Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 4 - hasn’t this year flown by! Having been away for a few weeks, I am delighted to be back and it is good to see how settled the children are and how much they have grown! I had a wonderful time visiting my family in the UK and exploring Turkey - what a fantastic country that is - I would love to talk to anyone who comes from Turkey about my travels. I would like to thank Mr Ta and Mr Clarke for looking after the school in my absence.

Despite the fact that it is Term 4, that we will soon be writing end of year reports and getting organized for next year, that we are in the middle of transitioning our newest Kindergarten children for next year, and Year 6 are busy thinking about high school - we still have lots of learning to do! Term 4 is ¼ of the school year. Children still need to focus on learning, doing their homework, reading every night... as well as getting out and playing in the park and getting exercise as the warmer weather comes and evenings grow lighter.

Internet Usage

Most children are on the Internet daily - that is life in 2014. They use computers, tablets and smart phones. At school we do our best to monitor what they do, and if children use things inappropriately, their privileges will be withdrawn for a time and parents notified. We also have to educate them and teach them the benefits and potential dangers of the Internet. Parents need to do the same. Where does your child use the Internet at home? Do you know what they are doing? Have you discussed it with them? Have you checked the search engine history? Do older brothers and sisters set a good example? I encourage you to be vigilant.

Parent meetings - Tuesday 9.00am and 6.00pm

I look forward to catching up with you again. Our topic this month is FEEDBACK. We give and receive feedback all the time. Sometimes it is verbal - “well done”, sometimes it is a look or gesture, and sometimes it is in writing. The feedback we receive has an enormous impact on how we view ourselves, and what we do next. Over time, it can have a positive or negative impact on everything that we do. Come along to find out more about this interesting topic. It is not easy being a parent, but YOUR feedback to your child is most important of all.

Public Speaking

This week and next we have several children representing our school at our Learning Community Public Speaking events. Congratulations to them for all the hard work that they have put in, and we wish them all the best. We are very proud of them.

Selective High School 2016

Applications for Selective HS 2016 open tomorrow 14th October 2014 are ONLINE ONLY. www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement


2015

As I mentioned earlier, we are beginning to think about staff and classrooms for next year. Please make sure that you inform us as soon as possible if you are planning to move schools for 2015, or are planning to take a holiday and will not return until after school has started (I discourage this...). We need to ensure that we have enough places for all our students next year, and as we are extremely FULL, we must know accurate numbers for classes. If children are current members of our school, but have moved residence to outside our area, they have the right to remain at the school. However, if you live outside our area, and leave on holiday without telling us, there may not be a place for you when you return. Also, if you know of any children eligible to start Kindergarten next year, please encourage them to enroll as soon as possible. Thank you.

Have a great week,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

P & C News

Parent meeting tomorrow 9am. Everyone welcome.

Home Reading meeting in staffroom Wednesday at 9am. Books are going home today. Helpers are needed for 30 minutes each day to get all the books changed.
Stage News

Kindergarten

We had a wonderful first week back and it was great to see our Kindy kids enthusiastic about another term of learning at Parramatta West.

A reminder that Kindergarten sport will start tomorrow (Tuesday) and all Kindergarten students need to wear their sport uniform and sport shoes. Students will also need to wear their sports uniforms on their class sport day: Monday - KB & KA; Wednesday - KN, KR & KJ; and Friday - KS.

Please make sure that your child wears a hat to school every day, especially as the weather gets warmer. Remember our sun safety policy is "No hat, no play."

KB will be hosting our K-2 Assembly this week. If any KB parents would like to attend, assembly starts at 11:20am on Friday in the school hall.

Good luck to Kirat, Kaedon and Aksel who are representing Parramatta West in the Kindergarten PELC inter-school friendly public speaking competition tomorrow. We are very proud of you and know that you will represent our school well.

Our topic talks begin with 'Mystery Bags' this week. The class will be asking you questions about your object so prepare your answers and remember to answer in sentences!

Have a fantastic week!
Miss Stuart & Mrs Rhodes

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

What another great week ahead for Stage 1 students. Congratulations to our 3 public speaking finalists; Frank (1F), Malakai (1F) and Zahra (1N), who presented their speeches at Hilltop Public School today.

Homework starts this week and needs to be returned on Thursday. Topic talks also start this week. Teachers look forward to hearing from every student and seeing them improve as the term progresses. If you have any questions about the topics, please see your class teacher.

Have a fantastic week!
Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

I hope everyone enjoyed the school holidays and had a great first week back at school. The weather is getting warmer and many children are taking their jackets or jumpers off during the day. Please remind your child to put their clothing into their bags and check whether it has a clearly written name inside it.

