Principal’s Message

Classes for 2014

Teachers, students and families have been busy getting organised and settling back into school this week. As you are probably aware, this week has been particularly important for counting student enrolments. I am pleased to report that we have gained enough new enrolments to form an extra class. This will make 11 classes in total for 2014. Students will start in their new classes on Monday 17 February. This means that there will be some movement of students across Years 1-6, but the result will be lower numbers of students in every class from K-6. This ensures your child gets greater teacher attention and resources. Your child will come home with a letter on Monday about their 2014 class and teacher. It will also show you a breakdown of classes and teachers from K-6.

Multi-age classes (Composite classes)

Many parents are unsure about their child being in a multi-age or composite class. Multi-age classes are made up of students drawn from different year levels. They may be formed because of the uneven pattern of enrolment in the school or because of the small size of a school like GSPS. Research shows that it makes no difference to a student’s performance if they are in a multi-age or straight age class. It is the teacher that makes the biggest difference. Research also shows that students in multi-age classes may benefit both socially and emotionally. Teachers are experts at grouping students within their class depending on their capabilities and skills— not their chronological age. This means that you know your child will get extra support or be challenged based on their individual needs.
New classroom resources
This year teachers will be focusing on delivering high quality Mathematics lesson. Teachers have already started professional learning in the new Australian curriculum for Mathematics and looked at assessing students in numeracy. We have ordered close to $10,000 in new learning resources to support teaching numeracy. This year we are also getting ready to have more technology integrated into quality learning experiences for students. Over 40 new iPads were ordered this week and will be operational in the classroom in the next few weeks. These new learning resources will make learning fun, challenging and purposeful for our students.

Parent-Teacher Appointments
I would just like to give a friendly reminder that teachers are extremely busy at the beginning of a school year. I understand that parents are keen to find out how their child is doing however I remind you to make an appointment to see classroom teachers before school, after school or during their release time. I would like to have all teachers start their day by settling their class after morning assemblies into learning without parent distraction. All teachers are more than happy to talk with you about your child at a time they are available.

I am looking forward to next week with classes being finalised and learning and teaching routines becoming increasingly settled. Thank you to everyone for helping our kids make a positive start to the year!
Ms Nicole Wade

DATES FOR THE DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 February</td>
<td>School Swim Sport starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14 February</td>
<td>P&amp;C Welcome morning tea 9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17 February</td>
<td>2014 Classes finalised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 February</td>
<td>Meet and Greet afternoon K-6 3:15pm</td>
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P&C NEWS
Just a reminder that the P&C AGM will be held next Wednesday in the staffroom at 9:15am. Nomination forms have been sent out to current financial members. A general meeting will follow the AGM where all new parents and carers are invited to join the P&C for 2014. Please consider joining the P&C as they are an enthusiastic group of people working to build a positive school environment for our children.

P&C will also be selling Cadbury boxes of chocolates for a discounted rate of $15 for a box. This is under half price! Please see Mrs Hosari or Mrs Yousef if you are interested in purchasing chocolates.

The P&C will also be holding a welcome morning tea for parents and carers on Friday 14 February. Please drop in after morning assembly to meet some new families and say hello to the ones you know over a coffee.

LIBRARY NEWS
Welcome back to the library. The library program is up and running and it is wonderful to see so many students with library bags eager to borrow.

We have been learning about how to care for the library books that are borrowed so that others may also enjoy the books. The children may keep the library books for one week only. They will return the books when it is their library session and may borrow another book to take home. Unfortunately, if a book is not returned the child will not be allowed to borrow until the book has been returned.

I look forward to sharing many stories with all of the students and learning of their favourite authors and interests.

Mrs. Stayle
Parent Cooking Classes
Cooking Classes are back by popular demand! Our Community Liaison Officers have organised some delightful cooking classes again for us this term. The cooking classes are a wonderful way to expand your cooking skills whilst having a laugh and meeting new friends.

Details of the first Cooking Class are below.
Date: 18/2/2014
Time: 9.15am
Where: School canteen.
Cost: Free

Please help us cook up a storm. See you there!

Homework and study planning
Most children find planning easier to understand when they have a visual representation of their day or week in front of them. Help your child learn to manage their daily tasks and responsibilities with this weekly schedule template.


Jargon busters
Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here’s a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar.


BACK TO SCHOOL STATIONARY
Just a reminder that students received a list of stationary items at the end of last year for students going into Years 1-6. This list has been placed on the school website as a reminder to families as we know you must be extra busy at this time of year. A kindergarten list will also be posted on the school website.

Providing your child with items will ensure that they have a good start to the year and can participate in learning activities.

COOL KID OF THE WEEK
This week’s cool kid is Macy Chemiet from 5/6 Mint.

Download our APP for free. User name = community Password = granvilles
Dear parents

Below is a list of equipment your Kindergarten students will require for the start of school in 2014.

- 2 lead pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Scissors
- 2 Glue sticks
- Homework book
- Library bag
- Paint shirt
- Box of Tissues (to be used in classroom)
- Lunch box
- Back pack
- GSPS School hat

Dear parents

Below is a list of equipment your year 1 and 2 students will require for the start of school in 2014.

- 2 lead pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Sharpener
- 2 Glue sticks
- Rubber
- Homework book
- Library bag
- Paint shirt
- Tissues
- Lunch box
- Back pack
- GSPS School hat
Dear parents

Below is a list of equipment your year 3 to 6 students will require for the start of school in 2014.

- 2 lead pencils
- 2 red biros
- 2 blue biros
- 2 black biros
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Sharpener
- 2 Glue sticks
- Textas
- Rubber
- Highlighters (years 5/6)
- Homework book
- Library bag
- Paint shirt
- Tissues
- Lunch box
- Back pack
- GSPS School hat