Message from the Principal

Dear School Community,

Student Wellbeing

While there is a natural tendency to focus on your child’s reading, writing and number skills, a fundamental aspect of school success is your child’s physical, mental and social development. You will find a wealth of useful advice and suggestions to help you and your child navigate through these changing times at the departments website www.schools.nsw.edu.au

Is your child in a new class without their friends?

In 13 plus years of education, your child will eventually find themselves in a class without their close friends. It’s normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it?

Tempting as it may be to request a class swap (which can be a logistical nightmare for schools and not always possible), here are some important things to consider first.

Don’t rob your child of this opportunity to develop social skills. School is a place where our kids learn important social skills as well as academic ones.

Finding their place and making friends in a new group is a vital skill to develop and one they’ll rely on their entire lives. The classroom is one of the gentlest places to start learning this because:

* Teachers turn a “bunch of kids” into a team every year. They keep an eye out for students who aren’t mixing in, and create opportunities to pair them up with different children.
* There’s still lunch and recess to play with their mates. It’s also a great opportunity for them to learn about separating social time and work time.
* Lots of their classmates are in the same boat. Everyone is starting a new year, with a new teacher and a new classroom and many will be looking for new friendships too. Some kids choose a new “best friend” in every class they have, which builds a rich network of friendships over the years.

Children learn different skills from different classmates. These days there are lots of opportunities for group work in class, when students team up and work through tasks together. Unlikely pairings can produce excellent workmates, who share a common language of learning and help each other along.

Anaphylaxis Reminder

Please ensure NO nuts or nut products are brought to school.

If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the anaphylaxis procedures contain information for schools and parents designed to minimise the risk to students. If your child has an allergy it is important to let us know.


All families are asked to assist the children in our school who are anaphylactic. This is potentially a life threatening condition.

Please do not send any of the following foods for your own children, whilst they are at school:

- Peanuts and other nuts including cashews, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios, macadamia, brazil nuts
- Peanut Butter or Nutella
- Muesli bars containing nuts or any other foods containing nuts

You can gently help them make new friends. If you are able to spend some time in your child’s classroom (for example, by helping out with reading or maths groups) you’ll meet the other children and be able to suggest possible friends to your child. Your child will be thrilled to see you in their classroom and it also seems to fast track their sense of ‘belonging’.

Encourage play dates with classmates. If, after a couple of weeks, your child doesn’t seem to be settling in or is still anxious about their new class, by all means drop a note to the teacher or make an appointment to chat. More likely than not, your child will be absolutely fine and will have developed a new level of resilience from spreading their wings a little.

Lisa O’Brien
Relieving Principal.

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2016 Invoices - Textbooks and learning resources

2016 Student invoices for textbooks and learning resources were sent home to school families last week.

Payments can be made in one of two ways:
1. Send your payment in as soon as possible in a labelled envelope with your child.
2. Pay in person at the office.

Schools Clean Up Day

We often take for granted the natural beauty of our country and it is the obligation of every member of the community to nurture and protect our environment.

Friday, 4 March, our students will be taking part in Schools Clean Up Day, as part of the Clean Up Australia campaign. It’s a great way to reinforce to students the importance of environmental sustainability, including issues such as water and energy conservation, packaging, waste and recycling.

Our school is committed to environmental initiatives such as recycling stations, litter reduction initiatives, kitchen gardens, energy-saving schemes, composting and worm farms. There is a high level of environmental awareness among our students about the need to take responsibility for the waste we produce.

Mind Quest

Gifted and Talented Enrichment Weekend MindQuest, will be held for primary students Years 1-6 at St George Girls High School on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 April 2016. Brochures are located in the office. Closing date is Friday 4 March.

Celebrating the strengths of Gardeners Road

We have a great community of parents, students and staff at Gardeners Road

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.

Subscribe!

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
Library News

It’s great to be back in our friendly and busy Library and I am looking forward to seeing many happy borrowers. Many enthusiastic Year 3-6 Library monitors are being trained and are helping out during lunchtimes. They are on a roster system spending one of their lunchtimes a week in the library.

