



SAMUEL GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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December, 2009

Issue No.19

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This will be the last Newsletter for the 2009 school year and my last newsletter as Relieving Principal. Mr Bowmer has confirmed that he will be back on deck day 1 next year. Thank you to all the Samuel Gilbert community for allowing me to lead the school as caretaker for the past 6 months - it has been an absolute pleasure. I am very happy to return to my real position of Deputy Principal for the start of next year and look forward to working with Mr Bowmer.



Staffing for 2010:

Apart from Mr Bowmer returning at the start of the year there will also be a number of other staffing changes. Firstly, it is with some regret that I need to inform the school community that our School Counsellor, Mrs Glenda Walter, will not be servicing Samuel Gilbert Public school in 2010. Mrs Walter has worked for almost 10 years supporting students and parents, alike, providing assessments and counselling to students as required. She has liaised with outside agencies to access additional resources for families to support the learning needs of students experiencing difficulty. We wish Mrs Walter every happiness as she continues to support students within Northern Sydney Region.

Miss Stephanie Walters is also not returning at the start of next year. Miss Walters is taking leave for 2010 to travel around Australia - we will miss Miss Walters and eagerly await her return in 2011.

We have had a new teacher appointed for the start of next year - Mrs Belinda Buckley. Mrs Buckley is currently working at Lane Cove Public School and will be joining our Kindergarten team in 2010. Mrs Buckley has experience teaching in the K-2 department and has a keen interest in Dance and Music. I know that you will make Mrs Buckley feel very welcomed when she arrives.

Classes for 2010:

Executive staff are working with class teachers to create class lists for the start of 2010. It is still the intention of both Mr Bowmer and myself to start students in their new classes with their new teacher from the start of the 2010 school year, although our current numbers are extremely complicated. On the most up to date numbers I have, we will be forming 23 classes at the beginning of Term 1. If you are aware of families who are considering moving into the area or who are considering enrolling at Samuel Gilbert could you please encourage them to contact the school prior to the end of Term.

Please note though, depending on the number of students returning after the holidays it may become necessary to reform classes across the school from K-Year 6. If this change is required we will ensure that the disruption is kept to a minimum.

Ray White Works

with Samuel Gilbert Public School

Kellie McKenzie 0416 328 677

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).

Platinum Sponsors of the 2009 Fete



Ray White

Parent Helpers Morning Tea:

Tuesday, 1st December, staff and students had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the parent helpers who gave up their time throughout the year to assist teachers and students in and outside the classroom. It was my pleasure to share a cup of tea and a conversation with our dedicated team of helpers and I look forward to working with you again next year.

Parent Surveys:

Thank you to all the families who have taken the time to have their say and provide the school with feedback on what is done well and to assist in identifying areas for further development. Your input is greatly appreciated!! If you have not yet returned your survey we will be collecting them until the end of term. Copies of the survey are able to be printed off from the school's website.

Student Reports:

Teachers are busy finalising their student reports. Reports will be sent home on Monday, 14th December.

Student safety:

I have again been contacted by concerned parents about the behaviour of parents collecting and or delivering their children to school. The concerns range from not complying with the parking signage, encouraging students to cross a busy road unsafely (not using the crossing) to driving at an unsafe speed through a school zone. The safety of our students is the concern of the whole Samuel Gilbert school community and I encourage all parents to take the few extra minutes to ensure that we demonstrate safe road behaviour at all times. Please be aware the Council Compliance Officers regularly patrol the school zone at the front of the school.

Carols under the Cola:

Thank you all those families who took the time to join us last Friday night at the Samuel Gilbert Carols under the Cola. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends and family singing carols and enjoying the festive spirit.



It was refreshing to take time out from the chaos of preparing for Christmas. A special thank you must go to Nicole Clifford and her helpers Emma and Eddie Brock for making this event such a success! Another thank you needs to go to the staff for coordinating the students and the singing of the carols. Thank you also to Mrs Barclay, Mrs Davis, Mrs Elliott, Mrs Spears, Mrs McLeod, Mrs Burgess, Mrs Samuels, Mrs Tudor, Mrs Richmond and Mrs Lomov for your assistance on the night.

