Off To A Great Start!
If you’ve been in a blur about starting the school year, can I just say, "We’ve had an awesome beginning!" A huge thanks to students and staff for making the first real week of school a blast! Learning has begun, routines have been engaged, and yes, even homework has surfaced.

94 Kinders have begun settling into their routines and our School Swimming Carnival was a big success. Thanks to all families for their patience and support throughout the first two weeks. Our numbers have officially settled at 528 students. This creates new challenges in itself, but the staff have enthusiastically embraced providing maximum opportunities for our students.

Traffic Issues Reminder
One area where we could do better is with parking in the mornings and afternoons. There is no doubt there are challenges in this area, but we ask that people respect our neighbours and people obey rules around parking signs. The Council Rangers do get called to do random checks and fines are very expensive. Remember if you get fined in the Bus Zone, you also lose points as well. Our school Traffic Committee is working hard to gain improvements, but if people follow the rules it will help in itself. We will be putting general reminders in the newsletter for your information.

P&C Meeting - Wednesday 13th February
An important reminder that our first P&C Meeting will be held this Wednesday 13th Feb from 7:30pm in the Staff Room. I will be outlining our plans for the year in detail. We hope to see as many parents there as possible. Our P&C does an incredible job for our students and it needs your support to run well.

Swimming Carnival
A short note to thank all the parent volunteers for their help at the Swimming Carnival. Also to Mr Cashman and our hardworking staff - a job well done. The students competed with enthusiasm and grace. Well Done!

Close Encounter this Friday 15th Feb
This Friday asteroid 2012 DA14 will pass desperately close to our precious Earth. Telescopes have been pointed at this giant space rock to determine its orbit and trajectory since it was first sighted 12 months ago. The result is sensational, 2012 DA14 is on a near collision course with Earth. The errant rock will skim Earth just 25,000km above our heads. It will miss the International Space Station and the Hubble space telescope and pass below some communication satellites. Astronomers say the massive rock is about the size of a 50m swimming pool and travelling at about 28,000kph. It could make a big hole, but will pass without damage. The asteroid will move from South to North and be visible from Point Clare with binoculars and small telescopes, as a point of light in the night sky. It will be so close that researchers will be able to study this Near Earth Object in detail.

The Earth has the scars of many past encounters with large rocks. Massive craters evidence these explosive direct hits. The Earth’s surface would look like the pot-marked Moon if we did not have an atmosphere. Our atmosphere shields us from most collisions and also buries the evidence of past collisions. Our deep atmosphere burns up medium sized meteorites before they reach the surface and weathers and erodes the collision sites of rocks that do plough into the surface.

(With thanks to Avondale School Newsletter)
Swimming Carnival Report 2013

We Finished By The Skin Of Our Teeth!

Congratulations to all of the children who participated in the school swimming carnival last Thursday. It was great to see so many children trying their best.

Changes 2013

In the newsletter last week it was explained that we have changed sports zones and we are now part of Brisbane Water Zone. The Brisbane Water Zone has qualifying times for swimmers to attend the zone carnival. The 200m Individual Medley and the 100m Freestyle have qualifying times that all entrants must have achieved at their school carnival in order to swim at the zone carnival. In all other events, if you came first in the race you automatically qualify. However the swimmer coming second has to have made the qualifying time in order to swim at the zone carnival. I will display a copy of these times for those who are interested.

The other change will be the calculation of winners for all of our sporting carnivals this year. For a few years now the numbers of children in each house has been quite uneven. To make this fair we are going to divide the points attained at the carnival by the number of people in each house to decide the winner.

Results

Congratulations to Wambina House who won this year’s carnival. In second place was Girrakool. In third place was Katandra and in fourth place was Rumbalara.

Swimming Champions for 2013

Junior Boy- Tim Cuthbert 11yrs Boy- Alex Shedden 11yrs Girl- Skye Regan 11yrs Boy- Alex Shedden 11yrs Girl- Skye Regan Senior Boy- Cooper Boelhouwer Senior Girl- Emily Chung

When we hire the pool for our carnival we are only hiring the 6 lanes of the main pool. Children should not be in the other pools, even if they are with their parents. This makes supervising the children much more manageable. The management does allow us to give the non swimmers a small play in the small pool between lessons. This is always under strict supervision from a teacher.

Next year we are hoping to hire the full 8 lanes of the pool. This will help us to get through the carnival as our school numbers grow.

In the near future the children who have qualified for the Zone Swimming Carnival will be notified and the children who gained places at our carnival will receive their ribbons.

