



THE WALLUMETTA NEWS

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Term 1 Week 2
31 January 2012

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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 all our new families. I hope you all had a great break with your families and I look forward to catching up with you and hearing about your summer holiday adventures. Thank you to all parents for ensuring your children looked fantastic to start the 2012 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 Selva and Enrique, for ensuring the school year began with a well-organised and sparkling start.

Classes 2012

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 are hopeful of forming 18 classes in 2012 although this will not be definite until Week 3 when all our Kindergarten enrolments are confirmed. Therefore, there may be adjustments to classes next week. Additionally, we are waiting for permanent staff to be appointed following interviews scheduled for Week 4 to fill two vacancies currently taken by casual staff members.

KM	Miss Morris	Assistant Principal K-2 (Rel)
KS	Miss Sweeney	
KL	Mr Little	
KP	Mrs Pedersen	
1F	Mrs Fasullo	
1WF	Mrs Wilson (M-W) Mrs Forester (Th-F)	
1T	Mrs Thomson	
2F	Ms Fitzpatrick	
2BP	Mrs Bolger (M-W) Mrs Perera (Th-F)	
2/3P	Mrs Pigram	Supervising Year 2
3S	Miss Smith	
3JK	Miss Kotouc (M-W) Ms Jencsok (Th-F)	
4G	Mrs Guido	
4N	Mr Judd (Mr Norton returning Term 2)	
4/5R	Mr Roberts	Assistant Principal 3-4
5E	Mrs Elsinga	Assistant Principal 5-6
6G	Mr Grant	
6E	Miss Scroope	

Mrs Goodfellow
Miss Kotouc / Ms Jencsok
Mr Rodriguez
Mrs Diinis
Mrs Papworth
Mrs Holt
Mrs Magson
Mrs Brewer
Mr Donnelan (Paddy)
Selva & Enrique

Library (M-F)
Computers
English as a Second Language (M)
Support Teacher Learning Assistance
School Administrative Manager
School Administrative Assistant
School Administrative Assistant (M-W)
SLSO (student support)
General Assistant
Cleaners

Flicker Fest

Our staff, students and parents were still on duty during the holidays, attending the screening of two of our films at Flickerfest at the Bondi Pavillion on 14 January. Our films were very competitive in a strong field and well-received by the audience. I am thrilled to announce that one of our films won the Primary School section of the festival (FlickerUp). Thank you to Amy and Paris (and their proud mums) for attending the award ceremony on behalf of the cast and crew of 'Independence Day'.

Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 15 February

Please make note in your diaries of the 'Meet the Teacher' information session on Wednesday 15 February.

Years K-2 6.00 – 6.45pm

Years 3-6 6.45 – 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 2013 will be discussed at the Year 6 class meetings, so please try to attend these sessions.

Greetings on the Green - Friday 17 February

A warm welcome is extended to all families to attend 'Greetings on the Green' on Friday 17 February where we hope to see all families enjoying and informal get-together with their picnic baskets in the school grounds from 5.00pm – 8.00pm. 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.

School Band

Band training begins next week with the Concert Band on Monday 6 February from 7.45am (set up time) and the Training Band on Wednesday 8 February from 7.45am (set up time). Band rehearsals are held in the school hall.

String Groups

The Arpeggios will commence rehearsals on Tuesday 7 February at 8.15am and the Pizzicatos on Friday 10 February, both in the school hall.

Chess Lessons

The Sydney Academy of Chess will be starting lessons on Friday 3 February. Lessons start at 8.00am sharp with our fantastic coach Syed Kabir. Lessons in 2012 will be in the 4N classroom, next door to the library room used in previous years. Students interested in registering for chess lessons need to complete form from the office or school website, or contact the Academy online.

Drama Classes

The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy will begin classes in the school hall next Tuesday 7 February. If you are interested in returning to or joining these classes for the first time, times are as follows:

K-2 3.15 – 4.15pm

3-6 4.15 – 5.15pm

Years 3-6 Sport

Trials for PSSA cricket, t-ball and softball will be held during school time over the next 2 weeks. Students are informed where and when the trials will be held during the 9.10am assemblies and must try out if they wish to play in the PSSA teams. Please note that PSSA students are expected to pay for bus transport and membership costs if they are accepted into the team. Notes regarding swimming lessons and an AFL clinic will be sent home shortly.

Scripture Lessons

Scripture lessons will begin on Wednesday 15 February.

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 6 years. Parents are welcome to take their children to the bottom grassed playground after school to play – supervised of course!

Students should not be playing outside the canteen area and around the back of the hall at any time, including after school. Until we have the car park fence installed, students entering and exiting the school grounds via Orr St must be accompanied by a parent. 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 recess and lunch snacks.

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. Please read this information carefully, 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 correct email address. A calendar is also on the website listing school activities.

Friday Sport Years 3-6

When students enter Primary in Year 3, they have the opportunity to become involved in Friday PSSA Sport. Selections are held during lunch to pick teams to represent the school in the PSSA (Primary Schools Sport Association) competition. These 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 Boys and Junior Boys

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 3 & 4

Touch football Mixed Years 3 & 4

Junior teams are for students in years 3 and 4, senior teams are for students years 5 and 6 (new for 2012).

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, 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Mr Grant, 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 and only hold this position once.

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 which need to be cut.

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.