From the Principal’s desk…..

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school everyone and a very special welcome to all our new families. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and restful holiday break and managed to spend some quality time with family and friends.

Congratulations to all students for settling into the new school year so quickly. It is wonderful to see that nearly every student is wearing full school uniform. I am particularly impressed with our Year 5 and Year 6 students who have started the year as outstanding role models for their younger peers. I am also impressed with our Kindergarten students who have made a great start to big school and our Preschool students who have commenced their formal education this week.

At the end of last year, Ms Landon, Ms Hillsley, Ms Lowe and Ms Barber left our school. Mrs Chamoun was seconded to relieve as the Granville District Teacher mentor for Terms 1, 2 and 3. This year, we welcome the following new teaching staff to the school: Ms Assaf (2A), Ms Watson (3/4W) and Ms Brogden (5/6B). The school has a vacant Assistant Principal position, arrangements are in progress to fill this by way of merit selection. In the meantime Ms Luongo will fill the position of ‘off class’ Assistant Principal and Mrs L. Faraj will take Ms Luongo’s class. Mr Swainson will relieve as Assistant Principal responsible for Early Stage One.

Classes have been organised for 2013. These have been based on information provided by families at the end of last year. Student numbers have been steadily increasing with late enrolments. At this stage, it seems that the school will retain a minimum of eighteen mainstream classes and five special education classes. The organisation of these classes may change but these changes will be kept to the minimum and parents of students affected will be contacted directly by the school.

Our 2013 student leaders are: Jonny, Kaia, Jailen, Amira, Jamal, Destiny, Joshua and Deborah. The school captains are: Jonny and Destiny.

Our wonderful P and C has organised a special morning to welcome our new families. This will be held next Friday 15 February 2013 at 9.15am in the school hall.

Our school swimming carnival will be held at Granville Swimming Pool on Thursday 28 February. The carnival is for students 8 years of age or older, who can confidently and independently swim 50metres or more. A separate note has been sent home today with details about the swimming carnival.

It should be noted that with all school excursions and outings, to be allowed to participate, students are required to demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behaviour at all times.

The school swimming scheme will commence on Tuesday 2 April and run each day through until Friday 12 April. Information about the program was sent home to families at the end of last year and further information will be sent home next week.

Other events throughout the term include Clean up Australia Day at our school on Friday 1 March, Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March, and the Easter hat parade on Thursday 28 March. Separate notes will be sent home with more detail about these events.

Linda Barry
Principal
Granville Galaxy Program

The Granville Galaxy Program is school-wide system that focuses on three core values of learning, safety and respect. The program explicitly teaches and rewards these expected behaviours through the presentation of ‘Star Awards’.

The AWARD system

Students achieve Star Awards when they display appropriate behaviours. There are two types of Star Awards: classroom teacher Star Awards and Support Teacher Star Awards. Five Support Teacher Star Awards amount to one classroom teacher Star Award. Star awards are collected and count towards the three major awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Achievement of a major award will automatically enable students to progress to the next level. Awards are transferred from year to year. The following amounts of ‘Star’ Awards apply to all students:

- 15 ‘Star’ Awards = Bronze Award
- 20 ‘Star’ Awards = Silver Award
- 25 ‘Star’ Awards = Gold Award

Students are responsible for collecting Star Awards and presenting them to the classroom teacher. Teachers maintain records of students’ achievement of ‘Star’ awards in their classroom.

Students are presented with BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD AWARDS at whole school assemblies and have their names published in the school newsletter. Students who achieve Gold Awards are also presented with a gold pin.

The SATELLITE Program

The Satellite Program is a classroom and playground consequence for students who display negative behaviours. The system also aims to reinforce the expectations of safety, respect and learning by classifying students’ behaviour (i.e. unsafe or disrespectful). Students who are placed ‘on Satellite’ are required to spend recess time in the satellite room.

REMINDERS TO PARENTS

BIRTHDAYS - If your child wishes to celebrate their birthday with a cake in the classroom please speak to the classroom teacher prior to the day to arrange an appropriate time. For safety reasons knives are not permitted in classrooms, therefore it is preferable to bring CUPCAKES.

