Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to 2016. I trust that you had a happy, safe and relaxing holiday season, and enjoyed plenty of family time. This year is shaping up to be an exciting one, full of outstanding learning opportunities for the children and with a focus on continual improvement across all aspects of our wonderful little school.

It is with great pleasure I welcome two new staff members on board. Mrs Dunkerley has settled into her role as K/1 teacher wonderfully, and already has her little ‘ducklings’ following in line and responding to her every move. It is such a pleasure to see.

Our new language teacher, Mrs Robertson, will be with us on Wednesdays and immersing the students in a new language and culture, this time, Japanese. We chose Japanese due to the large number of high schools in the ACT who offer this as a language subject, and felt this would be the most beneficial to our students.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in regaining School Chaplaincy funding for 2016-2018, which has meant that we have had to say goodbye to Mrs Karen. Karen will be greatly missed by all at Gundaroo, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

As you are most likely aware, our class structures this year have remained the same, with Mrs Greenhalgh taking 1/2, ‘Team Harris’ taking 3/4, with Bec Monday and Tuesday, and Liz Wednesday - Friday, and myself on 5/6. Additionally, Mrs Harris is fulfilling the role of Learning and Support Teacher on Tuesdays. Mrs Karlsson will continue in the Library on Tuesday and Mrs Carole Nicola will continue with Computers, this year on Wednesdays. Nini, Colin, Norm and Liz will continue the fantastic work they do in their respective roles.

We will be holding a ‘Picnic and Information Night’ on Wednesday 10th February. This is a perfect opportunity to meet new families and learn more about the teaching and learning in your child’s classroom. Please come along.

Have a great week,
Nigel Trethowan.

---

What’s Inside:

- Musicorp
- Crunch & Sip
- Information Night
- Swimming Carnival
- Birthdays
- Kindy Photos
Welcome to our new students! In addition to our new Kindy students, we have three new students joining us this year—Amelia (Yr 3), Lucy (Yr 3) and Kathleen (Yr 4).

Picnic & Information Night!

Wednesday 10th February will be our Picnic & Information Night. Please come along from 5:30pm, and bring along a picnic to enjoy on the front lawn of the school. 30-minute Information Sessions will take place at the following times:

K/1: 5:30pm
1/2: 6pm
3/4: 6:30pm
5/6: 7pm.

Welcome

BIRTHDAYS!

Edin - 5th February    Matthew - 7th February
Daniel - 5th February   Hamish - 7th February
Phoebe - 6th February

Swimming carnivals!

Next week we will be holding 2 swimming carnivals.

The K-2 carnival will be held at school from 2-3pm. We encourage parents to bring in any inflatable swimming pools, waterslides, etc for this fun event. It is held on the front lawn and parents are definitely invited to come along, join in the fun and ensure you get wet as well! Children will need swimming costumes, shirts, hats and towels. Please see/ring Liz Nicholls if you have any equipment you could lend and/or if you are able to join in the fun.

The Years 3-6 carnival will be held at the AIS from 10 till 2. At this carnival we will be selecting our team to go on to the Queanbeyan District Carnival to be held at the AIS on 22 February. Children will need swimming costumes, caps, towels, goggles (optional) and lots to eat and drink. There will be no canteen running and we do not like children to go out of our sight to the vending machine. We will be asking for parent transport on this occasion, mostly because so many parents love watching on the day. Please fill out the attached permission/transport form and return to school this week.

Thank you!
**Musicorp**

We have all been very excited with the new Music Corp band program beginning today.

Most students now have their instruments and parents should have been emailed their timetable.

A very warm welcome to Steve. We look forward to watching and listening to our students blossom.

---

**A Crunch & Sip School**

Crunch & Sip is a set time in primary schools for students to ‘refuel’ on fruit and salad vegetables and ‘rehydrate’ with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increased concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive. We all know that many students are not eating enough fruit and vegetables.

We have chosen to implement this program in response to both teachers' and parents' concerns that children were going too long without anything in their tummies, as well as the need to promote healthy eating habits. Each class will have a set time that they have their Crunch & Sip.

Please assist us by ensuring your child has some fresh crunchy fruit or vegetables to snack on, and some water to drink.

Thank you.

---

**Discipline Policy**

As you may well be aware, we trialled some amendments to our Discipline Policy in Term 4 last year, to help streamline and improve our approach to dealing with issues in the playground. This included the introduction of the 'Behaviour Book', and a 'steps' system which gave students a clear understanding of the consequences of breaking school rules.

Part of our Staff Development Day involved looking at feedback from both teachers and parents as to how we could improve this even further. We have made some changes to last year's 'trial' and have been included in our Discipline Policy, which is included in this week's newsletter. These changes are on page 4 of the policy.

Please, if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Nigel Trethowan.

