February
21  PSSA Begins
28  Clean up Australia day

March
4   P & C and AGM Meeting
5   Best Start Assessment Workshop
4   Zone swimming carnival
13  Selective high school exam
17  Year 6 Open Day at Merrylands High School
26  School photos

Principals News

This year our school has been given the opportunity to work closely with the Parramatta Eels on a number of programs to encourage positive behaviour in our students. We are very fortunate to have both the “Eels educate” and “Slingshot” programs starting this term. Students are taught, encouraged and supported with social skills, making positive behaviour choices and staying “On Track”. On Monday 24th February, players from the Eels will be speaking to all our students from Years One to Six about positive behaviour choices. I’d like to thank the Eels for their ongoing support of our school.

On Wednesday 5th March at 9.00am, Mrs Hensley will be presenting a “Best Start Kindergarten Assessment” workshop for parents. At this meeting, parents will receive a feedback report of what their child’s teacher has learned about their child. The workshop will also cover ideas and ways to assist your children in their learning. A note will be sent home shortly to all Kindergarten families.

The 2014 PSSA competition begins this Friday 21st February. Students are reminded that there is an expectation that their behaviour will be exemplary as they are representing our school. All PSSA players must wear full school sports uniform including a school hat. Notes were sent home to all students and these need to be returned to their coaches.

Yesterday we held our “Meet the teacher” and Parent Forum afternoon. Thank you to all the parents who joined us and took part in the discussions which were held to discuss positive behaviour, bullying, responsibilities and consequences. These are important issues which affect our community and working together allows us to move forward towards a positive outcome for all. Thank you to Mrs Gawthorne and Mr Whitefield for their efforts. As a result, we will publish a
revised version of our school anti-bullying plan and student well-being policy. Copies will be sent home to all families and published on our school’s website.

We held our Annual Swimming Carnival last Wednesday. All students who attended the carnival had the opportunity to take part in water activities as supervised activities were organised for our non-swimmers. It was great to see so many parents join us at the pools to cheer on all our students. Thank you to Mr Hawkins, Miss Avgerinos, Mrs Sciberras and all staff who made the day such a success. The Zone Swimming Carnival has been organised for the 4th March. All students who will be competing will have a note sent home soon.

Congratulations on your excellent results: Alexandria Smith, Abbey Brien, Emily O’Brien, Lachlan Derwin and Matthew Elakcnouch and your wonderful effort Fayez Amer, Acalia Yaniuk, Jorja Pettitt, Anaru Warren and Natalie Lillis.

Scripture classes began on Tuesday 18th February for all our students. Once again thank you to our Scripture teachers for their support of our school. This year scripture will take place from 11.30am-12.00pm for K-2 children, 12.00-12.30pm for Stage 2 and 12.30-1.00pm for Stage 3.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th March at 7.00pm in the school library. We look forward to seeing lots of parents at this meeting and encourage parents of our new kindergarten children to join us for a coffee and discussion about what is happening at Guildford West.

Our School Banking day is Friday. If you would like your child to start school banking packages are available at the office. Please place bank books in the letterbox at the office before 9.00am each Friday morning.

The Athlete’s Foot at Parramatta and Merrylands have very kindly continued a Parents and Friends Incentive Program with our school. If you are considering purchasing new school shoes (or any other type of shoe) please consider visiting the Athlete’s Foot. Every pair of shoes sold to a Guildford West Public School family sees $5 donated back to our school. Please remember that it is an expectation that students wear black joggers or school shoes as part of our school uniform.

A reminder to all parents that our school now has its own smartphone app available for download in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Download this App to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Guildford West Public School. It features Events, News, School Newsletters, Parent eForms and push notifications direct from the school.

If you are considering having your child take leave (a holiday) from school please visit the office to complete an application form. The Department of Education and Communities attendance policy states that leave 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.**

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.

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

Some important dates for your diary:
- 24th February Eels Positive behaviour talks.
- 4th March 7pm P&C Annual General Meeting
- 4th March Zone Swimming Carnival
- 5th March Best Start Assessment Parent Workshop
- 17th March Year 6 Open Day at Merrylands High School
- 26th March School Photos

Yours sincerely,

P. Cassimatis
Principal

**Kindergarten News**

Now that our kindergarten classes are settled, we’d like to extend a very warm welcome to all our families, both old and new! Students have been busy making new friends and learning about each other. Some have already visited Mrs Cassimatis to show her some very special work!

Starting next week, Monday 24th February, Kindergarten students will be able to visit the canteen at lunchtime. Please don’t send large amounts of money with your child – 50 cents for a Super Dooper ice block is a good start!

Next week we will also be presenting our kindergarten Best Start assessment feedback session for parents. We hope to see a lot of our kindergarten parents there.

Please ensure you have labelled ALL of your child’s belongings, including drink bottles and hats, with their full name. Lost property is quickly growing in the
kindergarten classrooms and it is very hard for us to return missing items if they aren’t labelled.

Library News

Library lessons have started and some students have been able to borrow books to take home and enjoy with their family. Before a student will be allowed to borrow a book from the library, they will need to have a library bag.

A variety of library bags can be purchased from any major shop such as K Mart, Target or Big W. Alternatively, a library bag with the school emblem can be purchased from Merrylands West School & Workwear Centre – Shop 9-10 Coolibah Centre, Sherwood Road, Merrylands for $10.00.

Class library times are:

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The library will also be open for students to return and borrow library books 2nd half of lunch.

Thank you

Mrs Desley Elderton
(Relieving Teacher Librarian)
bullying policies. It is wonderful to see families actively involved in school life!


Thank you to **Mrs Pettitt (Jorja’s mum 3/4W)** for sharing photos from the swimming carnival. Be sure to check our website for regular updates and photos. [www.guildfordw-schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.guildfordw-schools.nsw.edu.au). If you have anything you’d like to share with the school community – photos, ideas, suggestions, please email them through to me [Sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Sharon.furness1@det.nsw.edu.au) or drop them off on a USB stick (please send with a label so your USB can be returned).

Mrs Sharon Furness
Community Engagement Officer

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**GWPS iPhone and Android App**

Simply search for ‘Guildford West Public School’ in the [App Store](https://apps.apple.com) or [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com) and download and install for free to your device. After the app is installed on your phone, make sure you select "OK" to allow push notifications. Also, click on "More" then "Setup" to select which grades you would like to receive push notifications for.

Or

Scan the QR code and download our free smartphone mobile app to enjoy instant communication and information about our school.
western Sydney youth theatre project

presents:

back to the 80's

...the totally awesome musical!

orientation session

Come to Guildford West Public School and meet the WSYTP Team that will be putting on this totally awesome show!

where: Palmer St, Guildford West
when: February 27th
Time: 6:30pm

For more info call Sharon on 0413814222

written by Neil Gooding

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additional material by Stuart Smith

revised orchestrations and arrangements by Brett Foster
original musical adaptation by Scott Copeman

www.wsytp.org.au