Our next P&C Meeting is on this Thursday 7th March in the library at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Apologies, our AGM has been postponed to our April meeting on Thursday 4th April 2013.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**
As some parents/carers may be aware from the information sessions held last week, we have decided to hold parent/teacher interviews earlier in the year (April rather than June) to encourage discussion about student learning outcomes and identify any concerns/issues/needs that parent and/or teachers may have.

Interviews will be in Week 10.
**Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th April 2013.**
Kindergarten -Tuesday 2nd April, Years 3 and 4 - Wednesday 3rd April, Years 5 and 6 – Thursday 4th April and Years 1 and 2 – Friday 5th April.
I would expect that all parents/carers would make an appointment to talk to their class teacher to meet the needs of each and every student at our school.
Interviews will be for 15 minutes. An appointment booking sheet/note will be sent home in Week 8 (18th March), on a first in best dressed basis.
Interviews will start at 8.15am and conclude at 4.15pm. If you need a differing time to suit your work commitments, please discuss this with the class teacher.

**Health Care Plans**
If your child needs a health/asthma care plan and did not bring one home for approval or amendment, please call into the school and speak to me.

**Headlice**
We have had quite a few cases of headlice reported by parents/carers. Please be vigilant with checking your child/ren’s hair and treatment if necessary.

**Exemption from School**
If it is necessary to withdraw your child from school, please see me, prior to the time, if possible or call me. You are eligible to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance from school. Some examples where an exemption may be considered due to exceptional circumstances include: floods, medical/health/specialists appointments, out of town appointments, a funeral out of town, a family holiday during the school term, participation in elite sporting events or employment in the entertainment industry ….
Please come into the office before the event and request a certificate of exemption.

**Gloucester Show**
Don’t forget that our students will be exhibiting their artworks and stage displays at the Gloucester Show.
Helpers will be needed to hang the paintings at the showground on Thursday 14th March at 9.00am reading for judging. Just turn up and take a cuppa with you.

*Leanne Wakefield, Principal*
Buying at the Canteen when you are in Kindergarten

When you are in Kindy and starting school the idea of 'shopping' at the school canteen is a very attractive prospect and so it should be! This is very much a first in the independent activities available to one so small. Unfortunately there are many variables that we as adults and those who are new at it, don't and can't, take into account.

1. Money … Kindys are slowly realizing that they need real money to buy from the canteen. Sad reality but true. The money needs to be their own and NOT their friend's left over money or 'spare' money because their friend doesn't want it anymore.

2. Older siblings … These children love their younger siblings so much that they arrange to meet the Kindy child at the corner and come to pick them up to take them to the canteen to spend their money. This is where staff and the Kindy child become confused. Is the money they are spending a collective spend known to the parent or a Kindy spend and the older sibling forgot their money so they will split with their sibling even though their younger brother or sister doesn't quite understand?

Although I seem to make light of buying from the canteen it is a tricky time for staff and can be a sad time for Kindergarten children. To help avoid tears and fears could you please help your Kindergarten child by doing two things?

1. Please tell the older sibling to NOT arrange shopping trips to the canteen. Let their younger brother or sister go by themselves.
2. If you give your child spending money please put the money in a purse or wallet or in a clearly marked, sealed envelope so they are in charge of their own money and understand what they can buy with it.

These two actions on your behalf as their parents will empower them to buy from the canteen on their own terms.

Thank you on behalf of all Kindergarten students.

Alison Clifton
K/1/2 Supervisor.

Have you received the Schoolkids Bonus?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 - have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting Australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132468.

Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 28th March

Very soon Easter will be upon us. This is a wonderful time for our K, Year 1 and Year 2 students. During class time the students will make an Easter hat with the help of their class teachers (thank you teachers). Then on Thursday 28th March they will parade their Easter hats through the CBD of Gloucester. Once paraded they will then enjoy a lunch and hunt in the Billabong Park. A note with more specific information will follow.

Alison Clifton
K/1/2 Supervisor.

From the Library

PRC – Just a reminder if you would like your child to participate in the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge, please complete the permission slip and return it to the school.

Reading logs will be going home next week.

