BOYS’ CRICKET TEAM TRIUMPH OVER OLD BAR PS

1/3 Oz Opera
2/3 Afternoon Tea with Staff 3.15-4.15pm
9/3 Soccer Gala Day
   Mini Roos Festival
21/3 P&C AGM
24/3 Easter Hat Parade K-2
21-24/3 Interview Week
29-31/3 Interview Week
25/3 Easter Friday
28/3 Easter Monday
21-24/3 Interview Week
25/3 Easter Friday
28/3 Easter Monday
31/3 Term 1 finishes

Assemblies – Term 1
Week 6 : 4L
Week 7 : 1M
Week 8 : 3G
Week 9 : Good Friday
Week 10 : 5/6G (Anzac Assembly)
Week 11 : 1S


Canteen Roster
2/3
   Leanne Kearney
   Tracey Murrell
4/3
   Linda Dillon
   Karen Higgins
7/3
   Hannah Murray
   Linda Scott
9/3
   Bev Germon
   Judy Hopkins
11/3
   Ange Parish
   Ruth Edwards
NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) starts in just 5 days’ time! The PRC is a competition open to all school students in NSW to encourage good reading habits. Students who take up the challenge (and make the commitment) will be required to read a specific number of books in a specified time frame (about 6 months).

All Kindergarten and Year 1 students will be completing the challenge at school during class and library time and therefore will not need to return a permission note.

Students in year 2 will be required to experience 30 books - 25 from the PRC reading list and 5 free choices. To experience a book a child can listen to a book, participate in a shared reading of a book or read part or the entire book independently.

Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be required to read 20 books - 15 from the PRC list and 5 free choice.

All students who participate and complete the challenge will receive a certificate and will have their name published on the on-line 2016 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll. For more information on this or other aspects of the PRC, please contact me at the school (Monday-Thursday) and check out the information on-line at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/

Permission notes went home last Friday. Please see the front office if you need another one.

Reading can begin on the 7th of March. The competition ends on the 19th August 2016.

Mrs Hayley Laurie
Teacher Librarian
Teasing Versus Bullying

By Michael Grose

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question – “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40% of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own, many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past, children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction?
I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of ‘The Boy Who Cried Wolf’ syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as ‘bullying’.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours. There’s no doubt that adolescents are on steep learning curves, absorbing both lessons and values that will stay with them for life. While teachers and peers play a part in shaping their views, parents play a major role. Dads can easily feel locked out of their children’s lives during this critical stage. But it’s vital to claim your space and let your voice be heard albeit with sensitivity, compassion and a sense of humour.
Bicycle Safety at our school

Your child's safety is important to us. Riding a bike to school can be fun however can also be quite dangerous. At Gloucester Public School we encourage that only primary (3-6) students ride their bikes to school, wearing their helmets and that parents/carers have checked the safety features of the bike.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have noticed that some students are placing themselves in unsafe situations especially around buses. Please talk to your child/ren about riding safely to and from school as there have been a few near misses. We have also noticed that some bikes are unsafe to ride to school and need some repairs. Could you please check your child’s bike for the safety features. Thank you!

Afternoon Bike Riders –
From this week, all bike riders will line up in the hall, just like all the other students that catch buses. When the students on bus 12 (the last bus) have moved onto the bus and the bus has moved away from the school grounds, all bike riders will then collect their helmets and bikes and be excused for the day. This allows all buses to be well away from our riders and an executive or teacher to ensure that all students riding bikes leave us safely. This may mean that your child will arrive home 5 minutes later than usual. Please talk to your child if they are a bike rider and discuss the safest route home and what your expectations are. Thank you for your support.

Leanne Wakefield, Principal

MONSTER EASTER RAFFLE

The P&C is running a monster Easter raffle. Tickets are 50c each.

Please come into the Office to purchase your tickets.

Tickets will also be available at the uniform shop on Fridays and at the ‘Meet the Staff’ Afternoon Tea.

Afternoon Tea with the Staff

You are invited to afternoon tea tomorrow, 2nd March at 3.15pm – 4.15pm in the Library.

