I hope you all had a great holiday and I look forward to catching up with you and hearing about all the adventures you have had over the summer break.

Congratulations to all parents for the wonderful way you have prepared your children for the start of school – they all looked fantastic in their correct uniforms, shoes and hats – beaming smiles and lots of chatter - full of anticipation in what the new year will bring.

I would like to give an especially warm welcome to all families new to the school, particularly to all the Kindergarten students who started yesterday. We hope that you will join us on Friday 19 February at ‘Greetings on the Green’ so parents can meet other families in our school community and the children can enjoy a disco in the Hall.

Staffing News
We welcome several new staff members to our school in 2016.
Welcome to classroom teachers Miss Rogers, Miss Stiglic, Miss Mitchell, Mrs Sellors, Miss Erskine, Miss Von Schoenberg and Mr Hodgetts.
Our new ESL teacher is Mrs Gounakis.
In the Administrative Office we welcome Ms Chang. We also welcome Mrs Pessagno as Student Learning and Support Officer.

Classes and Staffing 2016
We have formed 21 classes this year. Classes are as follows:

KCS  Mrs Clark (M-W) (Relieving Assistant Principal M-W)  Mrs Sellors (Th-F)
KW  Miss Erskine
KM  Miss Mitchell
KE  Miss Simpson
1B  Miss Borg
1P  Mrs Pigram  (Assistant Principal)
1F  Mrs Fasullo
2C  Miss Cowlishaw
2J  Mrs Judge (Relieving Assistant Principal Th-F)
2H  Mrs Hines
2M  Miss Mansfield
3K  Ms Kotouc (M-Thu) Miss Von Schoenberg (F)
3F  Ms Fitzpatrick
3S  Miss Stiglic
Our fabulous Support Staff are:

Mrs Goodfellow   Library
Mrs Forester (M- W)   Learning and Support Teacher (LaST)
Mrs Gounakis (M-Th)   English as an Additional Language / Dialect (EALD)
Miss Jencsok    Computer
Mrs Walke   RFF (M-T)
Mrs Zreika    RFF (W-F)
Miss Von Schoenberg   RFF (M-Th)

Our wonderful Student Administration and Support Staff (SASS) in the office are:

Mrs Holt   School Administration Manager (SAM)
Mrs Lockie (M-Th)   School Administration Officer (SAO)
Mrs Hewitt (M,T,F)   School Administration Officer (SAO)
Ms Chang (M)   School Administration Officer (SAO)
Mrs Miller (M-F)   Student Learning & Support Officer (SLSO)
Mrs Pessagno (M-W)   Student Learning & Support Officer (SLSO)
Mrs Antonis (Th-F)   Student Learning & Support Officer (SLSO)
Mr Donnellan (M, T, W, F)   General Assistant
Mr Ratinam (Thur, F)   General Assistant
Mr Ratinam& Mr Atencio   Cleaners

Student Attendance – A Message from the Home School Liaison Officer

It is important for students to attend school every day, and arrive on time. Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and is noted on both the student record card and student academic reports.

If a student is late or absent, we appreciate an explanatory note being sent to the class teacher as soon as possible after the absence has occurred.

Students who arrive late or leave early need to report to the office prior to going to / coming from class.

Absences after 7 days without a note are recorded as unjustified.

From 2015 onwards, the Minister for Education approved changes to the use of Attendance Register Codes. A Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school for overseas holidays / family visits out of normal school holiday time will no longer be applicable. If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as “L” and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will be issued. If the Principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as “A”. A certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued. An application for Extended Leave for holiday travel needs to be submitted prior to the Leave being taken, with a copy of travel ticket / itinerary attached. Applications are available at the school office.

Kiss and Drop / Linsley St Pedestrians

Parents are reminded that there are several laws relating to the use of the Kiss and Drop area in Linsley St. Please read the information on the separate note sent home with your child regarding this. Council Rangers and Police regularly patrol this area and may issue fines for non-compliance of regulations. For parents who use Linsley St as pedestrians, we respectfully ask that you cross Linsley St at either one of the two Pedestrian Crossings located adjacent to the school and the RSL Club.

Judi Partland
Principal
Sport News
Trials are continuing to be held this week for students in Years 3-6 interested in playing PSSA sport. Students in Years 3 & 4 have the opportunity to trial for Junior Boys / Girls T-Ball and Junior Cricket. Students in Years 5 & 6 can trial for Senior Boys / Girls Softball and Senior Cricket. This week trials will be held during lunch on the following days:
Tuesday: Senior Cricket, Girls Softball, Boys T-Ball
Wednesday: Year 4 Cricket
Thursday: Year 3 Cricket, Senior Boys Softball, Girls T-Ball
Friday: Final selection trials for all summer PSSA sports.

Our Annual Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival is rapidly approaching, being held at Ryde Aquatic Centre on February 11. Students are strongly urged to return all permission notes to school by this Thursday at the latest, if they wish to enter races. Any students returning forms after this date may not be permitted to compete in races.

Last Friday House meetings were held with the following Year 6 students elected as House Captains / Vice Captains:

**Flinders**
Captains: Tom E / Sophia D
Vice-Captains: Finn A / Emelia L / Iris S

**Phillip**
Captains: Harry R / Keira V
Vice-Captains: Laurence A / Miyu T

**Oxley**
Captains: Rocco C / Bianca P
Vice-Captains: Edward B / Ella D

**Sturt**
Captains: Lachlan W / Amelie B
Vice-Captains: Tobi S / Hamish S / Kaden B / Nicole N

Congratulations to all these students. They will be presented with their badges at Friday’s assembly.