Finally a special thank-you to the parents who helped with timekeeping on the day. Our carnival could not run as smoothly without your help. Thanks to Mrs Barnard, Mr Monaghan, Mrs Rivers and Mrs Cashion. Thank-you also to the teachers who worked all day without a break. The school appreciate your efforts. Colin Cashman – Organiser

Weetbix Kids TRYathlon

Point Clare Public School had an excellent representation at this year’s Weetbix Kids TRYathlon held the 20/01/2013. The Kids TRYathlon has become the world’s largest Kids TRYathlon, held in Australia / New Zealand and this year it had close to 35,000 kids taking part.

Each child that completed the event received a medal and they started their year as WINNERS!!! There were plenty of Point Clare kids taking part – WELL DONE to you all. Let’s aim for a group photo next year. Some participants were Grace Foskett, Taylem Barnard, Mia Foskett, Bianca Moran, Brianna Irvine, Will Rivers, Beccy Casey and Jessica Rivers.

Well Done Taylem

Taylem Barnard competed in her first weekend Swimming Carnival last weekend. She competed in 3 races, 50m Free Style, 50m Breast Stroke and 100m Free Style (open age).

Taylem swam two personal best times in both 50m races. Due to her times in the 50m Free Style, she has now been selected to compete in the 2013 NSW Country Championships held on Sat 23 Feb.

Taylem, you have done a great job and all the very best!!!

Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 12th</th>
<th>Text Book Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th</td>
<td>Gymnastics 1R &amp; 2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th</td>
<td>Gym KA, KC, KL, KMC, K/1R, 1H, 1T, 2E, 2FN</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Tuesday 19th</th>
<th>Last day payment for K-2 Gymnastics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th</td>
<td>Gymnastics 1R &amp; 2A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21</td>
<td>Gym KA, KC, KL, KMC, K/1R, 1H, 1T, 2E, 2FN</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: Harmony Day “Cultural Infusion” will be held on March 22nd not the 12th as advised on the Bulk Payment note.

Book Club

Due Thursday 14th February - Late orders will not be accepted.
Volunteer Workers
A reminder that all volunteers need to sign in at the school office upon arrival at the school and sign out when leaving the school. New Voluntary workers need to be given a safety booklet and inducted by Mr Harris.

Health Update
Chicken Pox has been reported in the school again. Symptoms are slight fever, runny nose and a rash that begins as raised pink spots and then blister and scab. Children need to be kept at home for 5 days after the rash first appears and until the blisters have all scabbed over. Immunisation is available for children over 12 years old.

Environmental Fundraiser
We want your old mobile phones! This term, we are taking part in the Australian Mobile Recycling Scheme. Approximately 1 million mobile phones were purchased this Christmas break. This means there are approximately 1 million unwanted mobiles sitting in homes/offices all over Australia right now.

By simply recycling unwanted mobile phones we can raise hundreds of dollars for our school. Every mobile phone collected is worth $3 CASH for our school whether it is working or not.

HOW IT WORKS
1. Donate unwanted mobile phones by placing them in the collection box outside the staffroom. Appeal to family, friends and colleagues to donate their old phones too.
2. The school will arrange a free courier collection at the end of the term. So please round up as many mobiles as you can and drop them in the collection box before Friday, 12th April.
3. Payment will be made directly to the school - $3 per phone.

For example, that means if we collect:
100 mobile phones = $300 cash
300 mobiles = $900 cash
All money raised will be invested back into our school environment. We are hoping to raise enough money to complete our Reconciliation Sensory Bush Tucker Garden! If your local business is happy to house a collection box on the schools behalf, please contact the school to arrange this.

Ingrid Hasler - (Environmental Education Coordinator)

Board Game – Donations please
If you have any unwanted (intact) board games at home please consider donating them to the school for Mr McNeill’s classroom. Donations can be given directly to Mr McNeill (4M)

Sick Bay Roster – Can you help?
If you are able to help the school by being on the sick bay roster for a few weeks of the year please complete the following slip and return it to the office as soon as possible. This mainly involves occasionally washing the linen from the sick bay. Thank you.

Rose Clark – Co-ordinator

Sick Bay Roster
Name: ________________
Phone number: _______________________
Child’s Name ___________________ Class: ______

Community News...
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups
Gosford Group meets the first Monday of the month 9:30am – 11:30am during school term at Phillip House, 21 Old Mt Penang Rd, Kariong
For more information phone 4340 1585.

