

Granville Public School

Our School Priorities are Literacy, Numeracy, Student Welfare and Social Responsibility



Granville Grapevine

A Newsletter for the Community of Granville Public School

Issue 2 Term 2 2010

Thursday 13 May 2010

From the Principal's desk.....

Dear Parents,

I am writing on behalf of the teachers at our school to inform you about the Granville Public School teachers' position on league tables.

Let me say, upfront, we are in favour of the NAPLAN as it provides us and you with very valuable information. However, we are opposed to the league tables which are being created by various sectors of the community.

As earlier conveyed to you our school will administer the Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN on the 11th, 12th and 13th May. The position our teachers took was that *we were supportive* of the moratorium because *we do not support* the construction and use of league tables.

When I communicate with parents either in person or in writing I often describe Granville Public School as a very special place in which to learn, teach and grow. It is a special place because we welcome with open arms students from a huge variety of countries from around the world as evidenced by the school having students from some 50 different cultures. It is a special place because we have a preschool attached. It is also a special place because we have one of the largest support units in the state. We have approximately 50 students in the unit, many of whom are autistic and an even greater number with intellectual disabilities.

When it comes time to sit for the NAPLAN we do not discriminate. All of these students, when in Year 3 or Year 5, are able to sit for the test and furthermore do sit for the test. Unfortunately, the government's MySchool Website and the league

tables created by the Sydney Morning Herald do not take into account that we service a community which is as diverse as ours. They do not take into account the fact that we have many students with intellectual disabilities doing the NAPLAN. In fact they do you, as parents, our students and us, as teachers, a great disservice. Our school and our community are not being fairly represented. The league tables and the MySchool Website do not tell the full story about our wonderful school. They do not tell the remainder of Australia that our teachers have to teach English to a great percentage of our students when they arrive in our school and do a magnificent job in doing so. They do not tell the remainder of Australia that we add on amazing growth between Year 3 and Year 5. In fact Granville Public School's growth is way above the state average growth and more than likely way above schools in socio economically advantaged areas.

As a school, we value the data that NAPLAN provides our families, students and staff. This data provides valuable feedback about the progress of our students and the effectiveness of our learning programs for literacy and numeracy. League tables that have been produced to rank schools according to such tests fail to provide the total picture of a school.

In the U.K. and the U.S.A., where league tables have been widely used to rank schools, school communities have moved to provide a very narrow curriculum, teaching to the tests, and students are being deprived of the rich learning they deserve. In many circumstances, particularly in

schools with challenging and disadvantaged communities, students, parents and staff have been demoralised by the league tables that tell them that they are at the bottom of the list. In many such schools, an enormous amount is done to help these students overcome their disadvantages and the differences being made are not included in league tables.

Our teachers believe that there is always room to improve and strengthen the work that we do. We spend a great deal of time each year analysing the data that NAPLAN provides us, along with school-based data, so that we can plan for further improvement. We would be devastated if the NAPLAN data continued to be used by the media, through the MySchool website, in a manner that dismisses the whole picture of a school.

The Granville Public School staff care too much about our students and our community to not get involved in this issue. We will continue to work towards the improvement of the MySchool website so that it provides a full picture for each school and is therefore of genuine value to families and teachers. We will do this through the NSW Department of Education, the NSW Teachers Federation, the NSW Primary Principals Association and other groups who are working to improve the MySchool website.

We hope that this letter provides you with a picture of our school's response to the current issues surrounding NAPLAN and the MySchool website.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Millard & Staff

Student Representative Council (SRC)

In Term 1 each class was asked to elect two students to be Student Representative Council members. The elected SRC students will assist in organising and running fundraising events, advertising upcoming events and assist with school responsibilities. The teachers and students would like to congratulate the following students for being elected as 2010 SRC members:

Names deleted for privacy reasons



GRANVILLE GALAXY ASSEMBLY

The following students received certificates at the Granville Galaxy assembly held on Tuesday 11/05/10.

Bronze Awards

Names deleted for privacy reasons

Silver Awards

Names deleted for privacy reasons

Students must receive 15 star awards to qualify for the **Bronze Award** and then another 20 star awards to qualify for the **Silver Awards**. We now have 30 students working towards receiving a further 25 star awards, needed to qualify for the **Gold Award**.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Program is up and running for Term 2. In 2010 Tae Kwon Do classes are being held twice a week all year and a Multi-skills class once a week. We are hoping to change the focus of the Multi-skills program each term, with softball skills being on offer this term.

