Dear parents,

I am going to devote this newsletter to a number of aspects of student safety.

**Stranger Danger** – There are often times when people come to visit our school. Some people are strangers to students here. Sometimes students meet strangers outside of school hours. As we all know, sometimes there are strangers that are ‘dangerous’. At GPS, teachers regularly revise our stranger danger approach which is simply, ‘No, Go, Tell’. Students are told that if someone approaches them and makes them feel threatened they should simply say no to that person, go to someone or somewhere they know is safe, and to then report the matter as clearly as they can. If your child ever needs to do this, please come into the office and let us know it has happened and we will put reporting processes in place to try to avoid similar things happening again.

**Parents – Be on Time** – Many parents pick their children up each day from school. If you are coming to collect your child, please be punctual as children do worry if those who are coming to collect them are late. Also, if you are asking someone else to collect them, ideally you should ensure it is someone the child knows because if the child becomes apprehensive, we will not release them to that person. Some parents even tell the child and the person collecting them a password which they share or even provide a picture or something that the child being collected will be able to use as a ‘check’ to make sure the adult is one they can trust and one who has a connection to their parent.

**Evacuations, Lock-Outs and Lock-Downs.** GPS school community practises these regularly. We implement these to isolate students from what we perceive as a danger. Every time we run one of these we do it as a ‘drill’(rehearsal), the only difference being that in a real situation, police, fire brigade and other personnel will be called. Each one of these ‘drills’ is different and important in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

- **An evacuation** occurs when for some reason we have to move all students and other people as far from the classrooms as possible. This is signalled to the school by sounding a siren. If it is a smaller/localised problem, the students will assemble in the back playground north of the basketball court. If there is a worry that there could be an explosion near the buildings, the students will be taken to the park at the rear of the school and assembled there (this is to leave the school area clear for emergency workers and to gain the maximum distance away from the buildings for students and teachers. Students will return to rooms under teacher instruction when the ‘All clear’ is determined.

- **A lock-out** occurs when someone outside the school grounds could be a threat. A number of short rings of the bell will happen and all gates and doors shut. Any students outside will proceed to their rooms. The ‘All clear’ will be sounded by a member of the school executive and they will walk around and notify classes.

- **A lock-down** occurs when a ‘threat’ exists inside the school grounds. The continuous ringing of the school bell will occur. Everyone will remain in rooms, out of sight from windows or doors. Once Lock-down is in place, the bell will stop and once the threat has been moved, the bell will ring to let everyone know it is safe to resume normal activities.

As a parent/visitor to the school, you are expected to cooperate with school personnel and follow any instructions.
**The School App. and School Website** will be the official methods of communication in the event of any of the above occurring. All parents are advised that IF we need to get a general alert to parents it will be notified via the App or website. If parents wish to use Facebook or other similar sites to communicate that is fine, but I would strongly advise that often during these practices it is imagination that grows faster than fact – please DO NOT consider a Facebook site to be the school’s official communication! Please DO NOT phone the school to ask if we are having a drill or if the situation is an actual one as your phone calls will block our phone lines.

Students will not be permitted to use phones during these times.

Finally, in a recent school evacuation (not GPS), Facebook became the main device parents referred to and they then started coming to the school wanting to take students away – the result was chaos! Please stay away from the school when any of these practices are in place – your children will be safe, well-cared for and supervised.

**Custody Papers and Emergency Contact Numbers** – During Goal-Setting conferences this week, all parents who attend will be asked to update their contact information. Where parents did not attend, a special letter will be sent home next week on Thursday. When a child is injured, sick, distressed or we need to contact parents, it is vital that your contact details are correct so please update your details here at school, whenever necessary.

Sometimes, regrettably, courts have to put custody and Apprehended Violence Orders in place to protect children. If this occurs in the case of your child, please arrange for an interview at school, bring the papers along and school staff will assist you to make sure the papers are enforced.

**Double and Triple-Parking – Illegal Turns – Endangering Your Child** – Put simply, drivers who double and triple park and then call their children to leave the kerb and walk between lines of other cars are endangering their children. Next week, school leaders will be at the front of the school and they will call back any child who attempts to endanger themselves by doing this. If you have any concerns about this, please arrange an interview to discuss your concern.

**Before and After School**. We have revised our processes in this area. All students who arrive at school before 8.30am are expected to sit on the steps at the front of the library. Parents accompanying students may stay there with their child.

Afternoon pickups from the front of the school (Armitage Drive) will be expected to leave the school at 3.00pm and to form a line along the front fence outside the office, towards the pedestrian crossing. At 3.10pm, any students NOT collected will be taken to the library steps (until 3.20pm). All students will then be moved to the staffroom and parents phoned.

Please note that if you do not collect your child until AFTER 3.10pm you will be required to sign him/her out of school.

**Students Unwell or Injured** – When we contact parents to inform them that their child is sick or injured (emergencies may also involve an ambulance) we ask that you react and attend school as soon as possible. Often, especially younger students, become very distressed when they ‘fear’ that they will not have anyone come to care for them.

