From the Principal...

Regional Principals’ Conference - Last week I spent 2 days at the Regional Principals’ Conference in Wollongong. The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Beyond Transition to Transformation’. This was a very fitting theme considering the current and planned changes occurring to our education system. One of the key areas was on reflection of current school practices and preparing our students for continued learning and engagement. There were a vast array of speakers who focussed on how we, as educators, deliver learning and outcomes in this current climate of change. A particular focus was on the new national curriculum which will start taking effect in 2014 with a new English curriculum. I am very pleased with our school’s progress in this area. We started looking at new curriculum issues last year and are well into the process of reviewing, refining and re-writing what we currently do. It is an exciting time of change for our system of education, with the opportunity to introduce new learning, programs and initiatives.

Easter Raffle - We have had a great response from the community in making donations for our Easter raffle. Please be aware that donations can still be sent in to school up until this Friday 22 March. All sold and unsold raffle tickets must be returned to school by Wednesday 27 March 2013. There is a special prize for the student who sells the most raffle tickets.

School Website - We have updated the school website to include as many dates for school events as possible. Please be aware that some dates and times may vary. Events range from Term 1 through to Term 4. The website is a great way to identify events that are coming up at our school.

School Uniform - At Governor Philip King Public School we take great pride in our school uniform. The uniform is a reflection of our school. Please support our high standards and insist that your child wears their correct full school uniform each day. This includes the correct school hat and either black school shoes or black supportive joggers.

Contribution Fees - Thank you to the families who have already paid their contribution fees. Please keep in mind that this money provides additional opportunities and resources for your children above and beyond those provided through our global budget. Any family experiencing financial difficulty can come and speak to Mrs Wignell. We have limited student assistance money that can be used to support families or individual students. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school for support. If you did not receive the contribution fee information please contact the front office as soon as possible.

Notes and Money - Parents are reminded that all money and notes need to be handed in to the front office. All money and notes should be placed into a clearly labelled envelope for processing. Parents are reminded to observe cut-off dates for money and notes. Unfortunately due to commitments to venues we are unable to process money after the due date printed on all notes that are sent home.

Facts about fractions - If you’ve forgotten 3/5 of primary school maths and 7/8 of high school maths, what’s left? Ah ha! Kids need help learning how to add fractions too. The only thing left is to print these fact sheets. Find out more: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4013.pdf

P&C News - Hi everyone, the P&C have been busy this week preparing for the following events:

**Wednesday 20th March - 3-6 Athletics Carnival Sausage sizzle** - The P&C will be running its first Athletics Carnival sausage sizzle at Bosnjak Park, with thanks to the Bonnyrigg "Men's Shed" Volunteer group who have kindly offered to run the BBQ. Sausages on bread will be $2.00 each. Bottles of cold water will also be available on the day at $1.00 each. Parents and visitors will be able to purchase their sausage sizzle and water on the day.

**Thursday 21st March - Harmony Day/Grand Parents Day** - The P&C will be holding a second hand uniform stall from 11am near the Year 6 cake stall.

**Mothers’ Day Gifts** - Please return your orders and money to the office by Friday 5th April and help make Mothers’ Day more special.

Thank You. LET'S SUPPORT OUR KIDS AT GPK. P&C President - Mark Cavanaugh.

**Year 6 to Year 7 High School Expression of Interest forms** - The year 6 teachers will have filled out the student number, name, address and their local high school. This high school is determined by the student's home address. Parents must complete the other details on the form and return it to their Year 6 teacher by Friday 22 March.

**Years 5 and 6 - The Collaroy Centre** - Reminder - The last day for the balance of excursion fees to be paid is Friday, 22 March.

**Values Education** - The value for Week 8 is Self-Esteem or Self-Acceptance. Self-Esteem is feeling confident and good about ourselves and Self-Acceptance is being able to recognize who we are and accepting ourselves whilst continuing to strive to attain our personal best. It is an acceptance of all aspects of ourselves “warts and all”. The effect of students having positive self-esteem on others is that they can be inspired. Self-acceptance leads to self-confidence which we all need at some time. Please have discussions about these values with your child/children at home. Mrs S. Kumar, Student Engagement.

**Girls’ Winter Pinafore** - We are now taking pre-paid orders for the girls’ winter pinafores. Please try these on the children before ordering as there will be NO refunds or exchanges. Orders will be taken on Uniform Sales days, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30a.m. to 2:15p.m.

**Raffle to help Miss Walter compete for Australia in Seniors Tennis** - The winners of the raffle were as follows:

1st Mr Hoyle (tool set), 2nd Emelia Small (Orchid House voucher), 3rd Rita Di Cristo (Penna's gift set), 4th Roupen Karamanoukian (Flowers by Lucy voucher), 5th Nicholas Cavanaugh (Brennan Park Tennis Centre voucher) and 6th Mrs Sarkees (Champagne flutes, stopper and glass rings).

We would like to thank the above businesses for donating the prizes.

**Thank you from Miss Walter** - To the staff, students and parents of GPK I would like to thank you for your generosity and assistance with my trip to Turkey for tennis. As you read this I will be already playing in the Teams event for Australia. Hopefully we will do well. A special thank you to Karen Parmenter for organising the raffle and to the businesses who donated the prizes. Congratulations to the winners.

**Multicultural Playgroup news** - The World’s Biggest Playgroup Day is on Wednesday, 20 March at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour. It’s free with lots of things to entertain the children.

**Grandparents’ Day** - This Thursday is Grandparents’ Day. Grandparents are invited to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSSA Results - Round 5 -</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Player of the Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W/L/D</td>
<td>Score</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys T-ball</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>17-14</td>
<td>James Ratcliffe, Ryan Lam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls T-ball</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>15-9</td>
<td>Patricia Moser, Nicolette Talevski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 Boys Oz Tag</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>10-0</td>
<td>Ramsin Dalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5/6 Girls Oz Tag</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Maddie Figueroa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This week we play against Prairievale at Powhatan. Oz Tag has a bye this week.

Have a great week!

Jason Corcoran
Principal
Harmony Day 2013 – Everyone Belongs

Harmony Day is a celebration of Australia’s cultural diversity. In 2013, the Harmony Day theme is “Many Stories, One Australia.” It recognises the important role and positive influence that cultural diversity has in our multicultural nation.

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place.

GPKPS will be making a special effort to recognise Harmony Day on Thursday, 21st of March, 2013. As the official Harmony Day colour is orange, students are encouraged to wear something orange on this day to show their support for the idea of living in harmony. This will be a mufti day for all students, but no money is required.

ESL&CL Teachers