PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

No. 33 – Term 4 Week 5

Tuesday 3 November 2015

Dear Parents,

INTERNATIONAL DAY
Our school has organised this very special day for this Thursday 5 November. It is hoped this special day will enable a significant amount of parent participation. International Day will be an extremely important event in our school as we have 96% non English speaking background students. It will be a very special day to celebrate the many cultures and countries we originate from.

It is hoped all families can support International Day by:
1. Ensuring children are wearing national costume for the parade if possible. Children will receive a FREE ice block from the canteen if they wear a national costume.
2. Ensuring your child has purchased a wrist band to participate in all activities.
3. Supporting our school by purchasing food and items for sale at the event.
4. Coming along if possible to watch your child participate in these events.

GONSKI FUNDING
Last week was National Gonski Week. Gonski funding is designed to ensure that every Australian child, no matter what their background, can get a high quality education. Gonski funding is used in the following ways at Greenacre Public School:

- Occupational Therapist and Speech Therapist Programs
- Employment of additional School Learning Support Officers (Teacher’s Aides) to support students with additional learning needs
- Employment of two Community Liaison Officers to enhance parent participation and support parents through a transition program for preschool, parent education programs, parent excursions and father’s support group
- A second chance Reading Program for Year 2 students

As aware parents it is good to be informed of the difference this funding is making to our school and all schools across Australia. The problem is that the Federal Government is refusing to honour the Gonski agreement signed with NSW and will stop delivering this needs-based Gonski funding in 2017. We need to continue to highlight the positive benefits of this funding model and the need to commit to funding years five and six (and beyond) from the Federal Government. There are so many stories and so much data collected from schools in recent months, which adds evidence to what can be achieved for our students with this targeted funding.

Ross Cleary
Principal
### COMING EVENTS TERM 4

**Week 5**
- Tuesday 3 November: 9.15am Kindergarten Orientation Day
- Thursday 5 November: International Day
- Friday 6 November: Summer PSSA Round 13

**Week 6**
- Tuesday 10 November: 9.15am 2016 Kindergarten Program
- Friday 13 November: Summer PSSA Semi Finals

**Week 7**
- Tuesday 17 November: 9.15am 2016 Kindergarten Program
- Friday 20 November: 9am P & C Meeting

**Week 8**
- Tuesday 24 November: 9.15am 2016 Kindergarten Program
- Friday 27 November: Schools Spectacular Excursion

**Week 9**
- Wednesday 2 December: Sports Assembly
- Thursday 3 December: Final Scripture & Thank You M/Tea

**Week 10**
- Monday 7 December: Books In Homes Assembly Yr4
- Tuesday 8 December: Year 6 Graduation Assembly
- Wednesday 9 December: Year 6 Farewell Dinner
- Friday 11 December: 9am K-2 Presentation Day Assembly

**Week 11**
- Monday 14 December: Class Picnics & Year 6 Luna Park Yrs 3-5 Fun Movie Day & Picnic
- Wednesday 16 December: Final Day for Students Talent Quest

**Week 1 Term 1 2016**
- Wednesday 27 January: Staff Return – Pupil Free Day
- Thursday 28 January: Yr1-6 Students Return Term 1

### KINDERGARTEN ASSEMBLY AWARDS

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<tr>
<th>KD</th>
<th>Esra El-Saj</th>
<th>Hussein Hammoud</th>
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<td>KE</td>
<td>Dona Mbwana</td>
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<td>KT</td>
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<td>1B</td>
<td>Jawad Lahlouh</td>
<td>Anne Vu</td>
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<td>K3JG</td>
<td>Peter Chehaid</td>
<td>Mohamad Aouad</td>
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<td>Moustafa Dargham</td>
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<td>2F</td>
<td>Mariam Najdi</td>
<td>Farrel Ramadhan</td>
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<td>2M</td>
<td>Rida Al-Muslawi</td>
<td>Xavier Hough</td>
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### SUSPENSIONS

Greenacre PS follows the policy of the Department of Education for school suspensions, and expectations for a safe working & learning environment. All students and staff have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity in an environment free from disruption, intimidation, harassment and discrimination.

There are 2 main reasons students will be suspended:
1. Continued disobedience
2. Aggressive behaviour

Our school behaviour policy and step system are available for any parent to see. All children have a strong understanding of the expected behaviour at school, and our classes do many lessons focussed on Social Emotional Learning; strategies to use when they are upset or angry; ‘You Can Do It!’ Program; our school expectations. If students choose to behave in a way that breaks our school rules, and interferes with the safety and education of others, they will be suspended. Each case is treated individually, and parents are usually warned that continued poor behaviour will result in a suspension. At times, if the behaviour is serious, such as a fight, or punching someone to the head, the child will be immediately suspended. We expect a high standard of behaviour from our students. We try to work closely with parents to communicate concerns about children's behaviour, and to work together so students can attend school every day, in a respectful, safe and productive way. We appreciate your cooperation in this area.
KD enjoyed learning and presenting about Australia in assembly!
PLAYGROUP EVERY THURSDAY

This Thursday is International Day so we expect to see all our playgroup children enjoying all the fun of the fair. Next week we will resume working with numbers. Bring a piece of fruit for you and your child. $2 per child. Tea and coffee provided. We meet in the school hall from 9-11am each Thursday.

Mejda Eldan - CLO

FATHERS – HELP NEEDED WITH BBQ

Greenacre PS fathers meet each Thursday in Block B Community Liaison Office, located downstairs at 2pm. We are asking for help with the BBQ on International Day. If you can spare an hour or more, we would love a helping hand. Grandfathers welcome also.

Anwar Samneh - CLO

FREE INFORMATION SESSION

Bankstown City Council are holding a FREE session called ‘Love Your Lunchbox’ on Wednesday 2 December to assist parents with the daily chore of school lunch making. Save money by throwing less food away. Great tips on offer to create exciting and healthy lunches that the children will love. Meet at 9.45am in Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre Bookings essential. Call 9707 9999.

COMMUNITY & PARENT GROUP

Today was Kindergarten Orientation Day being the first of four dates in November where parents and their preschoolers come to learn what it is like at Big School. Thursday is our big fundraising event, International Day. Please bring your family and friends along to this great day out. Our parent group helps out during these special events so why not join us each Tuesday in H Block Kitchen at 9am. Our Childcare course is ongoing in H Block next to kitchen. We have something for everyone so please consider coming along.

Mejda Eldan - CLO

P & C ASSOCIATION MEETING

Our next meeting is Tuesday 17 November. Meet in H Block Kitchen at 9am.

SCHOOL BANKING TUESDAYS

School banking will take place every Tuesday. Hand in banking at the office before school (10am at the latest). The deposit books will be returned to your child’s class by the following day.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOOD DONATIONS

Please bring in prepared food in containers provided by the school on Thursday morning. Return any unwanted containers to office. If unable to prepare food item a donation of bought food or drink would be gratefully accepted.

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Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who’s eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
• Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
• Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
• Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won’t need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student’s school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:
• The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
• The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
• The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
• The student’s personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply
Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant’s email address is required.

If the student doesn’t qualify for free travel
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.
Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more
• For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.