Please come and join us for a chat and a cuppa.
**SMART PACK & VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Smart Packs** are once again available for purchase. Thank you to all those parents who have paid for these. The costs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 1-6</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These packs contain everything your child will require for the year; e.g., pens, pencils, glue sticks, exercise books, textbooks etc.

Please pay for your child's pack as soon as possible at the office. We would appreciate it if you would make this a priority. The code for paying online is 051624.

**Voluntary School Contributions** will remain at $30.00 per child per year. These funds are used to assist the school to purchase items used in teaching and student welfare. Such items include expenses relating to each of the learning areas such as art supplies, equipment, sports gear, library books, take-home readers, paper, cost of photocopying and texts etc.

Payment of these fees would be very much appreciated. The code for paying online is 046001.

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**Happy Birthday!**

Chelsea Wenham, Riley Schafer, Marley Young, Cody Sparke.

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**Class Awards:**

**KB:** Christopher Bolton
Kahlia Sellers
Brodie Baker
Kaylie Maslen (E)

**KM:** Tyler Hobbins
Amelia Wooster
Matthew Woods
Haki Phelan (E)

**1M:** Amy Fry
Aylisa Anneckini
Charlotte Todd
Destin Cole-Doyle (E)

**1S:** Jessica Marchant
Nylah Wisely
Ethan Blanchard
Kya Green (E)

**2H:** Hannah Leimgruber
Nicholas Maggs
Bodhi Ashby
Rhys Saunders (E)

**2W:** Lillianne Dangerfield
Kailee Hogan
Albie Cameron
Marley Young (E)

**Citizenship:** Wyatt Griffin (2W)

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**3-6 ASSEMBLY**

2.10pm
Friday 4th March
Hosts/Item = 4L
All welcome!

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**Headphones for Reading Eggs**

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will once again be using the program ‘Reading Eggs’ to increase both their computer and literacy skills. In order to get the most benefit out of this program, students are encouraged to bring in a set of headphones to use with the program, as some lessons require the students to listen to instructions. Most students brought in a set of headphones last year, which have now been passed on to their new teachers.

**Amy Schafer**
Assistant Principal
This week we are focusing on:

**Weekly Sounds:** I i and M m

**Weekly Sight Words:** to, the, like

**Numbers:** counting forwards from 1-30 and backwards from 20 -1, writing from 1-10

**Maths Focus:** adding, patterns, length and 2D shapes

KB and KM are starting **Home Reading** this week. Information, along with some useful resources you can use to support your child’s reading have gone home in the home reading folder with the first book.

*Cemone Baker and Susie McLeod © Kindergarten Teachers*

**Health Care Plans**

Thank you to everyone who has returned all the necessary information in order to finalise your child’s 2016 health care plan. This information includes:

- The signed final 2016 health care plan
- The signed statement of responsibilities
- The signed permission to contact your child’s doctor
- An updated (less than a year old) asthma care plan or anaphylaxis plan (if applicable)

Due to the change of asthma plan this year, I realise that some people are still awaiting a doctor’s appointment to finalise the Asthma Care Plan for Education Providers. However, it is requested that you return any of the other information in the meantime to assist us in caring for your child at school.

Please let me know if you need any further information about what you need to provide or any of these forms sent home again.

*Kaye Leighton © Learning and Support Teacher*

**Orders Due: 21st March 2016**

**Book Club News**

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Throughout the school year the Book Club magazine will be sent home with a different selection of books in each issue. You will find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. They span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and they are relatively inexpensive (some books cost as little as $2)

It is easy to order. Just look over the flyer with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer and return it to the front office by 21st March. Alternatively, you can order them online through the LOOP.

Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for Gloucester Public School. It is a great way to support our school!

Book club issues #2 was sent home this week. If you would like another copy, please pop by the front office to pick up a spare.

For more information about the books in this offer you can visit the Scholastic Book Clubs website at [www.scholastic.com.au](http://www.scholastic.com.au). You will also find great resources for you and your child.

*Hayley Laurie © Teacher/Librarian*

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Open every Friday morning

8.30am - 10.00am
Reading Discovery Super Stars
I wonder who is hiding behind each book? Can you guess who our Reading Discovery Super Stars are?

