Welcome Back

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be a very busy Term 4! This term we are looking forward to a number of exciting events, including welcoming our Kinder 2015 students as they begin their Kindergarten Transition program. We are busy planning excursions and in-school visits, Grandparents Day, K-2 Sports Day, as well as many exciting end of year activities. Further information will be sent home in notes and in our newsletter as these events draw closer.

Grandparents Day

In 2011 the State Government chose to recognise the contributions that grandparents make by launching Grandparents Day. Each year, Grandparents Day is celebrated in NSW on the last Sunday of October. This year Grandparents Day will be celebrated on Sunday 26th October 2014.

Grandparents Day acknowledges the vital role that grandparents play in our society, both as custodians of individual and cultural memories and as providers of care, love and guidance to their children and grandchildren. Grandparents Day recognises the irreplaceable role grandparents have in their families and in the wider community.

Our school will be celebrating Grandparents Day on Friday 24th October. We will be inviting all our wonderful Grandparents to join us for a day of activities and a picnic lunch. Save the date as there will be more information to follow shortly!

BLC Public Speaking Competition

The Blacktown Learning Community Schools' 2014 Public Speaking Competition will be held at Bert Oldfield Public School on Wednesday 12th November. Approximately 21 schools from the Blacktown Learning Community will participate in this competition and each school will select one student representative from each year 3-6 to represent their school on this day.

Our school will hold a Year 3-6 Public Speaking competition on Thursday, 30th October at which our school representatives will be selected. Over the next few weeks, our students will be involved in activities which will prepare them for this competition. Students in Years 3 & 4 will present a two minute speech and students in Years 5 & 6 will present a three minute speech from one of the Public Speaking Competition topics provided.
During Weeks 1 and 2, students should devise their speech and practise reading it daily. This may be set as a homework task, although ample opportunities will also be provided for students to devise and rehearse speeches during class time.

All students K-6 will be involved in our internal school competition as audience members. Three finalists from each grade will compete at our school competition. The speeches will be judged and the winner will go on to represent our school at the BLC event.

**Attendance**

International research demonstrates a strong link between attendance at school, student learning and improved life outcomes. Attendance at school is an important aspect of a student’s wellbeing and a key priority for the Department.

Schools, families and communities can work together to send a strong collective message about the importance of school attendance.

Our school values and encourages regular attendance at school. Each week, the class with the highest rate of attendance is announced at our Monday Morning Assembly and draws a prize from the Attendance Prize Box.

Congratulations to the following winning classes for their outstanding attendance:

**Term 3 - Week 9-10:** 2/3T

**Term 4 - Week 1:** K/1S & 2/3T

**Out Of School Hours Care - OOSH**

Our school is very fortunate to have before and after school care facilities. Our Out of School Hours Care (OOSH) is owned & operated by the Seven Hills Public School P & C Association. The centre is situated within the school grounds and provides a safe, secure, well supervised facility for students.

The centre has established suitable fun indoor & outdoor activities programs for the children and offers programs that cater to the individual needs of the students. The centre encourages healthy eating habits as our school is a “healthy school” and follows the policies set out by the NSW Government.

We are currently completing enrolments for OOSH places in 2015 and have some vacancies in both morning and afternoon sessions. All interested parents are required to fill out an enrolment form and booking form available at the schools office. We accept both regular and casual bookings.

All parents are welcome to enrol even if they may only use the facility once or twice. It is necessary to enrol to secure a position at the centre. For families who will be using this service during 2015, it is imperative that 2015 Enrolments Forms are completed as soon as possible and returned to the centre so that places can be secured. Please see OOSH staff or our school office if you require further information or Enrolment forms.

**Kindergarten Transition for 2015 Students**

Our Kindergarten Transition program commenced today with our 2015 Kinder students visiting our Kindergarten classroom and participating in a range of play activities. Parents were invited to stay with their child in the classroom, providing an opportunity to observe and interact with their child in a Kindergarten classroom setting. It was great to see our newest students engaged in a variety of hands-on and developmental play activities. The transition program provides an opportunity for new students to become familiar with the school setting and to meet some of our teachers and students. This also allows staff to observe the students to determine what skills and talents they will bring to school in 2015.

There are two more transition visits scheduled as well as a parent information session. If your child (or another you know) will be attending our school in 2015, please ensure you have completed an enrolment form at our office so that they can participate in this valuable program.

**Dismissal Procedures**

Students are dismissed from their classrooms at the 3.00pm bell. For K-2 students, parents and carers who are collecting their children are asked to meet their child at the classroom. Teachers will keep students on the seats beside their classrooms until they have been collected by the appropriate parent / carer or other authorised person. Please notify the school office before the bell if you are running late. When parents/carers are late to collect their child, we ask staff to bring the student to the office. This ensures that everyone gets home safely.

Please be aware, that once you have collected your child they are then within your care. It would be appreciated if you could assist our staff and students by closely supervising your child once they have been dismissed into your care, particularly if they are using our playground equipment.
Applying for a Year 7 Selective High Schools in 2016

Students in Year 5 have received a note this week regarding applications for Selective High School placements in 2016.

Selective high schools cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Offers for selective high school placement are determined mainly on the basis of the Selective High School Placement Test results and school assessment. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on Thursday 12 March 2015.

If you would like your child to apply for selective high school entry to Year 7 in 2016, you will need to do so soon. Applications are completed on-line and require the following: email address (not the students email address), access to the internet and a printer.

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from 14 October 2014 when applications open. Applications close on 17th November and no late applications will be accepted.

There are no paper application forms. If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Unit for assistance after 14 October 2014. You must submit only ONE application for each student.

