Dear Parents,

This week we held our annual swimming carnival. Although we had a small number of students participating there were some outstanding performances on the day. Madissyn Powells broke three records:

- U/11 50m freestyle: 32.63—One second faster than the old record
- Open girls 100m freestyle: 1.16.03—4 seconds faster than the old record
- Junior girls medley: 3.43.00—37 seconds faster than the old record.

Congratulations Madissyn on this impressive achievement.

As well as formal races water activities were held for those students who were involved in swimming lessons last year. The weather was sunny and warm. Everyone had a very enjoyable time.

Today we held our induction assembly for those students who are taking up leadership positions in our school this year. School captains, vice captains, house captains and vice captains, Student Representative Council (SRC) members and library monitors received their badges today.

Our school captains for 2015 are Captains; Archanaa Kananathan and Thivakar Jeyaseelan. Vice captains; Subanu Arunasalam and Akshanth Suresh. These students were voted by students and teachers to lead our school this year. They will be representing our school at official functions during the year and regularly leading our school assemblies. I know they are excellent members of school community and positive role models to all students in our school.

Next week we hold our annual parents information sessions to inform parents of class programs, organisation for the year and important dates for students. These sessions will begin in the school hall and then progress to classrooms to provide parents with a better understanding their child’s class operation each day during the year.

Regards,

G. Walker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 24 February 3.30-4.30pm: K-2 Parent information session @ Hall
- Wednesday 25 February 3.30-4.30pm: Years 3-6 Parent information session @ Hall
- Thursday 5th March: School banking begins

Our school Vision

Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.
Principal & Executive Staff

A. Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.

Mr G Walker  
Mrs K Walker  
Mr M Gosbell  
Mrs L Galea  
Mrs C Haworth  
Mrs J Roberts  
Mr J Ward  
Mrs J Ferns

Principal  
Deputy Principal (Rlg)  
Deputy Principal (Rlg)  
Assistant Principal—Kindergarten  
Assistant Principal—Stage 1 (Rlg)  
Assistant Principal—Stage 2  
Assistant Principal—Stage 3  
Assistant Principal—Support Unit (Rlg)

Office Staff

Mrs A Napper  
Mrs C Birks  
Mrs M Loughhead  
Mrs I Russell  
Mrs J Wyatt

SAM  
SAO

EALD  
Other Teaching Staff

Mrs S Eldridge  
Mrs K Brennan Culling  
Mrs L Thurfey  
Mrs T Bartholomew  
Mrs S Turner  
Mrs L Galea  
Mrs C Haworth  
Mrs J Roberts

Mrs A Stocker  
Mrs L Wickremasinghe  
Mrs T Dawes  
Mrs B Litchfield  
Mrs A Turner  
Mrs K Propst  
LaST  
LaST

Mrs H Can  
Mrs H Hare

RR  
RR

Mrs P Nadesan  
Mrs A Dhond

COM  
COM

School Learning Support Officers

Mrs S Farrugia  
Mrs D Gauci  
Mrs S Kendall

Mrs D Ashby  
Mrs C Dunne

Class Room Teachers

Kindergarten

Miss A Centrone  
Mrs L Galea (AP)  
Mrs L Helmrich  
Miss A Klish  
Mrs M Johnson  
Mrs L Oljinyk  
Mrs M Vella

Mrs A Col  
Ms N Hayes  
Ms K Naidu  
Mr B Prior  
Ms T Quach  
Miss M Ayoub (rlg)  
KV

Mrs L Aronis  
Mrs J Bhardwaj  
Mrs C Haworth  
Miss L Khoury  
Mrs R Prior  
1W

Mrs L Helmrich  
Mrs J Roberts (AP)  
Mrs C Haworth

1N  
1P  
1Q

Year 1

Year 2

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Support Unit

Mr J Connell  
Mrs S Meyer  
Mrs M Povey  
Ms L Scerri  
Ms A Roberts  
Mrs L Candelario  
Mr C Timperley  
Mrs E Tracey

Mr P Marscham  
Mr C Powys  
Ms S Rogers  
Mrs N Sharma  
Miss E Nash  
Mrs J Ferns (AP)  
Mrs Godijn/Mrs Terry

4M  
4P  
4R  
4S

Mrs N Chand  
Mrs K Paterson  
Mr J Ward (AP)  
School Counsellor

Mrs N Sharma  
Mrs R Prior

5P  
5N  
5/6W

School Counsellor

3/4A

Miss E Nash

3-6F  
3-6G  
K-2W

GA

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VALUE OF THE MONTH: COOPERATION

Working together to achieve common goals, proving support to others, and engaging in peaceful resolution of conflict:

In School Communities, evidence of this value includes:
- working together to plan a school function
- addressing issues through consultation and negotiation
- initiating change by involving consultation with and the representation of all stakeholders
- working together to address a school issue.

