From the Principal

Welcome back everyone.

The wonderful students of Grahamstown Public School had a fantastic start to 2016. They are all settled in their allocated class and have demonstrated their excellent manners over the past two days. It was a pleasure to work through the process of allocating each student to their class because every child listened attentively and responded appropriately at the correct time. Grahamstown students are exceptional and look fantastic in their new uniforms.

The children know where they are to line up and know where to place their bags before school. We ask parents to allow children some independence by letting them go to morning assemblies by themselves and to allow students to take care of their own belongings. We would appreciate that once students are in lines that parents go so that we have easy flow to classrooms or PE activities.

We welcome Miss Clayden to our school who will be teaching 4/5C. We also welcome Mrs Johnson who will be working supporting the literacy program and assisting on 2S. Mrs Lockhart will be continuing in the library for the time being and Miss Gordon will be assisting the Year 1 and 2 classes as well as teaching RFF on Thursday and Friday of each week.

We have managed to maintain 14 classes and are looking forward to an excellent year. Throughout the year your child’s teacher will be available to discuss any issues that may arise. All teachers make themselves available but an appointment is required. We value teaching time and appreciate as few interruptions to that time as possible.

The Parent Teacher evenings are advertised later in this bulletin. Please come along to gain some insight into what will be happening for your child throughout the year.

Our newsletter is always on Facebook and our website if your child forgets to bring it home. It is always distributed on a Monday and placed on electronic media by Wednesday. The newsletter and any notes are always available through the front office if they have not been brought home.

Have a great week

EVENTS FOR TERM 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th February</td>
<td>Zone Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd March</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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Transport for NSW

If your child/ren received a bus pass in 2015 and is eligible for travel in 2016 under the School Student Transport Scheme their School Opal card is available from the office to be picked up by a parent/guardian. The new card will not be giving to the students.

Staff Car Park

Please do not use the staff car park to deliver children to school or pick them up. The car park is for staff parking only. Please also do not walk children out through the car park of an afternoon. Staff regularly need to leave to attend meetings at other schools making the car park gate an unsafe place for pedestrians. Your cooperation is appreciated.
Parent Teacher Information Afternoons

When:

- Tuesday 16th February: Stage 2
  3:15-4:15
- Tuesday 16th February: Stage 3
  4:15-5:15
- Wednesday 17th February: Kinder
  3:15-4:15
- Wednesday 17th February: Stage 1
  4:15-5:15

Where: School Library

What: Find out the resources your child/children will need, the topics to be covered in 2016, homework expectations, behaviour expectations, class routines, excursions planned, meet the teachers working on your child’s class and the other teachers working on the stage and much, much more. Take the opportunity to learn what is happening for your child this year.

PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

A reminder that there are parking restrictions in Hastings Drive outside the school. The Ranger patrols the area regularly:

- Parents may use the “No Parking” Zone to drop students off and collect them in the afternoon. You cannot leave your vehicle, nor have your car standing in the space. It is a “Kiss and Drop” zone only. If you wait longer than a minute or two, your vehicle is likely to be photographed and you are liable for a $220.00 fine.
- The bus zone is a no standing and no parking area between 8.30am and 9.30am and between 2.30pm and 3.30pm.
- The Council has also made a section opposite the school a restricted time no parking area as well.
- These areas have been put in place for the safety of your children and others.

On Line payments for parents

An online payment portal linked to our school’s website makes it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac Bank. Payments can be paid using your Visa or MasterCard only. Activities such as Voluntary Contributions, excursions, sport and other school activities can be paid using this method. If you wish to pay online there are instructions at the office to assist you. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS SYSTEM UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS.** If you are paying on line, it will need to be processed two days before the school payment cut off day as it takes time for it to come through into the school account. **Online payments which are received after the closing date will be cancelled.** Payments can still be made using cash, cheque or money order at the school office. Please ring the office if you have any questions. When making online payments please ensure you send in the permission note for the activity ASAP please. If a permission note has not been received your child will not be able to attend the activity regardless if payment has been received.

Office Hours

Office hours are between 8.35am -3pm. No money will be taken after 3pm. Please remind students to bring notes and money to the office before 9am.

Contact numbers

Changed your mobile phone number recently? Please inform the school office of any changes in your contact details so we can have up to date information.
Canteen News

Wed: 3rd Feb – Jo Delaforce
Thru 4th Feb: - Kristy Medway, Tanya Picot
Fri 5th Feb – Susan Martin
Mon: 8th Feb – Sarah Ide

Welcome back to school for 2016, the new price list will be in effect as of the 3rd February 2016. There are only a few changes to prices and items. New price list is attached to this Newsletter.

There will be spare copies available at the canteen.

School hats are now available at the canteen for $10.00.

Thankyou to everyone who has put their name down for the roster this year. If you can spare 4 hours each month please consider putting your name down, see Sherri or Vicki at the canteen. This year’s roster will be available soon.

PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

The council parking ranger has informed us that he will only be giving out warnings for incorrect parking this week. As of next week 8th February he will be issuing fines with no warnings.

NAMES ON CLOTHING / UNIFORM ITEMS

It is important that students have their uniform and other clothing named for school...Please spend 5 minutes writing the names on labels or somewhere so that the items can be identified. You would not believe how many “LOST” items we end up with in the Lost Property bin. Owners cannot be found if the items are not named.

To all GPS Parents & Carers:

You are invited to a

Welcome Morning Tea

Tuesday 9th February

In the school hall

From 9:15am

It would be great to have existing families join in this event to assist welcoming new families to GPS

Looking forward to seeing you!

For catering purposes, we would appreciate it if you could please let us know if you are able to attend, thank you.

Please return this note to the front office by Monday 8th February:

Welcome Morning Tea

Yes, I am able to attend the morning tea on Tuesday 9th February:

Name/s:

Thank you.