



# Governor Philip King Public School

'Our school exists for children'

Week 2 Term 2  
7 May 2013

## *From the Principal...*

**Welcome Back** - It was great to see the students return last week after what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable two week holiday. Term Two is shaping up to be quite busy and full of exciting events including Multicultural Day, excursions and some interesting opportunities for our students.

**Staff Development Days** - Last week, our staff spent the first two days back this term looking at, exploring and developing their knowledge and understanding around the new curriculum, with a particular focus on the English syllabus. We were very fortunate to have Cathy Brennan, the Regional leader of Curriculum, Learning and Leadership at our school working with staff on new initiatives, programming and syllabus ideas. These two professional days for staff proved extremely valuable, engaging and worthwhile.

**Long Service Leave** - Throughout the year staff members may take some well-deserved long service leave. Long service leave is an entitlement that exists in all forms of employment. We always try to ensure that any leave taken by teachers has minimal impact on our students, and classroom programs continue to operate in an effective manner. Mrs Power (Deputy Principal) is currently on leave for term two. In her absence Miss Usher and Mr Hamilton will share the relieving role of DP. Miss Usher will be off class from Week 1 through to the end of Week 4. Mr Hamilton will be off class from Week 5 through to the end of Week 9. During this time Miss Morcom will cover 5/6SU and then 3GH. She has worked closely with both classroom teachers to ensure consistency of program delivery and classroom routines.

**NAPLAN** - "The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html>

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. **The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.**

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au). A parent brochure has been placed on the school website.

**Mothers' Day** - This special day is all about celebrating and recognising all of the wonderful things mum's do for us all. Mothers' Day is about spoiling mum with some special gifts that you bought or made and making sure she has a relaxing and enjoyable day. It might be as simple as letting mum have her cup of tea/coffee in peace, or watch her favourite show without being interrupted, washing the dishes, tidying up your room, helping to make lunch or dinner, being on your best behaviour, any gesture that helps mum to have a nice day. We would like to wish all of our Mums and Grandmothers a very happy Mothers' Day on Sunday, we truly appreciate all of the amazing and wonderful things you do.

# Newsletter

**Contribution Fees** - Thank you to the families who have already paid their contribution fees. Please keep in mind that this money provides additional opportunities and resources for your children above and beyond those provided through our global budget. The voluntary portion of the levy will be used for specific purposes again this year. Governor Philip King Public School made a commitment to ensuring **all classrooms were air conditioned and every classroom had an interactive whiteboard installed**. Along with these benefits for our students come running costs and maintenance. The school's funding does not stretch to cover these additional costs. **Although it is wonderful to have air conditioning and interactive whiteboards across the school they are expensive pieces of equipment to run, maintain and replace, a cost which the school does not receive funding for.** Unfortunately if we do not have the funds to repair and maintain these items they will need to be removed as they break down. Air conditioning and Interactive Whiteboards provide a comfortable, engaging learning environment for all students, however, they are not mandatory pieces of equipment. We anticipate that parents will appreciate the extra resources available to enhance their child's education and **support the school by paying their full school contribution of \$60 per student by Friday 10 May 2013**. Students who have paid their contribution fees in full by the due date will go into the draw for a number of prizes.

**Weekend Vandalism** - Sadly over the weekend (both Saturday and Sunday night) we had a number of issues within the schools grounds. Unfortunately this is the first instance of vandalism we have had in the past 4 years. It appears there were a number of people on site who managed to get into some classrooms in one block and smash 6 windows in another block. School security arrived on both occasions due to the alarms being tripped, but unfortunately was not able to catch or identify anyone. The police were on site yesterday and were able to obtain a number of clear finger prints. We hope they are able to identify the culprits. It is very disheartening to have people come into our school, cause damage, and steal items belonging to our staff and students. I have ordered additional security and police patrols over the coming weeks, in an attempt to deter any further vandalism. If anyone from our community sees or hears anything suspicious outside of school hours I would ask you to contact School Security on 1300 880 021 as soon as possible.

**School Photos** - This Thursday, 9 May we will be having our school photos taken. **Photo Envelopes should be sent to school on Thursday**. Please ensure students are dressed in **full summer school uniform**. Girls should wear their summer uniform with white socks and black school shoes. Boys should wear their blue school shirt, grey shorts, grey socks and black school shoes. Family photos will also be taken on Thursday. Separate envelopes for family photos are available from the front office.

