From the Principal’s desk…..

Dear Parents, students and Community members,

Change?

In our busy lives we are confronted with change on a daily basis!

In thinking about change and what it means to me I began to reflect upon the many changes that have occurred in our world, in my life time; some being:

Space travel and Man walking on the moons surface,

The rise and fall of communism,

The introduction of colour television,

The invention of the mobile phone, wrist phone,

Advent of personal micro computers, to name but a few.

All these changes have had an effect on me in one shape or form over my 56 years; however it is the personal interactions with people from distant lands with such different cultures that have had a truly lasting impact on who and what I am today.

Although raised in a typical Celtic-Anglo environment my late father taught me the true value of acceptance of others and their cultural and religious beliefs. He was raised a Catholic, though went to one of Australia’s prestiges non-catholic boys school. Through his studies, travels and Army Tours of Duty he was exposed to many cultures and religions; which shaped his view of Australia, this in turn had a profound and positive effect on me; though I was not to understand this until I commenced my own travels and adventures both within and without Australia.

I’ve been lucky to have been born and raised in Australia when it was developing its multicultural heritage, and most importantly learning to embrace and accept all that arrived; to assimilate these cultural beliefs into their own!

My first travels as a mature aged University undergraduate saw me travel the Pacific Islands visiting friends who had completed their respective teaching courses and were teaching throughout Polynesia. This exposed me to cultures that changed my way of viewing Australia, but this was still very much from a Christian perspective and, had me questioning the actions of the Missionaries that ventured throughout Australia after the Europeans had arrived in 1788. I had changed and I could feel it through my questioning of my Celtic-Angelo roots and the actions of those before me.

I was still me!

Wasn’t I?

I was never happy with the status quo after visiting the Pacific Island and this lead me to change things that I knew and, how I viewed life and what I had to offer to my community. This led me to studying religions and cultures from around our globe. All have had an impact on my personal belief systems and my set values as a person and an educational leader.

Aside from Christianity the religions that have had an impact on me, as a whole, are those of:

- Hinduism,
- Islam, and
- Buddhism.

All three of these I discovered and studied in depth during my period of study in Indonesia in 1996 and my period of work in Jakarta from 2007-2008.
In addition to these, there are many things that have had, and still do, impact on me and constantly challenge my beliefs and how I view my world and how I manage myself through change (Diagram 1); these have an impact on us all and lead to change within us and around us.

Change is inevitable and is something that we need to deal with; it is how we greet these that makes us who we and how we openly display our embrace of change to our community.

I thank everyone of my new community, my new family, for embracing me and, of course, those changes that I have implemented to date. I have stated openly that I am here for the long scenic train journey and as such have both a 5 and 10 year plan for our school and community; with a possibility of extending this to a total of 15 years.

I wish all members of the community a safe and happy holiday, as well as a Happy Ramadan. I look forward to our journey recommencing in mid-July.

... if you think sunshine brings you happiness, then you haven’t danced in the rain ...

Gregory Grinham
Principal

From the Principal’s desk…………………………………………………...continued

Do Drop In Morning

On Wednesday 27 and Friday 29 May the Preschool had a ‘Do Drop In’ morning. Families were invited to come to the Preschool at 8.30 am to get a snapshot of what the children are doing in the preschool program. On Wednesday the Koalas showed their families how we make our play dough and on Friday the Possums took part in a science experiment. Both groups showed the families the folk dance they have been practicing, ‘The Mexican Hat Dance’.

Diagram 1
Factors that may impact and bring about change (©Grinham 2015)
The Preschool staff applied for and was successful in securing a Schools Environmental Education Partnership grant (2015) from Parramatta City Council. The work will commence as soon as possible with plans for completion by 31st August 2015.

- The stairs will help to combat soil erosion.
- The dry riverbed will enhance the ecosystem of the area, enticing birdlife into the space.
- The hand dryers are eco-friendly: they will replace the paper towel system which is currently in place, reducing the waste, aiding hygiene practices.
Artworks created by students at Bright Sparks on June 18.

These artworks were displayed at Granville Library during Refugee Week.
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.

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NEW  
SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP HOURS  
Effective Term 3  
Tuesday 2:30-3:15pm  
Thursday 9:00-9:30am

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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.

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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.

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

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P & C NEWS  
At our last P & C Meeting on 12 June, it was voted in that the Uniform Shop changes its opening hours.  
Effective from Tuesday 14 July, the new times will be:  
*Tuesday afternoons 2.30 - 3.15pm*  
*Thursday mornings 9.00 - 9.30am*  
Please join us for our next meeting at 9.00am on Friday 14th August.  
Have a wonderful holiday break!  
P & C Committee

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2015 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS  
$40 per year for the first child and  
$20 for each additional child in the family.  
This year all voluntary contributions will be directed to YOUR child’s classroom.  
By paying a small voluntary contribution you are directly aiding your child’s education.

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School Canteen  
Please ensure that all student lunch orders are submitted to the canteen each day before 8.55am. Lunch orders will not be accepted after this time.