Dear parents,

There are quite a few items for mention in this newsletter.

**District Athletics Representatives** – Congratulations to the students who represented GPS at the recent District athletics carnival – Mrs Rowe will include an article outlining those students who won places in their various events.

**Thank you to All Students and Families** who contributed to our Crazy Hair Loud Shirt Day last week. These are two of our main charities and the response was quite good. The third aspect of our day revolved around ‘Jersey Day’ which focusses on organ donation. No doubt there are a number of families that either have or will gain some benefit from this aspect of medical research and care. As one parent said to me in an email, ‘Jersey Day is all about promoting donor awareness and getting families to talk about it.’ So I encourage all families to consider doing this.

**Oh No! – Drop-Off Zone Again** – Thank you to those drivers who leave space for the Rooty Hill Before and After Care Mini-bus each afternoon (although this is a private bus) the consideration regularly shown by drivers to leave a space and ensure safety of students boarding the bus is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, however, we seem to have increasing problems with concerns from community members that some people stop for too long in the zone, that others double park and endanger their children by getting them to enter the driver-side door and lastly that a small minority of drivers use abusive language and/or signs when they becoming angry or frustrated. On behalf of the school and community I would like to ask that:

- All drivers remember that there are students about – some as young as six – and many unsupervised – please place their care and safety in front of your need to get somewhere on time;
- All community members avoid becoming involved in an argument and/or walk away from people using abusive language – this is a much better model for students follow; and
- Any concerns anyone has with the behaviour of drivers in the drop-off zone should be directed to the Blacktown City Council parking rangers.

**School Plan 2015-17 – Strategic Direction 2 – Inspired Quality Teaching**

The aim of Strategic Direction 2 is to develop a dynamic school-wide professional team of teachers and leaders who have personal and collective efficacy and responsibility for the educational outcomes and well-being of all students.
Our staff will undertake targeted, explicit and innovative professional learning to improve our collective capacity to meet our students individualised learning, social and emotional needs. We seek to ensure inspired, quality teaching and learning is delivered to every student, every day.

To help us achieve this, we are focusing on two main areas: the Australian Professional Standards/Performance Development Framework and Planning, Assessing, Teaching and Reporting.

Staff have been trained in the Australian Professional Standards/Performance Development Framework and all teachers have worked with their supervisors to produce individual performance development plans. These plans include specific goals, based on our school plan, that guide the improvement of their professional practice and capacity to increase student learning. Staff are aware of the Australian Professional Standards against which their performance is assessed and all are gathering evidence to show that they have achieved their goals.

All teachers have been involved in professional learning about the use of data from quality assessment tasks to drive effective teaching and learning programs. We are currently in the process of evaluating our current assessment and reporting practices to make them more effective and relevant.

Some of the practices that we are developing include:
- Learning intentions and success criteria are being integrated into lessons – students are being told what it is that they are learning and how they will know that they have achieved it;
- Students and staff reflecting and reporting on their achievement of their learning goals; and
- Differentiation – lessons being adjusted and refined to meet the needs of all students and increased parental involvement in the setting of learning goals for their children.

As a result of our work in this area, we aim to increase the capacity of our:
- students to become confident, independent, resilient, reflective, critical-thinkers, risk-takers and problem-solvers who demonstrate initiative and perseverance and are able to reflect on their learning;
- staff to set individual performance management goals, take responsibility for their professional learning, monitor their progress, seek guidance and feedback and work collaboratively to improve learning outcomes for all students and to effectively cater for the learning needs of all students by differentiating content, products or processes as necessary;
- leaders to work collaboratively with teachers to provide individualised support, professional learning and assistance with accreditation processes; and
- parents to work in partnership with teachers to meet the needs of students.

Premier’s Spelling Bee – Regional Finals – Congratulations to Matthew N and Sharan S of 3/4F who represented our school in the Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) finals and Alyssa J and Saloni J of 6G who represented our school in the Stage 3 finals, held at Quakers Hill PS on Tuesday of this week. Matthew made it through to Round 2 (he was challenged by the word ‘pious’) and Sharon to Round 6 (she got stumped by ‘onyx’). Saloni made it to Round 5 (bowing out on ‘contradictory’) and Alyssa to Round 6 (where she was confronted by the word ‘suppurate’)! All students were fantastic representatives for our school – they tried very hard and should be proud of their excellent efforts!