**Parramatta Rugby League Sevens Tournament!!! GPK WINS** - The GPK Sevens Rugby League team won 6 straight games in hot conditions to win the Sevens Tournament held at Rosford Street Reserve. All players deserve credit for the way they played and their attitude. We did not get one caution for arguing with referee decisions which was really pleasing. It was a great team effort with our Captain Jerome leading the way. Jerome scored a stack of tries as well as stopping them with great cover defence. Samuel, Liam, Isaac and Ben were powerful in attack. Kalyb and Vince did a mountain of defence and Adam organized our play well. Jesse playing his first game of Rugby League was outstanding and did not stop working hard all day.

**Team:** Jerome Williams (6SR), Isaac Tupuola(6SR), Vince Romeo(6NS), Liam Luschwitz(6NS), Adam Supurovic(6NS), Kalyb Onofia(6KT), Ben Ielua(5MO), Samuel Iese(5MO), Jesse Vine(5MO). Mr Hamilton and Mr Hoyle.

This team now plays Northmead PS who won the Northern Division. We wish the boys well!

Thanks to the parents for their positive support on the day and Elamani for organizing the tee and supporting the team. Thanks also to Mr Corcoran for allowing us to enter in this competition.

**P&C News - Mothers' Day** - The Mothers' Day Gifts were distributed today. Our next P&C meeting will be held at 7pm on 15th May.

<b>Second Hand Uniforms will be on sale again this Thursday 9th May at 2pm near the Canteen.</b>
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**Happy Mothers' Day to All! SUPPORT OUR KIDS AT GPK.** P&C President - Mark Cavanaugh.

**Bookclub** - Order forms were sent home last week. If you would like to order, place your order form with the correct money in a clearly labelled envelope and put in the money slot in the office. Bookclub is due back NO later than Tuesday 14 May. Thanks.

**Earn and Learn** - Don't forget to ask for your stickers from Woolworths when you shop there. Every \$10 spent earns one sticker. Put them on your sticker card and return it to school when it is full. New cards can be obtained from the office. Thank you for helping our school earn points towards equipment for the school.

**Values Education** - The value for Weeks 1 and 2 is Truthfulness/Honesty. Truthfulness is reporting accurately what we have seen, heard or experienced. This requires us to resist lying or exaggerating to feel important. This means we know the difference between what is real and what is make believe or false. When we tell the truth, we don't have to remember what we said when we are relating an event to someone else. When we always tell the truth over a period of time we become an honest person.

Please discuss with your child/children about the importance of being honest. Talk about how honest people are respected and trusted by others. Mrs S.Kumar, Student Engagement.

*Have a great week!*

*Jason Corcoran  
Principal*

### **Multicultural Day – Many People, One Australia**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> of June, we will be celebrating **Multicultural Day**. The theme for the day is **Many People, One Australia**.

We are looking for parents or community members who can teach or lead an activity from their cultural background, eg. Storytelling, art/craft, song, dance, games, instrument playing.

If you can help, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible.



Multicultural Day Committee

تقوم مدرستنا بإحتفال بيوم التعددية الثقافية في ٢٠ حزيران /يونيو ٢٠١٣ .

و تبحث المدرسة لهذا الغرض عن الآباء والأمهات أو أولياء الأمور أو أي عضو في الجالية من ذوي القدرة على تعليم أو إقامة فعالية أو نشاط يعكس تراث وثقافة الجالية في إحدى المجالات التالية :  
حكاية قصصية، عمل فني أو يدوي، غناء، رقص، ألعاب، أو عزف على آلة موسيقية.  
يرجى ممن لديهم القدرة على المساعدة في أي من المجالات أعلاه، إخبار معلم ابنه أو ابنته بذلك في أقرب وقت ممكن مع بالغ الشكر والتقدير.  
لجنة التعددية الثقافية .

### **REMEMBER TO HELP WITH THE STEWART HOUSE DONATION DRIVE -**

**Donate a \$2 coin** and you have the chance to win a \$4000 family holiday to a destination of your choice.

Fill in your details and return the ENVELOPE to the front office by **Friday 10 May 2013**, to enter the draw. Thank you for your support.

**Stewart House** is asking for our help to collect clothing that your family does not need anymore. They collect and use this clothing with the Smith Family to raise money to support their programs. Stewart House provides health care and short-term respite care for children in need who are enrolled in public schools in NSW and the ACT. It is called a "Preventorium" because it aims to prevent chronic health problems. In 2012 they received \$28,576 from these collections - a vital part of their income.

Bags are available from each class teacher and must be returned by Wednesday 29 May 2013. If you don't have a bag, please donate in any plastic bag. Stewart House will be collecting them Thursday morning. Please send all bags to class 5/6SU.

**Big Garage Sale:** This Saturday, 11 May from 8am - 3pm at 19 Wagstaff Street, Edensor Park. Items include toys, plants, a fridge, clothes etc.