

Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

Find us at: Hastings Drive RAYMOND TERRACE 2324

Issue No 10

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URGENT REMINDERS

Fun-A-Thon Sponsorships due back by tomorrow: Tues 28 June

The prizes and lucky draws for the Fun-A-Thon are scheduled for presentation this Thursday afternoon, but a large number of students are yet to return their sponsorships. If your child hasn't returned their sponsorships, please assist them to get the sponsorships back tomorrow so the money is returned and everyone who raised some money can be part of the draws.

P & C BBQ orders are due back by tomorrow morning; 28 June

BBQ order forms were sent home last week and are due back tomorrow. Please put your child's name and class on the form with their order and return it to the canteen.

From the Principal

Retirement

For those who may not be aware, this will be my last week as Principal of Grahamstown Public School as I will be retiring at the end of term after almost 40 years in public education. I informed the P & C and staff of my retirement plans in Term 1 and since then the position has been advertised and the new Principal selected to commence at the start of Term 3.

The new Principal is Sue Kane who is currently working as Deputy Principal at Ashtonfield Public School. Sue will visit the school this week to meet people and for briefings on the school's operations prior to her taking up the position on 18 July.

It has been a privilege to have this position for the last two and a half years and while I look forward to the opportunities of retirement I will definitely miss the children, staff and parent community that make this such a special place to work.

During my career I have enjoyed the opportunities of working in a wide variety of schools and communities right across NSW. Having that experience, I will always sing the praises of Grahamstown PS and the people who work very hard to make it such a positive learning environment with so many opportunities for students to develop their abilities to the full.

I would particularly like to thank the staff and P & C leadership for their professionalism, commitment and support during my time at Grahamstown, and I applaud the dedication of the parent helpers who provide a great deal of time and support for children and staff.

Most of all, I would like to thank the boys and girls for just being themselves and displaying a positive, responsive attitude to their learning.

Grahamstown will continue to be an excellent school and I wish everyone the best in the future.

Uniform Survey

Thank you to everyone who returned the recent uniform survey. The return rate was much higher than the previous surveys with just over 100 families responding.

The result was 52 votes in favour of the proposed change and 54 votes against. It was obvious from the comments that there are some very strong views for and against, which is not unusual with school uniform issues.

Education Department and P & C Federation policies leave final decisions about proposed changes in school uniforms to the school principal. Usually there has to be a significant majority of parents in favour of changes before changes are approved. The survey indicates that parent opinion is evenly divided and in that case I could not approve changes to the current policy. (Parents are able to check P & C policy by logging onto the NSW P & C Federation website.)

Children of families who returned the survey are to receive a free ice-block during the week.



Balancing act needed for this part of the Fun-a-Thon obstacle course

Fun-A-Thon

Our postponed Fun-a-Thon was held last week in fine, but rather blustery conditions. The boys and girls really enjoyed the activities and had a great afternoon of physical activity and challenges.

I would like to thank Mr. Mort and Mrs. Webb for their organisation of the day, Mr Denis Peters for bringing his Variety Club Bash car for added colour and sound and our band of parent helpers. Thanks also to our selected "Tribal Leader" students for doing a great job on the day.

Student Progress Reports

All Student Progress Reports will be sent home early this week. If parents have not received a report from their child by Wednesday, please contact the school to ensure a report is sent home before the holidays.

School Website

The school website will be out of service for a few days while the new site is being published. The website is used more by people outside the school than inside it, so suggestions and recommendations for improvements will be appreciated.

Holidays

School breaks up for the winter holidays on Friday 1 July at 3:00 pm and resumes for students on **Tuesday 19 July.**

Paul Henry
Principal

Coming Events for Term 1

Tues 28 June	Fun-a-thon sponsorship money to be returned
	P & C BBQ orders returned
Wed 29 June	Stage 2 Excursion to Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park (ST2 Reward Day)
	PSSA Rugby League V Soldiers Point
Thurs 30 June 2:30 pm	Fun-a-thon prizes and awards presented
	Early stage 1 and Stage 1 Reward Day – Children can come in "Mufti" with sun-safe clothes and covered shoes.
Fri 1 July 2:15 pm 3:00 pm	Special End of Term Assembly
	End of Term

CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

Tues 28 Jun: Mandy Bridge, Cathy Hedges

Wed 29Jun: Di Soper

Thur 30 Jun: Fiona Brown, Janet Allen

Fri 1 July: Christine Herbert, Toni Madigan, Skye McAlpine

Running down on stock for end of term. Some items unavailable.

Canteen bills will be sent home this week, please pay by the end of term.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check "Lost Property" located in our office. Whatever clothing etc which is left at end of this term will be going to charity or second hand clothing pool. Also make sure you child's clothing, hats are clearly marked with their name and class.

Two students have lost their jackets which were clearly marked with their names on the lower inside band at the back of their jackets, please check if your child has mistakenly picked these up.

Stage 3 Visits Irrawang for Science

On Thursday June 23rd, 57 stage 3 students visited Irrawang High School for some science lessons. We did different experiments, one involving a Bunsen burner and a paddle pop stick. We used different chemicals on the paddle pop sticks to see what would happen when they were put into the flame. Also we were shown how to balance a can on an angle. Before we left we used baking powder and vinegar to make a mini rocket in a film container. We enjoyed ourselves at the High School

By Abi, Tahyla and Victoria

STAGE 3 **MINI FETE**

As one of the fund raising activities for the Year 6 Farewell, the Student Parliament has voted to hold a Mini Fete during the second last week of Term 3 (**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15**). Stage3 students, in pairs, will devise a fete type activity to run complete with minor prizes (e.g. wrapped lollies). These activities may include Ten Pin Bowling, Putt Putt Golf, and Guessing Competitions etc.