In Classrooms, evidence of this value includes:
- accepting class protocols for group work and working with others
- working well with others outside immediate friendships
- initiating problem solving
- identify issues and possible solutions to help resolve conflict.

Get involved in the School Banking program.

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221 or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access.

Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver’s license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.

When your child make’s their first deposit at school they will earn their first Dollarmites token and our school will also receive $5 commission. Thank you for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

LIMITED VACANCIES!

Preschool is a necessary stepping-stone to ‘big school’ and an important stage in a child’s development. At First Academy Preschool Childcare, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and nurturing environment in order for your child to reach their full potential.

Our centre caters for children from 0-6 years of age, operating between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm and offering:
- Quality supervised, learning and development programs integrated with play time
- School readiness and transition programs for preschool children
- Fun and enriching activities
- All meals, including hot lunches, fruit and milk

For enrolments or any enquiries, please call 9863 2361 or visit the centre at 35 Carinya Rd, Girraween and meet our qualified and friendly staff.

First Academy Preschool Childcare
The Kids Paradise.

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It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-conditioned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day; with 10am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.
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It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extraordinary family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Parents and Citizens Association 2015

The school P&C annual general meeting was held last night in the school library. We have a new P&C executive elected for the year.

President; Viral Mehta,
Treasurer; Suchitra Kumar
Secretary; Nimisha Pandya, and Jane Kelly
Vice presidents; Ranesh Velu, Priya Poozhiyil

The meeting heard a presentation from Mr Grant Sparke, principal of Greystanes High School, a Year 7 student and a parent from their P&C. The transition to high school was discussed and organisation for students starting high school.

Topics on the meeting agenda were; P&C finance, organisation for the year, school plan for 2015-17, school organisation for 2015 and financial reporting for 2014.

Our next meeting will be on 7 March at 7.00pm in the library. All parents are welcome.

School Swimming Carnival 2015

The weather showed good favour for the annual Girraween Swimming Carnival, as over fifty students got involved in the tryouts for the up and coming Zone swimming carnival. Other students had the opportunity of having fun in the water with Mr Marscham and Mrs Ferns, while practising their pool safety skills. It was a great day with 18 students achieving a result that will be sending them to the Zone competition in March. Yet again, our Dame of the pool Madissyn Powells left her mark on our school with 3 new records. Yash Patil will also be participating in a number of races at the Zone competition. We would all agree that this was a great result for our school!
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Membership Form

Name: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________

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Membership Form

Name: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________

Welcome to School, Welcome to PAC
Parents and Citizens Association
Girraween Public School

Welcome to School, Welcome to PAC
Parents and Citizens Association
Girraween Public School
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School Banking Day Reminder.

Don’t forget that Thursday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Attention Parents: All Year 4 to Year 6 students will be bringing home this letter on Monday.

Please read the letter regarding the Tell Them From Me student survey. If you do not want your child to be included, please complete the form and return to the office as soon as possible.

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign the form and return it to your school by Friday 27 February.

I (print name) .................................................. DO NOT give consent for my child/children (print names) .................................................. of classes ....................... to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Signed, .................................................. Date ..............................

More information about the survey and the research is available on the CESE website:

Mr G. Walker
Principal
Girraween Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
General Manager
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
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HAS ANYTHING CHANGED FOR 2015?

If any of your information has changed e.g., address or contact numbers, please fill in the slip below and return it to the Office as soon as possible.

All information is kept confidential.

Date: __________

Parent Name: __________________________________________________________

Student: ___________________________________ Class: _______________

New address:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

New phone number (home): __________________________________________

New phone number (work): 
Mum ___________________________________
Dad: __________________________

New mobile number:
Mum ___________________________________
Dad: __________________________

New emergency contact:
Name: ___________________________________
Phone number: _________________________

Relationship to student: (e.g. uncle, aunty, family friend etc) _________________
Name: ___________________________________
Phone number: _________________________

Relationship to student: (e.g. uncle, aunty, family friend etc) _________________

New email address (for newsletter): ______________________________________
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