LOST PROPERTY - As the weather is so changeable lately, children often take jumpers and jackets off during the day. Please ensure that your child’s name is written clearly on each item of their school uniform.
On behalf of the P&C executive team I would like to welcome everyone back to school and we hope that you have all had a fantastic holiday and that you are all ready for a great school year. I would also like to welcome all the kindergarten and new families to our wonderful school and the P&C committee look forward to meeting you. To our Kindergarten families the majority of us on the committee know what you are going through as 4 out of the 5 of us had kindergarten kids last year so the mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness are still very fresh for us but what we can let you know is that your kindergarten children are all in good hands, their teachers are all of high quality.

I would also like to say a HUGE Thank you to our volunteer uniform shop mums Kristy Sorouni (Jayden 1B & Connor Pre-school), Allison Harris (Pheobe 3/4W, Olivia 1L & James KY) and Lamya Bates-Brownsword (Thomas 2/6D and Daniel 1Z) for all their hard work in the uniform shop. A lot of work goes into running the uniform shop, for example stocktakes, ordering, customer service so please remember to thank these mums. a simple thank you makes the job worthwhile.

The P&C would love to see more family helpers this year we would love to grow some of our committees. The P&C are also likely to organise together with the school a Granville Public School Fete, hopefully on election day, as our school is a polling booth. However to put together a fete we need a lot of family helpers. If we are seriously looking at funding air conditioning for our school then we all need to work together and a fete is one way to raise a lot of money in one go and it also allows us to show case our amazing school.

We know not everyone can make our P&C meetings as they are in school hours so this year we will be trialling a few night meetings, we would like many parents to be involved in the P&C and our school. If you can’t make either meetings but you still would like to be involved with fundraising ideas, suggestions etc you can drop a note into our P&C ideas box which is located outside the uniform shop. When parents are involved in their children’s schooling it gives your child/ren a real sense of belonging to the school and a sense of school pride.

Our first P&C meeting for this year is on Thursday 14th of February 9:15 in the teachers’ staffroom, topics that will be discussed:

Fundraising ideas
Expenditure of P&C funds - some ideas laptops, projector for the Assembly Hall
Sponsorship – looking at ways we can be more involved with our local business community

You don’t have to be a new parent to our school, even if you have had children at the school for a few years already and have never been involved in the P&C it is never too late to come along and support the P&C, you’re not only getting involved in your children’s school but you will probably make some lifelong friends.

Kind regards
April Butterfield
P&C President
The P&C would like to invite the parents, guardians and grandparents of our Kindergarten children and new families to our “Welcome to Granville Public School” Morning Tea.

Date: Friday 15th February

Time: 9:15am – 9:45am

Location: The school’s Assembly Hall

Complimentary tea, coffee and juice will be served with fresh home-made cupcakes.

This is a great way to meet our fantastic P&C and other parents, to learn more about what we do, as well as a great opportunity for you to become involved in your P&C.

A fabulous FREE Workshop not to be missed:

**Cut, draw, squeeze, poke...**

Fine Motor Skills for Little Folk

Come along and learn how your child develops ‘fine motor skills’ such as grasping, drawing, pre-writing and scissor skills. You will learn some practical ways and strategies to help your child develop these important skills.

Presented by Granville South Schools as Community Centres Project

When: Thursday 7th of March

Time: 10am -1pm

Where: Granville South Schools as Community Centres Project
located in the grounds of Granville South Public School
Corner of Woodville Road and Oxford St GUILDFORD

**Free childcare is available, but must be pre booked at registration**

Refreshments provided

Contact Julie for more information and to register
Ph: 98923328
Email: julie.may3@det.nsw.edu.au

What is MLC Tennis Hot Shots?
MLC Tennis Hot Shots is an exciting tennis program for kids aged 4 and under. Using smaller courts, racquets and low-compression balls, the program makes learning tennis easy for new players.

At the heart of MLC Tennis Hot Shots is a fundamental approach to learning. It’s called “learning through play” and is based on developing skills in real tennis situations. This program allows children to develop technically and tactically in a stimulating environment.

**It’s fun, safe and easy to play**

**A sport the whole family can enjoy**

**Kids are ready to play as soon as they can swing a racquet**

**Easy progression to full court tennis**

**Free Racquet and Ball Hire**

Sportsmax Tennis
2 FREE Come & Try Lessons
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