Welcome Back

Welcome back to 2015! I trust that your break was filled with precious time with family and friends and that you had a happy festive season. I’d like to extend a special welcome to our new families to Greenwich this year. I’m sure you will make lasting friendships and enjoy the community spirit of this great school. This year is already shaping up to be an exciting year full of opportunities, celebrations and lots of hard work.

The students look fresh and smart in their summer school uniforms. The teachers are ready to embark upon another year delivering quality teaching and learning programs. Our senior students have begun training as Peer Support Buddy Group leaders in preparation for buddy groups later this term. Years 3 and 4 have been studying Road, Sun and Water Safety and revising their maths skills. Year 2 students have settled well into their classes on the Kingslangley Rd campus and are working on reading, writing, Road Safety and Bounce Back (resilience training).

This is the first edition of our school newsletter for 2015. It is emailed weekly on a Wednesday and it contains information about school and community events and attachments containing permission notes.

Staffing

We welcome Miss Rebeca Guo (pronounced ‘gaw’) as our Mandarin teacher. She has already met students in Years 1-6 and begun teaching basic greetings to Years 2-6. Miss Guo will work Mondays to Thursdays across both campuses.

Congratulations to Mrs Nicola Hesford (formerly Miss Nicola Graham) and Mrs Angela Halls (formerly Miss Angela Bradley) on their marriages during the holidays. Both report wonderful days for their weddings.
Class Organisation

Students in Years 1-6 began the school year in temporary classes based on last year’s groups. Enrolments for 2015 are healthy and we have a total of 495 students. This enables us to establish 20 classes, maintaining the same number of classes and buildings that we had in 2014. Our class structure will be different from 2014 due to the changes in numbers in each grade, particularly this year’s large Year 5 cohort.

Teaching Staff are appointed to schools based on the overall enrolment numbers. Class sizes are guided by Department of Education policy and are:

- Kindergarten – 20 students
- Year 1 – 22 students
- Year 2 – 24 students
- Years 3-6 – 30 students.

We then use this information, taking into account our unique situation of a split site, to form classes. In 2015 we have taken the opportunity to form some enrichment classes to challenge students demonstrating high academic achievement. We targeted teaching staff who have specific skills in extending talented children to teach these classes.

Class formation is a complex and lengthy process as teachers consider many aspects when deciding upon class placement. Students are placed in classes with regard to balancing academic abilities across the grade, special needs, social and behavioural concerns and friendship issues. Teachers have met on many occasions both late last year and early this year to carefully consider the placement of each child.

Over the course of your child’s schooling, your child is likely to experience straight classes, composite classes, teacher job share classes and change of teacher during the year. Students adapt to these variations well and benefit from your support.

Early next week your child will be placed in his/her permanent class. Our experience indicates that there are some strategies you can use for successful transition to a new class. For example:

- Parents can talk to their child about the opportunities presented by the new class/teacher/friendships in a positive light
- Parents can organise play dates to promote new friendships
- Parents can involve themselves in class and school activities
- Parents can reinforce class routines so that their child feels organised and confident
- Parents can suggest to their child to organise meeting places in the playground to catch up with friends in different classes.

Please give your child time to settle into their new class during this adjustment period. During the first few days of new classes, teachers work hard to develop class cohesion and strong bonds between students. Should you have any concerns, appointments can be made with the class teacher, supervisor of the grade or the Principal.
Kindergarten 2015

This week Kindergarten students have been participating in their Best Start appointments. Our new Kindergarten students will join us on Monday and we welcome them and their parents to our school.

Parent Information Evenings

Information evenings will be held early this term to give you an opportunity to meet the teachers and hear about the class learning programs and procedures. Each session will commence with an introduction from the Executive and will then be followed by time with your child’s class teacher/s. The dates for these will be published shortly.

Advance Notice for the Annual Swimming Carnival – Year 3-6 and some Year 2 students

Our school swimming carnival will be held at Lane Cove Pool on Wednesday 25 February. More information will follow.

Megan Lockery

Performing Arts

String Ensemble News

Primary Strings Ensemble starts back on Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 8 am in the Hall.

All levels are welcome!

Violins, violas and cello players wishing to join, please contact Collette Carroll on 0418 450 591

The Infants Ensembles (K-1 Strings and Starters) will start back in Term 2.

Primary String Ensemble

Rehearsals for the Primary String Ensemble start in Week 2 of Term 1 Wednesday 4 February at 8.00 am in the School Hall.

Any questions? Please contact Collette on 0418 450 591.
P&C NEWS

DRINKS BY THE HARBOUR

Calling all Year 1 parents to help with planning of the 2015 Drinks By The Harbour!

All available Year 1 parents are encouraged to come along to the first DBTH meeting next Tuesday morning 3rd Feb after drop off (9.30am) in GOOSH. More information will come out this week via email from your 2014 class parents, otherwise please contact events@greenwichpandc.org.au if you have any questions.

