The staff at Gloucester Public School wish all our families and friends a very happy Easter and a safe Easter weekend.

Happy Easter

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday 28/3
Easter Hat Parade K/1/2

Friday 29/3
GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

Monday 1/4
EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY

Friday 5/4
Zone Cross Country

Thursday 11/4
Year 3 Sleepover at school

Friday 12/4
Last day of Term One

Thursday 25/4
ANZAC Day March

Monday 29/4
Staff Development Day
(Australian Curriculum)

Tuesday 30/4
Staff Development Day
(All staff at school)

Wednesday 1/5
First day of Term 2 for students

Friday 3/5
ANZAC School Service

Wednesday 14/5 - Thursday 16/5
NAPLAN testing

School Photos
5th August 2013
**PD/H Home Activities**
Recently your child brought home a note about what we have been doing in our PD/H lessons as well as some home activities to do. These activities are due in Week 10. However, if they would like to bring them in earlier that would be OK. Sorry for any misunderstanding!

_Melissa Seale_
PD/H Teacher.

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**EASTER HAT PARADE**
**Thursday 28th March, 2013**

Our annual Easter Hat Parade for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students will take place this Thursday 28th March 2013.

The students and staff will walk from school, leaving at approximately 12 noon, to parade their hats through the streets of Gloucester CBD on their way to Billabong Park where they will meet family and friends for lunch. Please pack your child a picnic lunch to have with their friends. We expect to return to school around 2.30pm.

No child will be able to leave Billabong Park without written permission. Please organise this accordingly to avoid a difficult situation arising for your child, yourself or their teacher.

We look forward to you sharing this special time with your children - parading their Easter Hats and enjoying lunch in the park.

_2D_

Please remember to hand in your homework on Thursday due to Good Friday. Keep checking your take-home readers and tell me when you have read 10 books!

_Debbie Howland_
Classroom Teacher.

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**ANZAC Day**

Parents, students and friends are invited to join our school in remembering ANZAC Day this year. This day falls in the school holidays (25th April) and we are hoping for a good response from families to join us. We had a wonderful turnout last year and we are hoping for a repeat this year.

Students are encouraged to represent our school by participating in the march from the Soldiers Club to the Cenotaph in Memorial Park in Hume Street. Please wear your full school uniform including school hat. Let’s remember those who served our country with pride and respect.

Meet at the Soldiers Club at 10.25am ready to assemble and begin the march.

We will also hold our ANZAC Memorial School Service on Friday 3rd May at 2.10pm. All are welcome to come along.

_Rod Maggs - Assistant Principal_

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**High School Expressions of Interest Forms**

Thank you to all families who have returned Expression of Interest forms for Year 7 in 2014. These forms will be checked and sent to the appropriate secondary schools.

_Rod Maggs - Assistant Principal._
Canberra Excursion for Year 6

Students in Year 6 will have the opportunity to visit Canberra, our nation’s capital, in Term 3 this year as we undertake our studies on Australian democracy and government. This is often one of the highlights of primary school for many students and provides them with an amazing educational experience to discover the sights and important National buildings in Canberra. It also allows students an opportunity to develop their self-confidence and social ability.

This four-day excursion will take place from Monday 12th August to Thursday 15th August (Week 5, Term 3).

Notes will be sent home this term informing parents of the draft itinerary and estimated cost. It is highly recommended that your child join us on this excursion.

Should you have any initial questions or issues, please contact either Mrs Moore, myself or the office at school.

Rod Maggs – Assistant Principal

AASC

This week is our last week of AASC sessions. Thank you to everyone who attended this term. We will start the program again in Week 2 next term.

Hope to see you all again!

Melissa Seale & Bettianne Webeck

Boys Cricket Update

The cricket game last Wednesday at Old Bar was a beauty! Our enthusiastic group of boys headed over to face a tough opposition in Old Bar Public School and were quietly confident leading into the match.

Captain James again won the toss and elected to bat. We headed out with Tom Cowan and Harrison Moore as our openers and, after losing Harry cheaply and Bryce Berry a few overs later, started to put our runs together with James again posting a ‘captain’s knock’ with the support of Tom. Following the loss of Tom’s wicket at drinks, Drew Stone, Darcy Allardice and Kane Davis all made appearances at the crease to support James’ impressive 33 not out. Kane (5) and Tom Cowan (4) were the next best of the batsman.

With a defendable 73 as our total, our boys bowled and fielded with amazing determination, and at the break had the home side in trouble at 3-30. However, we were unable to take the wicket of their top batsman who began firing after drinks and with a few expensive overs, the chase turned in their favour. They reached the total in the 20th over.

Our boys again showed why Gloucester PS is known for its sportsmanship, with the game played in a great spirit by our team. I would take any of our squad away for a game anytime!

Thanks also to the parents who have supported us throughout the competition, especially Craig McLeod, Anthony Allardice and Phil Moore who have all given up time to train, umpire and/or organise gigantic watermelons for the kids to eat at the breaks!

