### TENNIS STARS

Lleyton Richards and Dylan Green, two outstanding tennis players from Gloucester Public School, qualified to try out for a place in the Hunter Public Schools Sports Association tennis trials. These trials were held on Wednesday 6th March at Broadmeadow-Newcastle.

Both boys played exceptional tennis on the day. Lleyton won all his matches and secured a place on the Hunter team. After winning all but one of his matches, Dylan had to play off for a place on the team. Unfortunately he did not make the final team although he was named first reserve.

Lleyton will now attend coaching sessions in Newcastle with his team members before the state finals to be held in May when he will play with his team for four full days of tennis. Gloucester Public School is exceedingly proud of these boys and wish Lleyton the best of luck when he competes at Albury in May. Many thanks to the families of the players who have supported these boys.

---

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13/3</td>
<td>PSSA Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14/3</td>
<td>Helpers needed to hang artworks at show 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15/3</td>
<td>Soccer Gala Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday/Saturday 15 &amp; 16/3</td>
<td>Gloucester Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22/3</td>
<td>Cross Country Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26/3</td>
<td>SRC Patty Cake Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28/3</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade K/1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29/3</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1/4</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5/4</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11/4</td>
<td>Year 3 Sleepover at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12/4</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILDREN'S CROSSING

The safety of our children is one of our community's highest priorities. Children's Crossings are legally the strongest marked pedestrian crossings for managing traffic and road safety in the local streets around schools. Children's crossings play a vital role in road safety for children. When the flags are displayed during the school day they are an inflexible traffic regulation and unlike other pedestrian crossings allow drivers no option other than to STOP. Listed below are the key things to know about Children's Crossings:

- operates when the orange ‘CHILDREN CROSSING’ flags are displayed
- drivers approaching a Children's Crossing with orange flags displayed must prepare to STOP and by law MUST STOP their car at the stop line and wait until all pedestrians on the crossing and those about to step onto the crossing have crossed the road

The safety of our children is paramount to everyone. The management of traffic and safety around schools is a priority issue for Council, the RTA, Police and the school. The requirement to stop and wait at CHILDREN'S CROSSINGS is an integral part of ensuring the safety of our children. Drivers failing to STOP and wait at Children's Crossings can be issued with an on-the-spot fine of at least $211 and be subject to 3 licence demerit points.

If you are walking your children across the road, please hold their hand to cross the road in any street surrounding the school. No matter how well they are taught, children may respond unpredictably in traffic. Please teach your child/ren to ‘STOP, LOOK, LISTEN AND THINK’ when they are planning to cross the road, even at a crossing.

Best Wishes & Good Luck!

Mrs Alison Clifton (Assistant Principal) will be taking Long Service Leave from 2nd April 2013 for 12 months until 26th March 2014.

We wish Mrs Clifton and her husband all the very best in her travels overseas to England and Europe. Mrs Clifton will be missed during this time however we look forward to her return in 2014.

An Expression of Interest for Mrs Clifton’s position has been published and I will announce the successful applicant in due course and before the Easter break.

CRUNCH AND SIP

Good for kids – good for life

Our school will be introducing ‘Crunch and Sip’ at the beginning of Term 2 to help encourage a supportive environment for students to eat vegetables, fruit and drink water each day.

The ‘Crunch and Sip’ program involves 10 minutes of the morning session anytime between 9.45am - 10.15am, when students and teachers can eat vegetables or fruit in the classroom while class continues. Water can be consumed at this time also, and is also encouraged throughout the school day.

Each week, we will provide you with further information about the program and what foods are permitted. All students will start lessons on ‘Crunch and Sip’ next week with Mrs Seale, to prepare for next term and encourage healthy eating habits. We are excited about commencing the program in Term 2 and the promotion of the Australian Government strategy – Go for 2 Fruit & 5 Veg a day.

Leanne Wakefield, Principal.
EASTER HAT PARADE
Thursday 28th March, 2013

This year Gloucester Public School Easter Hat Parade for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students will take place on, Thursday 28th March 2013.

There is no need for you to make Easter hats at home as students will make their hats as a class activity with their classroom teachers.

The students and staff will walk from school, leaving at approximately 12 noon, to parade their hats through the streets of Gloucester CBD on their way to Billabong Park where they will meet family and friends for lunch. Please pack your child a picnic lunch to have with their friends. We expect to return to school around 2.30pm.