Leanne Simes
Teacher Librarian.
Schools Spectacular 2013
This year, Gloucester Public School will be auditioning for a place in Schools Spectacular. Schools Spectacular is a dance, music and drama extravaganza that incorporates approximately 3600 students from over 400 schools across the state. I am very excited that we have the opportunity to audition for a place and I know that it will be an amazing experience to all those involved, if we are successful in the audition process.

Last week I handed out an information note to students in Years 4-6 who were interested in auditioning for a place on our Gloucester Public School team. Thank you to those students who returned their note to me.

Due to a smaller amount of students interested, I didn't need to undertake an audition process here at school. Our team consists of students from Year 5 and 6, as I prioritised these students first. I would like to thank the students in Year 4 for showing interest, however they will have two more opportunities to audition in future years.

Congratulations to:
- Jasmine Keen
- Keely Simes
- Elizabeth Blanch
- Ella Blamires
- Charlotte Maslen
- Kyra Edstein
- Bella Yates
- Riko Fitzgerald
- Cheyenne Whitfield
- Chloe Edstein
- Holly Willis
- Kennedi Fraser

Now the work begins...
Our Schools Spectacular team will now begin the process of rehearsing a dance sequence and filming it. At this stage, our rehearsals will be during school time, at recess or lunch. This audition video will be sent to Sydney, where it will be assessed by a panel at Schools Spectacular. We will be notified towards the end of May if we were successful. If we are, the work will really begin. At this time, I will also be able to pass on more information to families about rehearsal dates, costumes etc.

Mirabai Stockwell
Schools Spectacular Co-ordinator

NUMERACY PACKS
Please see the attached note about how to get your FREE numeracy pack. Please return the slip telling us when you are able to come in to 'put the pack together' as soon as possible (asap). Thank you,

Assistant Principal.

Music Notes
Just a reminder that all Year 3 students need a recorder to participate in the Stage 2 music program. Recorders are available locally at Channels Newsagency and in Taree at Bass 'n' Blues.
Could students who are going to attend the Manning Music Camp please see me tomorrow to finalise numbers.

Annette Burrows, Music Teacher.
ICAS...International Competitions and Assessments for Schools
Please read the attached letter to parents with regard to ICAS General Assessment Tests (GAT). If you are interested in your child participating in these tests please return the permission note and payment to Mrs Clifton at the front office or through your child’s classroom teacher.

Alison Clifton
Assistant Principal.

Year 6 - Science and Engineering Challenge
We are currently in the process of organising our registration in the 2013 Mid North Coast Science and Engineering Challenge to be held in Taree in Term 2. We are planning to take our Year 6 students over to compete in this amazing event again. Details to come.

Rod Maggs
Assistant Principal (Stage 3)

Uniform Reminder
Caps and hats are not to be worn at school. Also, students should wear full school uniform on the way to and from school each day. This includes walking to school and travelling on the bus. Caps are not to be worn at any time according to our GPS sun safe practices. It has been noted that some students have been bringing caps to wear on the way home. Please ensure these are left at home.
Other items to watch are:
• Nail polish
• Jewellery apart from small studs or sleepers.
• Black shoes everyday apart from scheduled sport activities.

If you are unsure of what your child can wear to school, please ask our school office for a copy of our current uniform policy.

Rod Maggs
Assistant Principal (Stage 3)

Aboriginal Screening
If you have not returned your note to participate in the free hearing screening, please do so this week.

Amy Schafer
Assistant Principal.

Zone Swimming
Thanks to all students and parents for their great participation at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Special thanks must go to Bernie Edstein and Brendan Murray for transporting our team shelter and Fiona Ireland and Amanda Moore for their managing of the team during the day. Thanks also to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who assisted with transport to get our team to the pool. Our kids were a most noticeable team. Ours were the ones poolside for the entire day screaming words of encouragement and cheering on their fellow GPS swimmers! Congratulations on your great spirit.

Rod Maggs
Assistant Principal (Stage 3)

Manning Zone PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival
Last Thursday the Gloucester Public School Zone Swimming team travelled to Wingham to compete in the Manning Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival. The team consisted of Kyra Edstein, Harrison Moore...
and Han-Jun Ki (50m breastroke), Tiarn Harvey, Kaito Sutton, Harrison Moore, Jessica Moore, Darcy Allardice, Jahryd Ketley, Damon Ireland, Han-Jun Ki, Sung-Jun Ki, Marnie Barkwill, Bronte Wisely, Blake Murray, Lilly Maurer, Charlotte Maslen and Keely Yates (50m freestyle).