Rod Maggs – Assistant Principal

Netball Trials

Yesterday, three GPS netballers travelled to Forster to try out for the Manning District Netball team to compete in the Hunter Regional trials.

Hayley Rush, Jessica Moore and Ellie Schumann played their best to show off their skills. The competition was strong and the selectors chose Ellie Schumann to be a team member on the Manning Rep Netball Team.

Congratulations to Ellie and also to Hayley and Jessica on the way you conducted yourselves and the efforts you made.

Thank you to Mr Rush who transported and managed the team whilst in Forster.

Due to Monday being a holiday there will be netball training on Tuesday 1nd April for the GPS netball team from 3.10pm to 4.00pm.

Margaret Wilson
Netball organiser
CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all the runners who competed in the annual Cross Country event last Friday. This event could not be run without the wonderful support of those parents who so willingly assisted. Gloucester Public School staff thanks you for your help - we certainly appreciated it. Thanks also to staff members for their help on the day.

The following athletes came in the top six places for their age groups:

8/9 Girls
- Lynelle Hester
- Tanai O’Brien
- Brooke Willis
- Laura Stone
- Ava Tuckwell
- Anna-Rose Seale

8/9 Boys
- Cody Howard
- Kayden Schumann
- Cameron Turner
- Simon Collins
- Kaleb Smith
- Bailey Hughes

10 Girls
- Emma Ashton
- Hayley Griffith
- Holly Willis
- Brooke Turner

10 Boys
- Lleyton Richards
- Darcy Allardice
- Jack Blamires
- Aiden Rose

8/9 Girls
- Lynelle Hester
- Tanai O’Brien
- Brooke Willis
- Laura Stone
- Ava Tuckwell
- Anna-Rose Seale

8/9 Boys
- Cody Howard
- Kayden Schumann
- Cameron Turner
- Simon Collins
- Kaleb Smith
- Bailey Hughes

11 Girls
- Bethany Hester
- Charlotte Maslen
- Zahr Renshaw
- Annea Hooke
- Bella Yates
- Riko Fitzgerald

11 Boys
- Kaleb Graham
- Cameron Dunlop
- Damon Ireland
- Ethan Bird
- Troy Ryan
- Dylan Woodbine

12 Girls
- Ella Blamires
- Paula Edwards
- Tahnee Yates
- Jessica Moore
- Paige Waddell
- Kyra Edstein

12 Boys
- Kaito Sutton
- Karson Campbell
- Mitchell Williams
- Tyson Dixon
- Azren Snow
- Stephen Hester

13 Boys
- Jeremy Spindler

Zone Cross Country is expected to be held at Wingham on Friday April 5. The top four runners in every group are usually eligible to compete. Notes will be sent home with all eligible athletes. If for some reason your child can’t attend Zone Cross Country can you please let the school know so that a reserve can be arranged to take his/her place.

Caroline Moore & Margaret Wilson
Cross Country Coordinators
National Partnerships
2010 – 2013

For many families who have recently become part of Gloucester Public school community, the term – National Partnerships – may need an explanation.

The National Partnerships funding agreement for Low Socio-economic Status communities is a federally funded program that financially supports communities which meet set criteria. The funding is allocated directly to schools and managed by the school, that is, the Principal.

Gloucester Public School manages this funding by nominating an Assistant Principal position to be non-teaching. The Assistant Principal is responsible for the implementation and management of programs and funding throughout the school, in conjunction with the Principal, for -

- overseeing Literacy and Numeracy programs introduced with the aid of this additional funding
- personnel, that is, Student Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) who assist with these programs
- training and development for staff to enhance and build capacity in Literacy and Numeracy
- supporting the school community in their understanding of learning for students in Literacy and Numeracy.

Gloucester Public School embarked on the National Partnership pathway in 2010. We have enjoyed three years of this journey. We are now in our fourth and final year of funding.

During the first year of the funding agreement, 2010, ‘Kick On’ guided reading groups were introduced into Years 3 - 6. This was a natural progression following on from ‘Kick Start’ guided reading and writing groups which had been operating in our school, with outstanding results, for quite a few years.

The ‘Quicksmart’ remedial mathematics program was introduced to support students in Years 5 and 6. A part of this program, the quick recall of times tables, was customised (all classes spent a five minute intensive session on times tables recall) so that all students in Years 3 to 6 could benefit as they worked together in their classrooms.

Accelerated Literacy was also introduced into classrooms and a number of staff were trained in this pedagogy (way of teaching); with the view to strengthening our students in the area of writing and building professional capacity in staff to deliver quality teaching and learning programs.

2011 programs continued to focus on building student strengths in the areas of reading and writing by supporting the ‘Kick Start’ and ‘Kick On’ guided reading programs throughout the school. There was also a school focus in mathematics with guided maths groups being implemented in Years 3 – 6 rooms twice a week, supported by teams of SLSOs.

