Message from the Principal - Enrolling for Kindergarten

It’s hard to believe that the year has progressed so far. If you or your family, friends or neighbours are planning to enrol your child for Kindergarten 2015 please do so as soon as possible. A Kindergarten information evening will be held on 3 September and Orientation sessions held on 14, 21 and 28 October. Information letters will be sent out during the following week to those families already enrolled.

Celebrating Success

What a busy and exciting 2 weeks we have had at school since our last Gazette!

We’ve had the opportunity to learn more about science at the Australian Museum, celebrated book week with a Book Swap and been acknowledged for being safe, respectful learners through Golden Play and a G force morning tea.

I have included lots of photos in this edition of the gazette. Please enjoy.

Science Excursion

Thank you to Ms Beattie for organising our very successful science excursion and to all the teachers who worked together to make it so worthwhile.

Science is an important focus at Gardeners Road.

It’s important to use the right scientific apparatus and safety equipment when working with chemicals.
There were lots of interesting creatures to look at –
dead or alive.

The dinosaur section was a great hit with our students.

Learning about sustainability was also a focus.
Snapshots from the day

I liked the science experiments.
Gary KH

I enjoyed when I saw an alive red-back spider that laid two small eggs. I also liked the colourful butterflies. I saw a big eagle. I even saw a spiky lizard. I saw a dinosaur and it even made a mighty roar!

Rachel 1B
Our Science Excursion
By Anika, Alieza and Sonya 3/4B

The whole school travelled on buses to the city for our exciting excursion.

Firstly, we arrived at Sydney Grammar School and went to the auditorium. We listened to Dr Rob talk about scientific things like robots, self-driving cars and a crow that can solve puzzles.

Then we walked to the close by Sydney Museum. We had recess in the lobby. We were able to touch and see reptiles like a black-headed python, a bearded dragon and a bluetongue lizard.

We went into another room with lots of different activities. We learnt about acids, bases and neutrals. Did you know that purple cabbage juice works like litmus paper and changes colour depending on what you are testing?

There was a mini volcano made from clay that erupted. There was a fantastic dinosaur bone display. Some of them looked like they were going to pounce and grab us. We learnt about minerals and gemstones and saw a real mummy from Egypt. We were able to hold insects like slaters and millipedes.

We think our science excursion was awesome. Science is important because without science we wouldn’t understand the world.

Book Swap

Thank you again to Ms Beattie and teachers for a very successful Book Swap afternoon. All money raised
through gold coin donation is in support of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Funds are used to support literacy and provide quality reading resources to children living in remote communities.

Everybody, especially teachers, love a good book to read!

Senior students did a great job in setting up and assisting younger students with their selection.
Then it was time to enjoy and share the books.

Students were able to dress in red, black and yellow. Ruby (KH) was very pleased when she found the book called *Ruby the Red Fairy*.

Golden Play and G Force

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

- Steven KF
- Ayla KF
- Suzan KF
- Elissa KF
- Aaliyah 2MB
- Shayla 2MB
- Jeniffer 2MB
- Anika 3/4B
- Bosko 3/4B
- Ruby 3/4B
- Towhidul 3/4B
- Michael 3/4B
- Gianne 3/4R
- Nina 3/4R
- Jasmine 5/6M
- Stephanie 5/6M
- Aleyna 5/6M
- Isabella KF
- Daniella KH
- Jaceline KH
- Jace KF
Last week 97% of our students were rewarded for safe playground behaviour with 15 minutes extra play with their teachers. Well done!

Snapshots of learning - K-2 Assembly
KH did a great job of presenting the book *How the Birds Got their Colours.*

A quote to think about:
We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. Aristotle.

School Schedule for Term 3
Please be aware that sometimes circumstances arise that necessitate a change to the schedule.

Week 7: 25-29 August
28: Big Band Bash
2: P&C Meeting
3: Kindergarten Information Evening

Week 8: 1-5 September
28: Big Band Bash

Week 9: 8-12 September

Week 10: 15-19 September
16: K-6 Commonwealth Games Sports Day
19: Support Unit Excursion to Ridge Farm

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

Big Band Bash:
This is a great opportunity for band members to perform with other bands. The cost of transport is covered.
Cost: Spending money (at family discretion $5-$10)

K-6 Commonwealth Sports Day:
Cost: $4

*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.

Procedures for Managing Reports of Bullying Behaviour

1. Incident reported to teacher
2. Teacher collects information and talks to possible bystanders. a one-off or an isolated incident? part of a pattern or bullying?
3. Teacher informs their supervisor in order to effectively manage the situation in a timely manner and records incident.
4. Parents of child being bullied and parents of child/children who are bullying are contacted.
5. Possible actions dependent on the seriousness and continued pattern of bullying:
   - Positive Behaviour System implemented in class or by supervisor
   - Consequences such as time out, loss of privileges, loss of play
   - Ongoing communication with parents or carers
   - Referral to the learning support team
   - Targeted social skills training
   - Check in check out mentoring system
   - Counsellor Referral
   - Referral to outside agencies or programs
   - In school suspension
   - Suspension

I have included a copy of the flow chart above that forms part of our Anti Bullying Plan.

