Happy New Year to all our families and welcome back to GPS for another fun-filled action-packed year! I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the school for our new families. I hope you all had a great break with your families and I look forward to catching up with you over the next few weeks.

Thank you to all parents for ensuring your children looked fantastic to start the 2013 school year in their uniforms, school hats and correct black school shoes. It is wonderful to see all those beaming smiles and enthusiastic conversations in the playground once more. I can’t believe how much all of the students have grown over the past six weeks!

I would also like to thank the administrative staff Janine, Cinden and Carolyn, General Assistant Paddy and cleaners Selver and Enrique, for ensuring the school year began with a well-organised and sparkling start.

Staffing News
I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members:
Vivian Thompson Assistant Principal / Teacher Year 2.
Laura Dunn Classroom Teacher Year 1.
Jennifer Mansfield Classroom Teacher Year 2, starting next week.
Vanessa Murphy Classroom Teacher Year 4.

Classes 2013
The placement of students in particular classes is taken very seriously at GPS with many factors taken into consideration. Students are placed where we, as professionals, feel they will have the best learning environment to suit their individual needs. Sometimes this may mean they are separated from their closest friends. We would encourage all parents to talk with their children about the advantages of working with a variety of peers and widening their social circles.

We have formed 19 classes in 2013.

KM Miss Morris Assistant Principal K (Rel)
KS Miss Sweeney
KL Mr Little
KP Mrs Pedersen
1F Mrs Fasullo
1L Miss Dunn
1D Miss Dubyk
2F Ms Fitzpatrick
2T Mrs Thompson Assistant Principal Stage 1
2M Ms Mansfield
3P Mrs Pigram
3N Mr Norton
Drama Classes
The Helen O‘Grady Drama Academy will begin classes in the school hall next Friday 8 February. If you are interested in returning to, or joining these classes for the first time, sessions are as follows:

K-2  3.15 – 4.15pm
3-6  4.15 – 5.15pm

String Groups
Training will begin next week at 8.15am in the school hall with the Arpeggios meeting on Tuesdays and the Pizzicatos on Fridays.

School Band
Band training begins this week with the Concert Band on Monday 4 February from 7.45am (set up time) and the Training Band on Wednesday 6 February from 7.45am (set up time). Band rehearsals are held in the school hall.

Chess Lessons
The Sydney Academy of Chess will be starting lessons on Friday 8 February. Lessons start at 8.00am sharp in the Library. Students interested in registering for chess lessons were given registration forms last week. If your child is interested in playing chess and did not receive a form, they can come along on Friday morning to register.

Hunters Hill High School Gifted & Talented Program
All Year 6 students will today receive information flyers and registration forms for Hunters Hill High School Gifted and Talented Program available to students in Years 7 & 8 in 2014. The program, called Navigate, requires students to sit an entry examination on Saturday 23 February. Please contact Hunters Hill High School for any further information.

Meet the Teacher / Greetings on the Green
Please make note in your diaries of the ‘Meet the Teacher’ information session on Monday 11 February.

Kindergarten - Year 2  6.00pm to 6.45pm
Years 3 - 6  6.45pm to 7.30pm.

These are general information sessions and individual interviews times with the teacher will take place later in the term. Important information for High School 2014 will be discussed at the Year 6 class meetings, so please try to attend these sessions.
A warm welcome is extended to all families to attend ‘Greetings on the Green’ on Friday 15 February where we hope to see all families enjoying an informal get-together with their picnic baskets in the school grounds from 5.30pm – 8.30pm. For more details please access the P&C section of the school website.

Please note that we are unable to cater for ex-students at this event unless they are attending with their siblings and parents.

As students will be present, this is an alcohol-free event.

**School Grounds**

We are very proud of our beautiful school grounds and want the school community to enjoy using them. As a reminder and also for our new students and their families, I would like to respectfully ask the following:

The grassed area adjacent to the Before and After School Care cottage is for passive play only. No ball games please, as we will lose the fabulous grass cover that we have been nurturing for the past 7 years.

