Principal’s News

Congratulations to every student who attended the swimming carnival last Wednesday. What a great day! All our staff were very proud of the wonderful behaviour of our boys and girls. Thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer for our students. It was very obvious throughout the day that we have some champions in the making at Guildford West. Thank you to Miss Avgerinos, Mr Hawkins, Mrs White, Mrs Fisher-Graves, Mrs Rust and Mr Green for ensuring the day ran smoothly and successfully. The Zone Swimming Carnival has been organised for the 6th March. All students who will be competing will have a note sent home soon.

Throughout last week our school held it’s “Meet the Teacher” Afternoons. Thank you to all the parents who came along to hear about the learning that will be taking place in our classrooms. Parent Teacher interviews will be held on Wednesday 10th April.

Congratulations to Miss Coonan who was successful in obtaining a Literacy and Numeracy Leader position for South West Sydney. This new position will see Miss Coonan working with and supporting a number of schools in our region. Welcome to Mr Dylan Quigley who is replacing Miss Coonan and will be teaching 1-3C this year.

At times throughout the year parents may need to speak with their child’s teacher either on the phone or in person. Teachers would like the opportunity to address any concerns as quickly as possible but are not able to speak to parents while they are with their class. Attached to this newsletter is a note which can be used to request a teacher meeting or phone call. Additional copies will be available at our office. If you would like a teacher to ring you or meet with you at any time in the future please fill in the details on the note and send it to the office. The teacher will then make a suitable time to meet with you or telephone you. We hope that this process will ensure matters are dealt with quickly and effectively.

Parents please note; students are not to be approached or spoken to by other parents or adults at school. If you are concerned about a child’s behaviour please speak to a teacher who will deal with your concerns.

Scripture classes began on Tuesday 19th February for all our students. Thank you to our Scripture teachers for their support of our school.

Students in Year 6 will soon be receiving their High School Expression of Interest Applications. These applications need to be returned to our school by 22nd March. Parents are asked to carefully complete the applications to ensure their child has a position available to them at high school in 2014.

Attendance at school is vital in order for students to obtain the very best educational opportunities...
that our school has to offer. When students have irregular attendance, or arrive at school late or leave school early, they lose continuity in their learning. This continuity is essential for them to succeed and achieve. Regular absences make it difficult for students to develop social skills and relationships with other students. Often vital concepts and building blocks in learning are missed creating difficulties for the child and their learning. It is essential that students attend school each day. If a child is ill then it is essential that a written explanation is provided to the school immediately upon their return. If you need assistance with improving your child’s attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school for support. We look forward to your assistance in this very important matter.

If you are considering having your child take extended leave from school please visit the office to complete an application form. The Department of Education and Communities attendance policy states that leave of more than 20 days is to be applied for in advance to the school.

Extended leave applications are passed on to the School Education Director and the Regional Director for approval. Therefore, families need to allow sufficient time for this process to be completed. Please ensure that your child’s learning is not affected by unnecessary absenteeism.

School banking takes place each Friday. Children are encouraged to save while earning reward incentives. If you would like to open a school banking account please contact the school office so that an application and information can be sent home. The Commonwealth Bank makes a yearly donation to the school for providing this service to our students.

Helpful hints for parents.
Children benefit greatly at school when the following simple points are followed. To help your child achieve their very best whilst at school it is important they:

- Get at least 10-11 hours of sleep each night. A good bedtime for 5-12 year olds is between 7.30pm-8.30pm.
- Have a good breakfast every morning. This might include toast, cereal, fruit and milk.
- Have an opportunity to play, rest and do their homework each evening.
- Watch appropriate television shows or movies. It is recommended that 5-12 year olds watch shows or movies with a “G” or “PG” rating.
- Have their screen time limited to no more than 2 hours a day. This includes TV, computer, iPod, iPad, Playstation and Xbox time.
- Talk with their parents about their day.
- Do not drink “fizzy” soft drinks and do not eat sweets and treats regularly.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 6.45pm. We hope to see lots of parents on the night.