Presentation Day Assembly:

I am looking forward to next big event - The Presentation Assembly - next Tuesday at 11:00am. This Assembly celebrates all the achievement from across the year in all domains of school life. If you have not yet purchased your tickets please contact the school office before it is too late!

Attached to this newsletter is some information about a free Home Energy Assessment - put this information aside until the rush of the end of term and Christmas has past and take the time to read it at a later date.

I wish to acknowledge the generosity and support of the school by the Domayne store located in the Homemaker Centre. Domayne were one of our major prize contributors at this year's Fete and often provide the Samuel Gilbert community with invitations to special shopping events. Domayne gave Samuel Gilbert School a sizeable discount on the purchase of our new cabinet for the front foyer.

Please be aware that the B.E.R. construction will continue throughout the holidays, but if you observe any activity which is of concern please contact school security on 1300 880 021.

The start dates for Term 1 of 2010 are - Students Y1-Y6 return on Thursday, 28th January and our new Kindergarten students return on Monday, 1st February.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for making me feel so welcomed in my new school and for supporting me as I stepped into the caretaker role for the second half of the year. I would like to wish you a very happy and safe Christmas season and I look forward to working with all the families of Samuel Gilbert in 2010.

Donna Harris

FROM THE RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

I can't believe I am writing the final newsletter for the term! This year has absolutely flown, but I suspect that it is because there is always so much going on at Samuel Gilbert. I have enjoyed my semester in the Deputy's office but also look forward to returning to the classroom again next year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful holiday and Christmas break and thank you for the support you have shown throughout the year.

Presentation Assembly

Next Tuesday, our students will be recognised for their achievements throughout the year at our annual Presentation Assembly. This occasion allows us the opportunity to celebrate our successes and also to showcase some of our Creative Arts programs. We are hopeful that you will be able to attend and as a courtesy we have informed families that one/some of their children will be receiving awards. We have not indicated which or how many children this is, as we prefer it to be a surprise for children and families on the day. If students are in dance items we will inform them if they are receiving awards so that they can be prepared with both their costume and their uniform.

There will be a large number of students being collected from the Hills Centre so we ask parents to remain seated at the conclusion of the assembly to be directed to the appropriate collection spot. Please note that if we have not been notified to the contrary your child will be transported back to school by bus. If your plans have changed, you may still collect your child from the school but we are unable to make last minute changes on the day. Years K - 3 travelling by bus will be dismissed first to enable the buses to exit before the traffic build up. Please give buses right of way and do not park in the Kiss and Drop Zone back at school as the buses will need to use this area to drop off the first group of students before returning for our senior students.

I know you will enjoy the day and I look forward to sharing the achievements of our students with you next Tuesday.

Another Chapter

Many students and their families will be saying goodbye to Samuel Gilbert next week and I would like to wish you all every success in your new endeavours. Some families have histories stretching over many years and have contributed tirelessly throughout their association with Samuel Gilbert. Thank you for all you have done, be it the organisation of a SGPS extravaganza dinner of some description or hearing a little person read to you each week - your time and energy has been appreciated. To the students leaving us, Year 6 and others, we will miss you, but have every confidence that your time at Samuel Gilbert has prepared you well for your future schooling. Enjoy, work hard and when you achieve great things, or little things, let us know.

To Miss Walters, my Year 4 colleague for the first half of the year, have a wonderful time, we hope to see you again in 2011.

Dance

This Friday, 11th December, will be a dress rehearsal for Miss Cassie's combined Dance Group. Please come dressed in your costume but bring your sports clothes to change into. A note providing more detail will go home on Thursday. There will also be a rehearsal for dancers at the Hills Centre next Tuesday morning. Students need to be dropped off at the Centre and meet Mrs Elliott or myself at 8:30am. They should arrive in their costume so that lighting etc can be organised, but must bring their uniform on a hanger, well labelled with a plastic bag for shoes and socks.

