Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all those parents who came along to the swimming carnival last Friday and provided support for both the students and staff through timekeeping, in pool support or just cheering the students on.

Congratulations to our swimming champions for 2013
Jr Girl Taneisha Wilson
Jr. Boy Mandawuy Bell
11yr Girl Jesse Ross
11yr Boy Julian Torrens
Sr Girl Yarnee Hodge
Sr Boy Lex Bagster

The Small Schools Carnival will be held at the Grafton Olympic Pool on Friday 15th February and note will go home this week to all those students who have qualified.

Thanks to the continued generous support of our canteen helpers, the Crunch and Sip program will continue again this year. Commencing this Thursday each class will again receive a platter of fruit and vegetables once a week allowing students the opportunity to sample a variety different foods.

Scripture classes will commence this week. Scripture classes are non-denominational and run by volunteers and run for approximately thirty to forty minutes depending on each age group. If you do not wish your student to participate in the scripture lesson please provide a note for the class teacher. Those students who don’t attend scripture lesson will be supervised in another class during that time.

All parents are reminded that it is important that those students who arrive at school after the bell report to the front office to sign in. Parents are asked that if they are picking their child up prior to end of school that they come to the front office to sign their child out. We would ask that all Parents/Carers make a special effort to ensure that students do arrive at school on time each morning so as not to miss out on essential Literacy sessions at the beginning of the day.

We have had number of instances lately where students were unsure of the pick-up arrangements for after school. It would be greatly appreciated if you could notify the front office if your child’s normal pick-up arrangements change on a particular day. This way the class teacher can be informed and they can reassure the child of the arrangements. School hours are 9.00am to 3.00pm. Those students who are not catching buses need to be collected at 3.00pm unless we have been notified prior due to special circumstances.

This week we conducted our School Captain elections for 2013 and I’m very pleased to announce the results of those elections. Congratulations to Lex Bagster and Melanie Laurie who have been elected as School Captains for 2013. Our Vice Captains are Griffin Wheatley and Kayla Kaptein and our two prefects who also carry out important Leadership roles within the school are Adam Ward and Rose Williams. Well done to those students. The students and staff are looking forward to working with these leaders throughout 2013.

Congratulations to all those students who have been elected to these Leadership positions within the school for 2013.

Please don’t forget the upcoming P&C Annual General meeting set down for Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} March commencing at 4pm. All parents, grandparents and community members are invited to come along and take on a role with the P&C or canteen committee. Both these groups do a fantastic job throughout the school supporting all the students and it would be great to see some new faces come on board to help out in 2013.

Please note that as the costs of printing a colour copy of the newsletter each week for every family has continued to rise we will only be printing off a black and white copy to go home to each family. If you would like to receive a coloured copy of the newsletter please supply the front office with your email address or alternatively you can download or read the newsletter on the Gillwinga School Website.

Mr Phil Cavanagh
Principal

Contact information sheets
If you have not already done so, please return the green contact information sheet that was sent home last week. It is important that we have up to date information in case of an emergency.

School fees
This year our voluntary school contributions were set at $40 per child (this equates to $10 per term) with a maximum of $120 per family. This can be paid at the front office. If any families are having difficulty with this please contact the office to discuss a payment plan.

Canteen
The canteen is looking for volunteers. If you can help out please contact the front office.

Uniforms
Please put your child’s name on hats, jumpers, bags and other items. If there is no name on items it is difficult to return to your child.

School Banking
School banking will be on Monday mornings. Bank books can be handed to the class teacher in the morning.

Dates to Remember:
Mondays: School banking
4\textsuperscript{th} March: P&C AGM

Swimming Carnival
Canteen Roster
Mon 18th Feb: Natalie Bullock, Shai O’Brien
Tues 19th Feb: Sharon Fallon
Wed 20th Feb: Karen Arnett, Terri Duroux
COMMUNITY NEWS

Con Kindy Concerts: Age 18months to 5 years. $6 per week Thursdays 10.30am-11am. Contact the Conservatorium ph66433555

Little Smarties: fun for under fives and their parent/carers 10.30am-12pm Wednesday. Contact Grafton Regional Gallery for dates or see their website www.graftongallery.nsw.gov.au

GPS GIRLS HOCKEY CLUB

REGISTRATION SIGN UP DAYS 2013
FOR ALL PRIMARY GIRLS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6
THURSDAY 21ST FEB 2013 GRAFTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL PRIMARY CAMPUS – OUTSIDE
CANTEEN 3PM – 5PM
SATURDAY 23RD FEB 2013 GRAFTON HOCKEY
COMPLEX 12 - 2PM
ANY INQUIRIES CONTACT REBECCA SIPPEL 0431 772 475

“Give Your Child The Edge”
A FREE 1-hour talk by learning expert Diana Vogel – The Kid Whisperer from Down Under.
Discover:
• The importance of the 32 learning profiles and how they can play out in your child.
• The simplest and quickest technique to calm your child down which doesn’t cost anything…Miss this and you’ll regret it!
• How stroke patient recovery is used to help children struggling at school.
• Which little trick you can do before school so your child is more focused once they get there.
• How to ‘give your child the edge’.

When: Thursday 28th February 10am
Where: Grafton Community & Function Centre, 59 Duke St, Grafton

Limited Seats. So please call 1800 194 206 (ext 3) and leave your details to reserve your place NOW before you miss out!

City Bears Hockey Club: Junior players sign on day is on Saturday 23rd February at the Grafton Hockey Complex. See their website www.citybearshockeyclub.com.au

Free Come and Try BMX

Saturday the 23rd of February
2.00pm to 4.00pm

At the Clarence Valley BMX Club’s race track located at the corner of Abbott and Vere Streets in South Grafton.

This will be a great opportunity for anyone who rides a bike and is interested in having a ride on a BMX race track. Riders and spectators will experience the thrills and excitement of this family orientated sport.

Riders from 2 years and up can join in the fun and have a ride around the BMX track.

Free coaching and training will be available from 2.00pm to 4.30pm to help new riders gain basic bike skills and confidence.

At 4.00pm the BMX club riders will be showing how it is done by putting on some BMX races.

BMX is not just for the boy’s as the number of girls riding and racing BMX bikes is on the increase throughout Australia.

The great thing about BMX as a sport is that the whole family can get involved, no matter what age the kids are they all can do the same sport at the one time and place.

The canteen will be open for lunch and during the day for cold drinks and hot food.

Come and meet “Clarence” the BMX Cougar.

Bring along a good working order bike. Bikes sizes can be from a 16 inch BMX to 26 inch mountain bike, 2 to 4 year olds can bring a balance bike. For your protection you will also need a good bike helmet (preferred full face) long pants and long sleeve shirt, shoes and socks that cover the ankle, gloves (any type will do)

If you do not have a BMX bike or some of the safety gear just ask at the canteen on the day. The club will have someone on hand to checkout your bike and help with making it safe to ride.

Tell all your friends and your parents.

More information is available at the Clarence Valley BMX Club’s website where you will also find some great pictures and videos of BMX action at the Clarence Valley BMX race track.