Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week Garden Suburb students will celebrate NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous Communities but by Australians from all walks of life.

This week we at Garden Suburb will celebrate with a variety of activities. On Monday our Indigenous students, co-conducted our assembly with our leaders. At the assembly all students learnt and performed an Aboriginal welcome song and heard a traditional “Welcome to Country”. Some students told us why they are proud of being Indigenous. On Wednesday and Thursday our infants classes along with our Indigenous students will be exploring the Awabakal Centre at Dudley to immerse themselves in Aboriginal Culture.

In the classrooms students will read Aboriginal stories, paint dot paintings and maybe even learn to throw a boomerang or play a didgeridoo. A new sign is being made to erect in our snake garden with an Acknowledgement of Country.

This year our local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) formed a new group with a new body of support. We as a community of schools belong to the Kumaridha AECG with our new president Ken Weatherall. Ken has been an active member and strong voice for our Aboriginal families for many years. The Kumaridha AECG Group will meet next term at 5.45pm at Argenton Public School on Wednesday 5th August. All community and new members are invited to attend.

Our Public Speaking speak offs showcased the extra-ordinary talents of students at our school. Again our judges Mrs Dawn Lambert (retired teacher) and Ms Amy Caveretta (English teacher at Cardiff High) were struggling to find clear winners to go onto zone.
The field was outstanding and the judges decisions difficult. Our Zone representatives are:-
Kindergarten—Caitlin Guiney and Joshua Dijkgraaf.
Stage 1— Zoe Mulhearn and Aria Ambrose.
Stage 2—Georgia McSeveney, Liam McSeveney - Atahlia Nightingale with a Highly Commended.
Stage 3—Charlotte Cusack, Lola Haylock - Indigo Newitt with a Highly Commended.
Well done everyone!
Don’t forget our out of uniform day Friday with our Paper Plane Challenge (50c a plane) paper provided, with planes made before throwing. This will be in the morning session.
Principals lunch is also Friday with 113 students attending. Well done everyone!
Enjoy your break!
Jo Swadling

**JUNIOR TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY CANCELLED**

The past few weeks of rain have left us with a rescheduled Athletics Carnival, weekend sports in chaos and now it has affected this week’s Crossroads Zone Junior Touch Gala Day. The Newcastle Harness Racing and Touch Football Centre have been forced to close its grounds for non-representative games this week. It is hoped that the event will be rescheduled next term.

**PSSA SPORTS LEFT OUT TO DRY**

Last Friday’s PSSA games against Cardiff South Public School were also cancelled due to poor weather. With GSPS grounds underwater there was no way this week’s competition could take place safely. However, in a positive sign, Senior Soccer training did take place on Monday afternoon. If the weather remains clear it is hoped that this Friday’s clash with Barnsley Public School will be able to go ahead.

Good luck to our amazing athletes.

**PSSA** Netball games will take place at Barnsley Public School, while Soccer will be held at Taylor Park starting at 1.00pm.

**BAND STUDENTS PLAY TO THEIR OWN BEAT**

Our dedicated and amazing Concert Band students will once again be participating in Bandlink 2015. This is an opportunity for our young musicians to play with students from a range of schools, work with experienced tutors and play in front of a live audience. Taking place late next month over two days at Newcastle Jockey Club, the event will be an excellent opportunity for our students to make new friends, learn new skills and gain confidence in their ability.

Well done so far this year Band students, and remember, if you are interested in joining the Concert Band next term please see Mr Mathews for information. Our Concert Band is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn lifelong skills and make new friends. Plus, it’s lots of fun!
GREEN NEWS

A Working Bee is being planned to weed, mulch and organise our school gardens on Wednesday 8th July (2nd week of holidays) starting at 9am—weather permitting.

If you would like to attend, please bring your own gardening gloves, hat, wear covered shoes, snacks and water bottle.

STUDENTS ARE MOST WELCOME BUT MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ATTENDING CARER.

Thanking you,
Roma Dorahy

OUR HIP HOP PERFORMERS PUT ON AN AMAZING DISPLAY SHOWCASING ALL THEY HAVE LEARN’T THIS TERM. WELL DONE!

P & C Newsletter

Dear Families,

This semester our P & C have been very active in school decisions and fundraising. In Term 1 we supported the school’s 3 year Strategic PLAN as presented by Mrs Swadling. We have also consulted with Mrs Swadling on where our fundraising efforts are best spent.

Our Easter Raffle was one of the most successful raising $1200.00. We also had a great end of term disco with a movie theme and BBQ.

During Term 2 our Mother’s Day Stall was amazing followed by our Cookie Dough Drive which has made nearly $1000. Kylie continues to sell Entertainment Books for the school. This semester we have raised approximately $5000 with your help. On Sunday at Bunning’s Kotara our hardworking P & C and volunteers will be cooking up a sausage feast. If you can give half an hour of your time or come down and buy a sausage it would be a great support for our wonderful school and your children.

The P & C to date have supported your children with the purchase of an air conditioner for the computer room and have paid for the Reading Eggs Subscription.

In the holidays new cupboards will be installed to help our uniform shop and make our P & C room a great place to meet.

Next term the P & C will pay for the hire of the Athletics fields and for the buses, so all students can enjoy the carnival and have some spare change to buy a sausage or a pie on the day. We are now helping the school by helping to put a cover over our new back stairs.

On behalf of the P & C executive who always give willingly of their time, we thank all parents who help us in so many ways, including organising book club, volunteering in the canteen and at our events. Please enjoy your winter break and we hope to see you next term.

Jackie Spink
P & C President
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