Term 1, Week 2

February  
13th  Swimming Carnival  
11th-14th Meet the Teacher Afternoons  
19th Scripture lessons start.  
20th Scholastic Book Fair starts.  

March  
1st  PSSA Sport begins  
14th Selective High School Test  
18th “Life Education” begins  
29th Good Friday (holiday)  

April  
1st  Easter Monday (holiday)  
4th Family Fun Day  
10th Parent Teacher Interviews  
12th Last day of term  

Principal’s News  
Welcome to our very first newsletter for 2013. A very warm welcome to all of our new students and their families. It is great to see so many happy, smiling faces as I walk around our school. I’ve seen lots of terrific work already that has been completed by students and I can see that all the boys and girls have come back to school ready for lots of great learning.

Welcome back to Mrs Matthes who has returned from maternity leave. Welcome also to Miss Jones who has joined our teaching staff this year.

A special welcome to our new Kindergarten students and their families. The children have had their very first whole day at school and they have been terrific! The Kindergarten teachers are very impressed with their new students and look forward to watching them grow throughout the year.

A huge thank you to our hardworking P & C who presented our school with a $10,000 cheque on Tuesday evening. This was achieved through the passionate efforts of our P & C in 2012 to raise much needed funds to support all students at our school. The money will be put towards payment for the building of a shade shelter structure on our playground. Thank you once again!

At this stage we envisage some changes to our classes in the next couple of weeks as we have had a large number of students transfer in whilst there also have been some transfers out. Our classes at this stage for 2013 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KF</td>
<td>Mrs Farrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>Mrs Hensley/Mrs Freedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Mrs Chetty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>Miss Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Mrs Matthes/Mrs Colucci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Mrs Abraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Miss Thompson/Mrs Colucci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td>Miss Lovell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Mrs Bowers/Mrs Parcsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>Miss King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Mr Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Mrs White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Miss Avgerinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Mrs Fisher Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>Mrs Rust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6H</td>
<td>Mr Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6K</td>
<td>Mrs Kovacevic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Mr Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3C</td>
<td>Miss Coonan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6B</td>
<td>Miss Birm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-3W</td>
<td>Miss Woollcott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Partnerships Program will continue this year at Guildford West and we are looking forward to some wonderful opportunities including:
• Continued Professional Learning for all staff on the “Focus on Reading” Program.
• An Assistant Principal Quality Teacher.
• An additional specialist support teacher 5 days per week.
• Numeracy Groups across Years 1-6.
• The installation of 6 interactive whiteboards. Every class will now have access to an interactive whiteboard.
• A speech pathologist on site for one day per week.
• An occupational therapist on site for one day per week.
• Implementation of the “MultiLit” Reading program for students who are finding reading challenging with the support of a School Learning Support Officer.
• A Community Engagement Officer on site each Monday and Tuesday.

Our School Plan 2012-2014 includes a more detailed outline of our targets and programs for the next two years. A copy of our School Plan can be found on our school’s website.

We will be holding our Annual Swimming Carnival at Merrylands Pool on Wednesday 13th February. Permission notes have been sent home. Please ensure you have returned the signed note and money to the office by the 8th February. We hope to see lots of mums and dads join us on the day.

Throughout week 3 we will be holding our “Meet the Teacher Afternoons” from 3.15pm-4.00pm in classrooms. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet the school staff and hear about programs operating in the school this year. Parents are invited to attend meetings for:

• Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) on Monday 11th February at 3.15pm.
• Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) on Tuesday 12th February at 3.15pm.
• Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) on Wednesday 13th February at 3.15pm.
• Kindergarten on Thursday 14th February at 3.15pm.

Thank you to all our families for helping to ensure that our students come to school dressed in full school uniform. It is an expectation of our school that all students come to school in school uniform every day, including a school hat and black school shoes. Earrings worn at school need to be either studs or sleepers to ensure there are no accidents. Ribbons and scarves need to be blue or white. If you need assistance with uniforms please come and speak to me at the office.

