*From the Principal...*

**Governor Babies** - Last week was a very exciting time for our staff as we had two new Governor babies join our school family. Firstly congratulations to Mr Hamilton and his partner on the early arrival last Tuesday (11 February) of a healthy baby girl named Mackenzie. Secondly, congratulations to Mr and Mrs Hosking on the anticipated, and overdue, arrival last Wednesday (12 February) of a healthy baby boy named Mitchell. Both dads, mums and babies are doing well and we look forward to meeting the new additions in the near future.

**Swimming Carnival** - Last Tuesday was the school swimming carnival. Each year we share this event with King Park. As always our students represented their school with pride and I commend their efforts and achievements. Thank you to the staff involved in assisting on the day. A huge thank you to Mr Hoyle for his organisation and dedication in ensuring the swimming carnival ran smoothly. Some of our students will now represent our school at the zone swimming carnival.

**Meet the Teacher Evening** - We will be holding Meet the Teacher evenings on two separate nights again this year. Wednesday 26 February (Week 5) will be for students in Years 1, 3, 5 and 6. Thursday 27 February has been set for parents with students in Kindergarten, Years 2 and 4. The format of the evening will provide parents with time to visit their child’s classroom and meet their class teacher. The second part of the evening will be used to share information about grade and stage plans for the year. The meet the teacher evenings will start at 6.00pm. Parents will meet in their child’s classroom then move to a designated grade area for the conclusion of the evening.

We remind parents that the purpose of the evening is to share information about structures and plans for grades and classes throughout 2014. The evening is not time for parent/teacher interviews. If you need to discuss things specific to your child you are asked to make an appointment at another mutually convenient time. Parents are also reminded that this is an evening for parents and, where possible, we request that alternative arrangements are made for students and toddlers.

**Main School Entrance** - Our procedures for entering and exiting the school in the morning and afternoon have not changed. Parents and students should be using the pathway into the school during morning arrivals. The front pedestrian gate will be open throughout the day for parents to access the front office via the main footpath. We are requesting that in the afternoon parents use the side gate into the infants area and the front gate behind the Year One classrooms to enter and exit the school. There should be no pedestrian traffic down the main footpath. This avoids large volumes of people all trying to leave using the same footpath resulting in the gardens being trampled. Under no circumstances should any parent or student enter or leave the school via the car park gates. Please support us in ensuring the entry into the school remains intact by following our simple routine and reinforcing this with the students. Your support with continuing our procedures will be greatly appreciated.

**Exemption Forms** - Any families planning overseas holidays or extended leave must complete an exemption form. These are available through the front office and must be completed a minimum of 2 weeks before travel occurs. If families do not complete exemption forms, the absence of students will then be recorded as an unexplained absence in the roll and on their record cards. A note written after the event will not change the unexplained absence. In order for an extended leave to be recorded as an exemption, parents must seek the approval of the principal prior to the leave being taken. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please contact the front office.

**Community Languages Program** - GPK is in the unique and very fortunate position that we offer 5 different community languages at our school. Students at Governor Philip King have the opportunity of acquiring, maintaining and developing a community language in the course of the normal school day. Many countries around the world recognise the benefits of learning a second and sometimes even a third language at primary school level. Every student at Governor Philip King is involved in our community language program.
Hats - All students are required to wear a school hat at lunch and recess break. Our school has a firm policy which outlines that students who do not wear a school hat will be required to stay under a sheltered area during playtimes. Our uniform policy clearly states that a school hat is part of the uniform requirement as endorsed by the P&C. Surf hats, coloured hats and other logo types of hats are not an acceptable part of the school uniform and should be kept at home. Parents are encouraged to ensure students wear the correct uniform (including hats) to school each day. School hats are available for sale through the school office at a cost of $15.

Change to Office Hours - Commencing on Monday 3 March the times our front office will be open will change. Office hours will now be 8.30am - 3.30pm. Please note the office will remain locked until 8.30am.

