Dear Parents,

Last week we held our annual parent information sessions. The grade and stage overview of programs and expectations presented in our hall were well received by parents. Parents also appreciated the opportunity to visit their child’s classroom and to hear about the class organisation and weekly routines as well as areas of study for the term. Any parents who were not able to attend can read the information presented on our school website.

At this stage of the term we have established our school, stage, grade and class routines for the year. Scripture classes began last week and we have also begun our inter school PSSA summer sport competition. I would like to thank all our teachers, office staff and parents who have worked so hard to put a significant amount of organisation in place for the smooth running of our school. Our school remains a very positive place for student learning and community involvement thanks to the cooperation and participation of all members of the school community.

The vacant deputy principal position has been filled through merit selection by Mrs Katherine Needham. Mrs Needham, from Fairvale P.S., will take up her position from the beginning of term 2. She comes with a wealth of experience in classrooms and educational leadership. I will be working with Mrs Needham over the next few weeks to plan her transition to our school.

We will farewell Miss Webster next Tuesday afternoon, 10 March. Miss Webster will return to our school for us to acknowledge her 10 years of excellent service at Girraween P.S. as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and deputy principal. We will hold an assembly in the school hall from 2pm. We have a planned agenda for the assembly. Parents will have an opportunity to farewell Miss Webster after the assembly from about 2.40pm. Miss Webster leaves a legacy of influence across the whole school and with many students, staff and parents. Minchinbury P.S. has an excellent leader in their new principal, Miss Webster.

The NRL season begins this week. I hope the Eels can do better this year! Good luck to your teams in 2015.

Have a great weekend everyone.

G. Walker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
11 March  P&C meeting. 7.00pm
12 March  Selective High School Test
24 March  School photographs

Our school Vision
Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.
VALUE OF THE MONTH: PARTICIPATION

Being a proactive and productive individual and group member, having pride in and contributing to the social and economic wealth of the community and the nation:

In School Communities, evidence of this value includes:
- communicating openly within and between different groups in the school community
- encouraging and considering new ideas
- forming partnerships with business and community organisations.

In Classrooms, evidence of this value includes:
- contributing to class discussions
- encouraging creative thinking about issues and problems
- accepting roles in group activities.

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 makes 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.

Our school Vision

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The Premier’s Reading Challenge encourages students to take up reading as an activity choice in their leisure time and ultimately enhance literacy performance in our school. It is a challenge to each student to read more and to read more widely.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will be completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge in class with their teacher reading them the stories and entering the students’ details online for them.

Students in Years 3 to 6 are required to complete the Challenge independently at home.

How can Year 3 to 6 students participate?

1. The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge begins on 2nd March and ends on 21st August 2015 at 11.59 pm.
   Students can register for the Challenge by entering their first completed book online by typing in DET Student Portal into a search engine.
2. Log on to the Student Portal page using their school internet user name and password. Note: New students who have transferred from NSW state schools use the user name and password from their previous school.
3. On the Learning link click on the + then the word More…. Premier’s Reading Challenge will appear on the list. Click on it.
4. A box comes up with questions that you are required to answer before moving forward.
5. Click on Student Reading Records (left hand column of page)
6. To add a book either;
   - Select the Book title box and begin to type in the title of the book. A drop box will appear below where you can click on the book and the ID# as well as other relevant information will automatically scroll into the information boxes or;
   - Click on Booklists (left hand column of page). Select your PRC level and search by the title or author here.
7. Click on Add to add the book to your child’s list. A new line will appear for the next entry.
8. Borrow at least one Premier’s Reading Challenge Book from the Library every week during your Library lesson and you’ll be well on the road to completing this challenge. Remember the PRC books are clearly displayed in the Library with the appropriate coloured stickers on the front of each book.

It’s easy and it’s a lot of fun too so make sure you are a part of the Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2015.

Mrs K. Propst
Teacher Librarian

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**Our school Vision**

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Fiction vs. reality. One of the biggest concerns I have as a parent or the moment is the relative ease with which children can have access to online pornography. Recent studies revealed that children as young as eight years old have seen it, and most kids have witnessed it before parents have even considered discussing it. For me, it’s about considering what the long-term effects are going to be on our children’s future relationships. With wide access to the internet, including mobile devices and gaming systems, it is too easy for even young children to reach inappropriate content.

Most kids who have seen pornography know immediately that it feels wrong. They can feel ‘strange’ and their personal instincts kick in like an alarm system telling them something is not quite right. They may feel sick, embarrassed, confused. Some kids stumble across it (many porn sites know popular key strokes kids will use), and others are exposed to it by friends or family.

Is pornography really that big of a deal for our kids? The simple answer is yes. Pornography damages their brains by tricking them into releasing the same pleasure chemicals that drugs do. “A child’s brain is more vulnerable as it is rapidly forming neural connections. Viewing pornography can reprogram a child’s brain and initiate an addiction that is often harder to overcome than drugs or alcohol,” says Kristian Jensen, author of Good Pictures, Bad Pictures.