Have a good week,

D Meaney

Principal
Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</table>
| Friday     | September 11  | **Payment due** for K-Year 1 Fun Afternoon  
**Last day to order** a Sausage Sizzle for Gala Day  
**Last day to order** *Golden Griffin Currency* for Gala Day |
| Tuesday    | September 15  | K-2 Assembly - 2.00pm  
K-2 Disco - 4.30pm - 6.00pm  
Years 3-6 Disco - 6.30pm - 8.00pm |
| Wednesday  | September 16  | **Payment due** for ‘Jollybops Science Show’ |
| Thursday   | September 17  | Years 3-6 Assembly - 2.00pm |
| Friday     | September 18  | Gala Day  
Last day of Term 3 |
| Term 4     | October 6     | School resumes for students and staff |
| Tuesday    | October 6     | School resumes for students and staff |
| Thursday   | October 8     | Jollybops Science Show |

Gala Day

Gala Day will be held on Friday 18 September, 2015 (Week 10) to raise money for the Year 6 Farewell. Students can wear mufti clothes to school. Please note that secondary students are not permitted to attend this event.

Miss Milledge on behalf of Stage 3 Teachers

Year 6 Farewell Committee

As the end of the year fast approaches, it is time to start organising our Year 6 Farewell. If your child is in Year 6 and you would like to assist with the organisation of the Year 6 Farewell 2015, please see any Year 6 teacher. Our first committee meeting will be held on Thursday 8 October, 2015 (Term 4 Week 1) at 3.15pm in Room 16.

Miss Milledge on behalf of Year 6 Teachers

Woolworths Earn And Learn

Thank you to all parents and students for collecting the Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers.

Please ensure all stickers are placed in the front office this week as they need to be collated and sent back to Woolworths by the end of Week 10.
2015 ICAS Spelling – Results
This year 24 students participated in the Spelling exam.
A big congratulations to the following students:

Subawitha E 3/4F - HIGH DISTINCTION
Emileeh F 3/4F - DISTINCTION
Sharan S 3/4F - DISTINCTION
Krishna C 5/6M - DISTINCTION
Samarvir B 3/4F - CREDIT
Salvin S 3R - CREDIT
Rida N 4L - CREDIT
Vansh A 5/6M - CREDIT
Hayley C 5/6M - CREDIT
Mehak K 5F - CREDIT
Riya S 3/4F - MERIT
Saanya S 5/6M - MERIT

Well done to all students who took the time to sit this exam!

Mrs France 😊

2015 ICAS Writing – Results
This year 22 students participated in the Writing exam.
A big congratulations to the following students:

Subawitha E 3/4F - DISTINCTION
Pavaki M 3/4F - DISTINCTION
Salvin S 3R - CREDIT
Deepinderjit K 3/4F - CREDIT
Sharan S 3/4F - CREDIT
Rida N 4L - CREDIT
Riya S 3/4F - CREDIT
Saanya S 5/6M - CREDIT
Ishmeet S 3R - MERIT
Anneliese E 5/6M - MERIT

SCHOOL DISCO

15-9-15

The theme for the disco is Black Out, so wear black clothing to make your glow sticks stand out. It will be held on Tuesday 15 September, 2015 (Week 10).

On the Night

Admission price: $5 which includes a packet of chips and a drink. Tickets will available for purchase on the night, at the entrance to the disco.

4:15-4:30pm  Glow sticks on sale in the front office
4:30-6pm  K-2 Disco
6:15-6:30pm  Glow sticks on sale in the front office
6:30-8pm  3-6 Disco
What is Genius Hour?

Genius Hour is time set aside for students to study their passion, or investigate a new area of interest.

Actually, it isn’t really that simple. Genius Hour is giving students the hardest assignment they’ve ever had: to direct their own learning and discover their genius. They’re going to ask questions teachers can’t answer and wonder things we have never thought of to teach.

Why is Genius Hour important?

Students take ownership of their own learning. They learn about something they want to learn. Genius Hour sparks curiosity, and students have an opportunity to become their own Genius. Genius Hour encourages life-long learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness and adaptability, as well as other life-lessons.

How will Genius Hour work at GPS?

Students can choose to participate in Genius Hour first half of lunch Tuesday to Friday each week. Initially students will be involved in discussions to brainstorm appropriate Genius Hour Projects and to fine tune their ideas.

There are only 3 basic requirements that you, as a student, need to participate:

1. Have a question you are passionate about.
2. Be prepared to research.
3. Be prepared to do something with your research (e.g.: produce a presentation, write a letter to government, create and present a speech etc. - anything students want, the sky’s the limit).

Want to know more about this initiative?