Mirabai Carruthers
Reading Recovery Teacher

Year 6 Shirts
Thank you to all the students who have returned their Year 6 shirt notes. I am encouraging students to try on one of the shirts I have in my classroom (5/6G) to ensure that the correct size will be ordered. Be mindful that this shirt is for the whole year and students are likely to grow over this period. If you have any enquiries, do not hesitate to contact me (65581303).

Eve Green
Year 6 Teacher

SRC Fundraiser
The SRC are organising a Jelly Bean Challenge. A jar full of jelly beans will soon be available for viewing at the front office, along with instructions on how to enter. The entry fee is 1 guess for 50c or 3 guesses for $1.00. There will be an entry box to put your guesses in and money box for your entry fee. On your entry ticket students need to write their name, class and their guess.

The SRC are hoping that the funds raised in our first fundraiser this year will go towards the repainting of the handball squares in the middle playground.

Thank you for your support.

SRC Executive

ICAS Entries
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) have distributed information for the dates and fees for their competitions for this year. Further information and the permission letter are included in this newsletter. These competitions are a great way for our students to demonstrate their abilities in a broader environment and familiarise them with the process of taking part in these assessments.

The closing date is Friday 1st April 2016. The completed permission letter and fees are to be submitted to the school office by this date. If you have any further enquiries do not hesitate to contact me.

Eve Green
ICAS Coordinator

Zone Swimming
Last Wednesday the Zone Swimming Carnival was held at the Taree Aquatic Centre. We had 13 students representing our school on the day in a number of events. Congratulations to all of the students who competed.

Emily Kearney will be competing this Thursday at the Regional Swimming Meet in Maitland. We wish her the best of luck in her events.

Shannon Crawford
Zone Swimming Coordinator
Year 6 Expression of Interest Forms for High School in 2017
A booklet titled 'Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2017' will be sent home this week to all Year 6 students.
While this is not an application to enrol, this form is essential in indicating which secondary school you are intending to send your child to.
Parents, please read all sections of this booklet carefully as it outlines the options available to you and gives you the basis for selecting the right secondary school for your child. If you have any questions about this form or need assistance in any form, please feel free to contact me after you have read through it.
Rod Maggs – Assistant Principal (Stage 3)

SPORTING SCHOOLS
Our 2016 Sporting Schools Program continues this week. It is not too late to enrol your child in our Term 1 programs. Enrolment forms are available at the front office and will cover your child for all of our 2016 programs. Your child must be registered to be able to participate.

This term our programs are Orienteering and Table Tennis.
We look forward to seeing you!

For: Students K-6
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm - 4pm
Where: Meet outside the Library
Bring your hat and water bottle
We would love to see you!

GPS Sporting Schools Team
Eve Green, Mel Seale, Susie McLeod & Hayley Laurie.

Boys Cricket team triumph over Old Bar PS
The boys' cricket team played yesterday in Round 2 of the NSW PSSA Cricket Knockout competition.
Regular early round rivals Old Bar travelled over for the game (that was postponed due to heat last Thursday) and met an enthusiastic Gloucester team eager and ready for the contest. With Captain Kayden Schumann winning the toss and electing to bat, the team was relying on some solid performances to post a strong total. And post they did.
Led by openers Sean Pilgrim and Harrison Edwards, the pair was able to see off the strongest of the opposition bowlers and with Kelly Groves' arrival at the wicket, the tally of runs began to accumulate. After an outstanding and patient openers' knock of 12 runs by Harrison came to an end, Kelly, Kayden and Travis Sansom continued to score freely at the crease. At the end of the 25 overs, the team had lost only 3 wickets and set Old Bar a difficult 101 runs to win. Kelly top scored with a controlled 24 and Kayden with 23.
With Travis, Kayden, Kelly and Cody Howard leading a tight bowling attack, the visitors struggled to keep up the required run rate and battled to 4-27 at the drinks break. The pressure was mounting and with an impressive 3 wickets for 4 runs off 2 overs by Jack Bignell, Old Bar was never going to dig themselves out of a bind set by a team who was not going to give an inch in the field.
Highlights were a diving screamer of a catch by Travis Sansom, runouts by Ryan Beggs and Harrison, and a two-wicket haul in the final over by the unassuming finisher, Beau Murray.
Best of all, the team played the entire match in a positive and encouraging manner and sportsmanship and teamwork were the heroes of the day. They did the school proud. Well done, boys!
Many thanks to Steve Bignell who organised equipment and set up for the day as well as umpiring from square leg (all the better, it must be said, once he dressed up for the occasion!) Also, a huge thank you to Jack's grandfather, Barry, who offered to umpire for us during the match. It is not every day we have an A-Grade umpire to officiate a match.
We face up to Tuncurry or Forster in the next round. Stay tuned! Rod Maggs – Cricket Coordinator
Stewart House
Stewart House is a children’s charity that provides short term respite care in the form of a hospital and school. It helps over 1,800 public education students each year, including students from our very own GPS. It is largely funded by teachers with teacher donations accounting for about 55% of operating expenses.
Each year our school is proud to support Stewart House with its fundraising activities (school donations account for about 13% of operating expenses).
In the past, Stewart House has offered key rings as a fundraiser but this year it’s a return to the ever popular $3 ‘high bounce handballs’. If you would like to order one, please complete/return the form at the end of this newsletter to either the office or classroom teacher. Orders will go away on Monday 14th March.
Debbie Howland
Stewart House School Rep

