Welcome back everyone to the start of third term. We ended term two with all student assessments up to date and extensive planning for this term completed so we were all ready to ‘hit the ground running’. Part of the planning for this term included setting goals for this term’s Integrated Unit of Innovation, Design and Technology. On Monday the Grade 3/4s took home their excursion notes for a trip to Scienceworks next Thursday which will include sessions on Electrical Energy and Simple Machines. These sessions will provide valuable information and insights to ‘kick off’ the grade 3/4 program. Later in the term the Grade 1/2 students will be going to Lego Land and the Grade 5/6s to the Zoo.
Thank you very much to all those families who have promptly returned notes for the many activities we have scheduled at the moment. Having incursions and excursions gives an extra depth to learning and understandings but also creates considerable administrative work and the prompt return of notes and money is greatly appreciated.

Over the holidays a large number of tasks were completed around the school which included tree works and the removal of dead trees, the removal of sand from the large sandpit so Wayne could commence work on drainage on this, the rusted guttering on the heritage building was replaced, termite eaten timbers around the fire hose near the prep area were replaced, new globes and starters were installed in all the fluorescent tubes in the hall and the carpets throughout the school were all steam cleaned and have come up very well. We are now waiting for the gardener to come and mow the oval and nature strips and tidy up all the edgings and the school will be looking sensational.

Mic Shehan will be working at the school for the next two weeks while Angela is still on leave. Mic will be taking Phys-Ed classes, working with the grade 3-6 on Athletics training and commencing with small groups of students on extension /enrichment activities. Fiona Kelly is on Long Service leave this week and is being replaced by Daryl Hitch. For the one or two families who have not yet heard Les’s travel stories or seen his photos please pop by the office (if Les isn’t available I could probably give a trave monologue because I’ve heard the stories so many times already!) Angela Morritt is due to return on July 29th and we will then have all staff back on deck which will be terrific.

As I mentioned to the students at assembly on Monday, third term is a period where a significant number of academic outcomes are achieved and, across the school, we are looking forward to a focussed and engaging term of work.

Margaret Hirth
Principal

Pupil of the Week

Term Two ~ Week Ending June 28th 2013

Prep ~ Red Group ~ Toby C & Toby F ~ For being sensational helpers to Mr Hitch. Well done boys!
        Blue Group ~ Jack ~ For making and reading 10 of his Magic Words with Magnetic letters, in his reading book.

1/2 A ~ Jamal ~ For outstanding improvement in his writing. Keep it up Jamal.

1/2 B ~ Samantha ~ For fantastic progress with her reading.

3/4 A ~ Breanna & Olivia ~ For working so hard during their reading sessions that they have now finished the corrective reading program!

3/4 B ~ Nicholas ~ For a fantastic term of excellent work and showing his maturity. Great job!

5/6 A ~ Amber ~ For trying her best during Maths and English in the last week of term. Keep up the good work!

5/6 B ~ Amy and Jordan ~ For finishing the Corrective Reading program. We are so proud of your hard work!

Art ~ Stuart. ~ Well done Stuart for producing excellent work every time you come to Art. You always do a great job!

Music ~ Oscar (1/2) ~ For leading the triangles really well in our instrumental piece.
A note from the Student Welfare Desk

Welcome back everyone to Term 3. It is great to be back and thank you to all the lovely GPS families for their kind wishes. This term the student welfare program is offering several programs designed to enhance the resilience and well-being of GPS students. The details of these will be outlined in the next newsletter. In addition to these programs, here at GPS we are now able to offer individual counselling to students of the school. Registered psychologist, Victoria Rock, now comes in on Tuesdays to offer counselling to students and families. This service is funded through the Better Access Mental Health Scheme and is bulk billed. The advantages of this service, run through an organization called Engage One on One, are that the first ten sessions are free, sessions are carried out at school minimizing missed learning time, and parents do not need to attend every session, particularly beneficial for working parents. Obviously, all sessions are kept confidential.

Research has shown time and again the beneficial impact of counselling. Some of the issues counselling has been shown to assist with are behavioural problems, grief and loss, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, separation and divorce, and sleep difficulties as well as many others. Children and families often struggle on unnecessarily with issues that can be aided and resolved through counselling. Victoria is a qualified psychologist who specializes in working with children. If you would like more information please speak to either myself of Margaret. Alternatively, if you would like to pursue some counselling for your child simply collect a ‘Parent Referral Form’ from the front desk, return it to myself and I will organize for Victoria to be in touch. In the meantime, take care, Emma.

Richard Galbraith Cartooning Workshop and Book Sale

Yesterday Richard Galbraith conducted Cartooning workshops with all students in the school. The skills learnt in these sessions will underpin projects and outcomes in the Visual Arts program this term.

Richard is returning to school on Friday at lunchtime to sell and sign his books. The books will be on sale for the special price of $10.00 each or 4 books for $20.00. If parents or students would like to purchase any Richard Galbraith books this is an excellent opportunity to do so.

Help the JSC to help others

Diamond Valley Foodshare Inc (DVF)

A voluntary emergency food relief service who ensure that emergency food is always available to people who require assistance to survive homelessness, unemployment, illness or an immediate crisis.

Please help us by bringing to school next week, any of the foods listed below,

- Packet foods – eg. pasta, biscuits, rice, tacos
- Canned foods – eg. baked beans, tuna, diced tomatoes, stewed fruit
- Bottled foods – eg. tomato sauce, vegemite, jam, honey

Check items have not passed their expiry date. No fresh food thanks.

All food can go into each classroom’s DVF box

Thank you for supporting the Junior School Council

CANTEEN NEWS FOR JULY:

Special Food of the Month - Monday 22nd & Friday 26th July:
Baked potato with sour cream, bacon & cheese $4.50
Baked potato with bacon & dairy free, gluten free cheese $4.50

~Lisa Geraghty
SANDPIT RENOVATIONS

Wayne is currently working on fixing the problem of the sandpit filling with water when it rains. We are in need of some shade mesh or Geo cloth for the project. As this is quite expensive to buy, if you have any large pieces of a few square metres or more that you don’t need we would be happy to accept all donations.

Many thanks.

Parent Teacher Dinner

6.30pm Wednesday 31st July
At Curry Charmers Indian Restaurant
78 Nepean St
Watsonia,

Parents Name..........................................................

Childs grade ...........................................................

RSVP Yes I can attend / no I can’t make it