Next week we welcome back Mrs Ahearn and Mrs Boctor. We hope they have enjoyed their leave.

**EASTER HAT PARADE**

Our Easter Hat Parade will be held in the hall next Thursday at 1:30pm followed by the Easter Raffles. If anyone has any spare baskets it would be appreciated if you could send them in by this Friday or sooner. Also raffle tickets need to be returned by Monday, March 21.

**HARMONY DAY**

Harmony Day “Our diversity is our strength” celebrations will take place this Thursday with students participating in a range of activities. Our school can celebrate our cohesive, culturally diverse society and promote inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Harmony Day coincides with the United Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The children have been asked to wear something orange as this is the colour that depicts Harmony Day Australia wide. Students involved in the special assembly have been asked to wear traditional costume for the assembly and K-2 classes will be performing.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER**

The Entertainment Book is one of our favourite fundraisers at Gwynneville Public. Last year we raised $330.00. This year we want to do even better! We are raising money for school resources. The books sell for $55 and we keep $11 for every one we sell. The book gives you access to thousands of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for NSW South Coast’s best restaurants, cafes, attractions and theme parks. Please find the attached form with this newsletter.
NIZ FOOTBALL TRIALS
Last Monday Emilia, Josh, Zachary and Adrian attended the Northern Illawarra Zone Trials at Dapto. A boys and a girls team was selected on the day to attend the Regional Trials.

The standard for both the girls and boys teams was high and our students were very competitive on the day.

Congratulations to Josh and Adrian who will now represent the Northern Illawarra Zone at the Regional Trials.

REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Last Tuesday three Gwynneville Students Adrian, Ethan and Lukas competed at the Regional Swimming Carnival at Dapto Pool.

Adrian and Ethan competed in the boys 50m Freestyle and finished 5th and 6th. Lukas had a full schedule competing in most of the events. Which was a huge effort.

Lukas was placed first in the 50m Butterfly, he also swam a personal best time and now heads off to the State Swimming Carnival at Homebush on April 6 and 7.

Well done Lukas from all of Gwynneville!

DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE TRIALS
On Friday, March 11, Nathan and Zac in 4/5B went to the Central Wollongong Trials for Rugby League and were picked in the under 11’s team to compete at the Northern Illawarra Zone Trials on Wednesday, March 23 at Berkeley. Great effort boys!!

REMINDER ANNUAL SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
Our Annual School Cross Country will be held on Thursday, April 7. All children in kindergarten – Year 6 will be competing and have been practising at school. The Cross Country will begin at 9:30am.

SCHOOL GARDEN
Our school garden is blooming. We will have produce ready for our term 2 kitchen garden program. Thank you to Mrs Wakeford for all the extra hours she puts in to ensure that our garden is regularly watered.

AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOL COMPETITIONS 2016
The University of NSW is again conducting competitions in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Writing and Spelling. These competitions are set and marked externally and each child receives a certificate and a comprehensive evaluation of their results. They are quite demanding but many Gwynneville Public School pupils enter each year and enjoy the challenge the competitions offer. If you would like your child to participate in any or all of the competitions please complete an application form from the school office. All forms and money must be returned to the school by the due date. No late payments will be received. Cheques are made payable to Gwynneville Public School or you can pay online through our school website or cash in an envelope to the school office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS RECEIVING THEIR AWARDS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17 AT THE ASSEMBLY

KL—Eli, Liam, Taliyah
K/1E—Kyle
2A—Jeren, Maxim
2M—Allegra, Keira, Shule

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM FOR 2016!
I wish to welcome all the new students to the School Banking program. Remember school banking day is every Friday – just bring along your completed banks books and money, and the class teacher will collect these at the beginning of the day.

Just a reminder to make sure you fill out your deposit slip. If you need help I can provide you an example to follow. The students are more than welcome to complete the slips themselves.

Every time a student banks they receive a token. Once 10 tokens are collect they can order one of the available rewards. These rewards are on display in the Library.

Bank books are returned to the teachers the
following Monday.
If you would like to join the school banking program, please collect an application form from the office, and follow the steps, it’s very simple, or go to your nearest branch with photo identification,
and birth certificate for the child/children.
If you have any questions please give me a call.
Nicole (0414521942) – School Banking Coordinator
– Happy Saving!

Vital foster care
Foster carers and adoptive parents play a vital role in giving children safe and caring homes, helping to change their lives for the better. Carers come from all walks of life. To become a career, you need patience, energy and a sense of humour, which can all go a long way towards helping a vulnerable child.

We want to hear from you. If you are interested in helping children, are over 18, in good health, and an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

What is foster care?
Foster care provides a secure and safe home for children (up to 18yrs) who can’t live at home with family. Carers can choose which type of care to provide:

- **Immediate** - Short notice, there are concerns for a child’s immediate safety
- **Respite** - Short periods such as weekends or holidays, when carers require a break
- **Short-term** - Aimed at returning the child to family, up to 12 months
- **Long-term** - The child is not expected to return to family
- **Adoption from care** - The child is not expected to return to family and is eligible for adoption

Supporting carers
To join this valuable network, we offer plenty of support for carers.

- Ongoing training
- A caseworker who can assist with any problems
- Access to carer support groups
- A free 24hour parent line for counseling and information
- A fortnightly allowance based on the age of the child to help feed, clothe, educate, and meet any other needs

If you have are interested in helping children, and want to find out more, call 1800 236 783 (free call), or visit fosteringnsw.com.au

LOWES - SALE

20% OFF
Everything in the store
Including school uniforms
Offer ends on Thursday, March 17 at the end of late night shopping.

DON’T MISS OUT