The library monitors for the term are:

- Aleena 6/5R
- Firdevs 6/5R
- Luke 6/5G
- Towhidul 6/5G
- Ahnaf 5/4S
- Amara 4/3K
- Micah 5/4S
- Fatema 5/4S
- Izabelle 5/4S
- Metin 5/4S
- Clarence 4/3K
- Ruslan 4/3B
- Focus 4/3B
- Inaki 5/4S
- Stevany 4/3B
- Fordyrick 4/3B

Each child has placed their name on the Library tree and they wear a badge when they are on duty.

The ‘Tell them from Me’ student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website mentioned above.

English in 2MB

In Term 1, we are reading a variety of picture books about Australian animals. The first book we have read is Blossom Possum. The characters have funny rhyming names like By-Jingo Dingo, Didgeridoo Kangaroo and Echo Gecko! We made masks of the characters then did lots of drama activities with them. Can you guess which characters we all are?
Wearing uniform is important

Girls Uniform

**Summer**
School summer tunic, white short socks, black shoes
School hat

**Winter**
Royal blue pinafore, white blouse or skivvy.
White socks or navy tights, black shoes, school jacket
Option—School track suit
School hat

**Sport**
Royal blue shorts or netball skirt, white polo shirt, white socks and runners, School hat.
Tracksuit in cooler weather
T Shirt in house colours for carnivals —will be advised.

Boys Uniform

**Summer**
Grey shorts, blue shirt, grey socks, black shoes
School hat

**Winter**
Grey trousers, blue shirt, school jacket, grey socks, black shoes
Option—school tracksuit
School hat

**Sport**
Royal blue shorts, white polo shirt, white socks and runners.
School hat,
Tracksuit in cooler weather
T Shirt in house colours for carnivals advised.
Tracksuit in cooler weather
T Shirt in house colours for carnivals —will be advised

Jewellery—only wear watches, studs or sleepers.

Accessories—only wear hair ties, tights and accessories in the school colours.

Sandals or thongs are not permitted under any circumstances.

“The wearing of a school uniform can encourage pride in the school, assist in the maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum the undesirable distinctions between children in the same school because of clothing. The wearing of a school uniform may provide greater security for children travelling to and from school”

*NSW Department of Education.*

Thank you for ensuring your child is in uniform every day!
Kinder Sport and Gym

Parenting workshops February - March 2016

**FEBRUARY**

**FREE Tantrums and Behaviour Management**

2 week course Tuesday 9 and 16 February
Time: 10am to 12pm
Botany Family and Children’s Centre, Botany
Speakers: Krisy Greenlee and Evellen Tawdros
Childcare: Yes, limited places, $35 fee applies.
Bookings open: January 9 on 9060 5047 or krisybotany@igworld.com

**FREE Circle of Security**

Friday 12, 19, 26 February, 4, 11, 18 March 10am-12pm
South Randwick Community Hub, La Perouse
Speaker: Jennifer Wu
Childcare: Yes but limited, bookings essential.
Bookings open: 11 January contact Family Programs on 9349 0200 or familiysupport@lnc.qa.gov.au

**FREE Tuning in to Kids (3 – 12 years)**

6 week course Tuesday 23 Feb, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March
Time: 10am – 12pm
Botany Family and Children’s Centre, Botany
Speakers: Krisy Greenlee and Evellen Tawdros
Childcare: Yes, limited places flat rate $15 for the 6 weeks.
Bookings open: 23 January on 9556 5047 or evellenbotany@igworld.com

**FREE Drop in Parenting Advice/Support for Indigenous Families**

Thursday 25 February, 10:15am-12:15pm
The Deli Women and Children’s Centre and La Perouse Community Health Centre
Speaker: Rosa Pantaleone
Childcare: No
Bookings open: 18 January on 9667 4654 or 9352 8091 or michelle.jarvis@essentials.health.nsw.gov.au

**MARCH**

**FREE Triple P Parenting Seminars (2 to 12 years)**

Tuesday 1, 8, 15 March 5:30-7.30pm
South Eastern Community Connect, Eastlakes
Speaker: Bronwyn Jurisik
Childcare: No
Bookings open in December: call Family Support Team on 8338 8506 or familysupport@lnc.qa.gov.au

FREE Music and Movement for Indigenous Families (2 to 6 years)

