**FOR YOUR DIARY**

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**Excursions**

**Canberra - 27 - 30 October**
Yr 5/6 students set off on their 4 day excursion today and will return, very tired no doubt, on Friday at around 9.30pm.

**Pilliga - 29 October - Correction**
Yr 3/4 students will be going on a day excursion, not overnight as previously reported. They will leave at 7.30am on Thursday and return at approximately 4pm.

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**Dogs on School Grounds:**

Under the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 owners of dogs must:
- Be 18 years of age or over
- Leash their dog when in a public place
- Ensure their dog wears a collar and identification tag when in a public place
- Ensure their dog does not enter a food consumption area or wildlife protection area.
- Ensure their dog does not enter a school or child care play ground and any other place declared prohibited to dogs by Council

The Council Rangers may be called if a dog is seen on the school grounds. Below is a useful link with helpful information for children and dogs, promoting safety -


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**Snakes**

Over the past two weeks we have had two brown snakes on school premises and both have been removed safely. One was a baby and the other over a metre long. Students have been warned of the unwanted visitors at assembly and during Science lessons with Mrs Spora they have been discussing safety with snakes and how to keep ourselves safe.

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**Gilgandra Public School Facebook**

On Friday 16th October representatives from the school and P&C met with Consultant Peter Sutton from Kai Ming Consultancy group to discuss the future directions for Gilgandra Public School in terms of social media. The result of the day was a “soft launch” of the Gilgandra Public School Facebook page as a joint venture between the P&C and school. Gilgandra Public School would personally like to acknowledge Kylie Briggs for her outstanding work with creating and maintaining the Gilgandra Public School P&C Facebook page since 2013. The site had high praise from Peter and was able to be used as a platform for the new Facebook page for Gilgandra Public School. Mrs. Briggs will still be involved in the new Facebook page as an advisor and contributor, as she has a vast knowledge of the management side of the Facebook page. The Facebook page will be registered with the Department of Education as required so if any issues arise a social media expert can be contacted for advice and legal guidance.

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**Permission to Publish**

Gilgandra Public School is now using a school social media account to publish information and share school experiences, with the school and broader community. Parents should be aware their child’s name and photos can be linked to by third parties and may be discoverable online for a number of years, if not permanently. School records indicate that all parents have agreed with Publishing Student Information but if you would prefer your child/children to be excluded now that we have a school Facebook page, please inform the office by phone or send a written request. Records will be updated with requests.
Year 7 Entry to Selective High Schools in 2017.
Selective high schools cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School is one of these schools and is the only all-boys Government Agricultural High School in Australia.

Year 5 Parents must apply online at the following link: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement and should read the instructions carefully. You wait to receive a password and then log in to complete the application and submit it. Once you have successfully submitted your application you will receive an email with a copy of your application containing your child’s student number. You must quote this number whenever you make enquiries about your application. If you find you have made a mistake after you submitted your application, email the Unit to change any information. Do not apply twice for the same student, as the selection committee can consider only one application for each student.

Some email providers such as Gmail will not accept emails with attachments sent from the Unit. If this happens we have to send all information by mail. To avoid this problem add ssu@det.nsw.edu.au to your email contacts list and check your spam or junk folders regularly.

A paper copy of the information about applying for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2017 is available at the front office. Applications will not be accepted after 16th November 2015.

Swimming
Swimming for Sport commences for all primary students on Friday, 6th November. Please ensure your child has swimmers, towel, sunscreen, hat and $1 if they do not hold a season ticket. Please note that it is part of the school curriculum - not a choice. If your child is not participating on any day they will need a note of explanation.

Special Swimming Scheme for all students in Yr 2 and those in Yr 3-6 who cannot swim commence on 30th November. Cost is $30 which includes pool entry fee (regardless of whether or not the child holds a season ticket). If your child has not received a note and you would like them to participate please call at the office. Payment needs to be paid by Friday, 20th November.

