**IGA Donation**

On behalf of Gilgandra Public School I would like to thank Carlo’s IGA Gilgandra for the generous donation of $200 towards the Life Skills program in the Owls and Dolphins classes presented at assembly on Friday 5th February. The Life Skills course incorporates a cooking program where students learn many of the skills that are required to make sure they are safe, as well as skilled people when cooking. The classes learn about making healthy choices and quantities of ingredients when measuring using our scales and measuring cups. The generous donation from IGA will be beneficial in supporting the cost of this program.

**Special Religious Education (SRE)/Scripture**

In NSW Public Schools parents have the right to have their children receive Special Religious Education instruction (Scripture) during school time, in their religious persuasion, where authorised teachers of that persuasion are available.

At Gilgandra Public School the Approved Provider is represented by the Combined Christian Churches of Gilgandra Minister’s Fraternal consisting of Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian, Assemblies of God, Church of Christ and Roman Catholic. Representatives from these churches teach SRE classes at Gilgandra Public School. The SRE teachers present material from the “Godspace” program. The program presented to the students is non-denominational and sourced from the website:


All SRE volunteers have a Working with Children’s Check but duty of care is maintained by the school at all times and teachers remain with classes for behaviour management support. SRE at Gilgandra Public School is held every Wednesday at 12pm following the lunch break for a period of thirty minutes. At Easter and Christmas a combined SRE lesson is held at St Joseph’s Catholic Church for an hour duration.

Parents/carers nominate their religion to provide permission for their children to participate in SRE on the enrolment form. If you nominate your child/children be withdrawn from SRE instruction please inform the school in writing and an alternate activity will be provided by the classroom teacher, within the classroom.
Proposed Mobile App Survey
Gilgandra Public School is currently researching Mobile Apps that will enable effective communication to take place between the school and the parent/carer community. To ascertain the viability of the Mobile App a survey has been developed and is attached to this week’s newsletter. Please respond to the survey as it assists Gilgandra Public School with future planning to support effective communication.

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI)
Gilgandra Public School staff will undertake professional development on Wednesday 10th February from 3:30-6:30pm in an update of Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. The program emphasises early intervention and non-physical methods for preventing or managing disruptive behaviours. The NCI will be delivered by Michelle Ashworth from the Dubbo Schools office and is an update for staff.

University of NSW Education Assessment
Every year our school is involved with the University of NSW Education Assessment. This is a series of tests in Digital Technologies, Science, Maths, Spelling, Writing and English. Your child is invited to be part of this testing process again in 2016. The cost and dates of this testing are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>Tuesday, 17th May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>Tuesday, 31st May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>13th-17th June</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15th June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>Tuesday, 2nd August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Yrs. 3-6</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16th August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may nominate your child for 1 or any combination of the above tests. If you are interested in entering your child please contact the office for an entry form and send back to the school office by Friday 26th February along with the entrance fee. As a result of changes to the pricing and minimum numbers allowed to sit for these tests the school may not be able to run all the above competitions if insufficient numbers apply. A refund will be given if this occurs.

Student Banking
The school banking program is designed to teach students the value of saving and help develop money skills. Students are rewarded in various ways for consistent saving. The school also receives a commission on deposits. All Kindergarten children will receive an introduction pack with details on how to open an account. All other students who would like to open an account can get the pack from the front office. Student banking is conducted every Monday and completed deposit books and money should be left at the front office.

School Leaders’ Induction Assembly
On Thursday 11th February Gilgandra Public School will hold the Induction Assembly for students who will have a leadership role in the school during 2016. All the students will receive their badges at the Assembly and participate in a special morning tea with their parents and guests afterwards in the library.

Accident Insurance
EBM are offering student accident cover for $29.00 per annum. For more information on benefits and compensation payable and to complete an application go to www.studentcover.com.au or call in to the front office.

Head Lice
We have been notified of some cases of head lice in the school at the moment - Remember they do not discriminate! In fact they like clean shiny hair. Please check your child/ren’s hair regularly and treat if necessary. Several treatments are available from the chemist or you may wish to take advantage of the treatments listed below.

School Photos - Advance Notice
School photos will be taken on Tuesday, 16th March. Order packs will go home shortly with full details. Cost will range from $35 for a basic pack to $45 for the delux pack. Children will need to be in full summer uniform on this day.

SCRATCHY KIDZ - NO MORE
Forget about the stigma attached to Head Lice and let’s just treat the condition. We have developed a head Lice treatment that is easy for you. WE DO THE TREATMENT and it works.

Professional Salon Treatment - Short Hair $35; Long Hair $45; Take Home Kits $20

beauty on wingewarra - 96 Wingewarra Street, Dubbo Ph. 6885 5060
Annual Swimming Carnival

When: Friday 12th February (students arrive at school as normal and will return to school by 3:15pm)
Where: Gilgandra Town Pool
Uniform: Students can wear house colours however NO THONGS or NO SINGLET TOPS. Students need swimmers, hat and towel.
House colours: No crepe paper please
   Bogan- blue
   Castlereagh- yellow
   Darling- green
   Macquarie- red
Food: Students can bring their own food or buy from the pool canteen – see menu. Below.
Cost: Season ticket or $1 entry fee
Medication: If your child is asthmatic please ensure they have their medication.
   A team of swimming competitors will be selected to participate at the District Twilight Swimming Carnival at Dubbo on Thursday 25th February.

Parents/ carers welcome

Pool Canteen Menu
   Cup of chips $3                Scallop $1
   Munchies 25c                  Hot dog $3.50
   Pizza single $3                Can of drink $2.50
   Pop top $2                      Small bottles $2
   Various chips and lollies

Kindergarten

Over the last week we have had an excited group of students come together to start their school years as Kinder Meerkats and Kinder Cobras. We have started to learn the many routines and behaviours that help our students become safe, respectful learners. Our two Kindergarten classes will be working together for a range of subjects. We will follow the L3 – Language, Learning & Literacy – Kindergarten program that has been successfully implemented over the last few years. This program has our Kindergarten students enjoying many stories and books together every day. Our classes are fortunate to have Mrs Michel Prout and Mrs Terri-lee Naden as our Teachers’ Aides each day. Both classes have Library together on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Chandler. Mrs Spora takes Kinder Meerkats to her upstairs room for Science lessons every Wednesday and Kinder Cobras have their Science lesson on Thursdays.

We are looking forward to a fun year of learning with each Kinder student and their families.

Ms Renee Cohen (Kinder Cobras) Mrs Lyn Greenhalgh (Kinder Meerkats)