At Guildford West we endeavour to ensure that we are all “On Track” as safe, respectful and responsible, active learners. Our behaviour matrix is an important element of our “On Track” Program and is included in this newsletter so that families can assist in reinforcing important concepts with their children.

During these hot summer months please ensure you provide your child with a bottle of water which they can sip from throughout the day. Please ensure that children have applied sunscreen before coming to school. Sunscreen is available in classrooms for children to reapply as needed. When the weather is extreme we do ensure students remain indoors and out of the extreme weather.

The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline auto injector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This does NOT replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an EpiPen and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use auto injector is intended to be used if:

• An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
• There is a misfire of the adrenaline auto injector that has been prescribed for a student.
• A student requires further adrenaline auto injector to be administered after his or her own auto injector has been administered.

2013 homework planner: Children and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2013 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out
month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more

Doing well in class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.
Find out more:

Eight ways to get your children organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. Find out more:

Our newsletter will be sent home on the Thursday of each even week. This is Week 2, our next newsletter will be in Week 4. A copy will also be found on our school website which you will find at:
www.guildfordp.schools.nsw.edu.au

You will also find a copy of our School Plan 2012-2014 on our website.

Some important dates for your diary:
13th February - Annual Swimming Carnival
11th - 14th February - Meet the Teacher Afternoons
19th February - Scripture lessons start.
20th February - Scholastic Book Fair starts.
1st March - PSSA Sport begins
14th March - Selective High School Test
18th March - “Life Education” begins
29th March - Good Friday (holiday)
1st April - Easter Monday (holiday)
4th April - Family Fun Day
10th April - Parent Teacher Interviews
12th April - Last day of term

Notes that have gone home this week:
- School swimming Carnival
- Meet the Teacher
- Voluntary Contribution

Poppy Cassimatis
Principal

Teacher Professional Learning
As you will be aware, we are entering our second year on the National Partnerships program. Because extensive research which has determined that teacher quality is the biggest factor in improving student outcomes underpins the National Partnership program, it has been determined by the government that the majority of funds are used for teacher professional learning.

After extensive school self-evaluation, we made the decision that the Focus on Reading program would address some of our significant needs in literacy. This program involves fortnightly teacher workshops with professional readings and follow-up activities which teachers undertake with their classes. Last year we completed Phase 1 of the program, looking specifically at Comprehension, and our evaluations of this program were very positive.

This year we will be commencing Phase 2 of the program, specifically addressing Vocabulary and Reading Text. Again, teachers will be released from class fortnightly for half day workshops as well as completing professional reading and follow up activities.

Prior to the commencement of Phase 2, teachers will be involved in half day workshops with their stage or grade teams to review the work done on Comprehension last year, ensuring that it is embedded into classroom practice before taking on the new aspects of literacy. These workshops will take place in Week 4 and Week 6 this term. Phase 2 workshops will commence in Week 8.

Some of our new or returning teachers will be requiring additional training to ensure that they catch up with the valuable training teachers received last year. This will mean that these teachers attend two workshops each fortnight commencing in Week 6.
In addition to these workshops, teachers will be meeting in their stage teams for a whole day next week to collaboratively plan their teaching programs for the term, utilising the support of our specialist teachers at different times during the day.

As always, all teachers (across the state) are entitled to 2 hours a week release from face to face teaching (RFF) or pro rata for part-time teachers. This year our National Partnerships funding has also allowed an additional 2 hours to our Assistant Principals (or pro rata for part-time Executive) to ensure that classroom teachers are supported in improving student outcomes.

Considerable time is spent selecting casual teachers to replace teachers when they are released for professional learning and that careful planning occurs to ensure that learning programs continue with minimal interruption. You can rest assured that the benefits to your child’s education from this professional learning outweighs the ‘disruption’ of having a different teacher for a while.

I will endeavour to keep you updated through fortnightly bulletins and the school website regarding the content of fortnightly workshops.

Therese Gawthorne  
Assistant Principal, Quality Teaching

**Library News**  
Welcome back to another exciting year.

This week was the start of library borrowing. Our aim for this year is to continue to build on the number of students borrowing from our library each week. Students are encouraged to purchase a school library bag, however, an old pillow case or an environmental bag from the grocery store will work as well.

