

Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

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From the Principal

Groups of students participated in two stimulating challenges last week that earned high praise from the teachers in charge and excellent feedback from the organisers.

The first was the Junior Justice program which challenged our students to conduct a court case based on a scenario developed by the local legal community. Students had to study the evidence, play their roles in the Raymond Terrace courthouse and provide a jury to decide the outcome of the case. The students were supported by officers of the court and the whole program was very highly rated by Mrs South and parents who attended. The students also enjoyed the experience and obviously learnt a great deal about our system of justice.

The second program was the Catchment Crawl led by Mr Kelly which involved a small group of our students working with students from other schools in a study of environmental issues related to our water catchment and water supply system. Mr Kelly reported that the students were very engaged and earned high praise from the Water Watch Team.

It's wonderful to see students respond to such challenges and use their skills in solving problems or gaining new knowledge.



Eleanor, Kiara and Ashleigh enjoying their research during the Catchment Crawl program

P & C FUN-A-THON

In past years the P & C has conducted a Lap-A-Thon in term 1 which has been a major fundraiser. This year, it was decided to change that to a Fun-A-Thon to rejuvenate student interest and engage students in a wider variety of activities during the event.

The concept is that students will rotate through a group of "islands", each island having its own physical activity as a challenge. As students rotate through the islands, they will have their "passport" stamped to show they have completed the activity. We are asking students to collect sponsors for their progress, the proceeds going to the P & C for school equipment and resources.

The date for the Fun-a-thon is Thursday 9 June.

The events will involve a lot of space and equipment, so students in **Years 3 to 6 will run their events from 12:20 pm to 1:20 pm and K-2 students from 1:50 pm to 2:50 pm.**

Class teachers will be seeking the support of at least one parent per class to help run the activities so the groups can be smaller. Obviously parents will be very welcome to come along and cheer on their children.

Sponsorship cards will be sent home tomorrow, with just over two weeks to gain sponsors. We will advise students to concentrate on networks of friends and family for support and not to approach strangers.

This should be a lot of fun and we hope everyone can get behind the event.

Uniform survey

Earlier this year a survey to gauge parent opinion about a change in the girls' summer uniform did not receive enough returns to justify a change. The survey will be re-issued by the P & C with the hope of receiving a higher number of returns to reliably indicate parents' opinions. Please take the opportunity to return the survey when it is re-issued.

Paul Henry,
Principal

Coming Events for Term 1

Date	Event
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-A- Thon” Yrs 3-6 from 12:20 to 1:20 pm K-2 from 1:50 pm to 2:50 pm

Catchment Crawl

On Thursday the 19th, five students from GPS joined the Water Watch Team and five other schools for a terrific tour of the Williams River Catchment. We left at 8.15am on a beautiful coach and travelled all the way to Chichester Dam where we participated in various activities. Bug recognition, site analysis, water testing, aboriginal heritage. We stopped at various sites, Dungog Bandengrove and Nelsons Plains and looked at special features along the way. It was a great day and everyone got a lot out of it. The children Katelyn Seage, Eleanor Collins, Ashleigh Ratray, Kiara Eneliko and Lochie Rutherford were great.

Gene Kelly

Environmental Contact



Lochie testing the water.

GRADUATION BEAR OR BALL ORDERS IN BY THURSDAY JUNE 2

CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

Tues May 24th: Mandy Bridge

Wed May 25th: Di Soper

Thur 26th May: Tanya Picot, Jayde McCulloch

Fri 27th May: Kris O'Brien, Simone Adam

Mon 30 May: Karen Kenning, Noami Farnham

Wanted Urgently – volunteer bookkeeper for canteen. Responsibilities - pay accounts and wages. Do up a monthly reconciliation. Not necessary to attend meetings.

No Hot Milo served on Friday mornings

JUNIOR JUSTICE COMPETITION

Last Thursday I had the pleasure of accompanying 30 of our Stage 3 students down to Raymond Terrace Court House to participate in the second stage of our 'Junior Justice' competition. This program was undertaken in conjunction with 'Law Week 2011'. The first part of the competition involved analysing an imaginary scenario that had been presented to us. The 'Grahamstown Investigation Team' then had to sift through evidence and determine who had committed the offence. A Magistrate looked at the final submissions of the participating schools and chose four schools to participate in a mock trial.

We were involved in our mock trial on the Thursday morning. Five of our students were on the prosecution team and five on the defence team. The remaining students formed the jury. Our students were assisted by representatives from Raymond Terrace Police Station and local solicitors. His Honour Richard Wakely (retired Magistrate) presided as Magistrate during the mock trial.

The entire experience proved to be an extremely worthwhile and valuable one for our students. They displayed excellent behaviour at the Court House and should be proud of their involvement in the "Junior Justice" program. The overall winning school will be announced this week.

A very big thank you to those wonderful Mums, Dads, Grandmothers and Grandfathers who assisted with transport last Thursday. It was very, very much appreciated.

Kylie South.