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Staffing News
Welcome to Ms Mansfield who started teaching at GPS last week – Ms Mansfield will be teaching 2M.
We also welcome back Mrs Clark, who is working part time at GPS on Monday and Tuesday in the Release from Face to Face teaching (RFF) role.
Welcome also to Mrs Forester who will be taking on the Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) role until Mr King returns from leave.
Congratulations to Mrs Pedersen who is now a permanent member of staff at GPS!
I am also pleased to announce that Miss Murphy will be staying at GPS for the 2013 school year, teaching class 4M.
Congratulations to Mrs Wilson and her husband who welcomed a new addition to their family – baby Zac arrived on 7 February with both mum and baby doing well.

Morning & Afternoon Playground Requests
It would be very much appreciated if parents attending our daily morning assembly, say goodbye to their children when the bell goes and then make their way to the rear of the assembly, staying back far enough to allow classes in Block D to get to their classrooms quickly for the start of lessons.
In the afternoon, the GOOSH (Gladesville Out Of School Hours Care) respectfully ask that parents avoid staying in the top playground area after school as children attending the centre use this area for their outdoor program. With GOOSH enrolments exceeding 100 on some afternoons, this space is becoming increasingly congested.

Greetings on the Green
Thank you to Ali and Emma for co-ordinating this event last week. Thank you also to all the parents who helped to prepare and run the BBQ and gelato stand. It was wonderful to see so many families attending and making new friends.

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 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 before and 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.
Hunters Hill High School
All Year 6 students have received information flyers and registration forms for Hunters Hill High School Gifted and Talented Program for 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.
In addition, of interest to all families will be Hunters Hill High School Open Day on Saturday 9 March from 12 noon – 3pm. All welcome.

Judi Partland
Principal

Library News
Borrowing has commenced for all students so please ensure your child has a clean library bag to keep books protected. Recyclable supermarket bags or old pillowcases make good library bags. There are also a limited number of new calico bags available for purchase from the library for 50c.
Students will be covering the following units during library lessons this term:

**Kindergarten** – stories and activities to support the theme ‘Me’ – pets family etc. Where possible these books will be selected from the Premiers Reading Challenge booklist.

**Year 1** – *Summer fun* – relating to family and friends
**Year 2** – *Anthony Browne*’ - to support the literature unit
**Year 3** – *Stories and Myths from World Religions* – to support the classroom unit ‘World Religions’.
**Year 4** – *Study of The Graphic Novel* to support the classroom unit.
**Years 5 and 6** – *Novel study – The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes.

Premiers Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is designed so that students of all reading levels can achieve success. 196 GPS students completed the challenge in 2012.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge – why do it?**
Being involved in the Premier’s Reading Challenge raises the profile of reading, libraries and literacy in schools and gives students a focus on reading. It encourages boys to participate by being ‘challenged’. The program offers incentives for reluctant readers while building self-esteem and pride, school unity, and a sense of achievement. It increases the involvement of parents in their child’s reading and increases library borrowing.
Most importantly it contributes to increased literacy levels.” (Library.com)
All students in Years 3 to 6 will be participating in the challenge. Library sessions in Term 1 include PRC reading time giving students the opportunity to explore visual literacy in picture books. These books can then be entered into the reading challenge.
Parents wanting their Year 1 or 2 child to participate please see me in the library for details. Kindergarten students will be participating as a class during library sessions.
The following colour codes for each level will be used to help identify the right books in the library

K-2 - Green
3-4 – Orange
5-6 - Pink
The book lists and reading logs will be held in a folder in the Library.
Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the challenge.
K-2 - 30 books,
3-6 - 20 books.
As each student completes the challenge he/she receives a library award and places a leaf showing their name and photo on our giant *Premier's Reading Challenge Tree* in the library.
All students enter their own books online – Registration opens in March via the PRC website.
For more information you can log on to [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge)

Inez Goodfellow
Teacher Librarian
P&C News

Brass and Woodwind Instrument Hire
The School hires out a number of brass and woodwind instruments for use by GPS students. Hiring is managed by the P&C Association.
The following instruments may be available to hire this term:

Tenor Trombones
Tenor Saxophone
Alto Saxophones
Trumpets
Tenor Horn (Euphonium)
Tubas
Clarinet

If you are interested in hiring an instrument for the first time in 2013, please email the school and your request will be forwarded.
The cost of hire is $80 for two terms (or $160 for one year) – parents are invoiced twice a year at the beginning of each new hire period. A security deposit of $100 is also required. Instruments are returned for service at the end of each year.
Instrument tutors can be organised via Bennelong Music, or privately, depending on your preference.