**GUNDAROO PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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“EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS IN A CARING ENVIRONMENT”

**NEWSLETTER**

**Tuesday 2nd September 2014—Term 3, Week 8**

### Important Dates To Remember!

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| Tuesday 2nd September | GOSH Meeting 7pm  
P&C Meeting 7.30                        |
| Friday 5th September | Dance lessons  
CAPA Assembly 2pm  
“Aussie of the Month”  
Athletics Medals     |
| Monday 8th September | School Spelling Bee 9am                    |
| Wednesday 10th September | Spelling Bee - Sunshine Bay                |

### Term Dates

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<td>Friday 19th September</td>
<td>Term 3 ends</td>
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<td>Tuesday 7th October</td>
<td>Term 4 begins</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17th December</td>
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| Thursday 27th November | CLAIM THE DATE!  
School Concert & Annual Prize Giving - 6pm |

Dear Parents

We had a very excited student body yesterday morning as 5/6 prepared to leave for camp. K-4 children lined the fence and farewelled them in a wonderfully exuberant fashion. I’m sure they’ll all have a fabulous time.

Sue Kominek

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**TONIGHT 2nd September**

GOSH meeting at 7pm.  
P&C meeting at 7.30pm.  
*All welcome to attend.*

**Assembly 2pm**

On Friday we will be holding our final CAPA Assembly (Creative and Performing Arts) at 2pm. Kinder will be doing Circus Skills; Years 1 & 2—Drama; Years 3 & 4—Craft; Years 5 & 6—Marimbas. We will also be presenting our Athletics Champions’ medals and our “Aussie of the Month”.

**WELCOME**

On Monday Hannah and Elise will begin attending Gundaroo Public School. Hannah will be going into Kinder, and Elise into Yr 1. We welcome the whole family: Mum - Norelle and Dad - Guy to our school community. They have bought in Bellmount Forest and come to us from W.A. We trust they really enjoy their time with us.

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**“ENVIROMENTORS” K-6**

On Wednesday, 27th August, had an environment show come to school. The show was entitled “In the Bin” and is about recycling. Each class got their own 1 hour show. 3/4 were rewarded, because if akk their prior research, with the Year 6 lesson. We are very thankful to Yass Valley Council who is paying for the day’s visit.
Spelling Bee 3-6

Sorry for the late notice, but the District Spelling Bee is on at Sunshine Bay P.S., in Batemans Bay, on Wednesday, 10th September. Juniors (Years 3&4) compete from 9.30 am (registration 9am) and seniors (Years 5&6) compete from 12.30pm (registration 12 noon). To give everyone the best possible chance to learn their words, we’ll hold the school final on Monday, 8th September at 9am.

ACT Primary Concert Band

On Tuesday, 16th September, the ACT Primary Concert Band is coming to perform a free concert for our children. We are very fortunate to have received their kind offer.

RECIPES PLEASE

Calling all budding Master Chefs, we are putting together a new Gundaroo P.S cook book.

If you have some recipes you could share please email them to fernjasmine@gmail.com

Can’t wait to see them!!

Le Déjeuner Français

Just a reminder that we will be having a French lunch on Tuesday 16th September. The cost will be $1.50 per baguette with a cap of $3 per family.

Not only will it be a gourmet experience, but the children will be practising their French.

HOCKEY

Term 4 Championstix

If anyone is interested in doing this years Hockey Championstix please let Liz know in the office ASAP. (Please note this will only go ahead if we have enough people interested)

Details below:

Day: Tuesdays
Times: 4.00pm-5.00pm
Dates: 6 week program commencing on 21st October
Age group: Yr 3/4 & Yr 5/6 mixed
Cost: $270 per team (maximum 9 players per team)
Location: Lyneham Hockey Centre
Focus: Championstix is aimed at school trying to develop and introduce new kids to the sport, it is not about the best team, rather focusing on participation, development and learning. Participants will experience 30 minutes of skill development each week followed by a 30 minute modified game against another school.
Quality coaches for the skills sessions will be provided by Hockey ACT
Each student will require shin pads, mouth guard and stick

EXTENSION LOPPER NEEDED

The small branches of the tree next to the flagpole are grabbing the flag in the wind and tearing the stitching. Unfortunately, these twigs are out of reach and the school does not possess an extendable lopping tool. If you have access to a suitable implement that could be used to remove the long branches, it would be greatly appreciated. There are only four or five small offshoots that need to be cut off.

Please see Liz Nicholls in the office if you can help – we have already had to ask wonderful Elissa Shelley twice to repair the stitching on our school flag.
150th Anniversary Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 11th September in the 5/6 classroom. Everyone is welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

DANCE

Lessons are progressing extremely well. We have a most delightful young teacher who is inspiring all the children.

