

Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

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Issue No: 3

13 February 2012

From the Principal

Priority Schools Program (PSP)

The PSP survey will be coming out soon. All families with children in grades K-4 will be asked to complete a **completely confidential** survey. For our school to have any chance of receiving the funding we will need to have 100% of surveys returned.

The surveys will come with an envelope that has a tear off slip. This slip will be removed by the school so we can register the return of the survey. The school is not permitted to open the envelope. Once the slip is removed there is **no** connection between you and the information provided to the Department of Education and Communities. The information will be registered against the school and not individual families.

We will be giving rewards to the children of families who return their surveys on time. Please assist in gaining considerable extra funding for our school. The funding will provide resources for student's learning in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Significant additional training and development would be provided for staff to implement additional quality teaching programs.

P&C

The first P&C meeting for 2012 will be held in the staffroom at 7pm tomorrow night (Tuesday 14th February). Please come along and assist the dedicated team who work very hard to raise extra funds for resources. The P&C has provided class readers, maths equipment, copying equipment, interactive white boards etc. Their work within our school is invaluable. Please lend a hand and share the load.

PBL

Five staff are beginning training for the Positive Behaviour for Learning program (PBL) this week. This is a highly successful program that teaches school expectations through specifically developed lessons.

An example of the program was aired on Four Corners last Monday. It showed the success of the program at Toronto High School.

It is a program that requires patience and hard work. It will take a three year period for implementation, but the results are worth it.

We are looking forward to training and building our lessons to develop a shared understanding of Grahamstown PS expectations.

Art Show

Another reminder that the Art Show meeting will be held at our school in the staffroom on Monday 20th February at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Labelling

It is very important that everything your child brings to school is labelled with their **first and last name**. This includes all the containers provided for the goodies in their lunch box. Several containers have already been thrown away because no one has claimed them.

The school gives hundreds of jumpers a year to charity because they have no identification on them.

No name, no return. We have no way of knowing who owns many unclaimed pieces of clothing. Children just don't recognise items as theirs.

Rumours

You can't always believe what you hear on the street, particularly if it is related to your child's education. There have been several instances where rumours have been spread, with no factual basis behind them.

If in doubt, ring the school to find out.

These rumours are misleading and often very damaging to the school. A simple phone call can often clarify your questions and prevent misinformation causing undue stress in our school community.

Parents at Assembly

It is great to see so many enthusiastic, caring parents at assembly. However, I am making a request that you allow your child to line up and then stand well clear of the assembly area. It is becoming difficult for classes to move to their

rooms or their daily P.E. sessions with so many parents blocking the way.

Kinder parents especially need to allow for some independence now that kinders know the line up routine. By all means stay with your child until the bell has gone and help them line up, if it is completely necessary. Once you have done this please assist us by moving off. Trust us when we say that the children settle very quickly once mum or dad has gone. We would let you know if your child was exceptionally distressed.

Those parents who stay for assembly I also request that you are quiet during our assembly. We are setting high expectations for our students and would like your support of those expectations.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Sue Kane
Principal

ADVANCE NOTICE- Stage 3 Camp 2012

In 2012, Stage 3 will be going on a 4 day overnight excursion to the Outdoor Education Experience at Morisset. The camp will take place from Tuesday October 9 to Friday 12 October 2012 (Week 1 Term 4).

It is anticipated that this camp will cost approximately \$250 - \$300. Your expression of interest will be a \$50 deposit which will be required no later than March 9, 2012. The final date for full payment will be September 21 2012. This excursion aims to prepare students for High School. Responsibility and independence are included in the aims of this excursion and as a result parents are not invited on this excursion.

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club February: ISSUE 1 catalogues were handed out last week. Orders are to be returned to the front office no later than Tuesday 21st Feb. Some spare copies of catalogues are in the Library.

To place an order:

Make sure the order slip has student's full name and 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 Smith

Teacher Librarian

STAGE 3 PARENTS

If your child is going to High School in 2013 then you need to be making decisions about where they will be going now. Hunter School of Performing Arts and Hunter Sports have applications closing soon. *Expression of Interest Forms will come home on March 5 and need to be **returned by March 16.*** These forms need to be returned whether you are applying to attend a selective, non government, non local public or local public high school. Staff are not permitted to make a choice for you but will assist you once you have made a decision. If your child is attending High School in 2014 and you are uncertain, consider attending the information evenings held soon. Transition to Irawang High School for those children in Year 5, 2012 will begin later this year. Applications for Merewether High School (academic selective) close in November 2012 for attendance in 2014.

Canteen News

Roster:

Tue 14 Feb: Vanessa Henderson, Jo Delaforse

Wed 15 Feb: Skye McAlpine, Leanne Cook

Thur 16 Feb: Tanya Picot, Simone Gorry

Fri 17 Feb: Sue Ryan, Danielle Piening

Mon 20 Feb: Cathy Hedges, Diane Holden

If you put your name down to do roster this year please pick up your copy of the roster from the canteen.

"Healthy Days" are Monday & Tuesday, no pies, sausage rolls, pizzas, nuggets etc. There is still a wide range of other options.

**Canteen meeting Tuesday 14th
February 6.30pm in the
staffroom. All welcome.**

Sports' News

Swimming Carnival 10-2-12

What a great day! It was fine and sunny throughout the carnival and everyone tried their best. Luckily we made it safely back and home [well most of us] before the rain hit!

Many thanks to Miss Russell, Mr Kelly, Mrs Blake, Mrs Kane, Mrs Peters, Mrs Caban and Mrs Hunter for their help and assistance in running the carnival. Special thanks to all the parents and ex-students who volunteered to judge and time – keep. Thanks also to all the parents and families who came along to support their children. Thanks also to those teachers who taught the other students while the carnival was on.

Although there weren't many, those who came along participated well and did their best in various races. **Congratulations to all our swimmers who had-a-go, as well as to those who won their events.**

Each year we notice some children who try really hard and have- a- go in events. They may not necessarily be place getters but they certainly show great team spirit and endeavour.

This year we have chosen the following children to receive encouragement awards for their efforts
Junior – Alana Murphy / Mabel Bradbury

Senior – Phoebe Conway / Brittany Henderson

After adding up all the points for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places, in Heats and Finals [based on times] the following children are our **2012 Champions**.

Junior Girl - Shakira Fransisco – Tiamu - Hastings

Junior Boy - Will Turpin- Colman

11 Year Girl – Kimberley Jaeger - Colman

11 Year Boy – Eric Davison - Hastings

Senior Girl- Chloe Barnes - Colman

Senior Boy – Joel Gam - Hastings

Well done everyone.

All the children received participation points for each event they entered plus extra points for the places. When we tallied [and checked these] we found our **Champion House for 2012**.

What a surprise! **Colman and Hastings Houses came equal first, followed by Finnan and Eldon.**

Congratulations Colman and Hastings. Well done Finnan and Eldon.

Trophies and Ribbons will be presented later this term.

PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

A reminder that there are parking restrictions in Hastings Drive outside the school.

The Ranger patrols the area regularly

- Parents may use the "No Parking" Zone to drop students off and collect them in the afternoon. You cannot leave your vehicle, nor have your car standing in the space. It is a "Kiss and Drop" zone only. If you wait longer than a minute or two, your vehicle is likely to be photographed and you are liable for a \$220.00 fine.
- The bus zone is a no standing and no parking area between 8.30am and 9.30am and between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.
- The Council has also made a section opposite the school a restricted time no parking area as well.

These areas have been put in place for the safety of your children and others.