Dear parents,

Our school is required to complete safety drills each term. This week our students and staff completed an evacuation drill. Teachers supervise students moving from their classrooms to the playground in a calm and orderly manner. Rolls are marked. After all students and staff are accounted for the drill is completed and classes resume as normal. In the unlikely event of an emergency, it is important that all students and staff know the school’s safety procedures.

A number of students in our school suffer allergies that can produce serious reactions to nuts, seafood, dairy products and dust. To manage the safety of our students, parents are requested not to include nuts in any food brought to school. Parents are also requested to inform the school of any allergies their children have and if there are any changes to their child’s health care requirements. All staff are trained in emergency health care procedures and the use of epi pens to treat serious anaphylaxis, the allergic reaction to nuts and seafood. Epi pens are on hand at school and included in first aid kits taken on excursions and to sporting events.

The Department of Education and Communities has introduced new procedures for Compulsory School Attendance. During the year we have a large number of families travelling overseas. Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, parents may discuss this with the school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

Our P&C will be organising a cake stall outside the school hall on election day, Saturday 28 March. Cake donations for the stall will be collected next Friday. Any contribution will be most welcome.

Have a great weekend everyone. I hope the Eels can bounce back after last week!!

Regards,

G. Walker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 24 March    School Photo Day
Friday, 27 March    Cake donations for election day cake stall
Wednesday 1 April    Girraween Show Day
Thursday 2 April    SRE Combined Easter Service
                     Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 21 April    Term 2 Resumes for Students

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

Election Day Cake Stall
Saturday 28 March

On Saturday 28 March Girraween Public School will be a polling booth for the NSW State Election. On the day the P&C will be running a cake stall from 9:30am.

We are asking for donations of baked or homemade goods such as cakes, sweets, cupcakes, slices, biscuits, toffees, muffins, etc.

Please deliver the items to the Professional Development Room in F Block on Friday 27 March from 8:30am – 3:30pm.

It is optional, but very helpful if you include a list of ingredients. This allows us to inform customers if the items are gluten free, dairy free, vegan, etc.

Please note: items with fresh cream, icing made with butter or cream cheese, or anything requiring refrigeration cannot be accepted due to food safety regulations.

If you have any questions please contact Nisha Jyoti on 0421 393 115.

We are looking forward to seeing all your yummy creations and thank you in advance!

Single with Children
A non-profit social group operated by the Single Parent Family Association

ARE YOU A SINGLE PARENT?

Every week Single with Children provides fun and exciting activities especially for single parents and their children (many activities are subsidised or even free)

It’s a great way to meet and get to know people in your area
To find out more and get a FREE copy of our social calendar, contact us today.
Call 1300 300 496
Or visit our website: www.singlewithchildren.com.au
District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who represented Girraween Public School at the District Swimming Carnival:

Alejendro Gacis-Cusay
Shen from 3/4A
Cassandra Manners
Vishal Puvanarajah
Rahul Puvanarajah
Lauren Gafa
Anne Sebastian
Anandikaa Ramesh
Pavethen Krishnakumaran
Elise Kelly
Larissa Peloquin
Kalyan Anderson-Prasad
Yash Patil
Mohit Tholu
Hannah Curtis
Monish Babu

Girls and boys junior relay teams both came 6th
Girls and boys senior relay teams came 7th and 10th respectively
Madissyn Powells (came first in the girls 100m invitation, quicker than all the boys too), (made it into the finals of the 11yr old 50m freestyle, finishing 1st, in a new Zone record time of 33.40 sec.), (1st in the 11yr old 50m breaststroke, in a new Zone record time of 43.50 sec.), (1st in the 11yr old 50m backstroke), (1st in the senior girls 200m ind. medley), (1st in the 11yr old 50m butterfly),

Also special congratulations to Madissyn who has made it into the Sydney West Swimming Championship, which will occur on the 16/3/2015, in all the disciplines she participated in, (six in total)
What’s Been Happening in 6L?

*Stage 3 Interest Group Art Exhibition*

Congratulations to Lauren, Pritika and Shahana. Their paintings were awarded *Teacher’s Choice* prizes at our exhibition.

6L Assembly- Week 5

We tried synchronised swimming and it was fun. The audience seemed to enjoy our performance!
Problem Based Learning in 6L

Problem- Birds are attacking our bags to get food.

