



SAMUEL GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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ENROLLING NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2010

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to what should be a very productive and challenging second semester at Samuel Gilbert. There are a number of items to report upon this month:

Staff Changes:

As you are aware there have been a number of staff changes at the start of the Semester.

Executive Responsibilities -

Principal: Donna Harris; Deputy Principal: Cathie Barclay

Assistant Principals: Elizabeth Evans (E.S.1), Heather Solly (S1), Eileen Tudor (S2), Lynnea Hart (S3).

New Classroom Teachers -

1Y - Robyn Miller, 4B - Matthew Whybrow.

Staff Development Day:

Staff from Samuel Gilbert Public School joined with the staff from Castle Hill Public School and Castle Hill High School to explore horizons in using Technology in the classroom. After a very inspirational key note address given by Dr Paul Brock (Director Learning & Development Research) staff attended a number of hands on workshops covering such topics as Interactive Whiteboards, Podcasts, Vodcasts, Wikis & Blogs. Samuel Gilbert was well represented with four of our staff presenting workshops - (Ms Spencer, Mrs Hart, Mrs Spears & Mrs Evans). The combined Staff Development day provided a wonderful opportunity to establish networks within our local schools and to share each school's expertise.

Project Support Officer - Language:

Teachers from Year 1 have successfully applied for inclusion into the Northern Sydney Region Language Project. The teachers will be working with Regional personnel to develop and implement an action learning plan to address the specific learning needs of students with language issues.

Regional Director Visit:

Jane Simmonds, the Northern Sydney Regional Director will be visiting our school on Thursday, 6th August. This will enable the school to showcase areas in relation to regional and school targets.

Ray White Works

with Samuel Gilbert Public School

Kellie McKenzie 0416 238 677
Andrew McDermott 0410 598 397

Sell your home with us and 10% of selling fee will be donated to Samuel Gilbert P&C (conditions apply).



Smoking is not permitted on school grounds

Upcoming Dates for the Diary:

Please find included in this Newsletter the most up-to-date Term 3 Planner - as you can see, another very busy term. Although the Term Planner is accurate at this point in time, activities may need to be changed or added. Please highlight and keep free Sunday, 23rd August which is our 2009 School Fete.

P&C Fete:

We are all very busy with the final planning and preparations for this year's Fete, by all reports the Fete is a great school community activity and I am looking forward to the big day!

Thank you to all the families who have so willingly supported the Fete Committee with all the mufti day donations. Thursday, 13th August will be our third and final mufti day - the theme is "CRAZY HAIR". Could students in Kindergarten to Year 4 inclusive please bring in an item for the Gourmet Hamper. Students in Stage 3 are asked to donate items towards the Hoopla. Notes will be coming out tomorrow.

Please watch out for all the Fete notes over the next few weeks and remember if you are able to volunteer some time on the day please speak to the Fete Coordinators or let the front office know.

National Tree Day:

Last Friday, Ms Mannile with the assistance of the S.R.C. planted a number of trees in support of the National Tree Day. We are very fortunate at Samuel Gilbert to have such an extensive native bushland environment and it is encouraging to see how much all students value this environment.

Whooping Cough:

I have had a few confirmed cases of Whooping Cough within our school community, all of these cases are currently excluded from school. More information is available from the Western Sydney Area Health Service on 9840 3603/9840 3708 or by contacting Baulkham Hills Community Nurse on 8853 4500.

Donna Harris

FROM THE RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back

I would like to welcome all families back to a new term and in particular extend a warm welcome to the P family, who have returned to Samuel Gilbert after their time in the USA, and also to the G and L families who are new to Samuel Gilbert. It is certainly going to be a busy term but hopefully also a productive one.

Enrichment Opportunities

This week 14 students from Year 4 sat the Opportunity Class Placement Test. Opportunity Classes exist in selected schools across the region and are designed to specifically meet the academic needs of gifted students. Students who gain placement in these schools will attend the selected school for Years 5 and 6.

Next Wednesday 10 students from Years 1 and 2 will be attending Northern Sydney Region's Stage 1 Enrichment Day. Children will join other students at various schools from across our region in a wide range of activities. Workshops cover an extensive range of interests from Technology Funky Fashion to Sport, Dance and Philosophy. I am certain all students will thoroughly enjoy this opportunity.

Spelling Bee

The Premier's Spelling Bee Word lists are now available from the DET website. These can be accessed with a user name and password which is available from me, or your class teacher, if required. The site can be accessed by following the links from the DET Home page.

Students who have been selected to represent their class in the school rounds of the Spelling Bee have been provided with the password and user name.

