

# Grahamstown Public School News

Excellence, opportunity, innovation and success in a caring environment

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26 March 2012

## From the Principal

### Term Dates

The last day of Term 1 is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. The beginning of Term 2 for students is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April will be a public holiday for ANZAC Day and the school ANZAC service will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am.

Don't forget the P&C AGM to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, in the staffroom. All are welcome. Only those who have been financial since the March meeting are eligible to vote and only those who have been members for twelve months are eligible to hold office.

All parents with students going to high school in 2013 should have returned their expressions of interest to Miss Russell. The 2013 enrolment process has started for all high school bound students.

NAPLAN will be held during week 4 next term (15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> May) for all Year 3 and 5 students. If you need to speak to your child's teacher about this testing please make an appointment.

Sport in schools starts next term. Each Monday students will be participating in exciting activities to train endurance, balance and hand-eye coordination. There is much to be gained from participation in this activity, as well as the enjoyment from taking part.

### Traffic

The parking ranger has been to the school in the past week. He has taken number plates of vehicles that have been parked in the kiss and drop zone. The photos can result in a parking fine. Please use all parking zones correctly to avoid fines and to keep your children safe.

### PBL is Coming

The Positive Behaviour for Learning program has started at our school. It is in its very early stages and staff are still in training. This program has had significant impact on many schools across New South Wales. Mrs South and I visited Irrawang Public School and saw how it has changed the dynamics of their playground and how settled their classrooms have become since introducing PBL three years ago. The process is a long process but very worthwhile. Keep

watching the newsletter for updates and progress reports on PBL within our school.

### Parent Assistance

A huge thank you to the parents, who worked so hard in our canteen on Harmony Day and Ride to School Day. The children enjoyed their special food for Harmony Day and loved the yoghurt and watermelon on Ride to School Day. The two days would not have had as big an impact without the assistance of our hard working volunteers.

Many thanks also go to Sherri, our canteen supervisor, for all the effort she gave to make the days successful. Her extra time and effort is much appreciated.

### PSP

Thank you to everyone who returned the surveys. We have had a 90% return rate. We have managed to secure ten extra surveys. If you have not completed a survey you can request one of the extras from the office. We need as many responses as possible to increase our chances of success.

Sue Kane  
Principal

## COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 1

March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics Carnival
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Transport Excursion
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Earth Hour 2-3pm
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Hat Parade / Raffle Drawn
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday

## Notes in Circulation

- **Mathletics 2012**
- **Year 1 & 2 Transport Excursion**
- **Annual Sports Carnival**
- **Sport In Schools Australia Program**
- **Sausage Sizzle**

Extra copies of all notes and newsletters are available from the front office. Please remember to send notes and correct money in together by the due date.

## MONEY FOR ACTIVITIES

When making payments for school activities please ensure notes and the **CORRECT** money are placed in envelopes or plastic clip-lock bags with the student's name on them. Money and notes must be in **separate** envelopes/bags for the P&C, Canteen, classroom collections and activities paid to the office. Payments to the office need to be brought in **BEFORE** class of a morning.

When making payments to the classroom teacher please ensure each student is paid for separately. Please do not pay for all siblings to the one class.

Thanking you for your cooperation  
The School Office

## Stage 3 Public Speaking

On Thursday March 29, Stage 3 will be holding their **PRACTICE** for the Annual Public Speaking Competition. The competition will be held in Term 2 but this term children have presented speeches with a rainforest theme and each class has chosen 2 children to represent them in Public Speaking. Stage 3 will be listening to the speeches of those children who are representing their class on Thursday March 29 at a special assembly held at 10am.

## ***Harmony Day***

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 G.P.S. had an Indonesian dance group come to perform in front

of the infants and the primary students for Harmony Day. The group was made up of three Indonesians their names were Bung, Daniela and Alfie. They showed us some traditional dances from all around Indonesia.

The dances ranged from stealing a scarf to the waves in the sea. It was amazing! They even gave some of the students a chance to have a try with the dancers. All of the students got to learn some dance moves and some students from the audience got to stand up and give it a go.

The teachers that saw the performance had a great time, including Miss Russell.

For our special Harmony Day lunch orders there were ham and cheese croissants, Macaroni and cheese and Nachos, it was delicious.