Pornography harms relationships. Youth are being exposed to pornography even before they have had the opportunity to experience a relationship. Teens tell researchers that they don’t like pornography but they feel pressurized to watch it, and they even acknowledge that it provides a model for them to follow. When we start to think about kids getting sex education from pornography, we can start to understand why we should be worried about their future relationships. Viewing pornography is setting up unrealistic expectations and desensitizing sexual expectations. Pornography can distort a person’s view of what a healthy relationship should be and develop the principles of mutual respect, trust and love we expect our children to experience in the future.

What can parents do to build their child’s firewall?

Be proactive, be preventative. Like most things it’s helpful for parents to begin the conversation before their child becomes interested in porn. Younger kids are more likely to see the parent as a dependable source of information; by the time they are teenagers parents become the reliable source and peer pressure and curiosity can lead them down a path of unrealistic expectations and perhaps, even addiction.

Be open. Most kids won’t tell their parents because they know they shouldn’t be looking at that stuff and, worst of all, you might take the technology away from them. Be honest, for many of us that might be our first reaction. But in hindsight it only prevents kids from telling us about their online experience later on. It’s okay to say, ‘Thanks for telling me, I’ve had that happen too’, or ‘Let’s look into that together’.

more on page 2
Our school Vision
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Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Girraween Public School would like to invite parents to participate in the following meetings/workshops. The details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th Feb 2015</td>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
<td>Homework &amp; School A to Z</td>
<td>All parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
<td>This meeting will be repeated next Friday 27th Feb 2015 for those who can’t attend this week.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Hindi Speaking Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th Feb 2015</td>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
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<td>All parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Tamil Speaking Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th Mar 2015</td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Chinese Speaking Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th Mar 2015</td>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
<td>National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)</td>
<td>All Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Filipino and Tagalog Speaking Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th Mar 2015</td>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
<td>National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)</td>
<td>All Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Arabic and Turkish Speaking Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th Mar 2015</td>
<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Cultural Parent Group</td>
<td>Parents from a variety of multicultural backgrounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Helen Huynh, Community Liaison Officer will be at Girraween Public School on Friday every week again this term, from 8.30am to 3.30pm in the AP room (next to the Professional Learning Room).

To register for any of the meetings/workshops listed above or to book interpreter, please see Helen or contact her at 9631 3650 (Friday only) or email to huong.huynh@det.nsw.edu.au

She is available for any discussion our parents would like to have about community engagement and services that she can provide to support our parents in any way.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Walker
Principal
6th February 2015

Helen Huynh
Multicultural Community Liaison Officer

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**Our school Vision**

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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.

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Girraween Public School.

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School

OPEN DAY Tuesday 17th March 2015

Year 6 students entering Year 7, 2016 & Year 5 students (Year 7, 2017)
Student Morning session 9.15am – 1.00pm
Evening session 5.00pm – 7.00pm - School tour and open house.
7.00pm – 8.00pm – Formal presentation in the hall.

Enrolments for Years 8-12, welcome.

AUDITIONS YEARS 7 to 12, 2016
Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School has a long tradition as a centre of excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts. An exciting opportunity is available for talented students to audition for placement in our outstanding CAPA programs.

Students in the specialised streams are afforded a wide range of opportunities to excel in their chosen field with extensive co-curricular programs and a whole school approach to fostering our gifted students’ talents.

Auditions will be held for Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts on Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2016. The cost of auditions is $50.00.

Applications close and forms need to be submitted to NCPAHS by Wednesday 4th March 2015.

For application forms, please contact Mrs Stipcic on 9630 4116
Forms can also be obtained via our school website.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Year 7 Scholarships
• Creative and Performing Arts
• Academic
• Sporting

GIFTED & TALENTED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT TEST FOR 2016
Date: Thursday 26th March 2015 at 9.00am
Cost: $65.00 payable to Front Office by Tuesday 17th March.

Principal: Narelle VanZous
www.northmead.com.au
Campbell St, Northmead NSW 2152
Ph: 9630 4110

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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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.

Parent Name: ________________________________ Date: __________

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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CANTEEN MENU 2015

SANDWICHES
- Egg or Egg & Lettuce (G, V, H) $2.00
- Ham or Devon or Chicken Salad add 80c (G, H) $2.70
- Tuna Salad add 80c (G, H) $2.70
- Salad (G, H) $2.80
- Vegemite or Jam or Honey or Cheese $1.70

WRAPS
- Cheese Rocket - Melted Cheese (G) $2.00
- Pizza Rocket - Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Pizza Sauce (G) $2.80
- Kids Chicken Schnitzel & Lettuce Wrap (G, H) $2.80
- Caesar Wrap With Lettuce & Mayo Add Chicken $1 (G) $3.20
- Salad Wrap Add Chicken $1 (G, H) $3.40
- Chicken Breast Schnitzel Wrap Lettuce & Mayo (G, H) $4.00
- Hawaiian Wrap Chicken, Lett, P/apple, Mayo (G, H) $4.20
- Sweet Chilli Wrap Chicken Tenders, Lett, Mayo (A, H) $4.00

