### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Myuna Bay payment due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>‘It’s Academic’ recording day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Selective high school test</td>
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<tr>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Life Education” begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Merrylands High open day Yr6</td>
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<tr>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>High School form completion assistance 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Focus on Reading New/Curriculum workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Focus on Reading New/curriculum workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;C Easter raffle drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ICAS form and money due back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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### April

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School ‘Family Fun Day’</td>
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<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
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**Principal’s News**

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March a group of Year 5 and 6 students will travel to Foxtel studios and compete on the television quiz show “It’s Academic”. Thank you to Mr Hawkins and Mrs Muir for preparing our students and ensuring they are ready for the challenge. Good luck to our team! We are all very proud of your effort and enthusiasm and look forward to watching the show.

Thank you to all the Kindergarten parents who joined us on Wednesday at the **Best Start Workshop**. During the workshop parents were provided with information about the Best Start Program. Parents were also given “tips” on how they can support their child at home. Thank you to Mrs Hensley and Mrs Furness for organising the workshop.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March a group of our talented swimmers competed at the Zone Swimming Carnival. The carnival was held at Granville Swimming Pool and the children performed outstandingly. Congratulations boys and girls! Once again our school was the Champion School and with **Emily O’Brien, Alexandria Smith** and **Jasmine Duncan** leading the way as Champion age swimmers on the day.

The **Life Education** program begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Life Education is an important program which is linked to our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus. The program addresses many important areas including healthy living, healthy choices and safe decision making. Please ensure your child has returned their note and money to the office by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

This year our school will be holding a **Family Fun Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**. A fun filled event where our students and their families can enjoy rides, games and fun activities. A detailed note will be sent home shortly. We hope lots of parents and grandparents can join us on the day.

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. **Please note, there has been no change to our uniform.** Our girl’s uniform does **not** have a white collar.

Students in Year 6 have received their **High School Expression of Interest Applications**. These applications need to be returned to our school by 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Parents are asked to carefully complete the applications to ensure their child has a position available to them at high school in 2014.
Our next **P&C meeting** will be held on Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} March at 6.45pm. We hope to see lots of parents on the night.

Notes that have been sent home recently:

- High school expression of interest Yr 6
- 2013 Easter raffle
- PG Rated movie permission note, stage 3
- Myuna bay payment schedule Stage 3
- Myuna Bay medical consent form Stage 3
- ICAS Exam dates and permission note Yrs 3-6
- Our Spectacular permission note (Choir)
- PSSA 2013 Competition permission note Yrs 3-6
- Merrylands high open day Yr 6
- Walking group permission note Yrs 3-6

A copy of our newsletter can be found on our school website at [www.guildford-w.p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.guildford-w.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.

Yours sincerely,

P. Cassimatis
Principal

**Community Corner**

**Best Start assessment session** - Thank you to all the wonderful Kindergarten families who came along to the Best Start workshop. Many ideas were shared that will ultimately assist children in their learning.

**Focus On Reading** - Do you wonder why your child’s teacher is regularly off at “training”. **FOCUS on READING** may be the cause. This is a wonderful program that is revolutionary in the way children are not only taught how to read – but how to understand and remember what they have read. Teachers are continuing their training in this program and a parent workshop has been organised for all parents, which will assist in understanding how the children are taught and shows you how you can help your child at home.

A morning and early evening session have been arranged to accommodate most families - notes will come home shortly.

Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} March at 5.45pm in the Library and then on Monday the 25\textsuperscript{th} March at 9.15am in the school hall (immediately after flag raising). Mrs Gawthorne our on site trainer will be presenting the session, as well as an overview on the **New Australian Curriculum** which is due to start rolling out next year. Find out what’s changing, what’s staying and much more.

**High school expressions of interest** - Year 6 students will have received their expression of interest application forms for high school. This form is vital in securing a position at a Government High school. All students are expected to return the forms. Staff will be available to assist or answer any questions you may have on Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} March at 3.00pm in the library.

**Breakfast club at GWPS** - A special thank you to Mr and Mrs John & Elizabeth Brodie who have kindly sponsored Breakfast Club for Term 1 of 2013. While we have a dedicated team of staff and helpers, it’s always lovely to meet new faces and share the load. If you are able to assist for half an hour of a morning, please let me know. Breakfast consisting of cereal and fruit will be available at the canteen on Mondays and Tuesday between 8.30am and 9.00am.

**The importance of Breakfast** - It’s the most important meal of the day – but one in four children in Australia skip breakfast. At school, a hungry child can lose concentration in class, have no energy for playtime and snack on unhealthy foods, such as chips or biscuits. A calm and healthy breakfast every day is the best defence against this happening. It also helps children to get into good habits that they can carry through life.