**Hats** – We do have a rule that students without hats need to play in the shade – please help us to help your child/ren by ensuring they bring a hat to school – clearly labelled with their name.

**Medications** – Any medications (prescription or over the counter) must come into the school via the front office. There is a process for medication of any prescribed substances and this requires completion of paperwork. Parents are asked to administer any ‘over-the-counter’ and anti-biotic medications in out of school time (where this is NOT possible, please ensure that you consult someone in the school office). Please DO NOT allow students to bring any medications to school without the permission of the school.

Doug Meaney

Principal
DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Goal setting Conferences - Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>K-2 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly - 2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

and please put the permission note inside the envelope.

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

The TELL THEM FROM ME Student Feedback Survey – Years 4, 5 and 6

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. This survey is only open to students from Years 4, 5 and 6.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A form (to indicate if you do not want your child to participate) was sent home on Thursday of Week 4, and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is included in this newsletter. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Thursday 10 March, 2016. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Miss Howard
Tell Them From Me Coordinator
Tell Them From Me student survey
Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the Tell Them From Me student survey?

The Tell Them From Me student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for secondary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Homework behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
<td>Participation in clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
<td>Tranquility</td>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Effective learning time</td>
<td>Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Valuing school outcomes</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching rigour</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Advocacy outside school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive teacher-student relations</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child’s school has decided to participate.
4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?

The Tell Them From Me student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student’s information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.

---

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education. CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the Tell Them From Me surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Wills, Dr Wills is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Wills led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelarningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056/9561 8688/9561 8370.
**Our Griffin Goal from Wednesday Week 4 to Wednesday Week 6 is:**

**I am safe in the playground**

From Wednesday W4 to Wednesday W6 – we are having a ‘speeding blitz’ on students running on the concrete. In one week, we have caught a whopping 51 incidences of this unsafe action! This is far too much, and students who have repeated this action three times, have been referred to Social Skills, where they are with a teacher for the first half of lunch, learning the expected behaviours, and how to be safe for themselves and their peers. Please talk to your child about running on the concrete, and why it is unsafe for them, and others, to do so.

**Caught You Being – Safe, Respectful or Learner**

The winner for this week’s assembly draw was **Isabella from 6M.**

The winner for our CYB@HOME was **Alphonso from KH** for being respectful by saying please and thank you! Well done!

**Caught You Being – Safe, Respectful or Learner – AT HOME**

Once again, included in our newsletter will be CYB@HOME tokens. Please reward your children with a token below, and ask them to place in the special box in the front office. Every Monday, a token will be drawn and the student’s name will appear on this PBL page. Remember to include the child’s name and class, tick the value and write a brief description on HOW they were demonstrating the value. E.g. Billy was being a learner by completing his homework without having to be asked!
Karate Classes
Come join us for some fun and learn great life skills!

Our karate classes aim to instil young people with confidence while learning a range of skills in coordination, self defence and stranger danger from our highly skilled instructors! Karate is a fun and interactive way to get fit and meet new friends!

- Self Defence
- Discipline
- Confidence
- Fitness

When: Once a week Including School Holidays
Ages: 5 and up! Loads of FUN!
Where: Glendenning PS & other Locations

2 Free Classes When you Call & Book.
Why Pay For Classes, try 2 classes for FREE.
Nothing to lose, Everything to gain.
For more information or to book your place contact your Sensei on 0416136423

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!
2 locations
Glendenning &
Rouse Hill

STATIC
dance
STUDIOS

Check out our website
www.staticdancestudios.com.au
for registration details and
information.

classes offered
- jazz
- hip hop
- modern
- aerial
- singing
- tap (GWT)
- acrobatics
- tiny tots
- show group
- drama
- ballet (RAD)
- private lessons
- contemporary
- American style cheerleading
- fitness

3 Fully equipped, Air-conditioned Dance studios.
Student workshops offered by Worldclass Teachers
Classes from 3 years. Boys and Girls. Beginners to Advanced.

Head office: Unit 2/7 Enterprise Dr Glendenning • Ph: 9675 3256 • Mob: 0411 228 275
Rouse hill Community Centre: Clower Ave-Opposite Aderdour Rd Rouse Hill • Mob: 0434 231 511

New Students can present this flyer to receive your first 3 lessons free. *
* free lessons cannot be used for Cheerleading or Aerial classes
All classes are conducted by fully qualified teachers.

CLASSES INCLUDE:
Ballet (RAD), Tap (GWT), Hip Hop, Acrobatics, Modern/Contemporary, Drama, Singing & Eisteddfod Troupes.

Inspire • Aspire • Achieve

NOW OFFERING
Aerial-Silks, Hoop(Lyra), Spanish Web
NEW Toddler Morning classes

For further Information and Enrolment
PLEASE CONTACT Principal - Cassandra Hargraves ARAD RTS
0412 929 924 or look at our website at www.exclusivedance.com.au

STUDIO LOCATION Unit 10/155 Glendenning Rd, Glendenning
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

and please put the permission note inside the envelope.

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

Please do not fold or staple banknotes.

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.

Parents are asked to supply their own envelopes.

**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.