Message from the Principal

Dear School Community,

Today’s global society requires new skills and thinking. By understanding the needs and skills of young people today, we can start to design learning environments fit for the 21 century. This thinking underpins our philosophy at GRPS. We believe we need to help young people to be creative and self-reliant, to discover what they love, and master what they learn. More importantly, they need to apply what they know to the things that matter to them. At GRPS we are committed to creating deeper learning environments, where our students are empowered to take risks and test their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Our research has led us to the development of future focused, authentic units of work that contain big ideas and an inquiry based approach to learning. This involves an emphasis on students applying their knowledge to real life situations whilst working cooperatively in groups to solve problems.

In addition, we have introduced Robotics and Coding, and linked this learning in Maths, English and Science.

Our classrooms are exciting places to be!

This time of year is also very busy with community events and programs. Congratulations to our SRC who hosted a successful mad hair day to raise money for The Sydney Children’s Hospital.

The P and C have worked tirelessly to run a successful BBQ at Bunnings and a school disco on Friday night. This weekend will see them cooking up a storm at the Turruwul Park Christmas Concert.

This week we also look forward to a wonderful night of entertainment as we hold our first ever music soirée on Wednesday. Many thanks to Ms Huynh and Mr Rueger, for coordinating the event and working with students throughout the year.

Finally congratulations to Amelia who has been offered a place in an Opportunity Class for Year 5 in 2016. All the best wishes Amelia!

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.
HELP! is your child not returning in 2016?
So that we can organise our classes for 2016 please contact the school office as soon as possible to confirm if your child will not be attending GRPS next year.

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

Robotics
On Thursday the 19\textsuperscript{th} of November, Gardeners Rd was visited by Odin. Not the Norse god, but a clever little soccer playing robot. All the students from years 2-6 were lucky enough to attend a presentation by Sean Harris, a PHD student from UNSW, who is also a member of the UNSWIFT Robot Soccer World Cup team. Sean brought his fascinating robot to school and demonstrated how it could find and kick a ball all on its own.
The children learnt about the evolution of the technology of robotics, and were shocked to hear that by 2050, the academics at the university hope to have created a team of robots that could match the FIFA World Cup team!
The Southern Courier came too, to learn about our school’s robotics program. Look out for the kids and our very own school robots in the upcoming issue.
Mr Millist

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.

- **1H**
  - Anya, James, Jerome, Mobina, Rafael, Sandra

- **4M**
  - Amelia, Angelo, Anika, Anthony, Bradley, Issac, Jacob, Max, Nina, Tanveer

- **2M**
  - Ayrton, Jason, Jonell, Kristiava, Maria, Muhammet, Ryder, Vayia

- **5/6S**
  - Aleena, Ansh, Cameron, Daisy, Daniel, Gamze, Lawrence

- **KH**
  - Jacqueline, Rishabh, Sienna

- **3B**
  - Abigail, Atilla, Fatema, Fordyrick, Inaki, Jana, Jayson, Jeniffer, Joshua, Lawriza, Micah, Ralanna, Ruslan, Stevany

Kindergarten 2016 Enrolments
GRPS is now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2015.
If your child turns five years of age by
What is Project Based Learning (PBL)

Last term, classes 3B, 4/3R, 4M and 3-6A were involved in making a project around the science theme for the term, Night and Day. They had to present a display explaining how the Sun and the Earth’s rotation create night and day on Earth.

They were split into small groups of 3 or 4. Every Wednesday afternoon, they came together as groups and worked on their project. They had to research, design, make and think about their projects. They had to work collaboratively with others, stay within a budget, think creatively about any problems they encountered and ensure that their display was factually correct. Their work over the term culminated in a science fair, in which the students had to present their displays to the whole of Years 2, 5 and 6.

Getting the students to undertake a project, and allowing them to learn skills through that project, is what is referred to as Project-Based Learning. This type of learning, along with Inquiry-Based Learning, puts students at the centre of learning in the classroom. It often means giving students a task, such as making a model, designing a product or developing an advertisement, where they are able to demonstrate the skills learnt in the class or, even better, acquire new skills and knowledge in order to complete the project.

This type of learning allows students to develop essential skills that will help them later on. It often requires students to research, write, interview, collaborate, design, innovate, present, program, create, problem solve, think creatively and to think logically. It does this while, at the same time, allowing students to work at their own pace and allowing them to make considered choices about their work.

During our science project, students were allowed to make their own choice about how they would present their displays. It allowed them to choose a topic to focus on, collaborate with others, brainstorm design ideas, research topics and solve any problems that arose.

The result?

Students were engaged, confident in their learning and proud of the projects. The science fair was full of Year 3 and 4 students wanting to explain how night and day occur and eager to demonstrate their models. Some students had large dioramas that you had to view through a box. Some models had complex moving parts. Some models involved batteries and motors, demonstrating spinning earths. Some students acted out the movement of the Earth. All in all, it was a fantastic event.