The Book Fair will be coming to our school earlier than usual this year. The Book Fair will be on the 25th and 26th of March. Parents are able to assist their child in purchasing a book from 8.30am – 9.00am as well as from 3.00pm – 4.00pm. Students will also have opportunities throughout the day to purchase books. The Book Fair is a great fundraising opportunity for the school with the profits going towards the purchase of new resources for the library and for classrooms. There will be posters, stationary, book packs and books available for purchase. So we hope to see you there.

Jessica Muir  
Teacher-Librarian

**Community Corner**  
Welcome back to all of our families, students and staff for what will be another year packed full of learning opportunities for EVERYONE. It is anticipated that we will deliver a range of workshops throughout the year covering topics such as Reading, Numbers, Naplan, the New Australian Curriculum and much more. We are constantly looking at strengthening partnerships within our community to provide additional services to our students. If you have any comments regarding workshops, partnerships or other ideas, we welcome your suggestions. I can be contacted via the school office or email sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au

Sharon Furness  
Community Engagement Officer

**P & C News**  
The Annual General Meeting for GWPS P & C Association was held on the 5th February and we are pleased to announce the results of the Election for the 2013 Office Bearers and Executive Committee. They are as follows:  
President – Belinda O’Brien  
Vice President – Billiejo Niddrie  
Treasurer – Bill Watson  
Assistant Treasurer – Robert Vrtkovski  
Secretary – Grace Watson  
Executive – Debbie Smith  
Executive – Lyndel Starr  
Executive – Melanie Riddle  
Executive – Sharon Furness  
School Banking Coordinators – Julijana and Billie-Jo.

GWPS Regional Representatives are Sharon Furness and Grace Watson.

We congratulate the 2013 Committee and would like to invite all parents and carers to come along to a P & C meeting or to volunteer at one of the
many events that the P & C organise throughout the year to raise money for much needed resources for our children at school.

**Special Mention and a Cheque for the school**

We are proud to announce that at this week’s Annual General Meeting, Guildford West P & C presented a cheque to Mrs Cassimatis for $10,000 for the school. This was made possible by the hard work of our very dedicated group of P & C volunteers and the generous support of the entire GWPS school community.

The raffle tickets that you buy throughout the year, the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls that you buy your gifts from, each time you order lunches, drinks or snack through the canteen or Munch Monitor.

When you volunteer to help out in the canteen or when the students attend a school disco, all this goes towards helping to raise money for much needed equipment and facilities for our kids at Guildford West. So a big congratulations to you all and fabulous work by the P & C in 2012.

If we can do this good in 2012 we can do better in 2013.

Grace Watson for the P&C Committee

**School Banking – A platform to help you teach your child about saving!**

It’s time kids learnt that Mum and Dad are not the bank! Does your child always want? Do they understand how much things cost? Do they think there is an endless supply of cash from the machine in the wall?

If you would like more information or would like to start your child/children in the School Banking program, please complete the attached slip and return it to school.

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The School Banking program offers you a platform to start teaching your child the value of money and the benefits of saving.

**Our Saving Tips to discuss with your child:**

1. Discuss what saving into the bank means. A bank account is somewhere safe to keep your money, the money remains yours and the more money you put in the more money you have.
2. How do you earn money? A great way to start your child’s venture into earning money is doing chores around the house to earn pocket money. Set expectations and what they have the potential to earn.
3. Set a goal, work out together something your child would really like to save for, starting out with smaller and achievable items works best. Discuss how much money they will need to save to reach this goal.
4. Once your child has reached the goal, research through catalogues or online as to where they will get the best value for their money.
5. Watch your child’s sense of pride as you take them to purchase the item that they have worked and saved for!

We realise that many parents already have an account for their child and are actively saving for their child’s future. Most of the time this is done through electronic banking and your child doesn’t get to see and handle the benefit first hand. This program is once again about your child learning the process of saving and handling the cash themselves. Participating in School Banking gives your child the opportunity to do this on a weekly basis.