No child will be able to leave Billabong Park without written permission. Please organise this accordingly to avoid a difficult situation arising for your child, yourself or their teacher.

We look forward to you sharing this special time with your children - parading their Easter Hats and lunch in the park.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 staff

PD/H Home Activities
Last week your child brought home a note about what we have been doing in our PD/H lessons as well as some home activities to do. These activities are due in Week 10. However, if they would like to bring them in earlier that would be OK. Sorry for any misunderstanding!

Melissa Seale
PD/H Teacher.
 SRC Fundraiser

On the 26th March (Week 9) the SRC will be holding a Patty Cake and Slice stall. If you can, could you please send in either patty cakes or slices on the day. If your child has any allergies or intolerances could you please send in patty cakes or slices suitable for them to eat.

Peace Park - If you have any shrubs to donate for our Peace Park could you please send them in to Mrs Groves?
Thank you!
SRC Committee.

ICAS...International Competitions and Assessments for Schools
Parents of students in Years 3-6 should have received a letter about ICAS General Assessment Tests (GAT).
If you are interested in your child participating in these tests please return the permission note and payment to Mrs Clifton at the front office or through your child’s classroom teacher. (Students are not required to pay the GST.)
Alison Clifton
Assistant Principal.

AASC – Squash Court Visits
There are just two more weeks remaining of our AASC Program this term. We have been focusing on squash skills on Monday, so we will now be going down to the squash courts for these sessions.
Could you please pick up your child from the squash courts at 4.30 instead of 4.00pm? This will give us more time on the courts.
Melissa Seale, AASC Coordinator.

HOME NUMERACY PACKS - supporting families@GPS
Thank you Gloucester Public School families for supporting the opportunity to receive home numeracy packs.
Many families have responded to the opportunity to come into the school to put together a home numeracy pack. This will start on Friday 15th March. I will confirm your time and day by a note that will come home with your child.
We are aiming for all our families, all 200 that represent our student population of 324, to come into school and put together a numeracy pack to be used at home with your children.
As I have stated this will not be an event you do unaided. Amy Sansom, our school Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and a member of staff will assist families with this endeavour.
I envisage this to be a time for lots of chatting, making connections with school and the community, and a time to ask the hard, and often thought, “silly” (they’re not really) questions. Child-minding will be available for those families who have little ones. Please do not forget to circle the yes on the form when you send it in.
We have allocated three separate days for this term, these will not be the only times available for you to come in. We will be offering more times during term 2 as our aim is to have ALL GPS families come into school to put together a home numeracy pack. If mum or dad can’t make it then maybe someone else in the family could come in, e.g. Grandma, Pop, Nan, Aunty, Uncle.
I look forward to chatting with you over a numeracy pack!
Alison Clifton, Assistant Principal.
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2013

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 17 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/ carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your child’s school.

Please make an appointment with the school Principal if you would like further information about your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:
Year 6 Expression of Interest Forms for High School in 2014

The booklet titled ‘Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2014’ was sent home with Year 6 students yesterday. While this is not an application to enrol, this form is essential in indicating which secondary school you are intending to send your child to, even if you are considering non-government school options. Your local designated NSW government school is listed within the form according to your place of residence.

Parents and carers are urged to read all sections of this booklet carefully, as it outlines the options available to you and gives you the basis for selecting the right secondary school for your child. If you have any questions about this form, please feel free to contact me as soon as possible.

This form MUST be returned before Friday 22nd March 2013 to your child’s Year 6 teacher.

Rod Maggs – Assistant Principal

Aboriginal Screening

Steven Nye from the Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service will be at school tomorrow morning to conduct the hearing screening for Aboriginal students. If you have not returned your note to participate in the free hearing screening, please do so tomorrow.

Amy Schafer
Assistant Principal

Cross Country

This week, weather permitting, Stage 2 and Stage 3 students will be walking the cross country course. Stage 2 will be walking the course on Thursday afternoon and Stage 3 will be walking the course on Friday instead of swimming. Stage 2 will have swimming for sport on Friday as normal.

Stage 3 students will not need their swimming gear.

Students should wear appropriate footwear, hats, sunscreen, take water bottles, and medication such as Ventolin etc if required. If you do not wish your child to walk the course due to some medical reason etc, please send a note stating thus.