This is the start of a different style of teaching at Gardeners Road. We’re moving into a style that puts student learning and needs at the centre of what we do, where students can think creatively, think logically and collaborate.

Personally, I can’t wait.

Mr Reuger
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Last updated: 1 July 2012

What is whooping cough?

Whooping cough can be a life threatening infection in babies. Whooping cough in babies can lead to apnoea (pauses in normal breathing), pneumonia, feeding problems and weight loss, seizures, brain damage and, in some cases, death. Older children and adults can get whooping cough too and pass it on to babies.

What are the symptoms?

- Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough.
- The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a "whooping" sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night.
- Some newborns may not cough at all but they can stop breathing and turn blue. Some babies have difficulties feeding and can choke or gag.
- Older children and adults may just have a cough that lasts for many weeks. They may not have the whoop.

How is it spread?

- Whooping cough is spread when an infectious person coughs bacteria into the air which can be inhaled by people nearby. If they are not treated early, people with whooping cough are infectious in the first three weeks of their illness.
- Whooping cough spreads easily through families, childcare centres and at school.

Who is at risk?

- Anyone can get whooping cough. People living in the same household as someone with whooping cough are especially at risk.
- Immunisation reduces the risk of infection but immunity fades over time. You can still get whooping cough even if you've been immunised.

How is it prevented?

Whooping cough vaccines provide good protection from infection but immunity fades which means that boosters are needed.

Immunisation for babies

- Babies need to be immunised at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months. The first dose can be given as early as 6 weeks of age.
- Getting your baby vaccinated on time gives them some protection when they are most at risk of severe illness.
- If your baby's vaccines are overdue, see your GP now to catch up.
Immunisation for older children

- A whooping cough booster is needed at 4 years of age.
- Check if your child has been vaccinated. Look at their Blue Book, speak to your GP or ring the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.
- A second whooping cough booster is given in high school through the NSW School-based Vaccination Program.

Immunisation for adults

A booster for adults is recommended for:

- Women who are planning a pregnancy, pregnant (third trimester) or post-delivery. These women should discuss their vaccination needs with their doctor as soon as possible.
- Other adult household members, grandparents and carers of infants under 12 months of age.
- Adults working with young children, especially health care and child care workers.
- New mothers in NSW are eligible for free whooping cough vaccine in the public maternity unit after the birth of their children.

If you are a close contact of someone with whooping cough:

- If you have been exposed to someone with whooping cough early in their illness while they are infectious, watch out for symptoms and see your doctor if you get a new cough.
- Some babies and some pregnant women need antibiotics to prevent whooping cough infection if they have had significant contact with an infectious person.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor may ask about your symptoms and whether there you’ve had any contact with whooping cough. If your doctor thinks you have whooping cough, a swab from the back of the nose or throat can confirm the diagnosis.

How is it treated?

- Some babies may need treatment in hospital or in intensive care.
- Antibiotics are used to treat whooping cough in the early stages and can help prevent spreading whooping cough to others. People who are not treated early with the right antibiotics can spread the infection in the first 3 weeks of their illness. After 5 days of antibiotics, you are normally no longer infectious.
- The cough often continues for many weeks, despite antibiotics.

What is the public health response?

Doctors and laboratories must confidentially notify cases of pertussis to the local Public Health Unit. Public Health Unit staff can advise on the best way to stop further spread.

Infectious children are restricted from going to pre-school and school. Unimmunised contacts may be excluded from child care unless they take the special antibiotics.

Identify - Protect – Prevent

NSW Health whooping cough campaign

For further information please call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au
Gardeners Road Public School

Presentation Day

2015

Staff, students and the community of Gardeners Road public School

Cordially invite parents to the 2015 presentation day

Tuesday 8th December

School Hall

9.30 am-11am
The P&C would like to thank everyone for their support of the Bunning BBQ and kids disco held this month. So far we have raised around $3000 from these events and with the BBQ this Sunday at the Carol at Turruwul Park, we are off to a fantastic start towards raising funds for a future soft play area in the general playground.

Please come along and support the P&C this Sunday (29th November) at Turruwul Park, Rosebery. The Carols are on from 5:30pm and any help is appreciated from 5pm.

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.

You can contact the P&C via email GRPSparents@gmail.com or on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GardenersRoadPandC

Golden Play
For safe, respectful learners

Stage 1 Yoga
Stage One students beat the heat on Friday with some cosmic yoga in the CAS space.
SRC WACKY HAIR DAY!

Wow! What awesome hairdos you came to school with! Thank you for supporting our fundraising event. The Children’s Hospital at Randwick also thanks you and your families. Well Done!
SRC 2015