Thursday 3, 10, 17, 24 March 10:30am to 11am
The Deli Women and Children’s Centre and La Perouse Community Health Centre
Speakers: Rosa Pantaleone
Childcare: No
Bookings open: 11 January call 9352 8091 or michelle.jarvis@essentials.health.nsw.gov.au

Play Workshops (various ages, see below)

Friday 4 March, 10:30 to 12pm for ages 6-12 months at Bowen Library, Maroubra
Friday 11 March, 10:30 to 12pm for ages 12-18 months
at Bowen Library, Maroubra
Friday 18 March, 10:30 to 12pm for ages 18-24 months
at Bowen Library, Maroubra
Speaker: Antonia Folden
Childcare: No. Parents to come with their children
Cost: Free for Toy Library members, $15 for non-members.
Bookings essential.
Bookings open: February [www.randwickcitylibrary.eventbrite.com](http://www.randwickcitylibrary.eventbrite.com)
Enquiries: 9314 4668

**FREE Men Who Father**

Saturdays 19, 26 March 2, 9 April 9am-11am
The Junction Neighbourhood Centre, Maroubra
Speaker: Robert Hams
Childcare: No
Bookings open: 18 January contact Family Programs on 9349 8200 or familysupport@lnc.qa.gov.au

**Engaging Adolescents (10 to 18 years)**

Saturday 19 March, 9:15am to 4:30pm
The Deli Women and Children’s Centre and Botany Bay City Council, Eastgardens
Speaker: Jennifer Wu & Ana Chacar
Childcare: No. This is a parents only event.
Cost: $10 includes workbook, morning tea and afternoon tea.
Bookings open: 4 January, contact Patrick or Yasemin on 9356 3880 or sekcm@botanybay.nsw.gov.au

**FREE How to Survive Tantrums**

Saturday 19 March, 12:30pm to 2:30pm
Randwick Literary Institute, Randwick
Speaker: Janet Harris
Childcare: No, this is a parents only event.
Bookings open: 23 February on 9399 0823 or Avril.Laing@randwick.nsw.gov.au
South Sydney Mustangs JRLFC
Come and Play
Rugby League for “FREE” with the Fun Family Club

South Sydney Mustangs are looking for Players, Coaches, Trainers, Managers and Sponsors for Ages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 for the 2016 Season.

Come to our 2016 Registration Day and have some fun on the Giant Slide and Maze with free BBQ. On Wednesday 24 February from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Rowland Park Banks Ave Daceyville.

Training on Tuesday and Thursdays 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Rowland Park Banks Ave Daceyville

We are flexible with training so please ring Phil Jenkinson – Secretary 0407 151 627 or John Maxwell – President 0413 869 515
Matraville Sports High School

Open Day

Saturday 5th March—11am to 1pm

All prospective parents, carers and their children are invited to our 2016 Open Day

- Principal’s address in the school assembly hall at 12pm.
- School Tours before and after address
- Light refreshments will be served during the day

Come along and meet the teachers and current students.

View displays and demonstration activities in academic subjects, creative and performing arts, IT and sports.

Find out about:

The opportunities we provide for our students
Our wonderful facilities
Selection process for TSP and GAT programs.
The UNSW Matraville Partnership

Phone: 9661 8000 for more information
MATRAVILLE & UNSW EDUCATION

PARTNERSHIP
A first-of-its kind school-university alliance that has brought positive change to our school and community and new exciting opportunities for our students!

EDUCATION IS THE KEY

MUSIC - Primary and secondary students receive one on one music tuition from UNSW Music Education Students and prepare ensemble performance pieces together.

DRAMA - High performance programs include theatresports, improvisation games and collaborative performance work.

GIFTED & TALENTED programs include taking part in prestigious art competitions such as the 'Archibull'.

HOMEWORK CENTRE UNSW
UNSW Education students provide homework help and after school tuition three days a week to primary and high school students until 4.30pm.

HTTP://WWW.MATRASPORT-H.SCHOOLS.NSW.EDU.AU
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by 15 March.


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Lisa O’Brien  
Relieving Principal  
Gardeners Road Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
Executive Director  
Centre for Education Statistics

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Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation  
E: cese@det.nsw.edu.au  
W: www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by 15 March.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ...........................................................................................................

Roll class/es ....................................................................................................................

Name of parent/carer ...........................................................................................................

Signature of parent/carer .....................................................................................................

Date ...........................................