Have you subscribed to receive the Gazette via email? To subscribe visit our web page and click on the ‘Notes’ menu item. There is a subscription link on this page. The Gazette will be emailed directly to you.

**App for E-news**
If you have a phone from Samsung, HTC, Motorola, Sony or Google, then you probably use Android. For more information about apps to receive your copy of the Gazette via your phone, visit: http://apps.schoolenews.com.au

**Celebrating the Strengths of Gardeners Road**
We have a great community of parents, students and staff at Gardeners Road. The forums held at the end of last year provided lots of information about the aspirations and dreams for our school from a parent perspective. Teachers have been working collaboratively to draft a three year school improvement plan including the input from the forums. Three strategic directions have been identified. They are Quality Teaching and Learning, Positive School Climate and Community Engagement. I look forward to consulting with the P&C at our next meeting and then preparing a final plan for the end of term 1. This will be shared with all parents.

A special thank you to the Marshall and Veale families!

Lila, Asher, Kester and families did a great job of spreading mulch last weekend. Thanks for giving up valuable Saturday time for our school.

**Let’s keep our students safe**
Please be careful when entering and leaving the school grounds by car. Drive slowly and reverse park in the correct areas. Please don’t park in the teachers parking area. We are all sometimes in a hurry but the safety of our children is more important than being on time.

**School Costs and Contributions**
A big thank you to those parents who have already paid for school costs and contributions.

Every parent at our school received a list of school fees and costs. A note will soon be sent home about the cost of individual class workbooks.

Please note that School and P&C funds are voluntary. However, these funds are used by the school to fund our literacy and numeracy programs and benefit all our students.

The other costs including music are not voluntary and do require payment.

If you are having difficulty with payment please be aware families are able to pay costs off over the year rather than all at once. Please don’t hesitate to discuss this with me.

Ms Kim Sheen
Principal

**For the Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5: Tuesday 24 Feb</th>
<th>Meet &amp; Greet Information Evening 5.00pm Zone Swimming Carnival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 Feb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: Wednesday 4 March</td>
<td>123 Magic Parent Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: Tuesday 10 March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting at 6.30pm - 123 Magic Parent Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: Wednesday 18 March</td>
<td>123 Magic Parent Program Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: Parent/Teacher meetings commence Tuesday 24 March School Photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10: Parent/Teacher meetings continue Thursday 2 April Easter Hat Parade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meet & Greet (and enjoy an easy sausage sizzle dinner for the children!)

On Tuesday 24 February at 5.00pm parents are invited to meet their child’s teacher and hear about the learning program and information relevant to their child’s class. This is also a great opportunity to meet other parents.

What will happen:

• **5.00 pm:** Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Support Unit parents will meet in the school hall for the Principal’s welcome, followed by time in the classroom with their child’s teacher. Children will be supervised in the hall.

• **5.45 pm:** The sausage sizzle will start serving. All families K-6 are invited to join us.

• **6.15 pm:** Years 3-6 parents will meet in the school hall for the Principal’s welcome, followed by time in the classroom with their child’s teacher. Children will be supervised in the hall.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Kindergarten Love the Library

Kindergarten has started visiting the library and borrowing books to take home.

It’s great to be able to relax with a good book.

Julius said, “I like the library because there are lots of books and you can borrow them.”
Chelsea said, “I like reading books.”
Sienna said, “I like books and the teacher reading stories.”
Ryan said, “I like borrowing books.”

Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival held at Botany Pool last week was a great success. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend and provide support.

Thank you to all our students for great behaviour and enthusiastic barracking for their sporting house.
Thank you to teachers for ensuring a smooth and well run event.

The Zone carnival will be held on Thursday 26 February. **Good luck to those swimmers who will be representing our school!**

**Science News - Fantastic Forces!**

This term, Stage 2 classes have been learning about the different kinds of forces we experience every day. They have been learning about pushing and pulling, gravity and friction.

Last week, we learnt about friction. We started by testing our pulling ability. We played a game of tug o’ war. Why were our hands red by the end? Then we tested the slipperiness of different surfaces around the school. We attached books to spring scales and pulled them along the force. Afterwards, we measured the amount of friction acting on the books by the different surfaces. Which surface do you think was the slipperiest?

Students used rubber gloves to investigate friction. Is it easier to pull your uncovered hand or gloved hand along a surface? Why?
Drumming Up Some Fun

1-3N and K-2F enjoyed their first drumming lesson this week. It was great to see the students so engaged and learning about rhythm and beat.

Budgeting & Planning

As a school we are committed to providing the optimal learning environment for all our students. We are also aware of the need to consider the requests made of parents in terms of money and resources.

