Message from the Principal

The end of another productive year is in sight. Teachers and staff are busy preparing for semester two student reports and celebrations such as Presentation Day and the Year 6 Graduation and Farewell. Please note the dates for these events in your diary. Presentation Day, Tuesday 9 December, is a very important occasion for our community. It’s a time to acknowledge our student’s learning and achievements.

If any families are leaving our school it would be appreciated if they could let the office or their teacher know as soon as possible. This information will assist greatly with planning for 2015.

Our school band is growing in strength and I look forward to new members joining in next year. Interested students took band letters home two weeks ago. Please return these as soon as possible if you would like your child to be part of this great opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

Celebrating Success

G Force

Congratulations to the following G Force members for being safe, respectful learners:

2MB
- Uddhav
- Camilo
- Fordyrick

2/3K
- Focus
- Vlad
- Dean
- Jana
- Berkay
- Cherilyn

5/4G
- Guler
- Aleena
- Amanda
- Indyanna
- Firdevs
- Thomas
- Ryan
- Savarpreet
- Cayleb
- Jennifer
- Selma
- Izayah
- Daniela
- Ramisa
- Ozge
- Omer
- Mio
- Daniel
- Sila
- Yasmin
- Lily
- Adil
- Nicholas
- Yasin
- Lawrence
- Lamont
- Yigit
- Zoe
- Denise

Recognition for our Positive Learning Alliance

Our school leadership team has benefited greatly from partnering with Banksmeadow PS, Rainbow St PS and Daceyville PS to create a collaborative learning alliance based on positive education.

Through this initiative, our executive team has participated in professional learning in the areas of positive psychology, an appreciative approach to leadership and coaching as a leadership tool.

The four principals presented their work at an international conference in Amsterdam earlier this year.

This was recognised with the awarding of a Director’s Award last week at Sydney Town Hall.

A quote to ponder:

Let us remember; One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai
K-2F Remember our Soldiers
As part of their community mobility program Ms Fox and K-2F ventured into the city on Remembrance Day. This was an important occasion for the class as they had made a beautiful wreath to lay at the Martin Place Cenotaph.

The occasion was made more meaningful as the children had learnt about Ms Fox’s Grand Uncle Eddie who served in WW1.

Year 6 raise money and have fun!
Congratulations to Mr Millist, Mr Rueger and Year 6 for a great Fun Day. They did an outstanding job of planning, organising and running the day.

The students raised $835 to support their end of year Farewell and to purchase a gift for the school.

Sponge throwing is always a success and luckily our teachers are good sports!
Sam after a visit to the Haunted House.

Pillow Fights and Hand Soccer were fun.

Oh no!
What was in the Gooey Dip?
Will we tell Ms Brook?
Some of our school artists enjoyed painting.

Coloured hair and fancy nails were popular too.

Other activities included Ping Pong Cup, Mini Oz Tag, Soda Can Toss and Sock Wrestling.

Well done Year 6.

Poems of Gratitude
The ability to have and express gratitude is an important character strength.

Students from 5/4G wrote the following poems.

I Am Thankful For...

I am thankful for my life and spirit
The fact is to always be thankful!
I am thankful for my shelter and home
The fact is to always be thankful!
I am thankful for my food and drink
The fact is to always be thankful!
I am thankful for my family and friends
The fact is to always be thankful!
I am thankful for my clothing and toys
The fact is to always be thankful!
I am thankful for my freedom

Zoe Denassar

I am thankful for my life and my aspiration in life.
I am thankful for the food that I eat.
I am thankful for the water that I drink.
I am thankful for my family and my friends.
I am thankful for my home and where I live.
I am thankful for the freedom that I have.
Always be thankful...

Lamont Morley
I’m grateful for all the times I wake up in a cozy bed with no fear,  
For all the comforts I have and an abundance of food,  
Not only having my needs being met but also my wants.  
For the freedom in this country to be able to express our ideas and thoughts,  
Not being scared to walk on the roads and having the feeling that I’m safe and sound.  
I’m thankful for all the love that I get every day,  
I’m thankful to have all my family members alive.

Selma Trnka

I am thankful for my teachers because my teachers teach me.  
I am thankful for my friends because I learn new things from them.  
I am thankful for my school because some people don’t have the opportunity to go to school.  
I am thankful for my family because they always help me and support me to choose the right path in my life.  
I am thankful for my life because I have got everything I need, including good friends, teachers, nice school and a very caring family.

Savarpreet Singh

I’m thankful for having a family that I love,  
You should be thankful that you have food because not all countries do.  
I’m thankful that I have friends that I can talk to,  
I’m thankful for having a life and that I live under a roof.  
I’m thankful that I have electricity and thankful for being alive.  
I’m thankful for being a happy girl and having electronics,  
Some countries don’t have these things.  
I’m thankful for having good heath,  
I’m thankful for life itself.

Aleena Ghantous

School Schedule for Term 4

There may be changes and/or additions to this in the following weeks.