Students should not be playing outside the canteen area and around the back of the hall at any time, including after school. Students waiting to be picked up in the afternoon from the Linsley St gate should wait on the silver seats. Please help us to maintain a positive and happy playground that can enable all school community members to remain safe.

**Anaphylaxis**

A reminder to all parents that we are a ‘nut-aware’ school and have several students with severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please be mindful of this when packing food for your children’s Crunch & Sip, recess and lunch snacks. Please contact the school at any time if your child develops an allergy, or if changes occur in your child’s reaction to allergens. All Anaphylaxis Action Plans need to be updated regularly.

Judi Partland
Principal

**Important School Information**

**Emergency Contact Information.**

The school will send home copies of the contact details for each student over the next 2 weeks. This information which will include home, mobile and work phone numbers for parents/caregivers; phone numbers for family friend/relatives in case of an emergency; medical information for students with allergies, asthma etc should be read carefully. Please make any corrections, sign the sheet and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

**School Newsletter**

Newsletters are issued fortnightly (weekly only if necessary) on Tuesdays and are available from the school’s website; www.gladesvill-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. Families are notified by email when a Newsletter has been issued, so please ensure the school office has your correct email address. A calendar is also on the website listing school activities.

**School Communication**

Please remember to always contact your child’s teacher and make an appointment to discuss any concerns you may have during the school year. Areas of concern are usually rectified more quickly if addressed early. A Meet the Teacher session for general class information is held early Term 1.

A Three Way Conference (parent, student & teacher) is held late in Term 1.

School reports are sent home at the end of each Semester.

**Special Events**

We do appreciate the importance/excitement of birthdays but, because of food allergies school is not the best place to celebrate them. If you do wish to send something for the other students to share with your child we ask you to think carefully about what you send. Please speak to your child’s class teacher in advance because the parents of allergy children may need to be contacted. It is necessary to make the handing out of items easy for the teacher and students, with individual items such as ice blocks or patty cakes much easier than large cakes that require cutting.

**Infants Sport**

Students take part in a wide range of gross motor activities and fitness lessons. During Term 2 students also participate in a modified version of the Cross Country and a K-2 Athletics Fun Day.
Friday Sport Years 3-6
Students in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to become involved in PSSA (Primary Schools Sport Association) Competition. Selection trials are held during lunch breaks and all students are advised on which days they will take place. Interested students must attend trials to be considered for inclusion in the representative teams. The teams are selected on merit and numbers are limited, so students are expected to remain committed for the entire season. Team training takes place during selected lunch breaks. Both Summer and Winter sport will be held on Friday afternoons. The school has taken part in:
Summer (Terms 1, 3 and 4):
- Softball       Senior Boys, Senior Girls
- T-Ball         Junior Girls, Junior Boys
- Cricket        Senior Boys and Junior Boys
Winter (Terms 2 and 3):
- Soccer         Junior Boys, Senior boys, Senior Girls
- Netball        Netball A & B Junior, Netball A & B Senior
- AFL            Mixed Senior and Junior
- Touch football  Mixed Years 3 & 4

Junior teams are for students in years 3 and 4, senior teams are for students in years 5 and 6.

Students who are not involved in PSSA sport are given various options that have included Tennis, Swimming (summer only), Clinics for AFL, cricket, touch football and basketball and In-School sport. Throughout the year primary students also take part in the Swimming Carnival (Term 1), Cross Country (Term 2) and Athletics Carnival (Term 2). Successful students are expected to go on to represent the school in Zone PSSA Carnivals. Successful students from the Zone are then able to participate at Regional level.
Fitness classes are also held for all students during the school week.

Excursions
Excursions, including out of school sports carnivals, are an integral part of school life. They are chosen to complement and enrich the curriculum and it is expected that students will attend all excursions.

Collection of Monies
The beginning of the year does mean the collection of a large number of monies, with the necessity of early payment of Student Resources, Swimming Carnivals (School & Zone), Friday Sport, Excursions and Camps. Voluntary School Contributions are usually requested during Term 1 and notes for excursions and school performances are sent home to classes involved, giving as much notice as possible to families regarding costs. Where practical the school attempts to send notes home on Tuesdays only. These notes are also available on the website. At all times the school tries to keep resource and activity costs to a minimum.
Payments can be made by cheque, cash or direct deposit. If you have a number of activities to pay for by cheque and have more than one child at school, one cheque can be sent for the total cost providing you include permission notes for each child and each activity. Please note that cheques and direct deposits for extra curricular activities cannot be combined with school payments eg P&C activities, Band, Chess etc.