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I am interested in my child/children starting in the School Banking program and would like an information pack.
Childs Name:____________________ Class:_______________________

Parent/Caregivers Name:____________________________________

Signature:___________________________________________________________________
School Banking Reminder

School Banking day is **Friday**

Please bring in your Youthsaver account and leave it at the Office by 9.00am

If you don’t have one, please go to any branch of the Commonwealth Bank and open a Youthsaver account and start banking.

Your School Banking Co-ordinators are Julijana and Billie-Jo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We are safe</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>Canteen</th>
<th>Out and about</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We:</td>
<td>• Move &amp; sit safely</td>
<td>• Walk on asphalt/hard surfaces</td>
<td>• Wash our hands</td>
<td>• Enter and exit the assembly area correctly</td>
<td>• Wait quietly in a straight line</td>
<td>• Walk everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are in the right place at the right time</td>
<td>• Play safely in the right places</td>
<td>• Use the toilet correctly</td>
<td>• Keep our hands and feet to ourselves</td>
<td>• Listen and follow the instructions of the canteen helpers</td>
<td>• Stay in bounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Follow safety procedures &amp; routines</td>
<td>• Keep our hands and feet to ourselves</td>
<td>• Close doors carefully</td>
<td>• Leave food, drink and games outside</td>
<td>• Carry lunch baskets safely</td>
<td>• Keep to the left on pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Keep hands and feet to ourselves</td>
<td>• Are safe in the sun</td>
<td>• Speak politely</td>
<td>• Respect the privacy of others</td>
<td>• Encourage others</td>
<td>• Take care around corners/ceilings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Report strangers to teachers</td>
<td>• Demonstrate sportmanship</td>
<td>• Consider other people’s feelings</td>
<td>• Keep the toilets clean</td>
<td>• Always use our best manners</td>
<td>• Move quietly around the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are respectful</td>
<td>We:</td>
<td>• Bring and return equipment and notes</td>
<td>• Care for all belongings and equipment</td>
<td>• Conserve water</td>
<td>• Look after and spend only our own money</td>
<td>• Are ready for learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Think before we act</td>
<td>• Talk to an adult if we or someone else needs help</td>
<td>• Report problems</td>
<td>• Fulfil our roles to the best of our ability</td>
<td>• Label lunch bags clearly and hand in before school</td>
<td>• Know our task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are punctual and committed</td>
<td>• Look after our school environment</td>
<td>• Use toilets at break times</td>
<td>• Are in the right place at the right time</td>
<td>• Finish eating before class</td>
<td>• Value volunteering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sit and eat</td>
<td>• Report unsafe situations</td>
<td>• Conserve water</td>
<td>• Ask to go politely</td>
<td>• Are ready to buy what we want</td>
<td>• Honour our commitments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are honest about our actions</td>
<td>• Sit and eat</td>
<td>• Value hygiene</td>
<td>• Value hygiene</td>
<td>• Volunteer to help (stage 3)</td>
<td>• Move to our destination promptly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are active learners</td>
<td>We:</td>
<td>• Always do our best</td>
<td>• Play by the rules</td>
<td>• Ask to go politely</td>
<td>• Check our change</td>
<td>• Wait sensibly in lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are ready to learn</td>
<td>• Listen to and follow instructions, including messages, announcements and information</td>
<td>• Value hygiene</td>
<td>• Strive to do our best</td>
<td>• Make healthy choices</td>
<td>• Value volunteering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Help each other learn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Honour our commitments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Have a go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Move to our destination promptly</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Wait sensibly in lines</td>
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Core Rules
Student discipline in NSW Government Schools

All students in NSW Government schools are expected to:

- Attend every school day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- Maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform or dress code policy.
- Behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school.
- Show respect at all times for teachers, other school staff and helpers, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities.
- Treat one another with dignity and respect.
- Care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.

Behaviour that infringes on the safety of others, such as harassment, bullying and illegal or anti-social behaviour of any kind, will not be tolerated.