Granville South Public School celebrated our 125th by having a special whole school assembly on Thursday, 4th of September 2014.

Special Guests
Mrs Chantal Mamo, Mrs Natalie Bass, Ms Nicole Wade and Mr Tony Issa

Previous Principal Address
Mrs Natalie Bass

Mr David Bunting reading the Acknowledgement of Country

Mrs Julia Douglas & Ms Nicole Wade presenting certificates of appreciation to the generous sponsors.

Previous School Captains
Miss Helen Latukefu & Ms Laila Hage-Ali

Mrs Lyn Tuchin previous student of Granville South Public School

Mrs De Rome & Mrs Hage-Ali
Distinguished guests, parents and friends, staff and students: welcome. It is with great honour that I stand before you today to welcome you to the 125th anniversary of Granville South Public School.

It is hard to imagine that GSPS first opened as a school on Monday 26 August 1889. In those times, the school didn’t resemble an urban suburb with concrete streets or apartment blocks, but instead it was a semi-rural outer suburb of Sydney. Families lived on large blocks of land ranging from two to ten acres, and there were few streets including Oxford, Clyde, Trongate and Blaxcell Street. These streets housed the first families that attended GSPS.

School was very different back then for children. They sat in four long rows with desks screwed into the floor. There was a fireplace to keep children warm as they sat quietly and learnt largely by rote. Mr William Snipe was the first official headmaster and remained at the school for almost 10 years. By 1920 the school had grown to have over 300 enrolments. If you can stop and imagine this: in one class there could be up to 98 students with one teacher. Perhaps this explains why classroom learning was characterised by silence during this era.

I have been fortunate enough to meet a number of former students who attended school here in the 1960’s and 1970’s these last few weeks. They have shared with me stories about collecting milk for lunch from near the front gates on Oxford Street. They recalled their classes being combined to watch the first person land on the moon on a TV screen no larger than the size of a computer monitor. It has been lovely to hear people share these happy childhood memories with me.

Whilst today is about celebrating and sharing the rich history that Granville South Public School boasts, it is also about recognising what remains constant. For over 125 years the students, staff and community have strived for educational excellence and have demonstrated a strong belief that education can make a real difference. The school’s motto proudly declares “Look Ahead”. Now, more than ever, is an exciting time for our children to look ahead. Schools are transforming and our children are being given greater opportunities to become creative and critical thinkers. To work collaboratively and to problem solve. To use technology and stay connected as global citizens. As we embrace these changes, one thing you can be certain of is that the classroom spaces, corridors and verandas will buzz with the energy of children developing a life long love of learning.

Ms Nicole Wade
125th Anniversary Fete

by Aljim Penoso 5/6 Gold

On Thursday 4th September, Granville South Public School had a celebration for the whole day. We celebrated the school's 125th birthday by holding an assembly with performances and speeches, followed by a fete. The previous week, the Fete was postponed because of bad weather. Luckily, week 8 the weather was almost perfect. We had been disappointed at the thought of missing the celebration.

At assembly the choir sang a song called Que Sera by Justice Crew. There were guest speakers that talked about the past of the school. The drums were played at the beginning of the assembly by the Arabic Drummers. The dance group performed a whole new world. At the end of the assembly Abdulual and two kinder garden children did the cake cutting.

At recess I was getting tokens because my brother needed some. While I was getting the tokens I saw some sheep escaping. At the end of recess I got the tokens and waited for everyone to get their wristbands and went off to the Fete.

When the Fete started I used some tokens to get food and drinks because I was hungry and thirsty. I went on the jumping castle 6 times because it was so fun. The slide was awesome when I went down the slide from the top. I also went on the swing ride that was in-between the big Slide and the Storm ride. At the end of the Fete the raffle was draws and I won a prize.
The Dance Group performed ‘A Whole New World’

The Choir performed “Que Sera” by Justice Crew

Mr Tony Issa, School Vice-Captain Mya Ibrahim and Mrs Chantal Mamo unveiled the new 125 yr Anniversary Garden.

The Arabic Dance Group performed “How are you?”