Following the school focus in mathematics staff met as a stage team once a fortnight for a period of an hour and a half. This gave stage team leaders a valuable chunk of time to guide staff and develop a deeper professional understanding in current teaching practice and methods; developing sustainable teaching programs in Numeracy.

In 2012 guided maths teams were introduced into Years 1 and 2, continuing in Years 3 to 6. Quicksmart sessions continued in Years 5 and 6. A trial of some Year 4 students was undertaken and proving to be very successful.
Teaching staff continued with stage meeting sessions developing professional understanding of the K to 6 Literacy and Numeracy continuums. Staff began to plot students along a continuum thereby tracking their learning progress.

‘Kick Start’ and ‘Kick On’ guided reading and writing programs continued K to 6.

The position of Community Liaison Officer was introduced during this year to support school families and connect with the broader school community. Parent and carer information session were held throughout the year on topics covering Literacy, Numeracy, DENS boxes and homework.

This year 2013 we continue to provide support for our students in various ways, for example, Enrichment Writing groups, Quicksmart mathematics program, Literacy and Numeracy in-class support, Parent and carer information sessions and the offer of Numeracy Packs for all our school families to build a stronger link between school and home, and home to school.

Teaching staff continue their stage team meeting sessions once a fortnight where the focus will be developing sustainable programs and assessment tasks across the whole school.

2013 will be the final year Gloucester Public School will receive the significant funding that the National Partnership agreement offers.

I believe we have kept uppermost in our planning the following key areas...

- building capacity in teaching staff
- linking communities to school
- developing sustainability

...in doing so we have offered Gloucester Public School students, community and staff support, resources and close attention to learning.

2014 will not look too different as quality teaching and learning programs will continue to be delivered in all classes, staff will be engaged in stage team meetings for planning and development of quality programs, and our school community will continue to be involved and welcomed into our school to participate and connect with their child’s learning.

We can look forward in confidence knowing that the growth that has occurred for Gloucester Public School will prevail as we continue to offer INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY and above all, EXCELLENCE!
Schools Spectacular 2013
For the past two weeks, our Gloucester Public School dance team has been rehearsing solidly to prepare for their audition video. They have displayed an exemplary attitude towards each rehearsal and I can’t thank them enough for their dedication, hard work and team spirit. This Thursday, our Schools Spectacular audition is due. To make things easier, we will be lodging our audition via YouTube, allowing it to be instantly accessible by the Schools Spectacular judging panel. Only the judging panel will have access to our audition video on YouTube, as we have been requested to select an unlisted setting, when we are uploading our video.
I will be providing a link on our school website so you can view the video and see our team’s audition. I would like to thank the team for all of their hard work in order to be prepared for this audition. If we are successful we will be notified in May and I will pass on the news as soon as I know anything.
Good luck girls!

Mirabai Stockwell
Schools Spectacular Coordinator

CanTeen News
Don’t forget to come to the canteen this Thursday because it’s MilkShake Day!!!! We’ll be open at recess only and there will be some normal recess food plus some Red Licorice for sale. Milkshakes are $1.00 each; Red Licorice is 50c for 3 pieces. There will be a separate window for kinder and year 1 students which will be supervised by SRC members.

No Lunches will be made on Thursday!

CanTeen Dates
Please note that the canteen will open on Tuesday 2nd April, following the Easter break.
Have a safe and happy Easter.

Sharon Osborne, Canteen Supervisor.

CanTeen Roster
Tuesday 2/4/13 - Mel Feeney
Amanda Yardy
Wednesday 3/4/13 - Ruth Edwards
Susanna Jackson
Friday 5/4/13 - Karna Bartlett
Amy Hughes

Uniform Shop
Short sleeve school shirts are back in stock!! Sizes 4 to 16 available, $22.00 each. Long sleeve shirts should be coming in soon. Watch this space!

School Banking
Every Thursday at the Library before 9.00am.
Northcott Presents:

Understanding Your iPad

Northcott invites those working directly with individuals or caring for someone with learning, literacy or limited communication skills to an introductory workshop exploring iPad technology.

This workshop will provide an introductory guide to practical information on how to use & maximise iPad technology into daily routines along with:

- How best to set up your device
- Tips and tricks
- Internet and e-mail
- Using your iPad away from home
- Communications
- Voice dictation and printing
- How to search for, purchase, download and store apps on your iPad

We have allocated the last half hour of the workshop for individual questions and answers - you do not need to have an iPad on the day.

Who should attend
Parents, carers, extended family members (grandparents), therapists, respite workers, teachers, teacher aides, early childcare workers, disability support workers

DATE
Friday 3rd May 2013

TIME
10:00AM – 12:00

Hurry, places are limited!

VENUE
Gloucester Primary School
45 Hume Street
GLOUCESTER

COST
The workshop is free of charge – light Refreshments will be provided

RSVP
Tuesday 23rd April 2013
MNC Regional Office 6651 2366

*Please confirm dietary needs upon RSVP

~ Northcott supporting choice & opportunity