Brainstorm solutions- close our bags, leave bags inside, build scarecrows, lock our bags, have monitors check on our bags regularly

Class Decision- close our bags and make scarecrows

Was it a success? The scarecrows were fun to make, but some did not last in the weather. The birds are not a problem anymore, but perhaps closing our bags was the most successful strategy?

Our school Vision
Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.
**Horse Riding at the RDA**

There are many exciting programs the students in 3-6F and 4-6G get to do and one of them is Horse Riding at the RDA in Box Hill.

---

**Our school Vision**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cost (Games for $1 get more than one turn)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badges and Flashing Toys</td>
<td>$3 each or 4 for $10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair Spray</td>
<td>$1-$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum Hero’s</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoos</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet Rocks</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hula hoop Comp</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo booth</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowl a bunny</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nails</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky Cards</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angry Birds</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC Trolley</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guessing Comp</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponge Toss</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg Smash</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Chairs</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footy Shots</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Shots</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball Hoop Shots</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Sale</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin the tail</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg and Spoon Race</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coin Drop</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuit Decorating</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Merchandise</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring Toss</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bean Bag Throw</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Cream Sundaes/ slurpies</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Sale &amp; Drinks</td>
<td>Various prices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tip: Do some extra jobs around the house to earn pocket money and start saving.
Our school Vision
Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.

**Badge Order Form**

Please fill out this order form if you want to buy a badge for Girraween Show Day. Place this order form and money into an envelope labelled with your child’s name, class & “badge order”.

All orders are to be placed in the money slot at the Office before 3pm Thursday 26th March. All badges will be delivered to classrooms when they are ready.

**Badges are $3 each or 4 for $10!**

Student name: ________________________________

Class: __________

Order Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Badge Code</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Sub Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount enclosed: $____________

Thank You for supporting our school fundraiser!
Hello families and school community! We have had a busy and exciting time in before and afterschool care this term. Our groups for both have gone up by 20 children so we are definitely enjoying this burst of new energy.

In light of this increase we have welcomed Erin Atkins to the Girraween OSH team. Erin has joined us permanently as a support coordinator. Please come and introduce yourself, she is looking forward to getting to know you all!

**Current interests:**

**Cricket:**
Starting as early as 7:10 in the morning, we spend most of before school care playing cricket and the same goes for afterschool care and for those children that play cricket during the school day—it is cricket all day every day!

**Lego:** The children’s lego creation has been incredibly creative and keeps getting bigger and more intricate. It is great to see the children working together to create a lot of collaborative lego creations.

**Film Group:** We have formed a film group and have begun the pre production process of our very first film in Girraween OSH! The children have worked on story boards, concept art, and now writing the script of the film.

....continued on the next page.......
The OSHClub Garden

One of our focuses over the January holiday program was to add more beauty to Girraween Public school and the children and staff brain stormed the idea of planting some more flowers in the school. After getting approval from the school to get planting, we made plans, procured horse manure (from the very wonderful Mr Marscham) and got started. In the process of setting up the garden we have had more wonderful support from families like Krish Mohanarajah who donated some eggplants to us and also other members of the school community like Michael the GPS cleaner (and avid gardener)! It is fantastic that once we discovered that the word ‘Girraween’ means in Aboriginal language ‘a place of flowers’ that we were able to make this a reality in our own way. We created a collaborative painting inspired by this as well!

Some other directions for the rest of the term include:

- Outdoor documentation and art display
- Nature weaving
- Harmony Day
- Easter fun

Our school Vision

Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.
Our school Vision
Girraween P.S. will create 21st century learners through innovative, culturally sensitive teaching practice with a focus on project based learning.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:
- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.

Our school Vision

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

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?
Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team
T 131 536
Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.det.nsw.gov.au
© February 2015
NSW Department of Education and Communities

My child won’t go to school. What should I do?
You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?
It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:
- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?
All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership
The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.
Girraween Public School
Bando Road, Girraween, NSW, 2145.
9631 3650 - 9631 9632 (Ph); 9896 3392 (Fax); girraween-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Parent Meetings/Workshops Schedule

Term 1 - 2015

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

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

Helen Huynh
Multicultural Community Liaison Officer

6th February 2015

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

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 Dollar-mites 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.

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.
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): _____________________________

Our school Vision

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