From the Principal’s desk…..

Dear Parents, students and Community members,

COMMUNITY

Since the late nineteenth century, ‘the use of the term community has remained to some extent associated with the hope and the wish of reviving once more the closer, warmer, more harmonious type of bonds between people vaguely attributed to past ages’ (Elias 1974, quoted by Hoggett 1997: 5). Before 1910 there was little social science literature concerning ‘community’ and it was really only in 1915 that the first clear sociological definition emerged. This was coined by C. J. Galpin in relation to delineating rural communities in terms of the trade and service areas surrounding a central village (Harper and Dunham 1959: 19). A number of competing definitions of community quickly followed. Some focused on community as a geographical area; some on a group of people living in a particular place; and others which looked to community as an area of common life.

So many things have happened since I commenced my journey in, and with, the Granville Public School Community, and I can say that all have been such positive learning experiences for me!

I have been reflecting on the past week, in particular, and how this week is a true reflection of our school Strategic Management Plan for 2015-2017, and in particular:

Strategic Target 3
Our school community will be inclusive, informed and engaged.

This past week saw me enjoy the best of our wider community, both here in Granville and that of Auburn and Cassilis (where my wife Jeanette is a relieving Principal). All experiences were so completely different but at the same time very personal and soothing for the mind and soul.

Tuesday I attended the Gallipoli Mosque, a building that I recall being built and always wondering what it look like inside. I was overtaken by the true beauty and peacefulness of the structure as well as the sense of harmony. I listened intently, with teachers from other schools in our area, to the Imam, who in a soft voice, spoke to us about the ties between not just Australians and the Turkish peoples, but of the closeness of Islam and Christianity.

I learnt the value that Islam places on community and the importance of developing community; which is similar to our strategic Target 3, stated above

Wednesday saw the first, of many to come, outings of families and staff; 70 families and 16 staff, to the Vivid Light Festival of Sydney. Meeting at the school and then making the trek into Circular Quay by train. Staff at Granville Railway Station was somewhat overwhelmed with the sudden impact of such a large group of people, but they were so helpful and ensured that the gates would be open for us upon our arrival at Circular Quay.

A truly brilliant night filled with excitement, anticipation and lots of discussions.
Watch this space for further planned outings and community gatherings – if you have any suggestions please see Mrs Kardasis or myself.

For the weekend, I trundled off to Cassilis, 82km North West of Mudgee, to visit my wife for the long weekend and to be a part of her school community. Her school population is 14 students from Kindergarten to Year 5, as there are no Year 6 students this year; a far cry from our school population of 550 students from Preschool to Year 6.

None the less, this little country school in a community of 100 people prides itself in the way it becomes involved in all community activities; this does include a broader community that covers some several hundred square kilometres.

The Queen’s Birthday long weekend saw me assisting with decorating the schools float, which was proudly sponsored by the two prime business houses of Cassilis, for the annual Sheep Festival, which is held in Merriwa some 50 km from her school.

All three experiences of this week demonstrated to me how important community is and, that community comes in many shapes and sizes. All are unique; as are the many or few individuals which make them.

Gregory Grinham
Principal
GRANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES VISIT THE VIVID LIGHT SHOW

70 families from Granville Public school enjoyed the night out.

GRANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL P-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

DATE: Tuesday 16 June 2015
TIME: Departing school from 8:50 am and returning to school by 3:00pm
VENUE: The Crest, Bass Hill (via McClean Street, Bass Hill).
COST: $9.00 per student
CLOTHING: Students must wear their full school sports uniform including a school hat. Appropriate footwear should also be worn as students will be competing in athletic activities. Shoes with running spikes are not permitted. As the students will be participating in events for most of the day, please ensure that your child wears sunscreen and has plenty of water to drink throughout the day.
LUNCHES: Students must bring their own recess, lunch and water. NO canteen facilities

As it is a normal school day, all students from Preschool through to Year 6 are expected to attend.

Parents are welcome to join us for the day but will have to make their own transport arrangements. There will NOT be space on the school buses. All students must travel by bus with the school.
LAST DAY TO PAY
STAGE 3 EXCURSION

TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015
Students in Stage 3 will be attending a performance of Roald Dahl’s at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

COST: $22
Please complete a permission slip and return it with the correct money in an envelope to the school money box by Thursday 16 July.

2016 PRESCHOOL and KINDERGARTEN
Enrolment Applications now available from the front office.

STAGE 1 EXCURSION
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2015
Students in Stage 1 will be attending a performance of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie at Parramatta Riverside Theatre.

COST: $22
Please complete a permission slip and return it with the correct money in an envelope to the school money box by Thursday 16 July.

PARENT EXCURSION TO BUNNINGS
On Friday 29th May 2015 a group of parents attended a 2 hours painting workshop at Bunnings Warehouse in Villawood. Parents learnt many painting techniques and had a lovely time.

Did you know???  Granville P S has an app!
You can access events, newsletters and notifications, send through absence notes for your child or change your contact details with the school. Available at no cost from your app store for smart phone or tablet.
REFUGEE ADJUSTMENT STUDY

We are conducting a large scale, longitudinal study aimed at understanding the mental health impact of settlement experiences amongst refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the next three years, we hope to understand the mechanisms through which settlement factors impact on psychological wellbeing, in order to improve treatments and service provision for those experiencing difficulties relating to the refugee experience.

How does the study work?
- This study involves completing an online survey every six months over the next three years.
- The surveys are currently available in Farsi, Arabic, Tamil and English.
- Individuals can register their interest online. After an eligibility check, they will be invited to take part in the study and emailed a link to the first survey.
- Eligible participants will be reimbursed for their participation with a $25 voucher every time they complete a survey.

Who can take part?
Any asylum seeker or refugee who:
- Arrived in Australia after January 2011
- Is over 18 years of age

What do I tell my client?
- RTRP want to understand the impact of settlement experiences on health and wellbeing.
- The study involves answering a set of questions online in your own language. It will take approximately 45 minutes.
- In six months time you will be contacted by the RTRP team and asked to complete another survey.
- You will receive a $25 voucher every time you complete a survey.
- The study is highly confidential, and you are free to change your mind about participating at any time.

If your clients would like to take part, please direct them to:
www.rtrp-research.com/refugeeadjustmentstudy

Any Questions? Call us on 1300 130 700

NOTICE

ALL PLACES FOR THE STAGE 3 CAMP ARE NOW FULL.

Camp payments should be placed in the school money box with the student’s name and class clearly marked on the envelope.

REMINDERS TO PARENTS

Please ensure that your child’s name is written clearly on each item of their school uniform. Please check the lost property for missing uniforms.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Tuesday 2:30-3:15pm
Thursday 2:30-3:15pm
Friday 9:00-9:30am

GRANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Working Bee

What:
community garden working bee

When: the last Friday of every month

Why: to create a garden for us all to share that looks as beautiful as this one

We would also welcome donations of fruit and vegetable plants or seedlings. Please label them with your name, the plant type and where it comes from.
We are also looking for any dads who can help with paving, gardening and painting. Please contact Mrs Kardasis or leave your name and number at the office.

Please bring a small shovel and some gloves.

To plant a garden, is to believe in tomorrow.
Audrey Hepburn