Sports Coaching Peninsula Leisure Centre Woy Woy
Drop-in soccer and netball coaching for juniors is on again this year. Monday Afternoons at the Peninsula Leisure Centre. Soccer at 4.00pm-5.00pm @ $8 each. Netball 5.00pm-6.00pm @ $8 each. Runs the school terms for 6-8 years and 9-12 years.
Phone: (02) 02 4325 8123
tim.peterson-hampshire@gosford.nsw.gov.au

Attention Catholics
The Catholic Parish or Woy Woy Peninsula is starting a program to prepare children in Year 3 and above, who have been Confirmed and have made their First Reconciliation to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. A Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday 14th February 2012 at 7:30pm in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy Enquiries Parish Office 4341 1073
Safety Outside Schools

NO STOPPING

BUS ZONE
8.00am - 9.30am
2.30pm - 4.00pm
SCHOOL DAYS

NO PARKING
8.00am - 9.30am
2.30pm - 4.00pm
SCHOOL DAYS

Kids look to YOU to keep them safe
No Parking zones have been installed at various schools to help parents and carers safely drop off and pick up children. For the zone to work effectively, parents and carers are asked to:

• Stop for no longer than 2 minutes – your child must exit or enter the car within this time.
• Remain within 3 metres of the vehicle – you may get out to help with bags etc.
• Stop their vehicle as close as possible to the top of the zone to allow access for vehicles following behind.

Dragon’s Teeth Markers are white triangles painted onto the road surface to remind drivers to SLOW DOWN to 40km/h during school zone times. School zone times may vary between individual schools but generally they are:

MORNINGS: 8.00am – 9.30am on School Days
AFTERNOONS: 2.30pm – 4.00pm on School Days

From March 2010, children aged 0-7yrs of age MUST be seated in an appropriate child restraint.

A school safety message brought to you by Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils.
February P & C Meeting
Wednesday February 13 2013 at 7.30pm
The new look 2013 P & C team are looking forward to the first meeting of the year! We hope to see many new and familiar faces on Wednesday night at 7.30pm in the school staff room.

I would firstly like to thank all 2012 P & C members for their fantastic contributions and achievements during the past year. Additionally, I would like to welcome and congratulate all new 2013 P & C members.

Your new look 2013 P & C Team is as follows:

Executive
President: Phil Harland
1st Vice President: Amanda Dickey
2nd Vice President: Angela Mitchell
Treasurer: Alison Falkingham
Secretary: Katherine Golden

SUB COMMITTEES
Canteen/Uniform
Convenor: Nicole Stammers
Scribe: Jo Monaghan
Members: Kayla McNeill

Environment Committee
Convenor: Theresa Rogers
Treasurer: Lauren Taylor
Scribe: Nicole Stammers
Members: Rea Hawkins

Fundraising
Convenor: Jo Monaghan
Assistant Convenor: Kayla McNeill
Members: Jenny Watt

Additional P & C Committee Representatives
Finance Committee: Katherine Golden
Regional: Jenny Moes
School Council: Amanda Dickey
Sustainability: Amanda Dickey
Welfare Committee: Teresa Rogers

POSITIONS VACANT:
While many of our positions have been filled, there are still a number of vacancies:
- Canteen/Uniform Shop Treasurer
- Canteen/Uniform Shop Committee Members
- Fundraising Committee Members
- Environment Committee Members

Remember, all are welcome, so come along to a meeting to find out more about how you can help your school community.

Katherine Golden
P & C Secretary

Canteen: 

It was great this past week having so many new visitors to the canteen! Our Thursday K-2 intro to the canteen went really well, it was lovely having so many big smiles from so many faces!

We’d like to thank those mums and dads who have made time to volunteer in the canteen, or have handed in a volunteer interest form.

We are still looking for more volunteers to help fill our roster if you are available on Wednesday or Thursday, we’d love to hear from you. Helping out in the canteen is a great way to support our school and your kids/nieces/ nephews/ grandkids love seeing you behind the counter.

Chris is finding her feet in the canteen after a very busy first two weeks of school. We appreciate everyone’s support as she settles into her new role.

Thank you, Canteen & Uniform shop sub-committee

Uniform Shop: OPENING HOURS: Tues 8.30-9.30am

The legend team of Uniform shop volunteers has seen the school through another start to the year- thank you to Linda and her fabulous team who have seen all our kids into their uniforms for 2013.

There are many from this team who are moving on this year as they take on new responsibilities or see their children move on to high school. We would like to thank all those who have helped in the Uniform shop and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Linda herself is amongst those moving on, and we would like to particularly thank her for all her service and for staying on into 2013 to help Chris and the new uniform & canteen sub-committee learn the ropes.

We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in joining this warm and welcoming team, if you think this may be a good fit for you please fill in an interest form which can be found on the website, or on the canteen notice board.

Remember that if you can’t make it to the Uniform Shop’s new opening times, (Tuesday 8.30-9.30am), you can leave an order at the school office and your order will be delivered to your child in their classroom.

Thank you, Canteen & Uniform shop sub-committee

School Banking
Remember School banking has now moved to Wednesday!

Happy savings!

Liz, Odette & Robyn, School Banking Team