Below are the requirements that apply to all students. A more complete list with information about class requirements will soon be distributed.

Information about excursions and in school experiences will be provided as soon as the planning is completed.

Payment for the items below can be made any time from now. It would be appreciated if payments could be finalised by Friday 27 February 2015. Eftpos is available in the office.

Thank you for your support with this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music Program</td>
<td>$70 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Levy</td>
<td>$5 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Fundraising</td>
<td>$5 per family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Contribution</td>
<td>$38 (or discounted family rate of $32 per student)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Eggs</td>
<td>$10 per student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children – Cheryl Lavender
Class 6/5G are critical thinkers and recently responded to a poll being conducted on Behind the News. This is what we think.

**Should We Change Australia’s National Anthem?**

An anthem is a song that represents a country. It is part of that nation’s tradition. It shows pride. Some people believe that it is time to change the anthem of Australia, whilst others believe that it should remain a part of the culture of all Australians.

Firstly, doesn’t ‘girt by sea’ seem out-dated to you? There are many words in Advance Australia Fair that many of us do not understand nor do we use this language to speak everyday with each other. Other words like ‘wealth for toil’, and ‘boundless plains’ found in this anthem have little meaning for those of us still learning English. How can we sing this song with pride and dignity that it deserves if we don’t understand it?

Our national anthem is not inclusive of the indigenous people of the land on which we live. This is an insult because the words of the song include the fact that Australia is made up of people that come across the sea to make Australia their home.

Also even though the anthem mentions what the land is like it does not include our native animals or plants. This might be mentioned in the words ‘our land abounds in natures gifts of beauty rich and rare’, it should be more specific.

Finally the anthem has already been changed once so it really wouldn’t hurt to change it again. Change is good especially since we are in the 21st Century. On the other hand learning a new anthem would seem rather strange and for a lot of us a difficult task. Most often the suggestions for the type of song it should become are really inappropriate or totally unsuitable.

Australia’s National Anthem has a long history and represents this country in a true way. The words of the anthem really talk about who Australians are, what the land is like and what we do. Furthermore our anthem is inviting and inspiring. It talks about people coming to this land to make it their home and many of our family have come to Australia because of this friendliness that the anthem makes us feel and what we expect the land to look like.

Finally Australia is a land of tradition. If we put this to a vote, most people would be in favour of keeping the traditions and valuing the history.

Based on the arguments that we have just presented, what side of the argument are you on?

---

**P & C AGM**

The P & C AGM will be held at 6.30pm, 10th March in the school staff room followed by our usual P & C meeting. The P & C executive positions are decided at this meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself for a role or join the P & C please feel free to attend.

**NEXT P & C MEETING:** First Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook!
Search for Gardeners Road P & C
or email us at grpsparents@gmail.com.au
Finding it difficult to cope but don’t know where to turn?

Call the South Eastern and Northern Sydney Family Referral Service on 1800 066 757.

- We can help you find useful services in your local area
- You can speak to us by telephone, you can visit our offices, we can meet you in your home or somewhere convenient for you
- We link young people, children and families to culturally sensitive services wherever possible
- We provide free interpreters

For more information contact us on:
Phone: 1800 066 757
Email: sensfamilyreferral@bamardos.org.au

We can link you with services to help with:
- Domestic violence
- Migrant and Settlement
- Financial assistance
- Counselling and mediation
- Child and Parenting programs
- Youth support
- Housing and accommodation
- Mental health support and any other services you may need
Local Rosebery and Mascot businesses are invited to have a regular ad placement in Gardeners Road School’s newsletter each week. Prices (by the term) from $75 incl. GST. The ad sizes are: 1. Business Card size – 90mm x 50mm; 2. Banner size – 185mm x 28mm; 3. Double Ad (Portrait) size – 90mm x 104mm. All submissions must be in jpeg or pdf format.

Please contact Claire Williams on 0447573309 or email her at claire@insydneytutoring.com.au if you would like to place an advertisement.

While we exercise due care, Gardeners Road Public School does not endorse or guarantee any goods or services advertised.
Local Rosebery and Mascot businesses are invited to have a regular ad placement in Gardeners Road School's newsletter each week. Prices (by the term) from $75 incl. GST. The ad sizes are: 1. Business Card size – 90mm x 50mm; 2. Banner size – 185mm x 28mm; 3. Double Ad (Portrait) size – 90mm x 104mm. All submissions must be in jpeg or pdf format.

Please contact: Claire Williams on 0447573309 or email her at claire@insydneytutoring.com.au if you would like to place an advertisement. While we exercise due care, Gardeners Road Public School does not endorse or guarantee any goods or services advertised.