Children from Early Stage 1 through to Stage 2 should start saving 5 & 10 cent coins now as each activity will cost only 5c or 10c to participate. The canteen will not be able to provide change on the day.

For a small amount of money younger children will be able to have a turn at every activity.

Keep looking at future newsletters for a list of the activities Stage 3 have organised so that you can plan ahead.

NUF NUF Day is coming. (That's FUN FUN backwards)

Scholastic Book Club

LAST BOOK ORDER UNTIL TERM 4!!!! Please note there will be no Scholastic Book club in Term 3. Scholastic Book Club JUNE: ISSUE 4.5 catalogues are out this week. Orders are to be returned to the front office no later than the last day of term- Fri, 1st **July**. Spare copies of catalogues are in the Library.

To place an order: Make sure the order slip has student's full name & class. If paying in cash please have the correct amount of money for your order. Cheques to be made out to Scholastic Australia and credit cards are done online. Please check order sheet for details. Place order in an envelope marked clearly with Book Club, Child's Name & Class. Hand order in at **the front office before school**.

Happy Reading

Mrs Philpott

Teacher Librarian

PHOTOS - SCHOOL CAPTAINS & HOUSE CAPTAINS

Photos for the School & House Captains are on display in the foyer. These are able to be ordered by completing the envelope provided and placing the required money/cheque in the envelope. These are available for ordering until Wednesday 29 June 2011.

Cheques are to be made out to MSP Photography.

ES1 and Stage 1 Reward Day

Students in ES1 and Stage 1 are invited to the Term 2 reward day on Thursday 30th June. The day will include:

- Mufti – please wear sensible closed in shoes and bring your hat
- Cooking – each class will participate in a cooking activity in their class
- Games and DVD – Each class will organise some games and viewing in their room during the day.

Well done on a great term of learning and working together ES1 and Stage 1.

PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EMERGENCY.

Red Cross with the support of the Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre will be presenting a FREE information session on preparing your family for an emergency:

Date: Tuesday 19 July 2011

Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Location: Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre

RSVP: Ph: 49846220 before Friday 15 July 2011

STRESS – LESS PARENTING

Newcastle Family Support Services and Thou-Walla Schools Community Centre would like to invite parents or carers of dependent children to a **free 6 week group program on:**

Stress-Less Parenting

Date: 5th August – 9th September, 2011

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Location: Thou-Walla Family Centre

Free children's activities and morning tea available on the premises.

To make a booking or for further inquiries please call Gina on 4987 4666.

DEFENCE SCHOOL TRANSITION AIDE NEWS

Next term I will be working with the children on a project for the school that has been supported by Fighter World and The Smith Family. It is very exciting to have a grant to the value of \$500- approved from the Communities for Children, an organisation that is part of The Smith Family that helps with a variety of local projects and aims to assist many children in the community. We will be decorating a model Galaxy transport plane and I hope it will eventually be displayed in the school grounds, along with the weathervane that we are currently working on. *For those interested:* The Partner Education and Employment Program, or PEEP, provides long-term education and employment funding to assist recognised partners to better position themselves for employment when posted with the ADF member. Applications for PEEP commence on 4 July 2011. DCO Hunter will be running an information session on PEEP prior to the program's re-opening on Wednesday 29th June 2011 from 1200 – 1300. If interested please contact DCO Hunter on 4934 6973 or @ dco.HunterRIMS@defence.gov.au.

All defence families are invited to complete the DFA survey which is available on the following website: <http://www.dfa.org.au/survey>

I hope all families at Grahamstown PS enjoy the holidays,

Thank you

Deborah O'Donoghue

Defence School Transition Aide

HEAD LICE ALERT!

Please check your children for head lice or nits (eggs) and treat them if needed. A number of students have been affected and it is important that you regularly check your children for the condition.

SENIOR BOYS PSSA KNOCKOUT SOCCER

On the 24 of June the Grahamstown soccer boys went down to King Park to compete in the PSSA soccer knockout. It was fun to experience everyone's capabilities and to enjoy the game. We were competing against Thornton Public School they were very good and skilled players. The game seemed like it was going on for ever at the end of first half the score was 2-1. Thornton kicked the fourth and final goal of the game but Grahamstown boys showed a lot of determination and we supported each other and had fun

GIRLS PSSA SOCCER KNOCKOUT

Last Friday the girl's soccer team consisting of 12 players went and competed in the PSSA knockout game against Thornton at King Park. They were a really tough opponent. We tried our hardest and by the end of the game we were exhausted. We lost 6-0 but we did manage to keep them scoreless for about a 20 minute period in the middle of the game. Well done girls!

Grace Sandeman

Terrace Buddies

Terrace Buddies would like to organise a social night for the ADF spouses in September, they are thinking of a Trivia Night with some food provided for approx \$30- pp. They are seeking expressions of interest and would like to hear from anyone who would like to attend to ascertain if the night can go ahead. Please contact them on: terracebuddies@bigpond.com

Have a safe and happy holiday!