---

**Talking Tickets**

“*The world will never be any better unless we are.*”
LIBRARY

Welcome to the new school year. Thank you to the people who have found books over the holidays and returned them.

For new parents and as a reminder: students need a Library Bag (available for purchase at the office) for borrowing.

- Books are available for 2 weeks before becoming overdue
- Kinder students may borrow 1 book
- Yrs 1,2,3,4 may borrow 2 books
- 5/6 may borrow up to 2 fiction and 2 non fiction

I am usually here often school on Tuesdays if your child has forgotten their Library and you would like to bring them in to borrow. Regards Lynne.

GOSH 2016

Dear Parents,

GOSH is the Out Of School Hours Care service at the Gundaroo Public School, providing Before School, After School and Holiday Care.

Enrolment forms for the service are available at the School Office, you can contact us at gundaroo-gosh@gmail.com or drop in to the service and meet Keryn and Debbie for more information.

Families continuing to use our service, if you have not already please return your Care Requirements and Confirmation of Details Forms for 2016. If you do not have a copy of the form please see the GOSH staff or email gundarooogosh@gmail.com

These forms can be returned to the School Office or handed in at GOSH.

Please the 2016 GOSH Summary Information sheet for attached for your information.

Kind regards,

GOSH

MRS DUNKERLEY WITH KINDERGARTEN/YEAR 1
Swimming Carnival

Friday 12th February at the AIS
Yrs 3-6 ONLY

Gundaroo Public School will be holding their Swimming Carnival at the AIS on Friday, 12th February 2016. We would like all students in Years 3-6 to attend and, where possible, for them to at least swim in on race. For those who are unable to do so, we will have lots of assisted swims like noodle races.

COST: $8 per child (covers entry and pool hire) which needs to be paid to the school BEFORE the day. SPECTATORS PAY $2 (on the day).

BRING:  Towel, swimmers and underwear
Swim cap is a MUST.
Packed lunch/drink

TRANSPORT:  This will be a private transport excursion.
LEAVE SCHOOL: 9am
LEAVE POOL:  2pm

Please sign the permission note attached and return, with money, by next Monday, 8th February.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Please return by next Monday, 8th February

PERMISSION NOTE – GUNDAAROO SWIMMING CARNIVAL, Yrs 3 - 6

I hereby give permission for my child/ren ________________________________ to participate in the Swimming Carnival on Friday, 12th February 2016 at the AIS pool in Bruce. I understand travel is by private car.

Signed: ____________________ Date: __________

I enclose $8 per child for pool entry etc

* YES, I can provide transport for _____ children plus _____ of my own.

* Sorry I can’t help on this occasion
School Attendance …What can parents do?

Parents/Caregivers are reminded

- That children aged between 6 and 17 must attend school on every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse for being away, such as illness. Visiting family, being tired and staying home on birthdays is not acceptable reasons to be away from school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of an absence. You must state a reason. Saying my child “was away” is not good enough.

- Attendance every day at school is important for your child’s progress. It helps build friendships, life-long work habits and makes sure learning takes place.

- Wherever possible, holidays, dental and medical appointments should be made out of school hours. If a holiday is during school you must first apply to the Principal for approval and it is up to their discretion if it a Certificate of Leave is granted.

It’s not OK to be away
It’s not great to be late

A reminder that schools commences at 9am and finishes 3pm.

Tips to help your child to succeed at school.

1. **Pack school bag the night before.**
2. **Go to bed** at a set time every night, read or listen to soft music for half an hour and then go to sleep. Do not use electronic devices for at least an hour before bedtime. Research indicates that children who receive sufficient sleep are more likely to be alert and resilient.
3. **Eat Well, Learn Well** - Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It is well known that children who eat breakfast everyday are more receptive to learning.

Poor patterns of attendance in the early years lead to poor patterns of attendance throughout the school years.

There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life.
School Banking 2016 is set for the Outback. Join the Dollarmites as they venture through the Canyon of Savings.

Since 1931, the School Banking program has been introducing interactive and exciting new ways to teach students lifelong money skills.

**Eight New Reward Items.** The School Banking program continues to encourage good savings behaviour by rewarding students with thrilling reward items. For every 10 deposits made through the program, students can redeem a reward from the Outback Savers range.

The first two reward items released in Term 1 include Flying Snake Tails and Wildlife Writer Sets.

Win a Family Wildlife Adventure Holiday and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin at Australia Zoo. This year, we’re giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three kids to explore Australia Zoo, plus a full day Platinum Zoo Adventure Tour, where you’ll get to pat wombats, cuddle koalas and feed wallabies, all while your personal photographer captures every incredible moment, Domestic return economy airfares to Sunshine Coast, Qld, 4 nights’ accommodation, 5 days’ car hire and $1,000 spending money.

**How to enter:** Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

Banking Day is every……..TUESDAY……….