We will be holding the Junior Spelling Bee (Years 3 and 4) on 25th August and the Senior Spelling Bee (Years 5 and 6) on 26th August. Both will be held in the hall at lunchtime and parents and students are most welcome to attend.

A Spelling Bee will be held for our younger students at a later date.



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NAIDOC Celebration

Traditional and contemporary indigenous music, boomerang throwing and discussions on the importance of acceptance and respect of all cultures, were aspects of "Murri Kulcha", a presentation designed to further our students' understanding of indigenous Australians. We hope all students enjoyed this performance and learned a little more about the importance of valuing indigenous culture.

Band Success

It was exciting to accompany the Concert Band to the Ryde Eisteddfod on Tuesday morning. The children performed brilliantly and I was delighted, but not surprised, to hear the adjudicator announce the winner of our section as "Samuel Gilbert". There was certainly some excellent competition but our students were worthy winners. Well done to all who participated and a big thanks to Sheridan Ferguson and Wendy Heinrich for their organisation. Thank you also to the parents who joined us on the day. Congratulations also to Mr Strykowski. The improvement in the band since the beginning of the year was quite remarkable.

Dance Groups

A reminder that Miss Cassie's Dance Groups commenced in Week 1. They are busy preparing for a number of up and coming performances. It is important that Hawkesbury and Ryde Eisteddfod notes are returned as soon as possible. We will be travelling by bus to the Hawkesbury Eisteddfod on Tuesday, 18th August. There will be a class for Tuesday's group at 8.00am on this day. All dance groups will be performing at the Fete and should arrive dressed, ready to dance, by 10:30am. We are scheduled to dance at 10:45am. Please see Miss Cassie or myself with any questions.

Fete Art Show

On Thursday, 20th and Friday, 21st August I will be setting up the Art Show for the Fete in our school Library. If there are any parents who could spare some time to assist me I would be *extremely* appreciative. Please let me know if you are able to lend a hand.

Cathie Barclay



HAIRHOUSE WAREHOUSE

Shop 208, Castle Towers Shopping

Centre, Castle Hill, Phone - 9234 1277

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SAVE THE WHALES K-2 DISCO

Last Friday over 150 students attended the 'Save the Whales Disco' at lunchtime. It was organised by Brielle, Penny, Kaitlyn, Jade, Jessica, Madellen and Victoria all from Year 3. Interested K-2 students were asked to bring in a gold coin donation as an entry charge. The disco raised \$225 which will be sent directly to Greenpeace to help with their whale campaign. Brielle and Penny have been collecting funds for the past couple of months to raise money for their campaign which they call 'Humpback Harmony'. They are two very passionate 8 year olds. Brielle especially has been doing a lot of research on the internet for a couple of years now. She has an amazing love for animals and is a big fan of David Attenborough. Thank you to the Jitterbugs for providing the music at the disco.

Elizabeth Evans

MATHS DAY

On 7th July we went to the Primary School Maths Extension Day at Castle Hill High School. When we got there we were welcomed by Mr Gainey and since another school had an accident in the carpark we played bingo. Secondly we did a group relay and we got 7/10. Tim got so many questions right and blitzed the rest of us. We were guided by Castle Hill High Year 10 students. We looked at some interesting mathematical pictures on the Smartboard.

For recess we had a delicious muesli bar and a popper. Next we did the Individual Relay. We made mobius strips and discovered some interesting topology. It's amazing what a twist in a piece of paper can do!! Then all the students cooperatively constructed a Geodesic dome which was around 2½ metres high. Then we had pizza, another poppa and chips. It was an interesting and fun way to learn some new mathematics.

Year 5 students - Matthew, Daniel, Tim and Kyle

NORTHERN SYDNEY REGION DEBATING WORKSHOP

On 7th July a number of students from Years 5 and 6 attended the Northern Sydney Region Debating Workshop at Narrabeen High School. It gave our students the opportunity to work amongst some 100 students within the region.

Many aspects of debating were discussed in detail and students were given opportunities to prepare and deliver mini debates. It was a most informative day.

The students who attended were - Sarah , Megan, Dunya, Chloe, Jay, Harrison, Chris and Daniel. Special thank you to Michelle, Karen and Jacqui for transporting the students.

*Helen Eldridge
Debating Coach*

A REMINDER FROM THE LIBRARY

(This is a reminder to all parents of children participating in this year's Premier's Reading Challenge.)

Can you believe it is August already? This year is zooming past so quickly.

August is the final month of the Premier's Reading Challenge so all children need to keep reading those PRC books and enter them online at home.

