th from 6.45pm for start at 7pm.

The P&C AGM is on Tuesday Mar 8th – all exec positions eg President, Vice Pres, Secretary, Treasurer ...

Also March 2nd is the Official P&C Day – so we will be planning something to celebrate.

**REVIEW OF P & C IN 2015**

Businesses who contributed to P&C in 2015 – Anibal Zarate (Gourmet Organic Herbs), Micheals Restaurant (East Gosford), Gosford SES, East Gosford IGA, NSW Clubs Grant, all the gardening donations from Bunnings and Masters, KAS donation of $100, H&H catering (year 6 farewell party food), Amart Cash back scheme, CBA school banking cash back scheme, Scholastic Book Club cash back scheme and all the businesses From Mel H’s Xmas Raffle prizes list.

List of P&C activities during 2015

1. P&C paid for the 3 school entries to Operation Art
2. P&C finalised payment of $15,000 for Ipdas from 2014
3. P&C paid for the End of Year trophies, medals, certificates and Merit Awards $1500
4. Ran the Election BBQ in March 2015
5. Mother’s day Stall
6. Term 1, 2 and 3 school discos run by Fundraising Coordinator Mel Hogston
7. Father’s day Stall
8. Biggest Morning Tea – Money raised for Cancer Research
9. Billy G Cookie Dough fundraiser
10. School Banking coordination
11. The 2015 Teachers Wish list – P&C donated $6,000. This money was spent on purchasing Charge and Sync Units for ipads/tablets (that were bought by P&C 2014) and 50% of the Literacy Readers. School paid for the rest of the Literacy reader expenses, in order to purchase the whole set needed for Stage K – 2.
12. P&C received a NSW Clubs Grant for $1500 for a large sports sunshade and a teardrop banner. This grant money was combined with the proceeds of the Erina Hoyts Movie fundraiser organised by Teacher Lorrell Masters.
13. School Christmas Raffle

14. President Darren Owen sends out the newsletter by email every week.

15. Secretary Wendy Whitmore writes a P&C News section in the newsletter each week, posts in the P&C Facebook account and updates the P&C information board in the Canteen foyer.

16. Canteen Manager Jo C has updated the canteen menu, started a Facebook account and set up a sushi ordering on Thursdays and Fridays.

She also runs the uniform shop every Friday afternoon and selling uniform directly from the canteen too.

17. P&C arranged for Gosford SES to remove many overhanging tree branches around school.

18. The GEPS Green Team planned, built and planted the new school garden beds by the Canteen and planted fruit trees in the Orchard. Had 2 working bees working all around the school involving the school community. Arranged a Green Living Workshop run by Gosford City Council, where participations went home with a free worm farm or compost bin.

The Green team also improved the Memorial Garden, planted in the garden beds and set up a vertical garden in the support unit area.

19. P&C wrote a letter to Gosford City Council regarding parking issues around school.

20. Canteen Survey was sent home and got nearly 80 replies; the findings will be implemented in the canteen where appropriate for 2016.


22. Ran the BBQ at the School Showcase at Erina High School, all profits going towards next year’s Creative Arts Program at school.

23. Helped run the kindy orientation program every year.

New members always welcome to assist with ideas and running events.

Wendy Whitmore
P & C Secretary

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**NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

The option to have the weekly newsletter and other information delivered direct to your inbox is now available.

If you wish to subscribe to this service please email: gepps.news@gmail.com

Your message should include the word “ADD” in the subject line and just your first and second name in the message area.

*This email address is being managed by volunteers on behalf of the P&C and the school and is for information distribution only. No question, comments or requests will be answered by this means.*
Hi Everyone,

Welcome to new families and welcome back to those from last year!
A very busy start to Term 1 so far!

Please remember that pancake orders need to be in by Friday the February. If you have a child with special dietary needs and would like to send in your own pancakes to go to the class with the others, please feel free to do so on Wednesday 10th Feb.

Swimming Carnival Lunch orders also need to be in by Friday 5th Feb. Remember that normal recess and lunches are available for those students remaining at school.

Sushi will return in Week 4. Sushi will be available Thursdays and Fridays only, and MUST be pre-ordered by 9:00am Wednesdays. Notes will come home soon.
A new menu will also come out in Week 4.

Rosters are just being finalised. If you haven’t heard from me yet, please give me a call or pop in and see me.
Lastly if you are on Facebook, we have a GEPS Canteen & Uniform shop group that you have to ask to join. This is where you will find copies of notes, menus, price lists and also specials that we may have from time to time.

Thanks
Jo C

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.

ERINA EAGLES

Returning players & new to league players register online NOW @ www.erinajuniors.com.au

Contact Michele 0438 728 326 or Kylie 0434 549 761

Registration assistance days as follows: The Eagle Clubhouse, Erina Oval Tuesday 16th Feb, Thursday 18th Feb & Thursday 25th Feb 4.30-6pm
Fee $135 per child
Includes training shirt, socks, shorts and insurances (club polo for new players)
Registrations after these dates will be taken at the clubhouse on Tues/Thur 5-6pm.
Players that have registered online – Gear collection will be Saturday Feb 27th.
eagles@erinajuniors.com.au, registrar@erinajuniors.com.au
PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE
WITH
GOSFORD KARIONG STORM
UNDER 6'S – 17'S
FAMILY ORIENTATED. FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.
ENQUIRIES: Renee 0402190282 or Claire 0420424807
Registration Days: 13th February @ Wyoming Shopping Centre
+ 20th February @ Amart Sports West Gosford
10am-2pm.
Or come to training Wednesdays & Fridays 5.30pm @ Narara Valley High School.
Fees: $130 includes insurance, shorts, socks, & club shirt
Family discounts & payment plans available.