Welcome back to the 2013 school year. In particular I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Year 7 families, new enrolments to the school and our new staff.

This year promises to be both busy and rewarding. Our Creative and Performing Arts selective program and the Low SES School Communities National Partnership (a Commonwealth program designed to improve teacher quality and student engagement), both move into their second year.


With this understanding at the forefront of our thinking, the school leadership introduced a professional learning program for all teachers during 2011: “Focus on Reading”. We have now completed phase one of this program with all teachers understanding the importance of explicitly teaching reading comprehension strategies including the super six (making connections, predicting, questioning, monitoring, visualizing and summarising) as well as identifying the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria during each lesson.

Our emphasis on reading development as a means to empower our students with the skills necessary to successfully engage in their learning continues with the introduction of the STARS and CARS reading program undertaken during roll call. The importance of this reading initiative will only be strengthened where parents / carers are prepared to sit and listen to their children read to them for 20 minutes every night and ensure their child arrives at school on time to allow them to participate in the STARS and CARS reading program.

At present we are finalising our reading benchmarks for all students in Year 7 & 8 and are undertaking pre-tests with all students in Year 9 & 10 in Literacy & Numeracy.

For some time now the school has been looking at what students do in the classroom and how they engage in their learning. We are currently identifying key strategies where learning is most effective and ensuring this is visible for all to see. I support what John Hattie in his program, ‘Visible learning plus’ has to say when he states “when teachers see learning through the eyes of the student and students see themselves as their own teachers” we have the greatest opportunity for students to achieve.

Congratulations to Mrs Zaineddine and the P&C for successfully delivering the school our new Dance Studio. This state-of-the-art facility has been warmly received by both students and staff. The official opening ceremony will take place on Friday 22nd March with special guests to include the Honourable Tony Issa, local Member of Parliament for Granville, Mr Murat Dizdar, Regional Director South Western Sydney Public Schools NSW, Mr Rod Leonarder, School Education Director Granville and Mrs Georgina Zaineddine, P&C President Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School.

A number of staff changes occurred at the end of 2012. New staff to the school include Mrs Lonergan (Head Teacher Learning & Support), Ms Cameron (CAPA - Dance); Ms Zahra (English) and Mr Omar (Industrial Arts) – returning after a long absence.
There are also a number of temporary staff who are with us this year – Ms Tezel (Music); Ms Keogh (Careers); Ms Meimaris (Mathematics); Ms Kane (Home Economics) and Mr Karan (Home Economics), Ms Tsaloukis (Support); Ms Nolan (Support), Ms De Silva (PDHPE); Mr McLean (HSIE) and Mrs Realph (Administration office).

This is also an opportune time for us to farewell Ms Rosier Staines (Mathematics, Newtown School of the Performing Arts); and Ms Drabble (English, Punchbowl Boys’ High School).

I look forward to a very successful and rewarding year.

Mr W. Finn
Principal

English Faculty Report

2013 has seen the English Faculty farewell Ms Drabble who has accepted the position of Head Teacher English at Punchbowl Boys High school. We wish Ms Drabble every success in her new role and thank her for the contributions she made to not only the English Faculty but to the whole school in her role as both Welfare Coordinator and Girls Adviser.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Zahra into the faculty who has accepted the permanent position of English teacher in place of Ms Drabble.

Semester One sees Year 7 and 9 English students doing some preparation for their NAPLAN examinations that are scheduled nationally for May.

There are a number of live theatre performances that will be offered to our students this year. I would strongly encourage you, as parents, to support your child if they are offered this experience. These opportunities provide students with invaluable insights into theatre productions.

Mrs F. Mac Donald-Brown.
Head Teacher English.

READING REPORT

2012 saw us celebrate The Year of Reading! 2013 sees us, as a school, implementing our structured Sustained Reading Program to all students in Years 7 through to 10. The first phase for all students is the commencement of the CARS and STARS component which explicitly teaches reading/comprehension skills. This supports the program that staff are implementing in teaching The Super Six Reading Strategies in their daily lessons to our students. It is vitally important that children are encouraged to read nightly, at home, to support their reading/ comprehension development and consolidate the work being done at school.

Mrs. F Mac Donald-Brown.
Reading Coordinator.

SRC Report

The Senior Leadership Group (SLG) and members of the junior SRC attended the GRIP leadership conference recently where they gained insight on how to be a successful leader. They had a magnificent time listening to guest speakers, playing games, brainstorming ideas and meeting students from other school.

The SRC have also successfully conducted a whole school clean up event in conjunction with Clean Up Australia Day. We were supported by the community through employees of Merck and Co. attending the event.

The SRC and SLG are planning to launch a recycling campaign in the coming months with the support of Parramatta City Council. The campaign will involve students motivating each other to place rubbish in bins and recycle bottles and cans.

Miss L. Nguyen and Miss Rama
SRC and SLG coordinators
Vaccinations

The school based vaccination program will be running again this year. It will be free to girls and boys in Year 7, as well as boys in Year 9. This year, Year 9 boys will be given the free Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV), along with Year 7 boys. HPV is a highly contagious virus that is responsible for a wide range of HPV-related cancers and disease. By giving it to both girls and boys, it aims to protect them from these diseases. Attached is some information for parents about the vaccine. For more information about the HPV vaccination, there is an online video for you to watch:


Vaccination Dates 2013:
Wednesday 10th April – Year 7 and Year 9 boys
Thursday 20th June – Year 7 and Year 9 boys
Tuesday 30th July – Year 7
Tuesday 19th November – Year 7 and Year 9 boys

It is important that students are present on all days, as the HPV vaccine requires three doses. If a student does not receive all three doses they will have to see their local GP to catch up. Students should wear short sleeve shirts on the vaccination days and a jumper during the cooler months. It is recommended that the students each a good breakfast before they are vaccinated and drink plenty of water throughout the day.

If you wish your child not to be vaccinated at school, you should read the information packs handed out which details how to withdraw your son/daughter from the program. Please discuss vaccination with you child/children and return all forms, signed by a parent in blue or black ink, to Ms Fares in the Maths Staffroom.

Technical Support

Parents and students are urged to voice their opinion on the use of DER laptops by following the links below to complete an online survey.

Students:

Parents:

Mr D. Caran

Coming events 2012

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Year 8 and 9 camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday public holiday</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday public holiday</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Half Yearly exams begin</td>
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<td>8 April</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
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Swimming Carnival Photos

More photos to come in the next issue of South News!