GLoucester Show
Colouring competition sheets are available from the office. Winners of each age group will win a family pass in to the show.
Entries close on 4 March.

CanTeen News
Later this term we will be holding a Hot Dog Meal Deal day and also a Milkshake Day. Stay tuned for more info and dates in upcoming newsletters.

We still have some Apple Slinky machines available for $30. They’re better quality and stronger than the ones you buy from kitchenware shops. The canteen has used the same one for years. Be quick, they’re going fast.

Lisa Norrie
Canteen Supervisor
Learning is lifelong. However, now is the time your child most needs you to help them learn, grow and reach their full potential, and ICAS can help you do this.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child’s performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

Each student receives:
- an engaging and challenging full-colour test booklet
- an individual diagnostic report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and year to year progression
- login details to access their online results which can be analysed and downloaded
- a High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit or Participation Certificate acknowledging their level of achievement
- the chance to receive an individually-engraved UNSW medal for the highest scoring student in each year level for each subject.

Help your young ‘spelling bee’ succeed
The early years set the stage for lifelong learning. From 2016, Year 2 students will be able to sit an ICAS Introductory Spelling paper. This paper will help your little ‘spelling bee’ succeed by measuring their spelling ability and, importantly, identifying very early in their schooling where your child may need some extra help. This paper is the only Spelling paper available in advance of Year 3 NAPLAN testing.

The decision to introduce a Year 2 Spelling paper is based on 30 years’ experience in school assessments, which have allowed EAA to identify some common difficulties that children face in Year 3. This paper will help every child get the best start.

You can learn more about common spelling problems faced by Year 3 students and the new ICAS Year 2 Spelling Paper at: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/spelling-introductory-paper

To learn more about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about Remember, EAA has some very helpful tools to help your child prepare. You can access practice assessments at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to the school no later than Friday 1/4/16.

PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards,
Leanne Wakefield
Principal

- Please do not pay small amounts online unless you have been given a reference code; e.g., swimming. (Cash is the only option in these cases.)
2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Permission Form

Please return this form to your child’s school

I give permission for my child, ___________________________ of ___________________________

Child’s name Class

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies*</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17 May 2016</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>31 May 2016</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13–17 June 2016</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15 June 2016</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2 August 2016</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16 August 2016</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals. However, your school may choose to sit at another time to fit in with other school activities and routines.
* Previously known as Computer Skills.

Please find enclosed total entry fee.

Amount

OR I have paid online - Reference Number 056002 Receipt Number: _______________________

_________________________ _______________________
Name of Parent/Guardian (please print) Date

_________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian
Stewart House High Bounce Handballs Order Form

- If several children from the one family are ordering, please combine on the one order form.

Name: _____________________________________      Class: __________________

I would like to order ________ handballs at $3.00 each. I enclose the total amount of $_______ as payment.

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