KINDERGARTEN FAMILY PICNIC
FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 4.30 - 6.30pm
BERRY ISLAND RESERVE (end of Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft)

All Kindergarten families are invited to join the Greenwich Public School P&C for a Kindergarten family picnic afternoon on Friday 13 February, after school 4.30 - 6.30pm. It is a chance to meet other parents and children from all Kindy classes in a social friendly setting. BYO picnic rug, food and drinks. All parents and siblings are welcome and encouraged to attend. Berry Island Reserve has a fenced playground, toilets, water facilities and sprawling grass for picnic rugs. We look forward to seeing you all there! Any questions, email events@greenwichpandc.org.au.

DIARY DATES

2015 TERM 1

WEEK 1

WEEK 2
Monday 2 February
- Kindergarten begins
- Year 1 gym starts
Wednesday 4 February
- Kinder gym starts

WEEK 4
Thursday 19 February
- 4pm School Council meeting

WEEK 5
Monday 23 February
- School Photos
Wednesday 25 February
- Swimming Carnival – Lane Cove Pool

WEEK 7
Tuesday 10 March
- North Shore Zone Swimming Carnival North Sydney Pool
Wednesday 11 March
- Years 3-6 ANZAC show 11.30-1pm Iconic Performers
Thursday 12 March
- Selective High School test

WEEK 8
Tuesday 17 March
- Sydney North Swimming Carnival
Thursday 19 March
- 4pm School Council

WEEK 9
Monday 23 March
- Young Leaders Day
Wednesday 25 March
- State Swimming Carnival
Thursday 26 March
- State Swimming Carnival

WEEK 10
Thursday 2 April
- LAST DAY OF TERM 1

HARDCOPY NOTES HOME THIS WEEK
- Special Religious Education (Scripture)/Ethics Class 2015 K/1
- Special Religious Education (Scripture)/Ethics Class 2015 2-6

SURVEYS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

EMAIL ATTACHMENTS HOME THIS WEEK
- Special Religious Education (Scripture)/Ethics Class 2015 K/1
- Special Religious Education (Scripture)/Ethics Class 2015 2-6
- Parenting Education for Mums, Dads and Carers flier
Are you preparing your child for the 'Asian Century' by learning Mandarin Chinese? ChiFUNese is one of the most innovative Chinese language programs in Sydney offering before/after school classes, private tuition and holiday programs. Classes at Greenwich P.S. are held on Tue 3.25-4.25pm. To enrol or trial a class, please email admin@chifunese.com.

Why learn Mandarin Chinese:

- Gain competitive advantage in the "Asian Century". China is now the world's second largest economy and Mandarin is the world's most spoken language.
- Develop cognitive skills through learning the tones and the spatial written characters, which strengthens the link between the left and right sides of the brain.
- Gain new perspectives learning about China's 5,000 years of history and culture.

The ChiFUNese difference: **PLAY = LEARN**

- **Student-centric** and game-based approach with customised lessons focused on students’ interests and needs within a small class environment
- **Multi-media learning resources** developed by leading educators from USA
- **Cultural enrichment** through fun excursions and immersion-style holiday programs
- **Support for parents** through weekly homework emails, seminars and online resources
- **Team of professional teachers** delivering top-quality lessons
- **Widely popular program** with more than 20 locations around Sydney

For enquiries, please email admin@chifunese.com or call (02) 8006 8606.

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admin@chifunese.com | www.chifunese.com | www.facebook.com/chifunese
Musical Theatre Academy

Does your child love to SING? ACT? DANCE?
Maybe they’re a triple threat?
They could be!

Applause Musical Theatre Academy
is now enrolling for 2015!

Every epic class is filled with fun and adventure,
as students develop their singing, acting and dancing skills
ready for the exciting world of musical theatre.

With accredited and experienced teachers from
the music theatre industry (and piano accompaniment),
you can be sure that your child learns from the best!

There are performance opportunities and an annual soiree.

Oh – and it’s really fun!

**WEDNESDAYS**
Roseville
K-2: 3:30pm – 4:15pm
3-6: 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Years 7+: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

**SUNDAYS**
Chatswood
K-2: 3:15pm – 4:00pm
3-6: 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Years 7+: 5:15pm – 6:45pm (NEW!)

**MONDAYS and TUESDAYS**
Chatswood
**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**
K-2: 3:45pm – 4:30pm
3-6: 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Years 7+: 5:45pm – 7:15pm

**Call for a FREE TRIAL LESSON!**

Julie 0409 989 910
Ingrid 0405 495 099

**ENROL TODAY!**
applausemta@hotmail.com
www.applausemta.com.au
During Semester One, River Road Tennis will be running tennis lessons for your school as well as all the ANZ HOTSHOTS Squad Programs.

For more information call our proshop on 9428 3336 or visit www.riverroadtenniscentre.com.au