

Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

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Issue No 4

17 May 2011

From the Principal

Senator Michael Forshaw officially opened our *Building the Education Revolution* classrooms and special programs room yesterday (16/5) at a special assembly in the school hall.

Senator Forshaw was joined by other special guests including community representatives Craig Baumann MP and Councillor Glenys Francis. Mr Bob Baldwin MP was a late withdrawal due to illness and Mayor Bob Westbury also sent an apology.

School patrons Mrs Ellen Gordon, Kevin Colman and Glenys Francis attended, and the P & C was represented by President Kellie Sandeman and Babette Armstrong who was P & C President at the start of the BER projects.

Our School Captains Jon Beautelement and Gabrielle Rae ran the proceedings extremely well, Abi Chambers provided an acknowledgement of country and our prefects accompanied the guests on a tour of the new facilities.



Senator Forshaw unveils the commemorative plaque to officially open the BER buildings

I would like to thank our canteen organisers and volunteers for an excellent afternoon tea, and Mr Keith Clayton and Mrs Katie Brown for leading the choir and assembly in the school song and national anthem. Our general assistant, Mr Henderson, ensured that the commemorative plaque was able to be unveiled in the hall and later attached permanently to the new building.

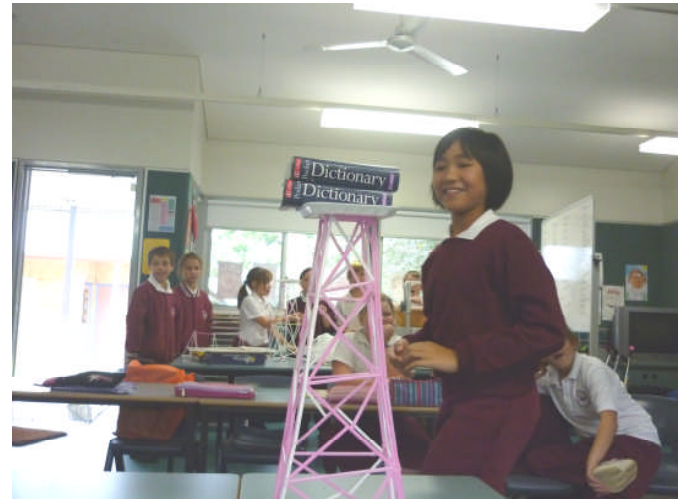
Congratulations to our boys and girls for displaying excellent school spirit and participating so well in

the formal proceedings. I know that Senator Forshaw and other guests were very impressed with our school.

Tower Power

Congratulations to our Year 4 students who have done so well in the Engineers' Australia Straw Tower Competition.

Mrs Parker has given a full report with pictures further on in this newsletter, showing how well our students performed.



Beatrice tests the strength of her group's straw tower by loading it with large dictionaries

The straw tower competition and Junior Justice Program are two excellent examples of our increased focus on challenging students with problem solving activities.

NAPLAN tests completed

All our Year 5 and the vast majority of Year 3 students were in attendance to complete the NAPLAN tests last week. Results should be back to parents in September.

Paul Henry
Principal

Opportunity Class Placements for Year 5 in 2012

Parents of Year 4 students who are interested in applying for a placement in an opportunity class (OC) for academically talented students are able to access an application package at:

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Applications close on 20 May.

Coming Events for Term 1

Date	Event
Tues 17 May	Knights R.L. K.O. carnival – under 12's team competing
Thurs 19 May	Catchment Crawl Environmental program
Tues 24 May	Cross Country presentation Digi-Ed workshop – Stage 3
Wed 25 May	Digi-Ed Workshop – Stage 2
Thurs 26 May	Tests for I.H.S. Extension Class for 2012 Yr 7
Wed 1 June	DISCO
Tues 7 June	Art Show Meeting at GPS at 7 pm
Thurs 9 June	"Fun-Athon"

CANTEEN NEWS ROSTER:

Tues May 17th: Toni Waanders

Wed May 18th: Bev Pegg, Julie Evans

Thur 19th May: Fiona Brown, Leslie Palmer

Fri 20th May: Donna Rutherford, Susan Martin

Mon 23rd May: Melany McLean, Skye Noffke

Hot Milo is available now, but it will only be served in the morning until 8.55am to allow time to be consumed.

PORT STEPHENS ACTIVITY VAN PRESCHOOL

Wednesday 9.30am – 3.00pm

Grahamstown Public School

Hastings Avenue

Raymond Terrace

For Information and Enrolment Packages

Phone: 4987 1344

2011 Zone Cross Country

Congratulations and thanks **Miss Russell!** It was a wonderful carnival. Thanks to all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers who came along and supported our team. Many thanks also to the parent volunteers who ran the canteen, cooked sausages and ran the gift stall too. Also thanks to **Mr O'Brien** who took time out of his busy retirement to help set up the cross country course. Our GPS team of 48 runners all put in a fantastic effort to do their personal best. **Kimberley Jaeger** came in 6th place which entitled her to a place on the Hunter team. Well done and good luck **Kim!**

Michael Grohmann and **Teeya Saunders** both came in 9th, in their different age events. **Jacobi Patrick** came 11th, **Cameron Walsh** 19th and **Luke Keating** 20th. The rest of the team ranged in places from 20th to 80th in their respective age events. As each event had over 100 runners you can see all our competitors performed well.

