South News
Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School

A Community and Selective school focusing on student engagement and success.

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Friday 1st August 2014

Special report: Interview with Mrs Johnston

What was it like starting the first day at Granville South CAPA?

Mrs Johnston: I was very excited to meet new people and engage with staff. I was lucky because I had visited the school earlier and had a chance to meet the staff and understand the school surroundings.

What were your previous schools that you taught at? From E. Roulston

Mrs Johnston: I was a classroom teacher at Picnic Point, Sarah Redfern and Beverly Hills Girls High Schools. My last school was Blacktown Girls’ High School. I was there for thirteen years as a TAS Head Teacher and then Deputy Principal and I loved it.

As a student I loved school and I always wanted to be a teacher. My interests were Maths, Science and textiles. I wanted to be a teacher to teach textiles. I loved the Science aspect of textiles as well as the design.

What do you like about our school? Why did you choose this school? From M. Ali

Mrs Johnston: The amazing opportunities and the great programs we have to cater for the interests of our students e.g. CAPA, Sport, Pathways to University, Multicultural, good facilities e.g. hall, field, dance room, gym.

Students come from similar backgrounds to my previous school. I live close by and I spent a lot of time in this area when I was a young adult. I used to attend a local church, which used the GSCAPAHS hall for a short time.

How can we make our school a better place? What are you prepared to change in this school? From A. Al-Modhefer

Mrs Johnston: I want to wait and get to know the school and community better before I make changes. If everyone works together and supports each other and shares the same vision with our school community and parents, our school will be a better place.

Are you a strict Principal? From D.Sen

Mrs Johnston: I’ve only been here for four weeks. Students from Blacktown Girls would say that I am strong but fair. I have high expectations of students and when there are difficult situations I understand that sometimes students can’t meet those standards and I can offer support.

What are your main goals for the school and students? From Z. Grawak

Mrs Johnston:
For students to attain success, understand each other, develop strong relationships with their teachers and develop their goals together. Not every child has to go to University. They
can transition into the workforce, into TAFE or from TAFE to university.

**What is your background?**

Mrs Johnston:
*I was born in Canberra hospital, which is now the site of a museum. I grew up in Canberra, but spent school holidays in the country. My mother's family are farmers on the Snowy River, and my father lived near Braidwood. I had the opportunity to work on the farm and enjoyed riding horses and occasionally rode a quad bike. I was lucky because I went to a large city school with a lot of subject choices. My Dad was a migrant born in Yugoslavia and was a refugee in World War II. I left home in year 12 when I was 18, and went to Sydney. I lived on campus for two years at UWS Hawkesbury. I married in a church on the corner of Excelsior and Kimberly Street near our school. I settled in the Bankstown area and started teaching. I now have three children.*

**Why did you become a Principal? From J. Toga**

Mrs Johnston:
*I enjoyed my experience as a Deputy Principal. I also enjoy interacting with parents and students. As a Deputy Principal, I enjoyed working on a school vision, knowing what the school wanted and making decisions that helped to improve the school. I wanted to work with everyone in the community on that vision. I only made the decision to become Principal last year.*

**What other job would you do if you weren’t Principal? From L. Diep**

Mrs Johnston:
*Textile Arts is my true passion. If I had the finances I would be a textile artist, and continue to teach textiles.*

**Was it your dream to become Principal and was it difficult to achieve it? How did you achieve this goal? From E. Nyaw and E. Diaz**

Mrs Johnston:
*It was never my dream to become Principal, Deputy or Head Teacher. I would have been happy to teach textiles but in all my years of teaching I have only had 3 senior textile classes. I needed to find something else to challenge myself.*

Thank you for your time Mrs Johnston. We appreciate your honesty and we really enjoyed listening to you.

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**Senior Leadership Group and Student Representative Council**

**SRC Report**

This month we have focused on fundraising for Red Nose Day, which is a foundation dedicated to supporting families of children who die from illness or during their sleep.

The SRC sold $200 worth of merchandise and also held a tug-of-war competition, pin the nose on the clown and a hairspray salon on the day.
Thank you for supporting this worthy cause and we look forward to bringing you more events that are fun and educational.

Miss L Nguyen
SRC coordinator

CAPA News

Dance report

The Granville South CAPA Dance Ensemble has been very busy this term. The Dance Ensemble were not only preparing for the Our Spectacular Audition but also the Sydney West Dance Festival at Penrith Panthers, the NSW Public Schools Dance Festival Series 2 at the Seymour Centre and the week 8 assembly performance of 'To Build A Home'.

The Dance Ensemble which involves students from years 7-12 performed their item 'Together Alone' at the dance festivals this year. 'Together Alone' was a challenging contemporary routine choreographed by Ms Cameron for the ensemble. The students worked extremely hard and represented the school with great pride and professionalism. Mrs McKeown attended the excursions and experienced the nerves and excitement of these events.

Miss Cameron
Dance Teacher

Music Report

The Granville CAPA Band has been practicing hard for the Our Spectacular Auditions, and on the 5th of June, the panel came to the school and auditioned our group. This year we combined the Dancers and the Circus students to make our show even more spectacular. I am happy to say that we were successful in our auditions! Our Spectacular is at the Opera House on the 2nd of September! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Moala who helped with the Music Ensemble, Ms Cameron with the Dancers, Ms Kontrafouri with her talented Circus performers. Lastly thank you to Ms McKeown for coordinating this huge project.

Mr J Chai
Music Teacher
Up-coming School Calendar Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 28-Aug 1</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>CAPA performance night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 14</td>
<td>Year 12 Trial HSC begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 16-24</td>
<td>Science Week</td>
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<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>Australian Museum excursion</td>
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Our South News is also available on our school website for download at: [http://www.granvilles-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.granvilles-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/)

Our articles will also be available for viewing on the School’s Facebook page at: [https://www.facebook.com/GranvilleSouthCreative andPerformingArtsHlghqSchool](https://www.facebook.com/GranvilleSouthCreative andPerformingArtsHlghqSchool)

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**Excelsior Family - Medical Centre**

175 Excelsior Street, Guildford NSW 2161
PH(02) 9681 4056  Fax(02) 9681 6130

**From 14/02/14**

Extended Opening Hours
Mon – Fri 8.30am – 6.00pm and Sat/Sun 9.00am-3.00pm
Books Open to New Patients
Medicare, Work Cover, Private
Very Experienced Drs will join us
Open 7 days
Bulk Billing
Dr Nameer Abdullah
Dr Ben Bhatt
Dr (Mrs) S Bhatt
Dr Lina Aljumha

**Allied Health Services will join us**
Psychologist, Dietician, Cardio First, Hearing

**We provide the following Services**;
General Practice, Surgical Procedures,
Women, Men
& Children’s Health, Ultrasound Therapy,
Pathology,
Work Cover, Spirometry, ECG’S,
immunisations,
Diabetic Care, Cryotheraphy, Travel
Medicare

We accept appointments and walk-ins
All Emergencies will be seen immediately