Acceptance into the program, funded by the Australian Sports Commission (and entirely free to students), is highly sought after so we are unable to offer places to all those desiring one. To be considered for a place, applications must be lodged by the date given.

The organisers would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to all the teachers involved in the program at Granville Public School, as they have always chosen to give their time on a voluntary basis, enabling funds allotted to wages to be diverted towards school sports equipment.

**THREE CHEERS FOR GRANVILLE'S
TEACHERS!!!**

S Corbett, A Houda - School Learning Support Officers

Soccer – Round 2

On Friday 7th of May, both the junior and senior soccer PSSA teams were playing a game against Blaxcell Street Public School (Blue). In Juniors, Attila scored 7 goals and Omar scored 1. They're both good soccer players so the juniors won 8-0. In Seniors, I played striker and I scored a goal in a penalty. Enes scored 2 goals by dribbling through the defenders with some help. Mouhamed scored a goal too but I don't remember who scored the last goal. Adrian the sweeper became Man of the Match.

By Maseeh, 5/6S

Newcombeball

Last Friday the senior team played against Blaxcell St (Blue) at Blaxcell St. We won all 3 sets and the final score was 42 - 22. Tili was the captain. Dan played very well and was chosen as Man of the Match. We were all excited that we won our 2nd match for the season and played fairly.

By Sally, 5/6D

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Class	Name of Student	Reason
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Names deleted for privacy reasons

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THESE STUDENTS

CAN YOU SPOT THE TEACHER?

Teachers and School Learning Support Officers will now be wearing orange fluoro vests in the playground so that students and parents are able to locate them.

Netball – Round 2

Juniors - On Friday the 7th of May, Granville Public School netball juniors competed against Blaxcell Street Public School (Blue). Our first half was great. The next half was even better, thanks to Kaia and Alexis, our Goal Attack and Goal Shooter. At the end of the game, Granville Public School girls had scored 7 goals and the Blaxcell Street Public School girls had scored 1 goal. Our girls had won! We were all over the moon. Our coach Miss Hillsley was very proud of us for this game and we were proud of ourselves too. I was named the best and fairest girl in the junior netball team.

By Tina 3/4H

Seniors - Last Friday, we played against Blaxcell Street Public School (Blue). In the first half, Blaxcell Street was winning by one goal. In the second half, Hilary was goal shooter and Theresa was centre. The Blaxcell Street players were very good but Hilary managed to score us 2 goals. At first, we thought that it was going to be a tie because Blaxcell Street had the ball last. The Blaxcell Street goal shooter tried to shoot but it didn't get in. Finally, the umpire blew the whistle and the game ended. We shook hands with Blaxcell Street. Theresa was the best and fairest out of the senior team this week. This was our second game and our first time winning. We really enjoyed and had fun playing netball.

By Theresa and Hilary, 5/6J

~~ CALENDAR ~~



May	17	High jump trials
	18	Auburn PSSA Cross Country
	19	800 m trials
	20	'Ryka Ali' Performance
	25	Granville Galaxy Assembly
	27	Next Newsletter
	31	Stage 2 Featherdale Excursion
June	02	Athletic Carnival
	04	Stage 1 Cruise Excursion

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

Winter stock available now.

We have long pants, trackpants, jackets, jumpers and long sleeve polo shirts for sale, now that the weather will start to cool down.

The uniform shop is open

**Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday
2:30 – 3:00pm.**

**ATTENTION STAGE 1 STUDENTS
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE
Featherdale Wildlife
Park Excursion
Monday 31 May 2010**



This excursion exposes students to a variety of flora & fauna & the different ecosystems in which they live.

Payment due by 17/05/10

**DON'T MISS THE
'Ryka Ali' Show
Thursday 20 May 2010
Cost - \$3:50**

Experience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures.
Songs and dances focusing on Australia's unique animals such as the kangaroo and emu.

Payment due by 18/05/10

COOKIE DOUGH

Did you forget to order a bucket of cookie dough? There are a few buckets left over. If you would like to purchase one please see



Kelly in the uniform shop between 2.30 and 3pm.
Thank you for your support.

**ATTENTION STAGE 1 STUDENTS
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE
Stage 1 excursion on a
Captain Cook Cruise**

on Friday 4 June 2010

Cost - \$25

Payment due by 02/06/10



Piano Lessons

Would you like your primary school student to learn how to play the piano?

After school lessons in your own home.

Cost: \$30 per half hour

Contact: Zac Cech B.A. Mus, Dip Ed.

Mobile: 0404 727 786

Email: zac_cech@hotmail.com