BIKE WEEK

For all our new parents out there, we are leading up to our most popular time: Bike Week. In Week 10 (the last week of term) every child in the school brings in their bike (trainers and all). We start with bike and helmet checks and a possible police talk. We then have a week of lunch times, recesses and class sports times riding around amazing bike tracks that are marked all around the school. Bike Week is only 2 weeks away, so check those bikes for this highly anticipated and popular event!

VACATION CARE AT GOSH – PLACES STILL AVAILABLE!

WHEN: Monday 22nd September to Friday 3rd October
OPENING HOURS: 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday - Friday

ACTIVIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Gardening Day – creating an indoor terrarium
- Dress up and performance day
- Group Treasure Hunt
- Picnic Day in the Gundaroo Park
- Board games/Charades/Bingo
- Craft including jewellery making

Children will also have plenty of time for free play in the school playground.

A full program will be provided in next week’s school newsletter.

COST:

- $50 – full day
- $25 – half day (maximum of 4 hours)

The usual CCB/CCR criteria applies.

Morning and Afternoon Tea will be provided.

Please complete the attached enrolment form if you would like to book your children into Vacation Care. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted an enrolment form, you have secured a place for your children.

Please contact Elissa at gundaroogosh@gmail.com or see GOSH staff in the GOSH room after 3pm if you require any further information.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE

Starting on Monday, 8th September, I’ll be heading off on long service leave. I’m really fortunate in that I have such competent people replacing me: Mrs (Liz) Harris as Relieving Principal and Mrs (Bec) Harris on Years 3/4. I know my class will love the change. I am most fortunate because I will be travelling with my husband, sister, brother and mother. My mum (93) instigated our trip to Alaska and Canada! There’s no stopping her! I’ll return to school Monday, 20th October.

LOST JUMPERS

Could everyone please check names in their school jumpers to see if you have someone else’s. A few jumpers have gone to different homes and their owners would like them back.
We can all recall getting into strife at school. In the little outpost bush schools the nature of naughtiness knew no bounds.

When Gundaroo Public School celebrates its 150th anniversary next year, the parade of scallywag children will be over-shadowed by naughty teachers - including today's principal Sue Kominek.

Arriving as a teacher at Gundaroo in the early 1980s, Mrs Kominek found many of the children still rode their ponies to and from school.

So she did too. Sort of ...

"When I was teacher-in-charge, I lived in what is now the administration building, the principal's residence. I had a horse next door in a little paddock. I used to ride it after school.

"One day, about six o'clock in the evening, the school inspector decided to drop in and I had one foot in the stirrup ready to take off. That wasn't fair at that time. So that was the end of that ride."

On most days she unsaddled the smaller pupils' mounts.

"One mum used to ride down with her daughters and then she'd take the string of ponies home with her, then she'd bring the string of ponies back with her in the afternoon."

Horses remained part of school life into the early 1990s.

"We probably had six to eight kids who would ride their ponies to school," Mrs Kominek said.

Most left their horses in a church paddock next door.

Now, back to those naughty teachers.

When James F. Lowe arrived in the 1890s the buildings were falling to bits, but he didn't care. He was more interested in looking for gold at Bywong and around Gundaroo.

He would put the local senior constable's son in charge of the other kids and duck out to fossick.

One day in 1895, he returned to find the district school inspector D. J. Cooper conducting the lessons.

Mrs Kominek said the inspector's report did not state Lowe's misdemeanours ... "only that he lacked manageability and natural aptitude, noting at the same time the talking and indiscretion of the pupils much addicted to copying and whispering". Little brats.

There were big brats too, as a group of parents discovered in the early 1970s, says Cecil Burgess, a former pupil and now a grazer and Yass Valley councillor.

Years after he had left the school his father and Parents and Citizens president Keith Burgess was becoming concerned at talk of school closures. The farming district was dwindling along with numbers at the school, falling below the required seven to keep it open.

People within the Education Department were having secret meetings.

"That's when my father got cranky and found out what was going on," Mr Burgess said.

A group of parents drove up to 16 kilometres twice a day to collect and return two children from an outlying property who had been studying by correspondence. When they became regulars, the school continued.

Mr Burgess was nine when he first arrived at the public school, in 1959. He did his high schooling there too, on the veranda - even in winter. "We were tough in those days, I suppose," he said.

Today four teachers, 82 students, an administration manager and three part-timers who teach computer skills, French and library, make up the school community, along with parents.

Mrs Kominek has seen the recent highlights and unexpected events like the sad death of a student from cancer and the subsequent funeral at school.

The late Mike Hayes, well known as the Prickle Farmer for his newspaper columns and books, sent the Hayes children to the school, which brought hilarity and made Mrs Kominek a celebrity.

"One of the kids in first grade brought two chooks in for show and tell and they escaped and they pooped all over the computers and took off all around the classroom," she said.

The 150th celebrations on Saturday, March 21 next year will unite the wider Gundaroo community and students past and present.

So to facebook.com/GundarooPublicSchool150th to get regular updates or contribute old photos of staff and students.