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 in the envelope provided 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.

GPK Swimming Carnival Report 2014 - The school swimming carnival was held last Tuesday at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. Congratulations to the 31 swimmers who competed and had fun. We shared the pool with King Park Public School once again and trialled the half day format which worked well with both schools getting through all the events comfortably.

Good luck to the 17 students who have qualified for the Zone Carnival which is to be held on Tuesday 4 March at the same venue!

Standout Performances
Trinity Doan (5LF) has qualified for 5 events at the Zone Carnival.
Ruby Clarke (6BS) is the fastest girl in our school.
Jeremy Nguyen (6SR) is our fastest boy.
There were no school records broken this year but there were some very fast times swum by our students.

Final Results
1ST SCARBOROUGH - 91, 2ND SUPPLY - 69, 3RD ALEXANDER - 44 and 4TH SIRIUS - 41.

A Big thank you to Mrs Godelekoglu and Mrs Myles for their help on the day. Thanks also to the GPK teachers for helping at the carnival!

Reminder:
Zone Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 4 March at Prairiewood Leisure Centre.

SSW Area Primary Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 18 March at Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre, The Parkway, Bradbury commencing at 8.30am. Mr Hoyle.

Active Challenge - Active Challenge starts in Week 5. If you are interested you need to complete the note and return it to Miss Shabaz or Miss Taylor as soon as possible.

Monday - Years 1 & 2 (Multi-skill games)
Tuesday - Years 5 & 6 (Martial Arts)
Thursday - Years 3 & 4 (Bike riding)

Active Challenge is a GREAT sports program and all students in Grades 1-6 are encouraged to come along! Miss Shabaz & Miss Taylor.

Values Education - We are pleased to inform parents that the "Human Values Education Program" will continue to the third stage in 2014. It will complement our whole school SRL (Safe, Respectful, Learner) program. We encourage parents to have discussions with their children about the range of activities they complete and the areas they cover in their classes. Children in upper grades would have learnt about the values previously since we are following a two-year cycle. In the first phase, they have become aware of what these values mean and why they need to practise them. In the second phase they have learnt about the impact of practising these values on the family and community. This year they will be concentrating on the environmental and spiritual benefits of practising these values.

The value for week 4 and 5 is "Courage". Courage is the ability to persevere in spite of our fears. It is being bold. Courage enables us to deal with stressful or painful situations in a calm and rational manner. Courage is finding the inner strength to carry on even after a setback or failure. Our children are always in situations where they require courage to make daily decisions such as what to eat, who to play with, whether to take risks during learning and playing, what to watch on TV etc.

Please have discussions about the value of Courage and why children need to have courage. Mrs S. Kumar, Student Engagement.
The first P&C Meeting for 2014 was held last Wednesday 12th February. Thank you to all who attended. We discussed the upcoming events for Term 1 which are a Mufti Day, Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival, Easter and Mothers’ Day. There is an exciting array of Mothers’ Day gifts to buy for mothers this year. The order forms will be coming out soon.

Our first Mufti day will be next Tuesday the 25th February and will be an ice block day. Students can come to school in mufti and donate a gold coin and will be given an ice block.

Wednesday 19th March is the Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival and like last year the P&C will be running a sausage sizzle. Students will be given a note this week and if they want a sausage sizzle they will need to return this with their money by the due date. Parents are welcome to buy their sausages on the day.

The second hand uniform stall last week was extremely popular. P&C members, Mrs Siracusa and Mrs Cavanaugh were kept busy helping parents with their purchases. Without the help of dedicated mothers organising and running the uniform stall, it would not be possible. Thank you for all the donated uniforms and keep them coming in. The next stall will be in a few weeks.

Don’t forget to check out our P&C Facebook page for updated information and events - just search Facebook for “Governor Philip King Public School” and like the page for regular updates. SUPPORT OUR KIDS AT GPK. Mark Cavanaugh, P&C President.

Have a great week!

Jason Corcoran
Principal

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