If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Find out more:


A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Find out more:


Notes that have been sent home recently:
- Walking group permission note
- Email Notification
- Kindy canteen news
- Canteen price list
- Stage 3 Myuna Bay permission note
- Life Education Lessons

A copy of our newsletter can be found on our school website at:

www.guildfordw-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

The School Security phone number is: 1300 880 021. If you notice any security issues during the evenings or on the weekends please support our
school by ringing School Security and reporting your concerns. Your support is appreciated.

P. Cassimatis  
Principal

Kindergarten News
What a lovely few weeks we've had getting to know all our new Kindergarten students and their families. Most students have settled in well and are quickly becoming aware of school routines. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

A few little reminders for you;

Kindergarten Sport
Sport will begin this week - Friday 22nd February. Please send your child to school dressed in their sports uniform.

Best Start Parent Information Session
When: Wednesday March 6, 2013 (Week 6 Term 1)
Time: 9.00am (approximately 1 hour)
Where: School Library
Who: All parents and carers of Kindergarten students are welcome.

We'd really love you to come along and hear all about what is involved with the Best Start Assessment. Individual feedback reports will be handed out to parents and caregivers at this meeting. Light refreshments will also be served.

I look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Beginning on Monday 25th February, all kindergarten children are to ‘drop’ their school bag off at their classroom and ‘go’ into the playground. The ‘drop and go’ routine ensures all students are adequately supervised by the staff member on the morning playground duty. Please note that children should not be dropped off before 8.30am. An 8.55am warning bell sounds to remind children to visit the toilets and wash sheds prior to classes commencing at 9.00am. Your assistance with our ‘drop and go’ routine is greatly appreciated.

Natalie Hensley  
Assistant Principal

Library News
In our last newsletter we advertised that the Library would be holding a Book Fair. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the Book Fair has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled for later in the year. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Stage 3 News
It’s Academic: Our school has been selected to participate in the Channel 7 television show It’s Academic in 2013. The show is designed to test the knowledge of upper primary school children, with questions covering subjects such as English, Maths, Science, Geography, Sport, Music and Pop Culture. Contestants have the chance to test their general knowledge and win prizes for themselves and their school. It is also an exciting opportunity for our students. Selected students from Year 6 will travel to Foxtel Studios on the 12th March to compete against other schools. We wish the following students the best of luck in their preparation:

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School
The Open Day for prospective Year 7 students in 2014 will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2013. The format will include a day visit for students commencing at 9.15am and finishing at 1.00pm and also an evening session commencing at 7.00pm for parents and students. The program will include information about Northmead CAPA High School and our educational programs. The information sessions, school tours, items and displays will provide a valuable insight into high school life. A flyer regarding this day has been included in the newsletter. Information on high school open days are often included in our newsletter so please keep an eye out.

Jessica Muir
Relieving Assistant Principal – Stage 3.
Community Corner

**Best Start Assessment Information Session – Kindergarten**

All parents/care givers of Kindergarten students are invited to a Best Start workshop in the Library, **Wednesday 6 March at 9am**. At this workshop you will receive a feedback report on what the teachers have learned about your child, along with practical ideas and tips to assist your child in their learning both at home and at school. We hope to see as many Kindy parents as possible.

Keep an eye out for more details coming home soon.

**Children Thrive with Parental Involvement**


**School Jargon Buster**


As always, please feel free to contact me via the school office, or [sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au)

Sharon Furness
Community Engagement Officer

**P & C News**

**Swimming Carnival**

P & C supplied the hard working teachers with cold drinks, fruit platters and cakes to help refresh them throughout the day. They always work extremely hard and ensure that the day is fun and safe for everyone in attendance. Well done to all students for your participation and congratulations to the announcer for all your efforts throughout the day.