If parents would like a copy please feel free to ask at the office.

Also included is an interesting article by Dr Michael Carr-Greg about bullying written for parents.

Good reading!

Ms Kim Sheen
Principal.
Bullying should not be confused with teasing, rejection, random acts of violence or physicality and conflict. While children will often tease or fight, this bickering should not be confused with bullying.

Bullying is a word that is wrapped in emotion. For many people bullying is associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40% of people have experiences some type of bullying in the past.

Bullying is an insidious behaviour that transgresses children’s natural right to feel safe and secure. It can adversely affect their learning, emotional well-being, further peer relations and their sense of self.

Bullying takes many forms and guises including, physical and emotional abuse, intimidation, harassment and exclusion.

It now has a well-publicised cyber-dimension which has moved the goalposts for many kids. In the past children could escape bullying behaviours they may have experienced by being at home. Cyber bullying now means that kids can’t escape the bully like they once could.

Bullying is not the domain of one gender. Girls bully just as much as boys but they do it in less physical ways. While boys use physical intimidation or verbal abuse to wield power, girls are more likely to use exclusion or verbal sarcasm to assert themselves.

Bullying should not be confused with teasing, rejection, random acts of violence or physicality and conflict. While children will often tease or fight, this bickering should not be confused with bullying.

Bullying is about lack of power as one person is powerless to stop the teasing or physical abuse. Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person by another person or group.

If you think your child is being bullied then handle with care as children often don’t want to admit that they are on the receiving end of bullying.

Some kids keep it close to their chests so it helps to be on the lookout for warning signs such as: items being stolen, changing the route to school and withdrawal from usual activities.

If your child is being bullied:

1. **Listen to their story:** Children who are bullied need someone to believe their story. Take them seriously and avoid dismissing complaints as tell-tale. Use common sense to differentiate between bullying and more random, non-selective antisocial acts. Kids can be nasty to each other, yet this doesn’t constitute bullying.

2. **Deal with their feelings:** A child who is bullied probably feels scared, angry and sad. Boys are more likely to display anger and girls claim they feel sad. The degree of emotional intensity is an indicator of the amount of bullying. Recognise and validate their emotions. Let them talk about how they think and feel. It’s normal to feel sad, scared or just plain confused.

3. **Get the facts:** Get a clear picture of what happens, including who is involved, the frequency and what happens prior to any bullying. Get your child to be as specific as possible by asking good questions. An accurate picture will help you determine your next course of action.

4. **Give them coping skills:** With a clear picture you can start giving your child some help about how he or she may deal with bullying including using avoidance strategies, being more assertive and changing poor body language.

5. **Get the school involved:** Bullying is best handled when parents and teachers are involved. Approach your school through the appropriate channels, make yourself aware of your school’s anti-bullying procedures, and be willing to work within these guidelines.

6. **Help build your child’s support networks:** Kids need a group of friends to support them when they experience bullying so look for practical ways to broaden friendship groups.

7. **Build their self-confidence:** Provide children with systematic encouragement. Let them know through your words and treatment of them that they will get through this period.

It’s worth remembering that children who experience some form of bullying often come out stronger and more resourceful because they have experienced difficulties and they know they can defeat them.
Local Rosebery and Mascot businesses are invited to have a regular ad placement in our newsletter each week.

Payment of $75 incl. GST will be by the term. The ad specs are: Business Card size (90mm x 50mm) or Banner size (185mm x 28mm). Please contact: Claire Williams on 0447573309 or email her at claire@insydneytutor.com.au if you would like to place an advertisement. All submissions must be in jpeg or pdf format.

While we exercise due care, Gardeners Road Public School does not endorse or guarantee any goods or services advertised.
**Fathers' Day Stall**

The Fathers' Day stall will be held on the morning of Friday, 5th September 2014. Gifts will be available for students to purchase from $1 to $8. Please send your child/ren with some money on the day, if you would like to purchase a gift.

Are you available to assist with the running of the stall?

Please email GRPSparents@gmail.com

**Trivia Night**

The trivia night will be held on Friday, 24th October 2014, 6.30 for 6.45pm start. Tickets are $20 and will be sold leading up to the night. Organise a table of 10 or join others for a fun filled night.

Raffle tickets will be given to students to sell throughout Term 3. The student who sells the most tickets will receive a voucher for a bowling birthday party, donated by the Newmarket Hotel. The winner will be announced during the morning assembly on the day of the Trivia Night. The raffle will be drawn on the night. Additional tickets can be collected from the office.

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**Gardeners Road Cookbook**

Our school is culturally diverse, with over 35 languages spoken by students. This creates a fantastic opportunity for us to develop a multicultural cookbook, that all families can contribute to.

**Do you have a favourite family recipe to share?**

All students and teachers are asked to submit their favourite recipe for the cookbook. Categories include breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert or snack recipes.

Recipes can be hand written and given in at the office or word processed and emailed to GRPSparents@gmail.com by the end of Term 3. Remember to include your name and a picture of the prepared dish (if possible). Briefly tell us why this is your favourite dish.

The cookbook will be available for purchase before the end of the school year.

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Save the Date: P&C Disco 21 November 2014