Dear parents,

**School Development Days** in Term 2 will be held on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30. In the school's calendar on the website, the previously advertised dates of June 11 and 12 are no longer applicable and these will be normal school days for students of GPS. The reason for the change of dates is related to the school's need to undertake learning in the area of the new national curriculum. On Monday, April 29 we will be undertaking learning about ‘Teaching for the new curriculum,’ whilst on Tuesday we will begin to ‘unpack’ the new English curriculum to consider how we will approach using this valuable resource with students. The second school development day on the Tuesday has been added to the calendar of all schools as a special day for the school community to learn about and consider ways of implementing the new national curriculum. This day has been implemented as a result of cooperation between the federal and state governments and their departments that are responsible for education.

The School Development Days do have opportunity for parents to be involved. A special letter outlining more details about the days is being sent home with this newsletter. Additionally, all community members are invited to participate in the two days of learning. Parents who have further questions or who would like to talk about their involvement are invited to telephone the school or to call in and we will try to assist.

Whilst the special letter also does so, I would like to thank all parents for their cooperation in making other arrangements for their children on these two days. We did carefully consider the fact that siblings of students attending Plumpton HS will have different dates for their school development days to their siblings attending GPS, but, at the same time, for the first time in some years, those students who have elder brothers or sisters attending one of the many other high schools we ‘feed’ into will have the same days.

**Easter Hat Parade** – by the time you read this newsletter, the Easter Hat Parade will have finished for another year. Congratulations to all students and their families who won one of the many, many, many prizes. On behalf of Miss Hannon, our coordinator, I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day by donating an Easter egg. As always, there was a huge donation of eggs and these have now been redistributed as the prizes. Thank you to all parents and family members who came along to the parade- your involvement makes it very special for the students. The event was timetabled to later in the day as a result of the responses to our evaluation of last year’s parade and we hope the new time was more suitable to everyone.

**ANZAC Day** – This year we will be holding our ANZAC day ceremony on Friday, April 12. We once again invite all interested parents to join us on this most solemn occasion. The ceremony will be held at 9.30 am in the school hall and will be coordinated by the members of our school’s student representative council.

**Students and Medical Needs** – We have a large number of students who have special medical needs. Some of these are quite mild whilst some are most severe. I would like to remind parents of the following responsibilities that parents have when their children have special medical needs:
- The school needs to be informed in writing – this can be done on the enrolment form, through a

<table>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>March 28th</th>
<th>Grandparents Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>April 2nd</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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parent written letter or through a special medical plan prepared by the child’s doctor.

- No matter what the nature of the medical needs, we need to be made very clearly aware of what special steps need to be taken as precautionary measures or at times of medical emergency. These steps should be in a letter/medical plan prepared by the child’s doctor. We can provide a form for doctors to complete to assist in this regard.

- All contact details of parents and emergency contacts must be updated regularly and whenever phone contacts change. One of our biggest concerns here at school is when students need medical help and parents are not able to be contacted. When this occurs, we have no other choice than to escalate our response and to consult ambulance and emergency care.

- Parents are responsible for providing medications and any emergency supplies such as Epipens. Additionally, as these kinds of items do have a ‘use by’ date, parents are responsible for providing new items when and if necessary.

- When a child has an ‘allergy’ that means that contact with something will cause an adverse reaction in the child. Please do not include as allergies, items that a child does not ‘like’ to eat eg spinach.

Finally, I ask you to understand that teachers and school administration officers are not medical practitioners. We are trained in emergency first aid and CPR but this is only sufficient background to allow us to try to sustain life until trained medical personnel can be consulted. It is our practice, in caring for students to contact parents whenever we are aware that a child:

- suffers a head injury;
- suffers what appears to be a ‘break’ or serious injury;
- is in sick bay and appears to need medical help or is becoming increasingly distressed; and
- has suffered a toileting ‘accident’ and requires changing.

In emergencies we telephone for an ambulance and then contact parents.

Athletics Carnival – A BIG reminder that the athletics carnival is on Tuesday, April 2. In the event of a need to postpone the carnival (as a result of rain), a message will be posted on the school website by 8.00am.