**Easter Raffle**

The Easter Raffle is coming up on us very soon so we are starting to ask students to bring in donations of Easter goodies for the Raffle baskets. Last year we had 27 Easter Baskets as prizes, with your help we can do the same again this year.

Students can bring in any type of Easter goodies they like remembering that fresh items have a very short shelf life so be careful with fresh items. Popular items are chocolate, carob, Easter decorations or cookies. Donations are only limited to your imagination and to what you would like to receive if you were lucky enough to win a raffle basket.

All donations can be left with the lovely ladies at the canteen right up until Thursday 21st March. Raffle tickets and flyers will go out to students shortly.

GWPS P & C Committee

**Canteen Report**

A big welcome and thank you to Debbie, Joey and Amber’s mum; Kirsten, Adam, Ben and Amy’s mum, our new volunteers. We still would love more help, a few hours a week really makes a difference.

A new menu went home last week. If you didn’t receive one, please ask your teacher or I have some spares at the canteen. Thank you for your understanding of our price rises, our canteen committee endeavour to keep prices as affordable as possible.

Thank you, Ghil Cimijotta
Request for a Parent/Teacher appointment

Please tick the appropriate box:

*I request a phone call with _________________________________.

*I request a meeting with _________________________________.

Days and times which are most suitable are: 1.

2. ________________________________

3. ________________________________

My name is _________________________________________________

My child’s name is ____________________________________________

Parent signature: ____________________________________________

Date: ____________________________

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Audition Information for Parents and Students
Years 7 - 11 – 2014

Auditions for Year 7-11, 2014 will be held on the **Monday 18TH & Wednesday 20th March 2013**

Talented students in Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music are encouraged to apply. Local (In Area) students wanting to be part of our selective Creative and Performing Arts program **MUST** also audition.

NCAPAHS is a specialist Creative and Performing Arts High School offering a broad comprehensive curriculum. Students benefit from a range of curriculum and welfare initiatives, specialist teachers, modern performance and technical production facilities in a supportive whole school ethos towards promoting excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts.

Audition application forms can be obtained via our school website (www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au), or can be posted or emailed to you directly by contacting NCAPAHS and speaking with Mrs Stepic on 9630 4116 or june.stepic@det.nsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely

N Vazquez
Principal

Closing Date for the return of application forms – Wednesday 13th March 2013
National Child Oral Health Survey 2013

Australia’s only second population survey of child oral health is underway. The first such survey was in 1987/88.

The survey is being conducted by the NSW Ministry of Health in association with the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH) which is located at the University of Adelaide. The survey has received ethics approval from the NSW Ministry of Health Human Research Ethics Committee, The University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee and from the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Your child’s school has been selected to be part of the Survey along with approximately 153 other schools from State, Catholic Education and Independent school sectors in NSW, and has agreed to participate.

A small number of children aged 5 – 14 years old have been randomly selected from each of these schools across NSW and invited to participate in the Survey. If your child has been chosen, in the next couple of weeks you will receive a package containing information about the survey and a parental questionnaire including consent form.

Teams of specially trained registered dental examiners will examine the children’s teeth at school. Survey team members are all approved to work with children under the Child Protection Legislation 2003 and experienced teachers will work with the Survey teams to administer the survey.

All of the information obtained will be held in the strictest confidence and individual children’s data will not be disclosed under any circumstances. No school will be identified in any reports published from the survey.

Before completing the consent form and questionnaire parents are advised to read the information sheets carefully. A phone number is also provided in the information package should parents wish to discuss any aspect of the survey and their participation.

If you wish your child to participate please fill in the questionnaire and consent form and post by the return date on the consent form. Also, please ensure consent form is signed.

Every child who participates will receive a sealed envelope that contains a brief report about their dental health and where you can access free dental treatment if treatment is indicated.

Yours sincerely

Professor A. John Spencer
Chief Investigator A
Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
The University of Adelaide