Congratulations to everyone

STAGE 3 CANBERRA EXCURSION

ARE YOU A PARENT HOPING TO ACCOMPANY STAGE 3 to Canberra in 2011? Then your expression of interest needs to be returned by Thursday May 19.

CROSS COUNTRY RIBBONS & TROPHIES

The trophies for our 2011 Cross country Champions have been ordered. We have chosen Tuesday morning assembly on May 24 as the date for handing out the trophies and ribbons.

MATHS OLYMPIAD

On Wednesday May 18, 2011 a team of 30 of our best Stage 3 mathematicians will be competing in the first round of the Maths Olympiad, of which there are 5 in total. Each round consists of 5 very challenging maths problems. Good luck.

GRADUATION BEAR OR BALL

Orders in by Thursday JUNE 2

Year 6 students have been given an opportunity to purchase a graduation bear or ball to have signed as a memento of their years at Grahamstown PS. The Bear stands 40cm tall with moveable arms and legs. The ball is approximately 20 cm in diameter. Both come with a pen for signatures.

I know that it is early in the year but I am trying to get organised early. Any parents who wish to view samples may do so at the office. Any parents who wish to purchase one of these items and don't have children in Year 6 may obtain an order form at the office.

\$1 from each sale will go towards the Year 6 Farewell.

There is no obligation to order!
(Miss Russell)

DEFENCE SCHOOL TRANSITION AIDE NEWS

In my absence a note was placed in the Newsletter regarding a Bush Dance for ADF families on Saturday 21st May. This is a *FREE* event, if you are able to go the RSVP has been extended until **today** and tickets will need to be collected from DCO. Please call 4034 6973 if you require more information.

I hope you have received a note regarding Devonshire Tea next **Wednesday 25th May** in the staffroom, with Glenda de Wit, Defence Transition Mentor from Irrawang High School. If you are only able to join us for a short time, I would appreciate having the opportunity to meet with you.

Terrace Buddies will be holding a "Biggest Morning Tea" as a fundraiser for the Cancer Council on Wednesday 1st June at Medowie. Please contact the group on terracebuddies@bigpond.com for further details.

Many Thanks

Deborah O'Donoghue

Defence School Transition Aide



Friday 20 May 2011 MEDIA DIARY ALERT: 7 March 2011 **NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY IS ON FRIDAY 20 MAY, 2011**

It's nearly that time of year again when primary school aged children from right around Australia will make those important steps towards a healthier childhood by participating in National Walk Safely to School Day. Now in its twelfth year, the Walk Safely to School Day initiative will be celebrated on Friday 20 May 2011. Walk Safely to School Day promotes the vitally important message: *Active Kids are Healthy Kids*. The event encourages parents, carers and their children to build regular walking to and from school into their daily routine, because children need a minimum of 60 minutes exercise per day. It also encourages parents to drive less and walk more, aiming to decrease dangerous vehicle congestion around schools and reduce carbon emissions from idling cars.

WHAT: National Walk Safely to School Day 2011

WHEN: Friday 20 May, 2011

WHERE: In all Primary Schools around Australia

WHY: To encourage children to lead a healthier, more active lifestyle by simply including a walk at the beginning and end of each day. The idea is to ensure each Australian child achieves at least 60 minutes of exercise a day to help prevent obesity and other health problems.

CONTACT: Images, interviews and more information available.

INSERT PR CONTACT DETAILS HERE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.walk.com.au

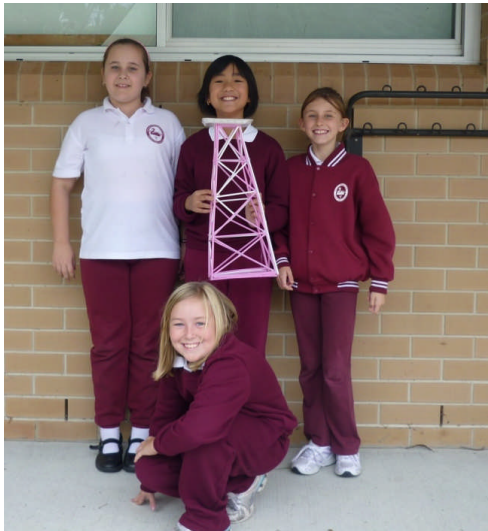
SPORTS EXCHANGE

Just a reminder that sports exchange is on this Friday. Please remember to bring bus money and any equipment needed.

