Dear parents,

Parents in the School Grounds can be a big asset to a school, even if only to show students that parents are welcomed and they do cooperate with teachers. Recently, we have had some events that have seen parents talk directly to students – other than their own children – to discuss issues or to provide some kind of behaviour modification. Please understand that some schools do NOT allow parents into their schools in the mornings or afternoons – this is not a good direction for any school and considering the many, many parents that visit our school on a daily basis it is not something we ever want to see happen at GPS.

Entry to school grounds is a privilege and we all need to respect some common values about our interactions with others whilst here. In extreme cases an Enclosed Lands Act letter (which is a legal direction to stay out of a school setting – similar to an AVO) can be issued to those very rare and individual adults who cannot conform to the school and community expectations and may be scaring children.

As a school, we have a goal of providing a safe, secure environment for all students and this means that we need to be able to assure all parents that other adults will not approach their children or do anything to make any students feel unsafe.

If any parent has any concern about the behaviour of any student in this school, please report the matter to a teacher. It is the role of teachers to solve any issues. Lately, there have been some issues where parents have become involved and then it has become an ‘adult issue’ that is even harder for teachers to try to resolve.

As a guide:

- If it occurs, report any hurtful behaviour by other students towards your children to the teacher (teacher on playground duty or class teacher)
- Report any incidents sooner, rather than later so that we can gain witness views and to ensure students have as clear a memory as is possible;
- If any student speaks to you in an impolite manner, refer the matter to a teacher
- Please do not speak to any student with whom you do not have a friendly relationship – you may be very well intentioned but they might also be very scared of being confronted by an unknown adult
- If your child reports an incident to you, please understand that they will present their view – other children will present other views and the role of teachers is to analyse these and take whatever steps are necessary
- Obviously, under no circumstances ever touch a child.
Let’s keep our school a happy, busy and an all-welcoming one where parents can come along at virtually anytime and be part of the life of the school. Let’s keep our school one where students – including your children – feel safe and let’s keep our school as one where when students see or experience something that is wrong, they know that issues can be resolved in a fair, respectful and effective manner.

**A Follow-Up Report from our Dental Health Team** has come through to the school and I present the major findings for you below.

*Thank you for allowing the Blacktown- Mt Druitt Hospital Dental Team to carry out Dental Assessments at your school on 12.2.2015*

The dental staff conducted 209 assessments on the day. (approx 61 % return rate)

101 of these children require a follow up appointment.

11 of which we feel are in more urgent need of care and are being contacted for an immediate appointment.

The remainder of the children will also be contacted to be offered an appointment.

Your assistance in this program is greatly appreciated.

It is scary indeed to note that virtually half of the students checked need dental appointments to have work undertaken. These results should serve as a timely reminder to all of us to ensure we have that 6 or 12 monthly check-up that always seems so scary!

D. Meaney

Principal

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**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 March</td>
<td><strong>Payments due</strong> for ‘Young Leaders Day’ by 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting – 7.30pm - All welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 17 March</strong></td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 March</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly – 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 March</td>
<td><strong>Payments due</strong> for Kindergarten Excursion by 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23 March</td>
<td>‘Young Leaders Day’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 March</td>
<td>Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 31 March</strong></td>
<td>K-2 Assembly - 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 April</td>
<td>Talent Quest Final - 11.50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade - 1.40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This week at GPS, we had the talent quest registrations. We were very pleased to have so many enthusiastic students at GPS wanting to showcase their talents! Students who signed up to audition will receive a notification of their performance date on **Friday 13th March, Week 7**. Students will be allocated a lunch time either in Week 8 or 9, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. It is important that these slips are kept in a safe place, in order for them to remember what day their audition is.

The talent quest auditions will begin next **Monday 16th March, Week 8** and continue until **Thursday 26th March, Week 9**. Please remember, students need to be prepared on their allocated audition day with a CD and props, as necessary. All students wishing to support their peers and see the auditions, will be asked to pay **20 cents** each lunch time, in the hall.

We look forward to seeing these acts. Goodluck!

Miss Gorman and Miss Bedwell
Talent Quest Co-ordinators

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**GPS Aboriginal Education Committee 2015**

We would like to welcome back existing GPS AEC members and extend an invitation to any parents or carers that are interested in becoming members for 2015.

The committee includes GPS staff and community, who share the common goal of ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at GPS are supported to achieve high outcomes.

On the 18 March (Week 8) at 10am, we will be holding a morning tea, for any new or old members that are able to come. Subsequent meetings will occur each term. If you would like to be a member but are not able to make it, please send a note with your child to Miss Howard, stating your name and email address, so you can be kept up to date with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific issues within the school, and invitations to discuss future direction and events at GPS.
Last Day of Term 1  Thursday 2 April 2015 – School Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 – 10.55</td>
<td>Morning Session in the Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.55 – 11.10</td>
<td>Eating Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10 – 11.30</td>
<td>1st Half Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 – 11.50</td>
<td>2nd Half Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.50 – 1.10</td>
<td>Talent Quest in the hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 – 1.30</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 – 1.40</td>
<td>Students in the classroom to get ready for Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40 – 3.00</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade in the Courtyard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents are invited to attend each event and may also wish to come for lunch and stay for afternoon tea.

**Talent Quest Finals**

Talent Quest Finals will be held in the School Hall where students will display their creative talents.