Week 7: 17-21 November
21: P&C Disco

Week 8: 24-28 November

Week 9: 1-5 December
1: Swim School for Year 2 commences  
2: P&C Meeting  
4: Aspire for Year 5

Week 10: 8-12 December
9: Presentation Day  
12: Reports Home  
Swim School ends

Week 11: 15-19 December
15: Year 6 Farewell  
16: Sky Zone end of year celebration K-6  
17: Last day for students  
18/19: School Development Days for teachers

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

For family budgeting
Music Program 3-6:  
All children in Years 3-6 will be participating in this program. Thank you to those parents who have already paid for this in Semester One. It is great value as the children are receiving 20 weeks of music lessons.  
Cost: $60

Sky Zone K-6:  
Cost: $12

Swim School for Year 2:  
Cost: $90

*Students participating in PSSA sporting teams and tennis coaching pay for participation each week

Please talk to the office about paying by instalment if this makes budgeting easier for your family.

Technology Reminder

On the following page you will enjoy reading about the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program that is being piloted in 5/4G. So far it’s been a great success.

While this is an exciting initiative, at present it is only available in 5/4G. The students have had lots of input from Ms Gargoulakis and Ms McDonald about how to use the devices at school in order to be safe and respectful learners. There are systems in place to safeguard the devices and parents and children have signed agreements about their use.  

Devices belonging to students from other classes shouldn’t be brought to school. The rules for phones also remain the same.

If a phone needs to be brought to school it should be handed in at the office in the morning and collected at the end of the day.

Thank you for your ongoing and valued support of our school!

Kim Sheen
Principal.
BYOD in 5/4G

Today’s generation of students is unlike any other. These digital savvy learners and their beloved mobile devices are attached at the hip. They keep their mobile devices on them at all times and expect connectivity. Therefore, as our society continues to become more and more gadget addicted, BYOD (bring your own device) becomes inevitable.

A pilot of the program started at our school in the 5/4G classroom this week. We are so lucky to have wireless classrooms available at our school for students to have access to the internet.

The program will aim to provide an opportunity for teaching safe, respectful and appropriate use of mobile devices which students will also use as adults and future professionals.

Students have the opportunity to bring portable devices such as iPads and tablets to enhance their independent learning.

Students spend countless hours outside the classroom on their mobile devices. So why not use that to our advantage. Let them use these devices as engaging learning tools in the classroom. Then, they can easily bring their homework, educational games, projects, books, etc. and everything they need to continue learning outside the classroom.

In our class we used our devices to write gratitude poems with our student teacher - some of which you will find in the Gazette, to access websites to interact with maths learning and to look at Sun Smart ideas in our Health lesson with Ms Makis.

Students are really engaged and the classroom environment is so different. We are excited that we will be using our devices to create multimodal texts including a short film before the end of this year.

Ms Gargoulakis and 5/4G
WOW describes exactly how we felt from the time we arrived at Milson Island to the time that we left. No one could complain about the weather because it was absolutely ideal.

Day one started with an early morning pick-up to Kangaroo Point, located under the Brooklyn Bridge, on the Hawkesbury River. After just a short ferry ride to the island and a quick orientation we were shown to our lodgings. Our first activity after lunch was in canoes on the river. This was a great experience even when the water started to get choppy and boats were capsized. Getting wet was part of the fun! Night games followed on from dinner and then we settled into our rooms.

Day two was even better. After breakfast one group was off to the pool for raft building and then later for some orienteering and the other group went off to challenge their fears with the high ropes course. What an awesome way of building up team work and having-a-go at something that really tested our comfort zones. After lunch the groups swapped tasks and we all met up later in the afternoon in the pool and on the tennis and basketball courts. Night time activities were also lots of fun with a mini Olympics theme. Even the teachers joined in. We loved the blanket drag and the big ball shoulder shuffle.

Day three went really quickly. Whilst some of us were glad we were going home because we missed our families we were also sad to be leaving the island. Our final activity was abseiling which involved more harnessing. Mick and Jade our instructors were really patient and helped students overcome their greatest fear of going down a steep rock ledge.

We are all glad to have been part of this experience and would not have missed it for the world! It really taught us to appreciate things in life especially our home, to be willing to take part in experiences that our families could not provide for us and to interact and develop greater relations with a great group of people including our teachers.

Years 5 and 6 2014
Raffle results

Congratulations to the Kelso family who won the Bowling Party for selling the most raffle tickets.

Both Michael Peters and Sonia Bamphokhie were given a double movie pass for Randwick Ritz as runners up.

Prize winners

1st - Margaret Peters - iPad
2nd - Lyn Smith - Bowling Party
3rd - Tusne - Breville Wok
4th - Elizabeth Ziros - movie tickets.

Tickets Sold

3585 raffle tickets were sold. This is an enormous effort from all involved.

We appreciate the efforts of everyone that supported the raffle by selling or buying tickets. Your contribution helped to raise funds for improving technology at GRPS. Our children will all benefit from this.

$3300 was raised from this event.

Thank you!

Who won the trivia?

We had 80 people arrive for a night of fun and laughter. Many were serious, hoping to walk away with the crown at the end of the night but only one table could win!

There were 8 tables with anywhere between 8-12 guests. Teams made up names and began to work their way through the first 12 questions on Current Affairs. The next round required identifying 15 famous faces. That was tricky for some. Round 3 was 12 questions on sport followed by What is this logo? Finally Name the round saw teams having to work out the name of the round based on their answers to the 12 questions.

The Winning Team...

Congratulations to the winning team pictured above. They generously donated their prize winnings back to the school. As some of these parents have children in Year 6, the P&C will make a donation to the Year 6 farewell.
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