Your child needs to have finished reading the prescribed number of books required for their grade level by **Friday, 28th August**, even though the Premier's Reading Challenge actually closes on 1st September. As incomplete or invalidated records can prevent eligible students from receiving a certificate or being included in the Premier's Reading Challenge Honour Roll, it is essential that reading records are entered before 31st August and validated by Mrs Bell or myself. (I personally do not want to leave it quite this late and so ask you to complete all records by the above date, **28th August, 2009.**)

Any later than this and Mrs Bell and myself will be unable to validate the completion of the Challenge.

Congratulations to all children endeavouring to undertake this year's Challenge. Keep reading!

Mrs Bridie, Teacher Librarian

SPORTS REPORT

Welcome back to another very busy term of sport. The 2nd round of Winter PSSA and School Sport has started and let's hope that the sun shines this term.

The finals of the Field Events have been completed and the Ball Games Teams have been selected. Congratulations to all involved. Please

note that *NO child may compete in both the Track or Field Carnival and Ball Games Carnival.* The Ball Games Carnival involves Captain Ball, Tunnel Ball, and Shuttle Relay. Children who have not gained 1st or 2nd in the Track Carnival are eligible to compete in the **Ball Games Carnival** held in conjunction with the **Field Events Carnival at Gooden Drive on Friday, 21st August, 2009.**

The **Athletics Carnival** team has been posted in the sports window and they will compete at **Blacktown Athletics Track on Wednesday, 19th August, 2009.** Good luck to all involved and thanks to all the staff who coordinated these events.

Last week saw eight of Samuel Gilbert's finest running to compete at the State Cross Country Carnival. Congratulations to Jacki, Sophie, Josh, Lachlan, Jacob, Jordan and Jay. Great running!

Good luck to Jay who is representing New South Wales at the National PSSA Basketball Championships in Newcastle next week. May you play well and score many baskets.

Some important sport dates:

Week 1	. PSSA and School sport . Field Events Finals . State Cross Country Carnival
Week 2	. Trials for Ball Games . Enrichment Gymnastics begins
Week 3	. Jay @ National Basketball Championships
Week 4 Wed 19 th Fri 21 st Aug	. Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Athletics Track . NO PSSA this week . Zone Field Events Carnival and the Ball Games Carnival at Gooden Drive
Week 6	. NO PSSA this week
Week 7	. PSSA Winter Comp Semi-Finals . Kinder & Year One Spring Carnival
Week 8	. PSSA Winter Comp Finals
Week 9 Mon 21 st Sept	. Sydney West Area Athletics at Homebush

Eileen Tudor, Sports Coordinator

P&C PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's time... for the Fete of '09. In less than 3 weeks in fact, the Fete will take place. I ask that everyone who is able to help in any way please come forward. A Fete Committee meeting was held Monday night to finalise arrangements and while we still need more volunteers, we are mostly ready for the big day.

We are chasing the loan of two BBQs for the Fete Day, one preferably with a wok burner. If you have one you are prepared to lend or know someone who would be prepared to, please contact me on 0412 399596 or at donna@unwired.com.au.

We are also looking for advertisers prepared to share in the full page ads in the local paper in which the Fete has half the page and we are looking for four businesses to share the other half, (i.e. have an eighth page ad).

Could all Stall Coordinators please get their roster to Jackie as soon as possible so that we can list all the names in the Fete Newsletter and also have everyone covered by insurance.

If anyone can spare an hour or two to sell tickets at the Homemakers' Centre (preferably on the weekend), please let me know. The Centre Management has kindly given permission to sell tickets there, and it will be a great opportunity to raise funds from outside of the "normal school community".

At the Fete this year we are introducing a new innovation of a wishing tree, where people have the opportunity to donate money to the school to purchase a specific resource item. All of these items are represented by a flower which is placed on the tree. I hope that we are able to replicate Spring and fill the tree with flowers and see our school blossom.

The 5 cent fundraiser has been a big success with 2 collections raising over \$1600. With the Fete, and associated raffles, we have decided to delay the next 5c collection until later in the term. 3J is still well in front so all the rest of us will need a big effort to catch them, so keep putting those 5c pieces away and we will be collecting again on 7th September and the 28th September.

STOP PRESS - We have just confirmed that we will again be fortunate enough to have the Jitterbugs as our headline Fete entertainment.

They will be performing a full half hour show in the hall at 11.15am. So make sure that you don't miss this exciting and free entertainment.

Allan White

BAND REPORT

Congratulations to the Concert Band who were winners of the City of Ryde Eisteddfod. The band played extremely well and were excited to be declared the best band in their section. Well done!