Refer to:

http://www.geniushour.com/2013/03/31/genius-hour-project-introductions/

Mrs France & Miss Hoskins
Zoo Whiz

Our school is participating in the ZooWhiz Learning Community Subscription Plan. Through the Community Subscription Plan our school now has free access to ZooWhiz Learning (www.zoowhiz.com) during school hours.

If you wish, parents are able to access ZooWhiz at home at a very special price by using the Home Access Discount Card. Please note: The ZooWhiz Learning Home Access Discount Card must be used to activate a subscription by 19/10/2015 as it will expire after this date.

ZooWhiz is the new, intelligent, automated online learning system that enables you to support your child’s progress in maths, spelling, word skills and reading.

The ZooWhiz Home Access Discount Cards have been distributed to children (eldest only) today. If you are unable to locate yours then please contact the office.

Should you have any questions about ZooWhiz, please speak to Mrs Lindsay. (Room 21)
Well done to Tracy of 2P who was being a LEARNER!

Well done to Daniel of 4L who was being RESPECTFUL!

Griffin Goal for the next two weeks:

I will be respectful and not disturb others

ALL students will be working towards this Griffin Goal for the next two weeks. Our data shows us, that our problem behaviour of highest incidence is ‘mild disruption’. Please chat to your child/ren about WHY they should follow the Griffin Goal, at school and at home!

Griffin Goal (W6-W8) Feedback

Our previous Griffin Goal was “I will be a Safe, Respectful Learner all day”. As a product of our whole school focus on this Griffin Goal, we are very pleased to share some positive data:

• Incidents occurring at Afternoon Tea dropped 10.61%
• Playground incidents dropped by 29.59%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PBL Coordinator</th>
<th>Miss Howard</th>
<th>Support Rep</th>
<th>Ms Summerrell</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES1 Representative</td>
<td>Miss Horner</td>
<td>Social Skills</td>
<td>Miss Pillen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1 Representative</td>
<td>Miss Pinski</td>
<td>S1 Representative</td>
<td>Miss Waller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2 Representative</td>
<td>Mrs Lumley</td>
<td>Growing Together</td>
<td>Miss Fenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3 Representative</td>
<td>Miss Pillen</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Mr Meaney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFF Teacher</td>
<td>Miss Seychell</td>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>Laura Anderson</td>
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</tbody>
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Little Fishes Swim Scheme Update

Throughout the term, over 90 students have been participating in the swim scheme at Little Fishes Swim School. Students have been learning, and consolidating, water safety and survival skills and developing accurate technique in Freestyle and Backstroke. Each week students have displayed enthusiasm and enjoyment for learning to swim, and it has been pleasing to witness their improvement.

As Monday 14 September is the final lesson, parents and carers are welcome to come and watch their child. The times are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Lesson Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Years 3-6</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kindergarten, K/1M and 1S</td>
<td>10.00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 1B, 1W, 1/2H and Year 2</td>
<td>10.30 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Little Fishes Swim School is located at 8 Florence Street, Oakhurst 2761.
Double Parked

Stopping includes when the vehicle is not moving but the engine is still running

School Zone
Fine from $319 + 2 demerit points

All other roads
Fine from $248

For more information contact the Blacktown City Council on 9839 6000
No Parking
Kiss and Ride

You can stop only if you drop off or pick up passengers, or goods.
AND
you must not stop for more than 2 minutes
AND
the driver must not be more than 3 metres from the vehicle.

Stopping includes when the vehicle is not moving but the engine is still running

School Zone
Fine from $177 + 2 demerit points

All other roads
Fine from $106

For more information contact the Blacktown City Council on 9839 6000
Casual Work

School Crossing Supervisors – Work with your community
Casual position – Blacktown LGA (00003W2P)

An important person in a child’s school life is the School Crossing Supervisor, who ensures they cross the road safely. The role requires minimal hours out of your day and gives something worthwhile back to the community.

The hours are usually 8.00am to 9.30am and/or 2.30 to 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school terms. The base rate is $21.37 - $25.65 per hour.

All the qualifications you need are community spirit, good communication skills, an alert and professional attitude to work and a reliable personality. The casual hours and school holidays would suit a parent or grandparent, a retiree or anyone wanting meaningful work — but not full-time.

Training for your key responsibilities of directing traffic to stop at the designated crossing and giving clear instructions to infants and primary school students to cross the road safely, will be provided. You may be required to attend a health assessment. Appointment is subject to a Working with Children Check clearance.

Roads and Maritime Services is an equal opportunity employer.

For further information on this exciting opportunity please call 1300 305 855 or go to jobs.nsw.gov.au.

Applications close Sunday 13th September 2015
**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.