Cathie Barclay

YEAR 6 THANK YOU

On behalf of the Year 6 students and their teachers, a big thank you is sent to Mrs Michelle Richardson and Mrs Paula O'Dowd for their invaluable contribution to the 2009 Year Book. Without their tireless efforts the production of this book would not have been possible.

We would also like to sincerely thank all the members of the various Year 6 Dinner Committees for their wonderful efforts in the preparation of this special event.

Year 6 Teachers



SPORTS REPORT

The sporting season is over for 2009 and many thanks to all sports coaches for their participation.

Congratulations to Boy's Basketball team for winning the Castle Hill Zone PSSA competition and to the Girl's Basketball team for coming 2nd. Fantastic effort!

Sports Dates for 2010 -

Week1	Friday Week 1 trials for Summer PSSA sport
Week 2	Second trial for Summer PSSA sport
Week 3	PSSA Training Day
Week 4	PSSA competition begins.
Week 5	Monday, 22 nd March, 2010 School Swimming Carnival (TBC)
Week 8	Zone Swimming
Week 9	* Sydney West Area Swimming * State Swimming

Zone trials for sports will be held this term. Children will need to listen carefully to all assembly notices for the following sports: Softball, Tennis, Cricket, Basketball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Soccer, Netball.

Eileen Tudor,

PSSA Sports Coordinator

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Recently two of our terrific ex-students, James and Murray, cleared the memorial garden of old plants and prepared the area for new ones. As part of this garden is used for ANZAC Day and memorial ceremonies each year, a particular rosemary plant was chosen. This plant has been produced from cuttings originating from a wild rosemary brought back from the hills of Gallipoli by a wounded digger.

Money raised by purchasing this particular rosemary will assist in the establishment of avenues of trees to commemorate all lives lost in service to our Nation since the historic landing at Gallipoli by the ANZACS on 25th April, 1915. This project is called the Avenues of Honour 2015.

For more information regarding this you can visit www.avenuesofhonour.org or purchase a rosemary plant yourself at Bunnings.

Thank you all the wonderful parents, teachers, students and the P&C for helping in the garden this year and perhaps I will see you again next year.

Merry Christmas!

Chris Coe

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

Just a reminder that we are now closed for the remainder of 2009 so that we can carry out our end of year stocktake.

Our trading hours for the beginning of 2010 are -

Wednesday, 27th January from 10.00-2.00pm

Thursday, 28th January from 8.30-10.00am

From Monday, 1st February we will resume our regular trading hours of -

Mondays from 2.00-3.30pm

Tuesdays from 8.30-10.00am

Please note that we are currently reviewing our trading hours for next year. We will keep you informed.

We would both like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Samuel Gilbert community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2010. Thank you all for your support over the last 12 months.

Leisa Whiteside & Sally Birthisel

Uniform Shop Coordinators



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

BAND REPORT

The bands provided some great entertainment at the Carols on Friday night and helped create the wonderful atmosphere which we have come to enjoy at our Samuel Gilbert School community events.

The Training Band brought lots of pleasure to the Karonga Special School students last Thursday. It was wonderful to see all the children's faces light up with the music and the shiny instruments. Well done!

Congratulations to the following students for their great results -

Alannah P	Grade 2	Saxophone
Joe R	Grade 2	Trumpet
Rebecca R	Grade 3	Flute
Sam H	Grade 3	Trumpet

Good luck to those yet to sit their AMEB exams -

Tim L	Grade 3	Trombone
William L	Grade 3	Trombone
Declan M	Grade 2	Trombone

We look forward to hearing the Concert Band at Presentation Assembly. Good luck to all our Year 6 leaving musicians. Keep up your music, you don't know what wonderful opportunities it may bring you.

*Sue Lack,
Band Committee*

The logo for Guardian, featuring a stylized "G" with a figure running inside it, followed by the word "Guardian" in a large, serif font.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PHARMACY
OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-FRI 8:30AM-7:00PM
SATURDAY 8:30AM-4:00PM
SUNDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM
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