Han-Jun competed in the 50m backstroke and Tiarn Harvey, Charli Carruthers, Jade Wratten and Lilly Maurer competed in the junior girls’ relay. Harrison, Darcy, Blake and Lucas Summerville competed in the junior boys’ relay.

The senior girls’ relay team members were Jessica, Marnie, Charlotte and Bronte and the boys were Kaito, Han-Jun, Sung-Jun and Jacob Danton. Jahryd competed in the 13’s 50m freestyle and took a whopping 8 seconds off his personal best time.

On behalf of the zone swimming team we would like to say thank you to Mr Maggs for taking us over and Mrs Moore for organising it. We all had a great day!

*Kyra Edstein & Sung-Jun Ki.*

**Swimming for Sport**

Students from Year3-6 will commence ‘Swimming for Sport’ this Friday weather permitting.

The students will be separated into two timeslots- Stage 2 (Years 3-4) will be from 9:30-10:30am and the Stage 3 (Years 5-6) will be from 10:30-11:30.

Students will need to bring with them each week-

- Swimmers
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Change of underwear (as they need to wear their swimmers to school)
- A plastic or fabric bag to transport towel etc. to and from the pool.

All appropriate notes should have been returned.

*Amy Schafer*
*Assistant Principal.*

**Cricket update**

We are not winning against our most challenging opponent - the weather!

Our Wednesday game will be postponed (again) and another date will need to be organised (at this stage it will be on Wednesday 13th March). Sorry parents, but this will mean yet another note will come home to be signed and returned once this date has been confirmed with Stroud.

Thanks again for your support of your child and our team.

*Rod Maggs*
*Cricket Coordinator*

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Please note that APPLE & BLACKCURRANT juice is no longer availableflavours are - Orange, Apple and Orange/passio (Orchy)

Golden Circle Poppers are available in two flavours - Tropical or Golden Pash.

Remember that we don’t order ice creams on lunch bags. It’s just as easy to come and buy these over the counter, as we will not send them to the class room in the lunch basket.

Thanks for your co-operation.

**MILKSHAKE DAY** is on again soon! Keep an eye on the newsletter for a date to be announced.
CANTEEN ROSTER
Monday 11/3/13 - Felicity Hawkins
              Heidi Yates
Wednesday 13/3/13 - Susanna Jackson
              Mel O'Mara
Friday 15/3/13 - Robyn Beggs
               Kate Shanley

SCHOOL BANKING
every Thursday
at the Library
before 9.00am.

Letuce -
Small : $1
Large : $2

Gardening Club.

2013 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
I give permission for my child _____________________________ of class ____
to participate in the 2013 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. I understand the
commitment needed and that his/her name will appear on the on-line 2013 NSW
Premier's Reading Challenge Honour Roll (published on-line and in the Sydney
Morning Herald).

____________________   _________________________
Date        Parent/Carer

2013 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
I give permission for my child _____________________________ of class ____
to participate in the 2013 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. I understand the
commitment needed and that his/her name will appear on the on-line 2013 NSW
Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll (published on-line and in the Sydney Morning Herald).

____________________   _________________________
Date        Parent/Carer
GLoucester Public School P&C Association
Meeting Held 7 February 2013 7:10pm

Attendance: 11 members present, no apologies.

Minutes: Minutes from previous meeting read and moved as correct – Moved: Kristie, 2nd: Liz.

Business Arising:
- Canteen has upgraded the Hall sound system – fabulous improvement. Thankyou to the Canteen Sub-Committee for the sound system upgrade and donation to the Uniform Shop.
- Variety Bash – letter has been received re: catering requirements for 24th May, letter passed on to Kellie.
- Audit re: attendance procedures – discussion re: importance of regular attendance.
- Wish list suggestions – new blankets, new mattresses for beds (rather than new beds).
- Deck has been built and table top repaired. Looking into sanding/repainting tables near multipurpose court.
- Uniform Shop – Orientation Day sales not as high as some past years, however a very busy start to this year.