SALAD BOWLS
- Caesar or Garden or Greek Salad Add Chicken $1 (G, V) $3.50
- Salad Bowl Chicken, Ham, Egg, Tuna or Cheese (G, V) $4.50

BURGERS
- Fish Fillet Burger Lettuce, Mayo (G, H) $3.60
- Chicken Burger 100% Breast, Lettuce, Mayo (A, H) $3.60
- Hamburger Gourmet Beef, Tomato, Lettuce, BBQ Sauce (G, H) $3.60
- Vege Burger (G, H, V) $3.80
- Kids Cheeseburger Cheese, Tomato Sauce (A) $2.00
- Cheeseburger Cheese, Tomato Sauce (A, H) $3.60

FRESH FRUITS
- Apple, Orange, Banana, Watermelon (G, V) $0.90
- Fruit Salad Cup (G, V) $1.50
- Grapes in a Cup (G, V) $1.60
- Fruit Salad Bowl Large (G, V) $3.80

SNACKS
- Fruit Nuggets 66% Fruit Gluten Free (V) $0.60
- Jelly Cup Add Fruit 50c (G, H) $1.00
- Popcorn Fresh & Hot (G, H) $1.00
- Yoghurt Vanilla (G, H) $2.00
- Bread Sticks Pizza Flavour (A) $0.20
- Yoghurt Filled Strawberry Bars (A) $0.30
- Jj’s Chicken Crackers (A) $1.00
- Brownie (A, H) $1.00
- Mamee Noodles (A, H) $1.00
- Jummys (A, H) $1.20
- Red Rock Chips Honey Soy (A, H) $1.50

Milk Drinks
- 300ml Choc / Strwbry / Vanilla Oak Fresh (G, H) $2.20
- 600ml Choc / Strwbry / Vanilla Oak Fresh (G, H) $2.50

SODA DRINKS
- Up & Go Choc / Strwbry / Vanilla Breakfast Drink (G, H) $1.50

HOT FAVOURITES
- Garlic Bread Large Roll (G, H, V) $2.00
- Fish Finger (G, H) $0.70
- Corn Cob (G, H, V) $1.00
- Cup of Noodles Chicken OR Beef (G, H) $2.60
- Hot Dog With Sauce (All Chicken Meat - Not Pork) (A, H) $2.60

Hot Drinks
- Chicken Nuggets Premium Breast (A, H) $0.70
- Popcorn Chicken Premium Breast (A, H) $3.00
- Hash Brown (A, H, V) $1.00
- Potato Wedges With Sauce (A, H, V) $2.00
- Cheese & Bacon Roll (A) $2.00
- Mini Spring Rolls Vegetarian (A, H, V) $0.70
- Nachos Beef Sauce & Cheese (A, H, V) $3.50
- Hot Cakes x2 with Maple Syrup (A, H, V) $3.00

PIZZA & PASTA
- Lasagne (Beef or Vegetarian) (G, H) $3.50
- Spaghetti Bolognese (G, H) $3.50
- Macaroni & Cheese (G, H, V) $3.80
- Butter Chicken & Rice (G, H, V) $3.50
- Fried Rice (G, H, V) $3.50
- Pizza Hawaiian OR Bacon & Cheese (A) $2.60
- Pizza Slab Margherita (A) $3.80

HOT DRINKS
- Chicken Nuggets Premium Breast (A, H) $0.70
- Popcorn Chicken Premium Breast (A, H) $3.00
- Hash Brown (A, H, V) $1.00
- Potato Wedges With Sauce (A, H, V) $2.00
- Cheese & Bacon Roll (A) $2.00
- Mini Spring Rolls Vegetarian (A, H, V) $0.70
- Nachos Beef Sauce & Cheese (A, H, V) $3.50
- Hot Cakes x2 with Maple Syrup (A, H, V) $3.00

PIZZA & PASTA
- Lasagne (Beef or Vegetarian) (G, H) $3.50
- Spaghetti Bolognese (G, H) $3.50
- Macaroni & Cheese (G, H, V) $3.80
- Butter Chicken & Rice (G, H, V) $3.50
- Fried Rice (G, H, V) $3.50
- Pizza Hawaiian OR Bacon & Cheese (A) $2.60
- Pizza Slab Margherita (A) $3.80

RECESS SNACKS OVER THE COUNTER ONLY
- Potato Skins Melted Cheese or Salsa (G, H, V) $1.20
- Mini Muffins Homemade with Berries (G, H) $1.20

Monday
- Steamed Dumplings Prawn (4 Per Serve) $4.00

Tuesday
- Sushi Rolls Tuna or Chicken or Vege $3 REGULAR $5 LARGE

Wednesday
- Hokkien Noodles Chicken & Carrot $3.80

(G) Green - (A) Amber - (V) Vegetarian - (H) Halal