

Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

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From the Principal

This week is Book Week. The children will experience the world this week. They have an international food day to look forward to, a book fair and dress up day as well.

Big Arvo was again a great success with the groups enjoying their activities. A special thanks goes to the gardening group who did a fantastic job of beautifying the school for our Tidy Towns judging.

The school leaders who led the Tidy Towns judge around the school did an amazing job of explaining the quality of our school environment programs, the activities the students are involved in and the future direction of environmental plans for Grahamstown Public School. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Congratulations also to our Zone Athletics representatives who tried their best and were successful in competition.

Sue Kane
Principal

VANDALISM

The school has been experiencing a considerable amount of vandalism. We have had several windows broken, a classroom broken into and some equipment stolen.

There has been lots of weekend activity with bottles being smashed on school grounds and a group of boys running along the roof.

If you see any activity within the school grounds after hours, that appears suspicious, please report it to **school security** on **1300880021**.

BOOK WEEK 22ND - 27TH AUGUST

It is that time again for everyone to drag out the dress up boxes. This year's theme is ONE WORLD MANY STORIES... so we are focusing on people from around the world. Our **dress up day will be Wednesday 24th August** at 10.30am and students can dress up as a character from another country, national dress or an Australian character. I am sure most have a pair of boardies and zinc they could borrow for the day??

We will also be holding the **Book Fair Wednesday Thursday** of that week where great new release books can be purchased to help raise money for the Library. There will be many opportunities with competitions and activities for the students to win a free book of their choice from the FAIR. The activity/competition sheet and parent volunteer form was handed out to students last Fri. Spare copies and entry forms kept in the Library.

And if you can volunteer any time to assist on the day, please fill in the parent's volunteer form and hand in at the Library

Thanks

Michelle Philpott
Teacher Librarian

KINDER ENROLMENTS

- It is time to enrol for kinder children for next year, if you have not already done so.
- • If you have a child who will be starting school next year please see the office ladies as soon as possible.
- • If you have put your child's name down but have not completed enrolment forms this also needs to be done to finalise enrolment.
- • If you know of families in the area who have children ready to start school next year please let them know it is now time to enrol for 2012.

CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

Tues 23 Aug: Cathy Hedges
Wed 24 Aug: Diane Soper, Melany McLean
Thurs 25 Aug: Simone Adam, Janet Allen,
 Kirby Cashen
Fri. 26 Aug: Christine Herbert, Toni Madigan,
 Skye McAlpine
Mon 29 Aug: Fiona Brown, Barbara Govan

Orders for Book Week 'Around the world lunch' have closed. No More orders will be accepted.
 We **desperately need volunteers** for the roster, or we may have to restrict some foods that can be ordered. If you can spare a few hours each month please see Sherri in the canteen.

"Healthy Food" days are Monday & Tuesday,

NO pies, sausage rolls, pizzas, hotdogs, nuggets etc will be available on these days. There are plenty of items available.

COLES VOUCHERS

Please hand your vouchers in at the office.

Woolworths Vouchers

This year Woolworths is giving away \$5million dollars worth of educational resources from Modern Teaching Aids. Grahamstown Public School would like to share in this and so from July 18 to September 18 customers will earn one point for every \$10 they spend in store. These points will automatically appear on your docket. Dockets may be placed in the small box in the office foyer. Start collecting and thank you for your support.

Helper required for our Uniform Shop

Can you spare some time to help out in the Uniform Shop?

Fiona Brown currently volunteers her time to run the Uniform Shop at the school. We are looking for someone who can assist Fiona occasionally when required. If you are interested in this role, please leave your details at the Front Office, or see Fiona at the Uniform Shop.

Your help would be greatly appreciated....

P & C News

Your chance to win a \$20 BIG W Gift Card

The P & C Committee are holding a **competition** for students to design the covers for our Cookbook which will be available for purchase in Term 4. We will select a front cover and a back cover from designs received through to the end of Term 3. One will be chosen from ES1/ST1, and the other from ST2/ST3 entries.

Guidelines for entries are;

A4 Sheet of card or paper

Border of 2cm on all sides

Pencil, crayon, paint may be used

No glitter to be used

The words Cookbook OR Recipe must be part of the title... Write your name/class in pencil on the reverse of your design.

The rest is up to you!

Get creative and show us your best designs!!
 We still need more recipes, so send them in this term.

Strategic Planning

It is time to return the survey sent out with last week's news letter. Please take the time to complete the survey as it will give us information on your thoughts about many aspects of the school. Please return the survey to the **office** by **Friday 26th August**

NAMES ON CLOTHING / UNIFORM ITEMS

It is important that students have their uniform and other clothing named for school...Please spend 5 minutes writing the names on labels or somewhere so that the items can be identified. You would not believe how many "LOST" items we end up with in the Lost Property bin. Owners cannot be found if the items are not named.

Big Arvo-

3.15pm - 4.15pm

Remember to bring something for afternoon tea. All children are to be picked up from the cola at 4.15pm. **If your child is walking home they will need written parental permission. If your child is be picked up by another person, other than you, written permission must be given for that to go ahead.**

Late Arrivals

If students are late for school, they need to be brought to the school office by their parent or carer so the reason can be verified and recorded.

This is a child welfare and protection procedure to ensure children are not turning up late to school without their parents' knowledge.