As always – if you want to know more about something, or have ideas on strengthening the partnership between home and school life, please contact me via the office or email me

sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au

Sharon Furness
Community Engagement Officer

**Kindergarten News**

**Best Start**: Thank you to the many parents who joined us for the Best Start Parent Feedback session yesterday. We trust you found the session worthwhile. If you weren’t able to attend the session, your child will bring home a copy of his/her Best Start assessment report this week. We look forward to running more parent workshops for you over the coming months.
**Wet Weather:** Can you please ensure your child comes to school with either a rain coat or a small umbrella each day. There are several times during the week when students visit other rooms and parts of the school. We do our best to ensure children stay dry throughout the day, but this is very difficult if they are not suitably protected from the weather.

**Assembly:** Kindergarten students attended their first assembly this afternoon. Starting next week (Thursday 14th March) and then continuing each fortnight thereafter, all parents are invited to attend our K-2 assemblies. Assemblies run from 2-2:45pm in the school hall.

**Library News**

Book Club has started. We ask that all money orders are returned by 9am on Wednesday 13th March. Please refer to the letter on the back page of this newsletter for more information.

A reminder that all students need a library bag in order to borrow from the library. School library bags can be purchased from the uniform shop or alternatively re-usable shopping bags are acceptable.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Our school is again participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC), which is a reading activity organised by the Department of Education and Communities.

- Years K-2 are required to read/listen to a total of 30 books. At least 25 of the books need to be from the official K-2 list and students can also choose up to 5 personal choice books. Although students in K-2 will be read a PRC book each week during their library lesson, children can also borrow a book from the library to read at home.
- Years 3 – 6 are required to read a total of 20 books (at least 15 from the PRC list and may include up to 5 personal choice books). All students are being encouraged to enter this year and receive recognition for their reading efforts.

Class teachers have issued interested students with their PRC reading sheets. When recording the information on the students’ record sheets, please make sure you write the title and author of the book.

All students entering the Premier’s Reading Challenge will receive a PRC certificate from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). The certificate shows the student’s name and school. Only the student’s name will appear in the Honour Roll (published in the Sun Herald newspaper), with no other identifying factors. **Students who do not wish to receive a DEC certificate or be on the Honour Roll should not register for the Challenge.** For more information about the Premiers Reading Challenge visit the official website at: [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/)

Mrs J. Muir,
Teacher Librarian

**Scholastic Book Club, 2013**

Welcome to Book Club for 2013. Book Club is run by Scholastic Australia. Usually, eight issues are sent out each year (two per term). Depending on the age of your child, he or she will receive either:-

Wombat and Lucky - Kindergarten and Year 1
Luck and Arrow - Years 2,3,4
Arrow and Star - Years 5 and 6

Volunteers from our school P & C Association distribute the order forms to the children and then collect the money and orders directly from Scholastic. Every child in the school receives at least two order forms.

Should you wish to order, please return the order form together with your preferred method of payment **by the due date. Late orders will not be accepted.** The order forms should be clearly marked with your child’s **name and class.** For those able to do so, please pay by **cheque or credit card.** If you must pay by cash, please enclose the correct money in an envelope. Please understand this request is to ensure the security of your money. The form/s and payment method are to be sent to the school in a securely sealed envelope clearly marked **Book Club and with your child’s name and class on the envelope.**

Please ensure that you order separately for each child. If there is insufficient money to cover the order, the entire order will be returned to you.

Scholastic Australia will endeavour to fill all orders. Sometimes there may be a delay or they may be out of stock. In this instance, they usually send your child a credit slip for the amount and you may order at another time.

Finally, should you have any questions please leave your name with the office or come and see us. As we now order online, we are entitled to receive free books for our library with every order placed. This has resulted in many boxes of free books for all our children to enjoy. Thank you to all who have supported Book Club in the
past, and to all the new families, welcome.

Jessica Muir              Sharon Moore
Teacher/Librarian        Book Club Co-Ordinator

Year 6 Parents
This week your child would have returned home from school with the High School Expression of Interest forms. We recommend that each parent looks carefully at these forms and starts to consider what High School would be best suited to your child. Many of the High Schools in our local area are holding open days or parent event sessions. For more information regarding these events, please refer to the High Schools website.

High School Year 6 Open Days / Parent Evenings

Holroyd High School – Tuesday 12th March.
Students and parents are welcome to attend from 9.45am – 1pm.
Greystanes High School – Wednesday 13th March

Thank you
Mrs Muir

Canteen News

Many thanks for all your orders, many Kindergarten children are now ordering and experimenting with different lunch ideas.
Just a few reminders please:
• We can not accept foreign currency.
• Our hours are from 8.30am-2pm only.
• Lunch orders must be in by 9.30am and Munch monitor orders by 9.00am
• Notes greater than $10.00 can not be changed in the morning.
• Ice blocks and Hot chocolate can not be ordered at recess or lunch.
• K-2 may order recess but can not come to the canteen to buy at recess.
• Years 3-6 may buy from the canteen at recess but their recess can not be ordered.

Please encourage your children to inform their teacher if they have not received their ordered lunch or recess, or if they have left their lunch at home. If we know of any lunch issues we can fix the problem straight away.

Thank you
Ghil Cimjotta
Canteen Supervisor