Correspondence: see Correspondence Book. Moved: Kerrie, 2nd: Liz.

Treasurer’s Report:
- Working Acct Balance: $4356.40 with bills to be paid totalling $3706.95. Cash Reserve Acct Balance: $16321.91. Kerry wants to transfer the amount of $3706.95 from the Cash Reserve Acct to the Working Acct to pay the outstanding bills. Moved: Kerrie, 2nd: John.

Uniform Shop:
- Very busy start to the year. A couple of parents have noticed stitching on shirt hems coming undone. Stocks of school shirts are now very low, Tracy wants to place an order of 100 S/S shirts and 60-70 L/S shirts to replenish stock. Moved Scott, 2nd: Kellie.
- Note to be put in newsletter advising parents that 2nd hand stock is available at the Uniform Shop, and calling for volunteer helpers as extra helpers would be appreciated. Some discussion re: review of prices, to be discussed further at next meeting with a view to a new price list from July.

Canteen:
- Business Cash Reserve: $11372.39, Working Acct: $13403.87 less approx $1500 committed, Term Deposit: $10586.94

Fundraising:
- Meeting expressed interest in Book Covers that Kellie had a sample of – Kellie will find out further details.
- Looking into a wine trip in June/July? Discussion re: combining a Car Boot Sale with some other stalls to have a 'Spring Fair' type event. A Trivia Night was also suggested.
- Re: Ball funds, Kellie is hoping to bring some quotes for aircon for the Hall to the next meeting, another suggestion was for a new school sign (Cnr Barrington St).

Principal’s Report: as per attached. Recent happenings have included: Kindergarten transition which has run smoothly, approx 50 students in Kindergarten this year, Swimming Carnival, painters around school as part of planned annual maintenance and Centenary of Railways. Thankyou for timber decking outside 3/4H classroom, Maths Olympiad will be running at school this year. Upcoming: Variety Bash, possibility of introducing Crunch and Sip, Grip Student Leadership Conference and Horse Sports/interschool competition – more info to come in newsletter.

Drop Off Zone – will be manned in afternoons.

In response to a question re: class/staff allocations for following year, Leanne explained it is difficult to allocate prior to the start of the year.

General Business:

AGM will be held in March, Tracy to place a notice in Advocate. Next meeting will be the AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting.

Meeting closed 9pm Next meeting Thursday 7 March 2013 at 7.00pm
FREE
HOME NUMERACY PACKS
to ALL
Gloucester Public School families

Through our National Partnerships funding agreement we are able to offer to families, big and small, a home numeracy pack that will support numeracy in the home.

The packs have been designed for Early Stage 1 /Stage 1(K, Y1 and Y2) and Stage 2 / Stage 3 students (Y3 to 6).

We are asking families to attend a “putting-the-packs-together” session. The idea is for a family representative, mum, dad, grandma, pop or carer, to attend at a suitable time where they will put a numeracy pack together while talking over the many different ways the numeracy activities can be used at home. You will not be on your own to assemble the packs. You will be guided and supported through the process by Mrs Amy Sansom (Community Liaison Officer) and a member of staff.

Please note the following dates and session times for a “putting-the-packs-together” session:-

**Thursday 21st March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm

**Friday 15th March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm
3. 1.30pm to 2.30pm

**Friday 22nd March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm
3. 1.30pm to 2.30pm

On the attached form could you please indicate when a family representative is most likely to attend.

This is to help with organising enough packs for the session, child-minding if necessary, and any catering requirements.

I look forward to meeting with our families as they attend a “putting-the-packs-together” session.

Alison Clifton
HOME NUMERACY PACK...attending a “putting-the-packs-together” session

Dear Mrs Clifton,

Thank you for the invitation to receive a home Numeracy pack.

My family, (please write family name) ____________________________

(person attending) ____________________________ (relation to family) ____________________________,

will most likely attend a “putting-the-packs-together” session on...

Day: ____________________________

Time: ____________________________

✓ My child/ren class/es is/are ____________________________ and ____________________________

✓ I understand these sessions will be held in the school library.

✓ I require child-minding for the session...Yes/No

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________