This term stage 2 will be holding fitness Wednesday mornings after lines and sport is held Friday mornings. If your child is playing PSSA sport please make sure you are aware of the training days and times. Library days remain the same as last term, please ensure that your child is borrowing and reading every night.

Finally, I would like to wish Korina, Aaraya and Buse the best of luck at the Parramatta Education Learning Community Public Speaking finals this Thursday.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

The Stage Three students who attended the ‘Great Aussie Bush Camp’ had an amazing time away. They learnt some important ‘life lessons’ that they would not have the opportunity to explore in the classroom. The campers discovered how to show initiative and step out of their comfort zone through varied and interesting activities such as; canoeing, dual-flying-fox, the giant swing, archery, high ropes, lost island, commando night, sand dunes and a games night. This is one experience the students will never forget. We are proud of each child for challenging themselves and for their wonderful behaviour. A massive thank you to Mrs Harris, Mr Budden and Mr Harris for accompanying the students to camp; their support helped enrich the activities and experiences.

A note went home last term regarding the ‘Sustainability Expo’ which will be held this Thursday. We are fortunate to have been invited to this exciting day by Holroyd Council. Year 5 students have the opportunity to participate in various environmental activities on the day at Merrylands Central Gardens. This wonderful excursion is completely free and students will even receive a free t-shirt. Please ensure your permission note is signed and returned to your class teacher by Tuesday. Students will need to be at school at 8.30am on Thursday morning, so please ensure your child arrives on time, otherwise they will miss out! Students will need to bring a water bottle, fruit break, recess, lunch and their school hat. Students should wear their sports uniform to school and they will change into their t-shirt once they arrive to class. We are all looking forward to learning more about sustainability.

A note will go home this week to Year 6 students regarding ‘Day on the Hill’ which is a transition to high school program that Parramatta High run every year. Through this excellent opportunity, the students will gain an insight into high school life and participate in some educational lessons and interesting programs.

Homework will commence this week for Stage Three and will follow the same format as last term. Students will receive spelling words, class homework and maths homework. Students are also expected to read for at least 20 minutes each evening and record this in their diaries. Please remember to encourage your child to see their teacher if they are unsure about of what is expected. Class teachers will explain more about sustainability.
homework to the students before it is distributed and they are always happy to assist and clarify more difficult concepts when needed.

Summer PSSA will commence this Friday. Good luck to all the teams on their first game for the term. Have a wonderful week 2!

Mrs Heifetz

Library News

We have gotten back into the swing of borrowing. Please remember to bring Library books back regularly.

Bookclub is due back to me by Tuesday 21st October. Please be prompt as I cannot always order late orders. Please use the order form on the catalogue as this makes my job so much easier.

At the end of October we will be having a buy one donate one bookfair for two days - Watch this space for more information.

Mrs Sell

Stewart House

Any clothing you wish to donate to Stewart House needs to be returned to your child's classroom by this Thursday 16th October.

If you find you need more bags just place the items in any plastic bag or garbage bag.

Thank you for helping this worthy cause.

Girraween High School

Invitation To Open Night 2014

To Year 5 Students And Their Parents

Girraween High School is an academically selective high school which offers a curriculum for students who aspire to achieve exceptional HSC results.

The school has experienced and dedicated staff, providing students with safe, engaging classes and well-equipped facilities.

You are invited to attend an Open Night which will be held at the school.

The school band will perform from 5:30pm and you are welcome to enjoy this performance.

The Open Night will feature classroom tours, displays, presentations and the chance to meet students and teachers.

Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Tuesday, 4th November 2014
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Venue: Girraween High School
110 Gilba Road
GIRRAWEEN NSW 2145
Tel: 9636 7293 or 9636 7303
Fax: 9896 3274
Web: www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

F1 in Schools Challenge State Champions: Team Solar Eclipse

HSC 2013 Achievements:
• 50 students received an ATAR of 95 or higher.
• 10 students received the Premier’s Award for All Round Excellence.
• 222 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List (Band 6 Results).
• 1 student was placed 6th in the state for History Extension.
• 100% of students achieved the top two bands in English Extension 1 and 2, Accelerated Chemistry, Senior Science, Modern History, Extension History, Legal Studies, French Continuers and Extension, Music 1 and 2, and Drama.
• Over 96% of students achieved results in the top two bands in the Mathematics Extension 1 and Ancient History courses.
• In Mathematics Extension 2, 90% of students finished in the top 2 bands.