Dear Parents,

How exciting! It’s only 10 days away until our anniversary celebrations. The staff have the mural well underway; the Musical is coming on well and the anniversary pavers are about to be laid.

Sue Kominek

**GALA LUNCH**

Bookings close for the luncheon on Wednesday, 18th March

LIMITED SEATS available

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**Cross Country Training**

We have already begun our Cross Country training. We do it at 9am each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We’d love parents to help at a check point, if available, after the school drop off. Duties include encouraging the flower-picking “athletes” and acting as a speed bump on an intersection.

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**Assembly**

I’m sure you all enjoyed the power points 5/6 have been developing in computer lessons. The children have become most skilled under the guidance of Mrs Nicola.

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**MATHLETICS**

I trust you all have your child’s “Mathletics”/“Spellodrome”/“Reading Eggs” sign-ons at home. The average marks of schools doing “Mathletics” is reported as being 9% higher in NAPLAN than those not using it.
HISTORY CAPTAIN’S MESSAGE

In 1868 notices were stuck up in all the public places in Gundaroo and a public meeting was held at the Court-house to establish a building for the school.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- The Musical is being refined by Marion
- The staff, Virginia and Julie have spent many an hour painting the mural on the toilets
- Mrs Harris has been collecting the “Where are They Now?” stories
- Marguerite has been washing all the cutlery and crockery for the gala lunch
- Liza has been busy with all the press releases
- Mrs Nicholls has been receiving all the bookings
- Mrs Harris and I have been collating historical memorabilia

It’s all in hand; leading up to a brilliant celebration.

COURSES

I do apologise, in advance, for all my absences. I hate being out of school. This year has seen an incredible number of reforms, accompanied by mandatory courses. Tomorrow I’m going, with Mrs Bec Harris, to a course to refine our School Plan. (The format for this has changed radically since our previous 3 year school planning cycles). Mrs Nicola will replace me on the Year 3/4 class. Mrs Greenhalgh and I have to attend another mandatory course before the end of term: date to be finalised.

THANKS

A big thank you to Andrew who took it upon himself to mow our Cross Country course last week. He is such a community minded person. We are so lucky to have him as one of our parents.

“AUSSIE OF THE MONTH”

Congratulations, Jenna, on being selected as February’s “Aussie of the Month”. Jenna is a quiet unassuming student. She gives her all in academic subjects and excels in the Arts. Jenna is a kind and gentle student.

NAPLAN DATES

All children in Years 3,5,7 and 9 across Australia will be sitting the National NAPLAN assessments in May. Years 3 & 5 will be sitting the Language Conventions and Writing tests on Tuesday, 12th May, the Reading test on Wednesday 13th May and the Numeracy test on Thursday, 14th May.

QUESTACON SCIENCE SHOW

What a treat we have in store tomorrow! Questacon is coming to give us a Science show, free of charge! K-2 will have their show from 12 till 1 and Years 3-6 will have their show from 2-3.
BAND REHEARSALS

We have had a great start to Band Rehearsals

Rehearsal times:
Training Band - Wednesday 8.30-9am
Senior Band - Thursday 8.30-9am

A WONDERFUL GIFT

After the wonderful donation to the school community from Dick and Pip Smith we are searching for a way/ways in which to use this gift wisely.

The P&C would dearly love input from the school community for possible directions in which we can do this. During Peer Support Groups, the students will also be asked for their ideas.

No idea is too big or too small to consider. We may also be able to extend the impact of this gift with a community grant, which would mean that ideas like redoing the school’s current Tennis Courts, or solar panels for the school, are not unfeasible projects. Remember no idea is too silly or too out there, and the more feedback we have, the better an opportunity the P&C will have in contributing something meaningful to our school.

If you would like to contribute any ideas please contact Jo Gaden either in person, text (0413132384) or email (wxwitch@mac.com) by Tuesday 31st March.

VACATION CARE AT GOSH!

GOSH are very pleased to advise that we will be running Vacation Care again during the upcoming school holidays.

We will be open from 7:30am to 6:00pm on the following dates:

Thursday 2 April 2015
Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April 2015

Cost will be $50 for a full day and $25 for a half day (maximum of 4 hours). The usual CCB/CCR criteria applies.

Lunch will be provided by GOSH so please pack morning and afternoon tea for your children.

Please complete a Vacation Care Enrolment form (attached to this week’s school newsletter) if you would like to book your children into Vacation Care. Completed enrolment forms can be either emailed to gundaroogosh@gmail.com or dropped off in the GOSH room or school office. Children not currently enrolled at GOSH are very welcome to attend however a 2015 GOSH enrolment form (available in the GOSH room) will also need to be completed.

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

Wanted for GOSH

Does anyone have an old couch that they would be willing to donate to the GOSH room? Please see Keryn or Kristina in the GOSH room if you are able to help.
It is time for our Public Speaking season to start again. I will begin instruction for all grades K-6, this Friday, in our Peer Support time. Children can then practise in their Peer Support Groups.

This year children choose their own topics. Please help your child to add some humour into their speech. They need to grab the attention of the audience, not send them to sleep. School finals are in May; so get the speech written now!

All children write/say a speech: K-6. Below are pointers which we’d like them to adhere to.