David Roberts
Coordinator

**Meet the Teacher - Monday 15 February**
Please make note in your diaries of the ‘Meet the Teacher’ information session on Monday 15 February. Years K-2 5.30 – 6.15pm, Years 3-6 - 6.30 – 7.15pm. Parents of students in Year 6 will also receive information regarding high school application forms. Please note that these are general information sessions and individual interview times with the teacher will take place later in the term.

**Greetings on the Green – Friday 19 February**
A warm welcome is extended to all families to attend ‘Greetings on the Green’ on 19 February where we hope to see all families enjoying an informal get-together with their picnic baskets in the school grounds. Please see P&C notice for more information.

**Lunch**
Lunch is eaten inside at GPS in an effort to ensure all students are eating the lunch they have brought to school and additionally, we are hoping to avoid the excessive number of lost lunch boxes and drink bottles we seem to acquire each year! To reduce paper waste, students are encouraged to bring their lunch in airtight containers to keep them fresh, no need for extra wrapping paper. Parents are also reminded to label all lunch boxes and drink bottles. Don’t forget we have a great water re-filling station in the playground so students never need to be thirsty!

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 recess and lunch snacks.
Important School Information

Emergency Contact Information
The school will send home copies of the contact details for each student over the next week. This information, which will include home, mobile and work phone numbers and email addresses 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. Please also ensure details for separated families are up to date.**

School Newsletter
Newsletters are issued fortnightly (weekly only if necessary) on Tuesdays and are available from the school’s app (ID community, password gladesvilleps) and the 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. The calendars on the website and app lists the school activities and are updated frequently.

School Communication
Please remember to always contact your child’s teacher and make an appointment via the school office 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 will be held on Monday 15 February, Years K-2 5.30-6.15pm, Years 3-6 6.30 to 7.15pm.
Three Way Conferences (parent, student & teacher) will be held on Wednesday 30 March.
School reports are sent home at the end of each Semester.

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 students are advised at recess lines 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.

During the Summer (Terms 1, 3 and 4) the school takes part in:
- **Softball** Senior Boys, Senior Girls
- **T-Ball** Junior Girls, Junior Boys
- **Cricket** Senior and Junior

and during Winter (Terms 2 and 3):
- **Soccer** Junior Boys, Senior Boys, Senior Girls
- **Netball** Netball A & B Junior, Netball A & B Senior
- **AFL** Mixed Years Senior & Junior
- **Tiger Tag** Mixed Years 5 & 6

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 (Term1), Cross Country (Term 2) and Athletics Carnival (Term 3). 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 and classes will attend Gym lessons for one term each year.

Infants Sport
Students take part in a wide range of gross motor activities and fitness lessons. The school has organised specialist fitness / gymnastics lessons for each class in 2016.
During Term 2 or 3 students also participate in a modified version of the Cross Country and a K-2 Athletics Fun Day.
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. These notes are also available on the website and app. At all times the school tries to keep resource and activity costs to a minimum. Payments can be made by cheque, cash or via the website (POP). 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 POP for extra curricular activities eg P&C events, Band, Chess etc cannot be combined with school payments. 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 1 representative from each Year 1 to Year 6 class. Along with Mrs Judge, 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 term 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.

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.

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. Application forms for extended leave are available from the office and the website.

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.

P&C News
Happy New Year! Just a quick update from the P and C.

Greetings On The Green
Friday 19th Feb 5pm-8pm is our annual Greetings on the Green event, to welcome new families to our community and catch up with friends. BBQ, gelato and soft drinks available. Bring a picnic rug.

Save The Date! Barefoot Bowls and BBQ Event
Saturday March 12 will be our first get together for parents, friends and staff for 2016. Come to Gladesville Sporties from 5pm to meet new parents, catch up with friends and have some fun on the green followed by a BBQ dinner. More information to be provided at a later date.

P&C – Positions Vacant
The P and C still have some positions vacant. The most urgent is the Treasurers Role – the P and C cannot function without this position being filled. Ranika is very happy to guide and help anyone or a couple interested. Please contact us ASAP if you think you can help.
Other roles are Groundsperson/people and Music Hire Co-ordinator. Please contact us at gladespc@gmail.com or Ali at alisonfield@stonerecruitment.com.au

Our first meeting for 2016 will be Wednesday 24th March at 7.30pm in the staff room. Please do join us.

Calling For Volunteers!
Thinking that you’d like to do something with the P&C but not sure how? Then 2016 is your year! The P and C are looking for volunteers to support our events throughout the year. You don’t have to be a wedding planner or stylist (although if you have these skills, please do let us know!), you just need to have a few hours spare over the year and be keen to help out at our school. Likely activities include turning sausages, scooping gelato or selling cupcakes at a stall. It is fun way to be involved and get to know other parents. Please email gladespc@gmail.com or contact Sarah Hyland at hyland05@gmail.com.
Your children will be tickled pink to see you at school!

Uniform Shop – Hours and Info
Please note the uniform shop’s new opening hours – Friday mornings 8.45 – 9.30am. If anyone can spare an hour to help, please contact us. Online ordering is encouraged. Currently school bags have sold out, there are more on order, but may take a few weeks – thanks for your patience.
Also just a reminder that the uniform shop does not take eftpos or credit cards. Payments must be made by cash or cheque only. Please also be aware that queues will be longer for the first few weeks of term.

P&C Committee

CHESS!!
Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Gladesville Public School is held on Fridays from 8:00am – 9:00am in the library.
Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.
Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.
If your child is interested in taking part, please email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au to enrol. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.