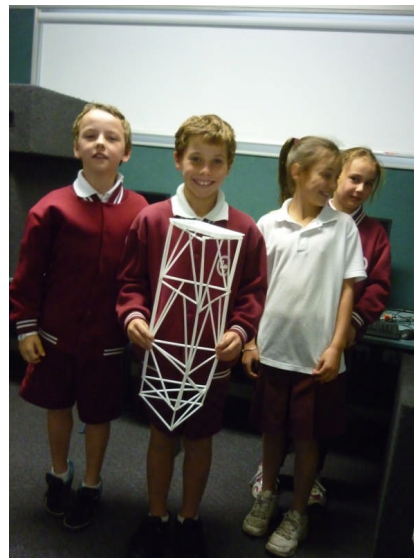
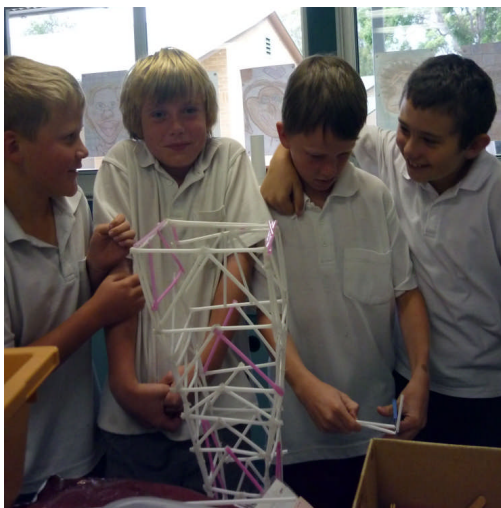
Engineers Australia Straw Tower Competition

On Thursday 12th May, Mr Kelly took 16 children representing St 2K and St 2P to the Engineers' Australia Straw Tower Competition at Broadmeadow. Both classes had been involved in the competition at school, participating in an engineer's visit for questions and answers; designing, building and testing their towers prior to the final testing day at Broadmeadow. The first 8 volunteers in each class had the privilege of attending; however the best two towers from each class actually went to the competition.

This straw tower designed and built by Beatrice Nguyen, Jasmine Scott, Synara Streeter and Samantha Newell [2P] was the runner up in the competition holding 5.7 kg.



It was presented by Jackson Doughty, Lachlan Callen, Jesse Hawkins and Orion Stanko; whose own tower was 3rd in our class testing.



This tower designed and built by Sam Beautement, Will Turpin, Kimberley Jaeger and Teeya Saunders [2P] was 2nd in our class testing and competed well, but failed to meet the high results of other towers at Broadmeadow.



This tower was designed and built by Charlotte Sandeman, Cooper Winsor, Zac Johns, and Ryan Knowles. 2K a great effort also, but didn't hold quite enough weight.



This tower was built by Liam Anderson, Bailey McDermott Schuhmacher, Lachlan Murphy and Michael Newson. 2K seen here awaiting the results of the next tower in the competition.

Thanks to Mr Kelly and the parents who transported out teams and their towers. Well done all!



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOLING?

Youyong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)

is the place to make that difference.

AECG is an Aboriginal community organisation that works with schools

& community to better the outcomes for Aboriginal Education.

If you would like to have a say in your child's education come along to our meetings, or if you just want to learn more about what we do please contact Rachel on 0431580086.

Hunter New England Health

Health Screening & Other Activities (related to health)

@ Murrook

Proposed date 20th July 2011
9am – 2pm?

Primary School Aboriginal Students

- ~ Being Active (Sport & Rec)
- ~ Dental & Oral Hygiene
- ~ Obesity, Nutrition & Diabetes
- ~ Otitis Media (Ears & Eyes)



Everyone living under your roof is family under ours!

The YMCA is committed to helping build families that are strong in body, mind and spirit. Through programs, services and places to connect and belong, we provide opportunities for families to engage, interact and be active together, to learn new skills and to learn about each other and to feel safe and welcome.

This Families Week, YMCA Lakeside Leisure Centre, invites you and your family to participate in our family celebrations.

"Learn CPR" A Skill for Life

Saturday 21st May 2011

1:00pm-5:00pm

Cost: \$25 per person

(Includes—Royal Life Course Certificate on successful completion and BBQ lunch)

Bookings are essential

RSVP: 18th May 2011

Amanda Kennewell on 49872039

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 21st May 2011

12:00noon — 4:00pm FREE ENTRY

Come join in the fun

- Inflatable Island Fun
- Philbert the Frog

PSF.S 3Phillip Road Raymond Terrace

Date: Starting Monday the 23rd of May
Time 3:30 till 5:30 of May.

Lets Learn to D'j

Come Join Kiah, Nathan and Renae down at Port Stephens Family Support for a fun afternoon, every Monday 3:30 till 5 starting Monday the 23rd of may and help have a say to your community, any Concerns Contact Renae or Nathan at Port Stephens Family Support. 49874674

