Inside this issue:

Message from the Principal

Dear School Community,

As educators, our staff recognise that the school experience is not just about academic achievement, but about the wellbeing of the whole child. Being able to develop positive relationships, good health and self-esteem, contributes to students enjoying school more and achieving more while they are here. This approach underpins everything we do at GRPS and is clearly embedded in the school wellbeing policy and Positive Behaviour for Learning program.

Research indicates that students with higher levels of wellbeing tend to complete Year 12, have higher academic achievements, better mental health and more positive, responsible and lawful lifestyles. Whilst every child should have the opportunity to thrive at school, the reality is that one in four students today is at risk of not finishing school. This is a challenge for all education systems.

The Wellbeing Framework for Schools recently introduced, recognises that student wellbeing has a positive effect on student learning and contributes to the collective wellbeing of communities.

The wellbeing framework is a roadmap to provide a positive learning culture so every student can succeed, thrive and connect. It contextualises wellbeing to the individual student, school and community and is an integral part of the public school planning process. This proactive approach to student wellbeing received a significant boost with $167 million in government funding. The initiative provides a 45% increase in resources to public schools to improve the wellbeing of students, includes a new behaviour code for students, 236 additional school counsellors and flexible funding for schools with greater need to employ student support officers or other professionals.

For more information: The new Wellbeing Framework can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing

Gardeners Road Public School student wellbeing policy is available on the schools website.

Lisa O’Brien
Relieving Principal.

Important School dates

All students in Kindergarten to Year 6 are required to attend school until Wednesday 16 December, the last day of teaching for Term 4 2015. If parents are seeking permission for their child to be absent from school for a period of time, the current Exemption from School - Procedures should be used. Please see the office to get an Application for Leave Form.

The first day back for students in Year 1 to Year 6 in 2016 is Thursday 28th January. Kindergarten will start on Tuesday 2nd February.
Year 7 Selective High School Placement in 2017

Information for parents can be found at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

There have been changes made to this process from previous years.
- All applications must be made online
- Late applications will not be accepted
- Parents can only make three choices, not four
- Family placement claims are not considered

Application Website Closes
16 November 2015.

All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on 10 March 2016.

Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments

GRPS is now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2015.
If your child turns five years of age by July 31, 2016 please pick up an enrolment form from the school office.

Celebrating the strengths of Gardeners Road
Striving for personal excellence

Welldone G-Force Students!
The following students are being congratulated for being safe, respectful learners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2M</th>
<th>KL</th>
<th>4M</th>
<th>KH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asher, Aysha, Reana, Luan</td>
<td>Jeffy, Emiliana, Pippa</td>
<td>Alison, Amelia, Anastacia, Chloe, Cindy, Gianne, Jayden, Samuel</td>
<td>Adam, Luseane, Ryan, Nakir, Marat, Llace</td>
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Chess Tournament

The dust has finally settled after a long day of cunning strategy and ferocious battle between the chess champions of Gardeners Rd. The 30 students who participated in the annual event showed great strength, determination and persistence in their efforts to beat their friends and conquer their enemies. After six gruelling matches against the finest chess players from years 3-6, we have crowned our greatest players for 2015. Congratulations to our 1st place winner Joshua, in 3B, 2nd place winner Bradley, in 4M, and 3rd place winner Hugo, in 3/4R. All students who participated in the event received a certificate for their hard work and should be congratulated for their excellent behaviour on the day. A friendly reminder to all in years 3-6 that chess club is held on Tuesday at lunchtime, 1:30-2:00, in 4M’s classroom. I hope to see all you budding chess players there for some practice games!

Mr Millist
School Student Opal Card

The School Opal card will officially launch its new online application for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region on **Monday 2 November**. The application can be found at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students). Just like current paper travel passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network. Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from year 2 to 3 or year 6 to 7. Those students who do not need to apply and will have a School Opal card sent to the school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

Remembrance Day

This year 11 November marks the 97th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute’s silence at 11 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

GRPS acknowledged Remembrance Day with a special ceremony at 11am. Thankyou to Cameron and Payden for sharing your stories.

2M News

Students in 2M have been busy investigating volume and capacity. We've enjoyed making our own measuring devices and testing theories about volume. It's been wet and messy but lots of fun. We also loved reading Mr Archimedes' Bath by Pamela Allen and using our understanding of volume and capacity to explain what happened in his bath.

We have also been gathering information about the Plovers that have been nesting on the grass near Gardeners Road. These Australian native birds often nest on the ground. It took a month for their eggs to hatch and we've been really excited to see their cute chicks. If you'd like to find out more about Plovers please read the information we wrote on our class notice board and website. (photo by Dave Taylor and not of the GRPS Plovers)

Finally; we've very proud of all the hard work Yelena and Ms Huynh put in to develop Yelena's public speaking skills for the 2015 Botany Bay Public Speaking Competition.
Thank you for all of the support for the Walk-A-Thon which raised over $6000, these funds has paid for the Robotics program and will buy new playground games for the support unit.

The P&C have 3 events running this month:

- Bunnings BBQ at Mascot store
  **Saturday 14th November**
- Kids Disco
  **Friday 20th November**
- City of Sydney Carols at Turrawel Park BBQ
  **Sunday 29th November**

We are looking for parents to help at these events. All help is greatly appreciated.

At the last meeting, the P&C decided that all money raised from now will be put towards new ‘soft’ play in the general playground. This will be a large dollar value but will benefit all children. Please support us in reaching this goal as quickly as possible.

We are still looking for donations towards our uniform shop. Please leave any items at the office.
Year 6 students: when you finish in December, please think about donating your uniforms to the P&C.

Remember that you can purchase the Gardeners Road swimming caps for $6 each. Just leave the money in an envelope at the office. These kids looked great at their recent swimming meet in their caps!!

You can contact the P&C via email – **GRPSparents@gmail.com** or on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/GardenersRoadPandC](https://www.facebook.com/GardenersRoadPandC)

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**Improving Dyslexic Children’s Reading Abilities?**

**The role of Video Games**

The University of Sydney is running a study looking at improving reading ability in children with dyslexia using video games.

The activities will be carried out at the University of Sydney for 11 days (90 minute sessions) during the summer holidays.

Participation in the study is free and parking is provided.

To participate in the study or for any questions you may have, please feel free to contact Dr Piergiorgio Trevisan at **piergiorgio.trevisan@sydney.edu.au** or on 0421 948 022.