The Training and Concert Bands are both playing at the commencement of the School Fete on Sunday, 23rd August. Children will be playing at 10.10am so they should arrive by 9.45am to set up. Instruments can then be stored, if required, so your family can stay and enjoy the carnival atmosphere of the fete. The school community will enjoy listening to your performances.

The next Band Meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th August at 7.30pm in the Staffroom.

Sue Lack, Band Committee

CANTEEN REPORT

HELP! Over the holidays, for one reason or another, we seem to have lost some volunteers. If anyone is able to help or if you are able to put your name on our Emergency List please come in and see us in the Canteen.

Permanent shifts that need filling -
1st Wednesday of month - 2nd shift
2nd Thursday of month - 1st shift
5th Monday of month - 1st shift/2nd shift
5th Thursday of month - 1st shift

Allergies: If your child suffers from food related allergies, please make sure that they know what they can and can't have from the Canteen. We have so many volunteers and Year 6 helpers in the Canteen and with so many children coming to the Canteen, this is impossible for us to otherwise monitor during busy recess and lunch times.

Promotions: This week the Canteen has participated in a 'Healthy Bones Week' promotion and many children have enjoyed calcium rich counter items. Next week we will begin a month long 'Fresh Fruit & Vegetables' promotion. To introduce this we will be having a free taste testing on Monday at recess.

*Judy Naudi & Janelle Lockrey,
Canteen Supervisors*

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- **Castle Hill RSL Cricket Club** is the cricket club in the Hills with a long proud history dating back to 1858 when it played in the District's first cricket match. Registrations are continuing throughout August at Fred Caterson Reserve on Saturday 8th, Sunday, 16th and 23rd from 9.00am to 1.00pm. CHRSLCC offers an opportunity regardless of age or skill to enjoy the spirit of community involved in a team game. The club is especially proud of its girls team, which Oplayed finals cricket last season and more girls are always welcome! A feature of the club is registration at a Junior level includes membership of the CHRSL Youth Club, offering additional benefits. Teams are offered in the following Junior age groups: U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, Girls and Seniors. The club also runs in2cricket (formerly Have-a-go) for Cricket NSW and sponsored by Milo. A big Season Launch, sponsored by Super IGA Knightsbridge, with a sausage sizzle, presentation of senior teams and special ceremony welcoming the U9's to the club as brand new players will be held on 7th September at Caterson Field 4. Enquiries please call Bruce Cameron, Registrar on 0407 317 397 or visit www.castlehillrslcc.com.au
- **Castle Hill Softball Club Inc.** is registering for Teeball and Softball now. Come and play with a friendly locally-based club this summer. We have vacancies for boys and girls under 10 to play Teeball and girls and boys aged 10 and over to play softball. All games are played at the same tiome, same location every week commencing 17th October. For more information contact Natalie Blanning on 0411 286 308, castlehillsoftball@yahoo.com.au
- **Castle Hill Baseball Club** is holding their second Try Tee Ball Orientation Day this Sunday, 9th August. Turn up in tracksuit and joggers and we will provide all the equipment to introduce your son or daughter to the fun-filled, fast-paced and exciting sport of Tee Ball. Arrive at Castle Glen baseball field (behind Knightsbridge shops) at 10.00am. Parents, this great game only takes up 1½ hours on Saturday mornings over the spring/summer season. Tee Ball is for 6 to 9 year old children. Call Mark Maguire on 0401 262 570 if more information is needed. All questions and details can be answered on

Sunday, 9th August. See you there and 'Let's Play Ball'!

- **Children with Anxiety** - for children aged 8-12 years and their parents. The group will help children identify their thoughts and feelings, recognise unhelpful thinking and learn to fight their fear and face their anxiety. The group will help parents understand how thoughts affect feelings, develop management techniques and ways to help their child relax. This is a FREE course on 15th September at Rouse Hill. For more information please ring Hawkesbury-Hills Division of General Practice on 8884 9467.
- **Glenhaven Football Club** - Is holding 6 a side Summer Soccer on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from early September and all finished in time for Christmas at Holland Oval at Glenhaven. Team registrations for ages U6 to Over 35's are being taken on Monday 10th August from 4.00-8.00pm at Glenhaven Oval near the canteen. For further details go to www.glenhavenfootballclub.org.au.
- **Cherrybrook Little Athletics and Senior Athletics** registrations for Athletes from 5 years old to all ages available at Cherrybrook Athletics. Competition takes place on Friday nights at Greenway Oval No. 2. Registrations will take place at the Cherrybrook Community Centre, Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook on Sunday, 16th August from 2-5pm and Friday, 28th August from 6-9pm. Payment by cash or cheque and proof of age required for new registrations. Online registrations and full registration details available at www.cherrybrookathletics.org.au.