It is not feasible for the school to issue an end of term invoice for students, but we do endeavour to advertise events well ahead of time so families can budget accordingly.

Please check the Term Calendar on www.gladesvill-p.schools.det.nsw.edu.au
If you experience difficulty with payments at any time during the year please do not hesitate to contact the Principal or the school office.

Student Representative Council – SRC
At our school we have a SRC that is made up of 2 representatives from each Year 1 to Year 6 class. Along with Miss Smith, the School captains, vice-captains and prefects, these representatives meet regularly to discuss a range of issues that are of importance and interest to the students. The SRC has instigated many worthwhile projects.
Each semester new students are selected to represent their class. The class representatives relay information and ideas to and from their peers. This process creates leadership and communication skills, and is an excellent example of school democracy.

School Times
A reminder that morning bell time is 9:10am. Late arrivals must firstly report to the school office. Please keep in mind that students who are consistently late to class, not only miss important information for the day, but disrupt whole class organisation. School supervision commences at 8:40am.
Afternoon bell time is 3:10pm and students are expected to be picked up promptly as supervision is not available after this time. If students have to leave school early, they must firstly be signed out at the school office.
School Safety at the start and end of the school day.
School pick up and drop off areas are obviously very congested at bell times. Please be aware of our students’ safety at all times and adhere to the road rules. Traffic rangers often police all areas adjoining our school. **The school car park must not be used for picking up or dropping off at any time** and we also remind you that the neighbouring driveways in Orr Street are not to be used for parking.

School Bands & String Ensembles
Information booklets regarding music groups and hire of instruments are available from the school office.

P&C Website
The P&C Website has information regarding Uniform Shop, Social and Fund Raising Activities, P&C meetings and much more. It can be found at www.gladesvillepandc.org.

School Swimming Carnival
Our students in Years 3-6 performed extremely well at last week’s annual swimming carnival held at Ryde Aquatic Centre. It was great to see high levels of participation in all events. The Champion House will be announced this Friday at our first Primary Assembly of the year. The Age Group Champions are:

- Junior Girl – Layla B
- Junior Boy – Ben L
- 11 Years Girl – Eleni E
- 11 Years Boy – Pishoy G
- Senior Girl – Maxine F
- Senior Boy – Connor B

Special thanks to the following parents for volunteering their time to help with timekeeping and judging races:
Ms Skoljarev, Ms McGill, Mrs Davis, Mrs Bursill, Mrs Coward, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Lavery, Mrs Labrie, Mrs Rushworth, Mr Reid, Mrs Kaczmarek, Mrs Durran, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Billiris, Mrs Coote, Mrs Annon, Ms Brodrick, Mrs Hazard, Mrs Dawson, Ms Blaylock, Mr Bonney, Ms Richter, Mrs Pennisi, Mrs Major, Ms McCarthy, Mrs Jeffries, Mrs Lin, Mrs Williams, Mrs Parker, Mrs Yazici, Mrs Paine, Mrs Mamchur.

A number of our students will now compete at the Ryde Zone carnival at Ryde Aquatic Centre on 7-8 March.

David Roberts
Coordinator

P&C News
Hello all, welcome back, welcome to new families.
The P&C AGM will be held in the staffroom on Wednesday 27 February at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Please remember Greetings on the Green, Friday 15 February, 5-8pm. Great way to meet new families and catch up with people you didn’t see in the holidays. Andy DJ, will be entertaining the kids along with a BBQ and Gelato stall. Please come and join us.

Kindergarten will be hosting the first class event in March – Gelato day. More info about that will follow later. Please contact us at gladespc@gmail.com if you have any queries and check out the school website for a full list of this year’s events.

Please check the noticeboard near the Kindergarten rooms for information on sports and fitness groups, after school clubs and activities etc.