PBL
Class Awards:

Astronauts: Domanic Field, Emmaline Diamond;
Panthers: Bailey Kaltenbacher;
Kinder Cows: Bridget Olayta, Jay Mullard, Lorelai Hawke, Acacia Reiri-White;
Kinder Geckos: Logan Howard, Gus Howard, Charlie Hutchison, Manaaki Diamond;
1 Fish: Ariella Chatfield, Ariki Karaitiana, Dan Briggs, Shyanne Hammond, Isaiah Marchant;
2 Frogs: Ty Morgan, Quade Chatfield, Isaiah Aro, Micah Tamsett;
3/4 Ninjas: Corey Kaltenbacher, Zach Jackson, Brianna Madgwick, Kaydence Wieland, Kyra Hammond, Jamaica Newman;
3/4/5 Knights: Tyrell Hammond, Tallara Walford-Fernando, Cameren Hawke, Isaiah Knox;
4/5 Einsteins: Missys Karaitiana, Jack Chandler, Blair Keogh, Brandon Walsh, Tony Sutherland, Chloe Mackney;
6 Eagles: John Bunter, Jason Newman, Korrani Reid, Blake White, Kirralah Pracy.

Level 1 Lion Certificate: Azariah Iffland.
Level 2 Lion Certificates: Jakiel Naden, Katina Brown, Sophie Winterton.

Gilgandra Pony Club Rally Day
Gilgandra pony club is holding an open rally day and is inviting all existing and new riders to come along. The rally is on Saturday, 31st October, 2015 from 9 am to 12pm at the Gilgandra showground. Instructors will be at the club to answer any questions. Free BBQ lunch provided afterwards.

Junior Basketball Coaching Clinic
Former local lad Luke Johnston and his Sydney basketball team Ockers boys will hold a junior basketball coaching clinic on Friday, 6th November from 4pm to 5.30pm at the Gilgandra Youth Club. All aspiring basketballers of any level are urged to attend. No cost to take part in the clinic.
Panthers students travelled to Dubbo on Tuesday 20th October to participate in the Dream Cricket Gala Day. They had a great time practising their bowling, catching, batting and fielding skills in a variety of games and drills. I am proud to say that the students were excellent representatives for Gilgandra Public School.

Jason Root - Classroom Teacher

Fund Raiser for Hear Our Heart Hearing Bus

The Hear Our Heart project has enabled many of our students to access hearing assessments and further medical appointments. Now it is our turn to help them raise much needed funds to ensure that this valuable service continues.

Next Tuesday 3rd November students are asked to bring a gold coin donation to school to contribute to a donation line. Let's see how long we can make it.
**Tips for How to Improve Communication Skills at Home**

**Treat Your Child as a Full Communication Partner**

This can be tricky to balance. You need to talk to them as if they are adults but still remember they are children.

Talking with them like an adult doesn't mean use adult vocabulary, jokes, or information they won't understand. It means take turns, use eye contact, and value what they say.

As for younger children, there will many times they say something you don't understand (gibberish), but again, take your turn, make your best guess about what they are talking about and reply to them...

...even if you're not sure what they're talking about.

Don't talk to them in baby talk all the time. It's O.K. every now and again, but after they are about 9 months old, try to limit how much you do it.

**Be a Good Model**

I'm not talking about being a good "role model", although you need to be that too, I mean a good speaking model.

If you want to build strong speech and language skills in your child, you need to show that you have skills yourself. A good rule of thumb for how to improve communication skills is to talk slightly above your child's level.

That way they will be stretched enough to keep building their skills.

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**Whooping Cough Information for Schools**

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night. Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.

If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies. Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation. Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

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**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY NSW - CRAFT MARKET - GILGANDRA SHIRE HALL**

**SATURDAY 14TH November, 2015 - 9:30am - 4:00pm  FREE ADMISSION**

Stalls: Woodwork, Christmas Cakes & Puddings, Cakes & Biscuits, Baby Knitting, Craft Supplies, Plants & Garden Art, Homemade Candles, Christmas Gift Items, And Much More!

EVERYONE WELCOME