**Annual Hat Parade**

For the Hat Parade, all students from K-6 are invited to participate by wearing a decorated hat or mask, or they may decorate and carry a basket. Students may bring hats to school in the morning or parents can bring them in later. Please do not deliver these to the office. If it is a hot day, please DO NOT decorate hats and baskets with chocolate eggs.

The Hat Parade will begin in the main courtyard at approximately 1.40pm after classes assemble around the edge of the courtyard. Parents can sit on the chairs provided. The parade and competition draw are expected to finish at approximately 2.45pm. **ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO STAY UNTIL THE END OF SCHOOL.**

We will endeavour to continue, if there is wet weather, by keeping students under cover.

**Hat Parade Guessing Competition**

A successful fundraising event that is held every year in conjunction with the Hat Parade is the guessing competition. Prizes include at least three baskets full of eggs and other goodies. The chocolate eggs for the baskets are generously donated by the students. Last year we managed to have approximately 20 big prizes and a number of smaller as a result of the students being so generous.

To encourage donations of eggs we will be having a Mufti Day on Monday, 30 March 2015. On this day children do not have to wear school uniform but may wear other neat, tidy clothes of their choice. Appropriate footwear must also be worn. The donation for wearing mufti clothes is an **Easter egg of medium size or larger** for the raffle baskets. Guessing competition tickets have been sent home. Please return them to school on or before Thursday, 2 April 2015.

Grandparents Day will be celebrated on Friday 24 April 2015 this year along with the ANZAC Day ceremony.

Mrs Suri, Miss Williams and Miss Horner

Coordinators
Area Specific Rules – Assembly and Lining Up

This week, students have learnt about the area specific rules of the office. Please ask your child how they can be Safe, Respectful Learners in this area.

CYB @ School Winner

Well done to Kayhan of 6K who was caught being a LEARNER!

CYB @ Home Winner

Well done to Ronit from K/1M who was caught being RESPECTFUL by “tidying his room”.

Chicken Coop in the Morning

We have noticed that there are quite a few students looking at the chickens in the morning, which is great! We encourage families and little ones to enjoy this part of our school. What we do request though, is to remind your children that they are not permitted to be on the grass area, or along the pathway in front of the Year 1 rooms. We ask that students do not go any further than the door of Room 3.

You will notice a yellow line along the concrete near this area, and during lunch and afternoon tea, this line indicates to students that anything beyond the line, is out of bounds. Teachers on duty in the morning (usually members of the Leadership Team), will be diligently monitoring this area, to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. Teachers will also be reminding their students about the specific rules of this area, during the morning time.

The PBL Team welcomes all feedback – please contact a member to share your thoughts.
**Values Lessons**

During Term Two, students will work through values lessons, based on the 9 core values from the National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools. The values link directly with our three school values, **Safe, Respectful** and **Learner**. Lessons have been created for each of the four stages. The context for each stage becomes bigger as the students get older, (ES1-home, S1-class, S2-school and S3-community).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFE</th>
<th>RESPECTFUL</th>
<th>LEARNER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care and compassion</td>
<td>Fair go</td>
<td>Doing your best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Honesty and trustworthiness</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Understanding, tolerance and inclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ONE-TIME POLICY**

GPS teachers implement a ‘one-time’ policy that involves students being asked to comply with a direction the first time it is given. Teachers will need to ascertain each student’s ability to comprehend and act on each direction or request to reinforce this expectation.

In implementing the ‘one-time’ policy, expectations across the K - 6 range will heighten the rights and responsibilities of teachers and students and ensure they are being clearly communicated to everyone. It indicates to all concerned that there is a very clear, expected process to be followed, with achievable outcomes of mutual benefit to all.
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REMINDERS

PAYMENTS
When sending payments to school please ensure the CORRECT AMOUNT of money is enclosed in a separate envelope for each activity. **PLEASE PUT ONLY ONE ACTIVITY IN EACH ENVELOPE.** (If more than one activity is placed in an envelope your child may miss out on participating).

Clearly mark each envelope with:
- your child’s name
- your child’s class
- name of activity please put the permission note inside the envelope.

A separate permission note is required for each child in the family.

Please make payments before the due date as paying late will result in your child missing an activity.
All money is to be deposited in the payment slot in the door at the Admin Office.
If additional envelopes are required, they are available at a cost of 20cents each.

MESSAGES REGARDING LATE COLLECTION OF STUDENT
Please phone **before 2.30pm** with any messages if you will be late picking up your child.

SCHOOL CANTEEN
The canteen operates on Monday to Friday each week.
Any payments or orders for the canteen should be taken directly to the canteen.

LUNCHES
If parents need to bring lunches to school after 9.00am, we would ask that you wait until 11.15am, when you will be able to gain a pass to your child’s class and then be able to take the lunch to your child.

EARLY LEAVERS
When signing children out early of an afternoon, for appointments etc, parents are asked to do so **before 2.45pm.** Students will not be signed out after this time.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
Mondays: 8.30am to 9.00am
Fridays: 8.30am to 9.30am

SCHOOL CAR PARK
Parents are reminded that the school car park is for STAFF PARKING ONLY.
Parents are asked not to drop children off in the car park, park in or walk through the car park.
There is a gate near the administration office for pedestrian access.