All in all I think that Harmony Day was one of the best Harmony Days I have ever experienced. By  
Katelyn Class: 6S



## National Ride to School Day

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, it was National Ride to School Day. Some children rode their bikes, scooters, rip sticks, etc to school. There were also five students (Joel, Kiara, Jacob, Ashleigh and Joel) serving watermelon and flavoured yoghurt for free to the rest of the kids in the school. We started serving at 8:30am when other students started arriving at school then we stopped serving at 9:05am. Nearly all the yoghurt was gone! We would like to thank the P&C for providing all the yoghurt and watermelon. The support from the P&C and the canteen was appreciated by all of the students at G.P.S.



## Canteen News

### Roster:

**Tue 27<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Sally Douglas, Vanessa Henderson

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Bev Pegg, Lily Francisco

**Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Tanya Picot, Sharmaine Connor

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Susan Martin, Danielle Piening

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr:** Cathy Hedges, Naomi Farnham

**\*A big thank you to the ladies who helped out on Harmony Day and thanks to Kris O'Brien for her cooking skills.**

\*We have been receiving many late lunch orders recently, please have orders in by 9am, to have time for food preparation and cooking.

**\*Toasted sandwiches only available in Terms 2 & 3.**

## Zone Cross Country

The notes for the Zone Cross Country were handed out on Wednesday March 21. At Zone the 9 year olds and under run as one group. This means that children may have placed highly in the 7, 8 or 9 year old race but not have gained a place on the team to attend the zone if they were not one of the six fastest overall.

Those permission notes need to be returned to Miss Russell before the holiday break as the Zone is the first Friday back after the holidays (April 27). If your child received a note but is not able to attend please contact the school so that a reserve can have a run.

## Athletics Carnival

### Annual Sports Carnival – Tuesday 27 March 2012

Our Annual Athletics Carnival is to be held on **Tuesday 27 March 2012** at Vi Barnett Field (Little Athletics field) at Raymond Terrace. All students from Years 2-6 will be participating on the day. For these students school will be at Vi Barnett Oval for the day. Students will come to school as usual and travel by bus to and from the field. Students will be departing school at approximately 9.10am for a 9.30am start.

**Cost for the day will be \$4.00 per student payable on the day.**

**Children must take a water bottle. They will be able to refill these. Water will be available but cups will not.**

**THERE WILL BE NO CANTEEN Available ON THE DAY**

**Students are to wear** sports uniform, hat, joggers (spikes can be worn but must be put on at the start of the race and removed at the finish). **Please bring** lunch, a water bottle, plenty of water, jumper, blanket or something similar to sit on and don't forget your sunscreen.

**Parents, families and friends are invited to come along** and encourage participation as well as sharing in their child's personal achievements on the sporting field. Children will rotate through activities in age groups receiving points for their participation and effort.

**Any parents who can help** with timekeeping and different events will be gratefully given jobs on the day. Please come along and help.

## Irrawang High School Extension Class

Applications for Irrawang High Schools 7E (Extension) class begin with the aptitude test on May 24 at the High School. By sitting for the test you start the application process which includes an interview in Term 3 at which time children need to present a portfolio of their work. If you have any questions see Miss Russell but watch this space for further information.

## ASSEMBLY AWARDS 23 MARCH 2012

<b>KA</b>	<b>3C</b>
<i>Bailey</i>	<i>Kayla</i>
<i>Stephanie</i>	<i>Emily</i>
<i>Xander</i>	<i>Liam</i>
<b>KH</b>	<b>3S</b>
<i>Reuben</i>	<i>Tom</i>
<i>Seth</i>	<i>Zac</i>
<i>Sally-Ann</i>	<i>Emily</i>
<b>KF</b>	<b>4K</b>
<i>Heath</i>	<i>Siena</i>
<i>Stella</i>	<i>Ethan</i>
<i>Cody</i>	<i>Makayla</i>
<b>K/1W</b>	<b>4P</b>
<i>Cameron</i>	<i>Taylor</i>
<i>Ally</i>	<i>Natalie</i>
<i>Logan</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<b>1K</b>	<b>4/5R</b>
<i>Sean</i>	<i>Briony</i>
<i>Tayah</i>	<i>Katie</i>
<i>Chloe</i>	<i>Shakira</i>
<b>1R</b>	<b>5S</b>
<i>Lily</i>	<i>Makenzi</i>
<i>Liam</i>	<i>Jaiden</i>
<i>Tomas</i>	<i>Maddison</i>
<b>2B</b>	<b>5/6W</b>
<i>Piper</i>	<i>Hannah</i>
<i>Christie</i>	<i>Telesha</i>
<i>Beau</i>	<i>Michael</i>
<b>2M</b>	<b>6S</b>
<i>Brendon</i>	<i>Kyrsten</i>
<i>Taia</i>	<i>Jaidyn</i>
<i>Kiana</i>	<i>Jacob</i>
<b>6F</b>	
<i>Joshua</i>	
<i>Jacobi</i>	
<i>Caitlan</i>	