If you intend to apply for a Selective high school placement for your child, please return the note to the school office by Friday 24th October. Please be aware that this is a notice to our school that you intend to apply only. It is NOT an application.

If you require further information about your child’s suitability for Selective high school, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

Kind regards,

Mrs Renai Diamond
Principal (Acting)

You can email the school:
sevenhills-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Maths Matters!

Here are some fun and challenging Maths problems for all ages. If you solve any or all of the problems see Mrs Diamond with your answer as there are prizes to be given out.

Problem 1: Alphabet Soup

Why are some letters Soup above the line and some letters below?
(Here's a Hint: There is no math involved and a 4 year old would get it in a second!)

AEFHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
BCDGJOPQRSU

Problem 2: Nines

Use four 9’s in a math equation that equals 100.
In Term 3 the students in 3/4A enjoyed learning about Space. To complete the unit of work the students designed a ‘Space’ model. I was very impressed at the creativity and quality of their designs. Mrs Antala
Class of the Week: 3/4A
Years 5 and 6 Excursion to Canberra and the snow.

Camp to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains was really great because we went to so many different places and saw and learnt so much.

We all met at Blacktown North P.S. about 6.45am and we boarded a coach and travelled to Canberra for our first stop. We went into Questacon and tried lots of different experiments. There was a giant blow dryer and we put ribbons and foam cups and watched them float into the air, we saw a hologram and tried to catch him and went into a house and experienced an earthquake. Some people went on the giant slide which was scary but exciting too. Then we had lunch and drove to the Australian Institute of Sport. We met Rachel and Ethan who were our guides and they are also training at the AIS. We all got a passport and then went and tried all sorts of different training activities. There was running, a skiing machine, a luge, basketball, canoeing, soccer, bike riding and even rock climbing. After that we went on a tour around the AIS and watched some athletes training.

When we left the AIS we boarded the coach and drove to the Snowgate Hotel which is in Berridale. We were all put into rooms and we unpacked our bags and then headed to the restaurant for dinner. All the food was nice but everybody’s favourite was the chips and nuggets and ice-cream for dessert. After dinner we went to the ski hire to pick up our ski clothes.

The next day was awesome. We all got up really early, got dressed in our ski clothes and headed down for breakfast. After breakfast we went on the coach to the Kosciusko National Park where we first went to the Sawpit Creek Education Centre and then to Smiggins Hole ski field. At the education centre we saw a video and played some games. The highlight of the day was going to the snow. Everyone was so excited when we arrived. We had recess first and everyone ate as quickly as they could because we wanted to get onto the snow. The snow was so soft and white and soon everyone was throwing snowballs. We had a huge snowball fight with school against school and then just throwing snowballs at anyone, even the teachers. After the snow we went back to our motel and had dinner and a disco. The disco was so much fun with prizes and drinks and couches to sit on if you were tired.

In the morning we packed our bags and we were all sad to leave, but happy to be going home to see our parents. We headed back to Canberra where our first stop was the Australian War Memorial. We got to see what the ANZACS wore and wrote with and more, we went inside a battleship’s bridge and we saw the insides and outsides of war planes. After the War Memorial we went to Parliament House where we had a tour and sat in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Next we visited Old Parliament House where we played games and pretended to be ministers in the Labour and Liberal party.
Then we had to leave. We got back on the coach to head home. On the way we watched movies and we stopped for dinner at MacDonalds.

We would like to thank Mrs Diamond, Mrs Antala and Mrs Tierney for organising and taking us on this amazing excursion. This is a trip we will never forget.

By Tanika, Yasmine and Vivyane Year 5 & 6

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**School Holiday Gymnastics Clinics**

For school aged boys and girls

Come and experience the fun and excitement of gymnastics

- Fun in a safe and structured environment
- Qualified and Professional Coaches
- Olympic Standard Equipment
- Foam Filled Landing Pits
- Trampolines
- Affiliated with Gymnastics Australia and NSW

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*September 22nd – 26th and September 29th – October 3rd*

**Term 4 2014**

Enrolments Now Being Taken

Classes for Boys and Girls 2 years and above

Book now on 9620 8323 or sydacgym@hotmail.com

Unit 7/32 Artisan Rd Seven Hills

Unit 5/1a Gibbon Rd Winston Hills

www.sydneygymnastics.com.au
GIRRAWEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Invitation To Open Night 2014

To Year 5 Students And Their Parents

Girraween High School is an academically selective high school which offers a curriculum for students who aspire to achieve exceptional HSC results. The school has experienced and dedicated staff, providing students with safe, engaging classes and well-equipped facilities.

You are invited to attend an Open Night which will be held at the school. The school band will perform from 5:30pm and you are welcome to enjoy this performance.

The Open Night will feature classroom tours, displays, presentations and the chance to meet students and teachers.

Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Tuesday, 4th November 2014
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Venue: Girraween High School
110 Gilba Road
GIRRAWEEN NSW 2145
Tel: 9636 7293 or 9636 7303
Fax: 9896 3274
Web: www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

FI in Schools Challenge State Champions: Team Solar Eclipse

HSC 2013 Achievements:

- 50 students received an ATAR of 95 or higher.
- 10 students received the Premier’s Award for All Round Excellence.
- 222 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List (Band 6 Results).
- 1 student was placed 6th in the state for History Extension.
- 100% of students achieved the top two bands in English Extension 1 and 2, Accelerated Chemistry, Senior Science, Modern History, Extension History, Legal Studies, French Continuers and Extension, Music 1 and 2, and Drama.
- Over 96% of students achieved results in the top two bands in the Mathematics Extension 1 and Ancient History courses.
- In Mathematics Extension 2, 90% of students finished in the top 2 bands.