Your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 2

August 22nd	Book Week begins
August 23 rd	International Food Day
August 24 th	Book Fair and Dress up Day
August 30 th	Last Big Arvo
September 1 st	P&C Father's Day Stall
September 2 nd	Art competition judged for GPS
September 13th	P&C Meeting
September 21 st	School Concert
September 22 nd	School Concert

Art Show Raffle Tickets

Included with today's newsletters are some raffle tickets from the Raymond Terrace Art Show. Sales of these help to raise funds for our school. The raffle prizes are 2 framed miniature paintings, done by artists from the Hunter region who enter their works in the art show. Please help support this raffle.

Tidy Towns Assessment

On Wednesday August 17, Grahamstown was visited by Mr Andrew Scott, our Tidy Towns assessor for 2011. Mr Scott was shown around by Gabbie Rae, Jon Beaument, Grace Sandeman and Carl Newson. Many children in other classes assisted by showing what their class has been doing. Mr Scott stayed for nearly 4 hours and left very impressed. We will find out how we have gone at the Tidy Towns Awards in Lithgow on the first Saturday in November. A BIG thank you to Mr Henderson and Mrs Goldie who had the school looking its best and to all the staff and students who rehearsed speeches or put displays.

Priority Schools Program

It is time for schools throughout NSW to nominate for the Priority Schools Program. This is support funding specifically targeted at improving literacy and numeracy standards and the quality of teaching within low socio-economic schools. To be considered for the program 85% of families **MUST** return the survey.

The survey is completely confidential. Staff at Grahamstown School would not see any of the completed information. The sealed envelopes are returned to the program coordinators and assessed for eligibility according to the socio-economic background of the community.

The section below is not the survey just an expression of interest to take part. Community consultation is an important part of this process. If you would be willing to participate in a survey that would determine Grahamstown's eligibility for the program please complete the slip below and return it to school by **Friday August 26th**.

Priority Schools Program

Our family would be willing to complete a **confidential** survey for the purpose of applying for extra school funding for **numeracy, literacy and quality teaching** at Grahamstown PS.

Child's Name _____

Class _____

PARENTING HELP LINE

We all know that parenting is challenging. Every parent struggles from time to time with every day issues or more complex ones.

The State Government funded helpline, Parent Line NSW (managed by Catholic Care) provides a unique free support service to parents across NSW. Highly skilled professional counsellors are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to take calls from parents and carers about any parenting issue, from tips on how to manage the morning routine, to concerns about distant adolescents to complex challenges of living in blended families. It is the only free counselling service available to parents during any part of their parenting journey, at any time of the day or night, anywhere in NSW. It's convenient because parents can call when it suits them, they don't have to arrange child care to talk to a professional counsellor and they can call as many times as they need.

There is a website for parents, carers and professionals (www.parentline.org.au) with a range of tip sheets for parents about contemporary issues facing families today, some parenting stories written by our counselling team that normalise parenting challenges and some links to other NSW wide services.

There is also a telephone counselling line available for the cost of a local call from a land line. The number is **1300 1300 52**.

FIELD EVENTS

The Field Events section of Port Stephens Zone was held on Tuesday August 16 at Vi Barnett Oval, Raymond Terrace. Grahamstown had 24 athletes compete on the day. While all the athletes did there best there were some great results.

Cameron Walsh came second in the Senior Boys High Jump and Long Jump and finished fourth in Discus. Dakota Gordon came first in the 11yr old Girls High Jump and third in Discus.

Teeya Saunders came third in the Junior Girls High Jump. Jackson Doughty finished tied for fourth in the Junior Boys Long Jump. As a result of this carnival both Cameron and Dakota have been selected to represent Port Stephens Zone at the Hunter Carnival on September 2.



Zone Athletics 2011.

On Friday we headed back to Vi Barnett Field for the track events, although it was the exact opposite in terms of weather. Our team was much larger and many achieved a personal best, in cold conditions, in a very strong field. The Junior Boys Relay Team ran well to make it into the final. Dakota, Kimberley, Michael and Cameron made it into their finals and ran well also. A great effort was made by all. Well done. Many thanks to all the parents and families who came along to support their children. Special thanks to Miss Russell for organising and running both parts of the competition. Thanks also to Mrs Soper, Mrs van Hoof, Mrs Caban, Mr Nicholas and Mrs Grohman for their efforts with canteen, sausage sizzle and event organisation.



“Speech Pathology Week” Literacy is for Life

Learning to read and write are complex skills. Talking provides children with foundation skills for reading and writing development. Students can have problems learning to read and write for a variety of reasons, including speech and language difficulties. Speech Pathologists test these difficulties, and design language and literacy support to complement school learning programs. Speech Pathologists work closely with parents and are a valuable part of the education team. Speech Pathologists play a vital role in improving literacy skills for children. Their roles include early identification, assessment and intervention. Next week (August 21st-27th) is Speech Pathology Awareness week. To find a speech pathologist near you, contact your school learning support staff or go to www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

STAGE 3 MERIT AWARDS

Mrs Saville 3C

Andrea Dissinger

Joel Crouch

Shiralee Parkes-Barnes

Tianna Martin

Lochie Rutherford

Andrew Walker

Mrs Sheppard 3S

Eleanor Collins

Kiara Eneliko

Zac Turnbull

Tahyla Roberts

Sam Newell

Nicholas Turner

Miss Russell 3R

Mitchell Horrocks

Max Turpin

Ellen Brown

Carl Newson

Shaun Bryan

*“Congratulations to all students
who received Merit awards”*