HINTS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

• NEVER say your name or what you will be talking about at the beginning of your speech. The chairperson has ALREADY said that and we don’t want to get bored!
• NEVER say thank you at the end of the speech. It is up to the audience to thank YOU for your efforts.
• NEVER use big pieces of paper for your notes. They are too distracting and usually block your voice.
• If you absolutely HAVE TO, use palm cards (5cm high X 7cm wide).
• Winners DON’T have cards. That’s why the Kinders do best – because they usually can’t read and therefore make good eye contact.
• DON’T use bright cardboard for palm cards. You’re not supposed to be able to see them.
• DON’T number your cards on the back. No one wants to know that we have 27 more cards to get through!
• ALWAYS acknowledge the chairperson first and look at them while you are doing it.
• DO speak in a loud, clear voice.
• DO make good eye contact all around the room.
• DON’T make “lists” in your speech. e.g. “Boxes come in all sorts of sizes. There are big ones and small ones, fat ones, tall ones, red ones, blue ones, etc. You’ll get marked down, in content, quite heavily for that because it is really boring.
• Remember, you are there to ENTERTAIN, INFORM, PERSUADE, or all three. Children usually enjoy being entertained.
• A good speech often goes in a circle, so the last sentence is almost the same as the first. (not always) This makes it easier for the audience to know when to clap.
• OWN the stage.
• HIDE your nerves.
• ENJOY yourself and then your audience will relax and enjoy themselves!
As part of our reporting and assessing cycle, the Department of Education has encouraged schools to sign up for an on-line survey. The first to be rolled out is a students’ survey. The survey is about student engagement.

If you are happy for your child to do this survey, please sign the following permission note. The parents’ and staff surveys will roll out in Term 3.

______________________________  Date: ______

I give permission for my child/ren ____________________________ to participate in the on-line survey about student engagement.

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ______
COSTUMES FOR THE 150TH MUSICAL

We’d like the children to dress up in one of the following for the school’s musical on the 21st.

- 1860s costume (try Google images)
- Farm Clothes
- Current school uniform. (red top, blue bottom)

Please indicate on the slip below what your child will be wearing by this Friday.

_______________________________________________________________________

FAMILY: ___________________________

• 1860s costume (try Google images) Name: __________________________
• Farm Clothes Name: __________________________
• Current school uniform. (red top, blue bottom) Name: __________________________
WHO IS COMING TO THE SCHOOL’S 150TH

We have been rehearsing a musical to be performed on Saturday, 21st March. The children will be needed at 1.45pm sharp, until about 3pm.

We understand that some families have other plans e.g. Fin who has qualified for a state athletics carnival on the same day.

Please detach this note and return to school notifying us of your child’s availability, or not, on Saturday 21st.

______________________________________________

Family name: __________________________________________

Our child/ren will be/ will not be available to perform on Saturday, 21st March from 2pm till 3pm.

Signed: _______________________________________________

Date: ____________________
Election Day Cake Stall

Gundaroo School P&C is running a stall at the school for the NSW state election on 28 March 2015.

We will have a small coffee machine so we can sell coffee and cake on the day. In addition, we will be selling whole cakes (to take away) and also jams, preserves and fresh produce.

The stall will run from 8 am to 2 pm. We need volunteers to staff the stall and make coffees. We are keen for the kids to help too, and encourage students from Year 4, 5 or 6 to volunteer as well as parents. Please place your name on the roster in the front office.

We also need volunteers to make cakes – those that can be sold individually with a cup of coffee/tea like muffins, biscuits. If you’re not able to make a cake, we would also appreciate donations of other home-made goods (perhaps you have a glut of plum jam or tomato chutney on your shelves at home?) and of fresh produce from your garden (fruit, vegetables, eggs, bunches of herbs or flowers, plant seedlings).

We have provided labels as all ingredients need to be listed, especially marking any nut products, and then stick the label to the top of the bag.

The P&C will be also selling 150th Anniversary Memorabilia.

Cakes can be delivered to the school on Friday 27th March or directly to the stall on Saturday morning.

If you can help out in any way, please indicate on the form below and return to the office.

If you have any questions, please contact Maxine Webber on 0428 368477.

Name: ___________________________

☐ Yes, I can help serve at the stall on 28 March 2015

Preferred time (please circle):
  7am to 8am (set up time)
  8am – 9am
  9am – 10am
  10am – 11am
  11am – 12 noon
  12 noon – 1pm
  1pm – 2pm
  2pm – 3pm (pack up time)

☐ Yes, I will be able to make a cake/s for the cake stall.
Supporting our School Community

FAMILY NAME: __________________________________________

I would love to support our school community by assisting with the:

- NSW Election Day Cake Stall 28th March
- District Cross Country 29th April
- Quiz Night 12th September
- Community Breakfast 11th December

*** Don’t forget to sign up to help at our ***
150th Anniversary Celebrations!

THANK YOU – PLEASE RETURN TO THE FRONT OFFICE
Brick Expo and Competition supporting Muscular Dystrophy and students with special needs.

SAT/SUN MARCH 14-15TH 2015
9AM-4PM

For competition details go to http://www.thewodens.act.edu.au

“Bricks @ The Woden School” is a Canberra Brick Expo event organised in association with the Canberra Lego User Group and the Woden School.

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