125yr Anniversary Garden
Celebrations
A day of laughter,
A day of fun,
A day that came across everyone.
We had a blast,
And it went so fast,
But it had to end at last.

The fantastic speeches,
Were told by amazing speakers.
Those huge castles,
With not so many rascals,
Were very fun.

Everyone enjoyed their time,
Some only stayed part-time.
It was nice and sunny,
But also very funny.

Written by 5/6 Gold
Mya Ibrahim
Fatema Alamaddine

Looking Back...

Suzanne Plummer (nee Geary) - Student - 1951-57

Several years ago, I was asked to teach a scripture class. I was surprised and delighted when I was told that the school I was to teach at was Granville South Public where I attended from Kindergarten (1951) to sixth class (1957).

When I walked through the front gates, the memories came flooding back as a little girl with skinny plaits fighting back tears on my first day at school. Surprisingly the playground, the old bell and the classroom had changed very little, but the same cannot be said for the area immediately surrounding the school. Woodville Road consisted of only one lane in each direction, and in the morning and in the afternoon, 6th grade boys using flags would stop the traffic to allow the children to cross over. Oxford Street was constructed of large cobblestones and even the taxis refused to drive past the corner for fear of ruining their suspension.

Kentucky Fried Chicken now stands where my favourite shop, “Mr Brookers” was located. It was here that we would order our lunches before school. His services included such things as a Commonwealth Bank agency, a Post Office, groceries, a newsagency, fruit and vegetables and the most tempting array of lollies I can ever remember. If you had 2d and a small container, he would sell you some chocolate flavoured to make the bottles of lukewarm milk delivered to the school each day a little more palatable.

Looking across the playground at the front of the school, I remembered folk dancing in time with the music from the old wind up gramophone. This would bring much delight to the people passing by, who would stop and watch.

Some 1,100 students attended Granville South Public School during my time there and the boys and girls were strictly segregated after 2nd grade. It was as if an imaginary line ran straight down the centre of the yard and you were quickly reprimanded if you crossed over the magic mark.

Pet shows and doll shows were arranged often and looked forward to by all the children for weeks beforehand. Parents often came along to watch our concerts which were sometimes performed down under the big gum tree at the bottom of the playground. I remember being cast in various parts ranging from a queen, a tree, a kangaroo and even a mermaid.

In 1957, we held a Fancy Dress Ball at Granville Town Hall. As school captain, I was asked to give the welcoming address and present the wifes of the dignitories with flowers. I practiced my curtsy for weeks beforehand. Stage fright took over when the big night arrived and I sped through the speech, thrust the flowers at the ladies, forgot the curtsy and hurried off the stage.

It’s fun to look back, laugh and remember many happy times at Granville South. Gone are the ink wells and the navy blue serge tunics, the old wooden desks and the big lunch sheds. Now there are lights, fans, heaters, carpets and computers. So much has changed, yet watching the children, one still sees the little girls skipping with their ropes and the boys playing marbles, just as we did thirty years ago.

I only hope and pray that the children of today can look back in the years to come and have happy memories of their days at Granville South Public School which has served this district so well for the past 100 years.
Fete Fun

Special Edition Newsletter Week 9 Term 3
Fete Fun

Special Edition Newsletter Week 9 Term 3
1st Prize: 7 Eleven Hamper $200 Petrol Voucher
Loze Tafengatoto 1/2 Coral

2nd Prize: AMF Bowling & Family Fun Pass
Kartatak Raceway & Dodgem vouchers
Jay Toto-Tavai 5/6 Gold

3rd Prize: Officeworks $100 Voucher
5/6 Mint student

All other prize winners:

Selenah Sadaka 4/5Indigo Chipmunks Playland & Cafe voucher
Selenah Sadaka 4/5Indigo Beauty voucher
Ayah Chaouk 1/2 Coral Family Hamper & iTunes (donated by Sadaka family)
Phoenix Bainbridge 2 Turquoise Le Reve Giftpack (donated by Mrs. Kouaider)
Phoenix Bainbridge 2 Turquoise Gift Pack (donated by Mrs. Lornton)
Ms. Smith (Staff) K Copper Bunnings Hamper & $50 voucher
Daphne London K Copper Johns Pharmacy Hamper
Deon El Kalal K Copper Bunnings Hamper & $50 voucher
Mia Tafengatoto K Violet Coffee and biscuits hamper (donated by Zaineddine family)
Aljim Penoso 5/6 Gold Supercheap Auto Products
Commendations

1st Bronze
Tasneem Elsoussi
Michael Tuiono
Zackaria Badr
Bernadette Shalala
Abdulhamid El Nazer
Ayah Dabbache
Ibrahim Qablawi
Aisha Dabbache
Amini Latukefu
Mustapha Al Hussein
Phoenix Bainbridge
Mahdi Haidari
Ineta George
Nisanur Aydin

2nd Bronze
Aljim Penoso
Abdullai Daouda
Nitara Lyons
Meryem Dernaika
Mylez Molo
Tegan Demirel
Shayma Ajouz
Serene Ajouz
Emily Soe
Sydney Malu
Zane Faraj
Dayna Edmonds
Noah Bosanac

Mohmmed Ajouz
Amira Elsamad
Chelsea Wong
Sajed Rima
Ali-Tahj Timus
1st Silver
Abby Hamdan
Jessica Chiem
Aya Al Bayati
Ruby Jo
Fatema Salman
Shady Al Hussein
Hadieh El Saj
Mahmoud El-Hafez
Zakaria Kouaider
Hassan Jamal-Eddine
Daniel Kouaider
Ethan Kamoda
2nd Silver
Jazmine Addouj
Mia Isabelle Aguilella
3rd Silver
Loze Tafengatoto

7-Eleven Guildford
AMF Bowling Villawood
Bunnings Warehouse Villawood
Calmsley Hill City Farm
Abbotsbury
Chipmunks Playland and Café Villawood
Complete Klean
Featherdale Wildlife Park
Guildford Leagues Club
Hawchar Sweets
John's Chemist Guildford
Kartatak Raceway Villawood
Le Reve
Officeworks Villawood
P&C Association GSPS
Raffle Hampers
Sign-a-Rama
Supercheap Auto Villawood
Teachers Health Fund
Teachers Mutual
UHAUL Trailers

A big thank you to our generous sponsors and volunteers for their support in helping our school celebrate our 125 years anniversary. A special thank you goes to Teacher's Health who has donated $900 that will go towards sustaining our newly planted veggie garden.

Thank you to our volunteers

Active After School Sports Community
AFL NSW
Legal Aid
Guildford Fire Station
CareFlight
Guildford Library
Rosehill Police
Mrs Julie May
Mrs Liz Stubbs & Mr Geoff Lumley
Parent Helpers
Auburn Diversity Services
Thank you to our sponsors.

Proudly sponsored by 7-ELEVEN GUILDFORD...
‘WE ARE HERE FOR YOU....’

Lots of Slurpees & Coffees to share

$200 Fuel

Granville South Public School 125th Anniversary
School’s come long way in 125 years

MORE than 500 students, parents and community members joined celebrations for Granville South Public School’s 125th anniversary last week.

There were a number of musical and dance performances showcasing the talents of students and the school’s special anniversary garden, which has been landscaped with the lettering ‘GSPS’, was also officially unveiled.

Two of the school’s former students, Laila Hage-Ali, who was the school leader in 1994 and Helen Latekefu, the school leader in 2011, helped to lead the celebrations alongside Mya Ibrahim who is this year’s school leader.

Ms Hage-Ali said they hoped the garden would remain a symbol of school pride in the years to come.

Relieving principal Nicole Wade told those assembled that in 1889 when the school opened, it was set in the semi-rural outer of Sydney with families living on large blocks of land ranging from two to 10 acres.

“School was very different back then for children,” she explained.

“They sat in four long rows with desks screwed into the floor. There was a fireplace to keep children warm as they sat quietly and learnt largely by rote.”

She said present day students were embracing technology and opportunities to become creative and critical thinkers.