## DEFENCE SCHOOL TRANSITION AIDE NEWS

Terrace Buddies is organising a Baby Settling Program for all Defence families that are having sleep issues with their child/ren. The program will incur a fee, but it will be slightly subsidised by the Family Action Group Newcastle, and will be held on a Saturday. If you are interested in attending, please contact [terracebuddies@bigpond.com](mailto:terracebuddies@bigpond.com) for an information sheet.

As per last week's newsletter: Raymond Terrace YMCA is continuing with the special programs and activities for Defence families, such as fitness classes and social events. They are holding a *Free Family BBQ Fun Day* on *Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April* and a *Girls Night In!* on *Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April*, please contact Sam at Raymond Terrace YMCA by emailing [info.rtlc@ymca.org.au](mailto:info.rtlc@ymca.org.au) to register or for information on current or upcoming events and programs.

The new Defence Family Helpline, **1800 624 608** is staffed by healthcare professionals to assist families 24/7 with a variety of issues, such as managing deployment, relocation, postings, children's education, support with special needs, and transitioning when leaving the ADF. The Helpline can also be emailed:

**[DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au)**

Please see the Defence Community organisation website for more details.

If there are any issues I am able to assist you with, please email me at: [deborah.odonoghue1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:deborah.odonoghue1@det.nsw.edu.au) or leave a message with the front office, and I will contact you as soon as possible,

With many thanks,  
Deborah O'Donoghue  
Defence School Transition Aide

## STUDENT ABSENCES REMINDER

- Students between the ages of 6 and 15 are required by law, to attend school.
- Parents should ensure that their children attend school regularly.
- Students are allowed to be absent from school due to illness, incapacitation, or if they accompany their parent/caregivers for a legitimate reason.
- Explanations for their children's absences are to be provided promptly.
- Parents are expected to contact the school if their child will be absent for more than two days or if their child is reluctant to attend school.

**Attendance at school is very important. Students need to be at school every day and should arrive prior to the 9 a.m. bell. It is not acceptable for students to arrive late on a regular basis.**

### 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.

### P & C News

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00pm. Our AGM will be held 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7:00pm followed by the monthly meeting. These meetings are a great way to be involved in decisions and discussions with issues arising at our school. Thank you to those who have been attending the meetings and we invite all parents and citizens to join us at meetings in the future. Tickets for the Easter Raffle have been sent home. There are three great Easter prizes up for grabs with the raffle being drawn on the last day of term Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### Wedding Specialist

At our recent Shave for a Cure event Hairdresser Ellie Bjelan shaved all the heads free of charge. Ellie specialises in doing hair for wedding parties and can be contacted on 0403605522

### *Sailability Port Stephens* is

running a Learn to Sail course at Grahamstown Dam, Medowie on Wednesday – Friday 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Ages 12 and up. Cost:\$35.00 All enquiries call 4981 7509

Sailability Port Stephens is a Yachting Australia Accredited Training Centre. It is a branch of Sailability NSW, a registered charity

## Book Covering

Our school has purchased new sets of dictionaries and thesauruses. The children and teachers are keen to use them but first they need to be covered with contact. If you are able to help by covering some dictionaries please see Mrs Smith in the library.

Volunteers Wanted  
Help your town join  
Raymond Terrace Tidy Towns  
Meetings held second  
Thursday  
Of each month  
At THO Walla Centre  
Irrawang Public School  
7pm Geer Street entrance  
Contact 49831522.