Request for Parent Helpers:

If you are willing and able to assist at our Annual Cross Country Event, I would greatly appreciate you completing the following note and returning it to me by Wednesday 20th March.

Margaret Wilson
Cross Country Convenor

Cricket

We look like getting our game of cricket tomorrow against Stroud Public School (touch wood). The forecast is in our favour and the grounds are drying out nicely. Feel free to come down to the ground and support our team who are very keen to get a chance to play. Good luck, boys.

Rod Maggs – Assistant Principal

Music Notes

Just a reminder that all Year 3 students need a recorder to participate in the Stage 2 music program. Recorders are available locally at Channels Newsagency and in Taree at Bass ‘n’ Blues.

Annette Burrows, Music Teacher.

From the Garden Club:

Lettuce –
Small $1.00
Large $2.00
Swimming for Sport
Students from Year 3-6 will continue 'Swimming for Sport' this Friday weather permitting. Students will need to bring with them each week:
- Swimmers
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Change of underwear (as they need to wear their swimmers to school)
- A plastic or fabric bag to transport towel etc. to and from the pool.

Amy Schafer
Assistant Principal.

Canteen Roster
Monday 18/3/13 - Ray Fitzgerald
            Louise Thurgood
Wednesday 20/3/13 - Leanne Kearney
            Sharon Benson
Friday 22/3/13 - Kylie Broadhead
            Robyn Hooke

From the Library

PRC - This is the last week to register your child for the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Please complete the permission slip below and return it to the school if you would like your child to participate.

Bookclub - Issue 2 will be coming home this week. Please return orders on or before Thursday 21st March with the correct money. Leanne Simes, Teacher Librarian.

SCHOOL BANKING
every Thursday
at the Library
before 9.00am.

Cross Country Event - Friday 22/3/13
I _______________ parent/carer of ____________________________
in class __________, will be able to assist with the running of the Cross Country being held on Friday 22nd March at 1:15pm.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
I permission for my child

___________________________________________class____________________

to participate in the following 2013 ICAS:

☐ Computer skills - 21 May 2013 - $8.00

☐ Science - 5 June 2013 - $8.00

☐ Writing - 17 June 2013 - $17.00

☐ Spelling - 18 June 2013 - $11.00

☐ English - 31 July 2013 - $8.00

☐ Mathematics - 13 August 2013 - $8.00

☐ ALL OF THE ABOVE - $60.00

Please find enclosed $__________________________

which is the entry fee for

___________________________________________

Parent/Carer: ___________________________Date: ______________________

Signature:___________________________________________
Through our National Partnerships funding agreement we are able to offer to families, big and small, a home numeracy pack that will support numeracy in the home.

The packs have been designed for Early Stage 1 / Stage 1 (K, Y1 and Y2) and Stage 2 / Stage 3 students (Y3 to 6).

We are asking families to attend a “putting-the-packs-together” session. The idea is for a family representative, mum, dad, grandma, pop or carer, to attend at a suitable time where they will put a numeracy pack together while talking over the many different ways the numeracy activities can be used at home. You will not be on your own to assemble the packs. You will be guided and supported through the process by Mrs Amy Sansom (Community Liaison Officer) and a member of staff.

Please note the following dates and session times for a “putting-the-packs-together” session:-

**Thursday 21st March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm

**Friday 15th March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm
3. 1.30pm to 2.30pm

**Friday 22nd March 2013**
1. 9.30am to 10.30am
2. 11.30am to 12.30pm
3. 1.30pm to 2.30pm

On the attached form could you please indicate when a family representative is most likely to attend.

This is to help with organising enough packs for the session, child-minding if necessary, and any catering requirements.
27th February 2013

HOME NUMERACY PACK...attending a “putting-the-packs-together” session

Dear Mrs Clifton,

Thank you for the invitation to receive a home Numeracy pack.

My family, (please write family name) ________________________________
(person attending) __________________________ (relation to family) __________________________

will most likely attend a “putting-the-packs-together” session on...

Day: ________________________________

Time: ________________________________

✓ My child/ren class/es is/are ______________ and ______________________

✓ I understand these sessions will be held in the school library.

✓ I require child-minding for the session...Yes/No

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ______________


Tips to encourage children to eat more vegetables and fruit in the home

- **Be a role model.** Let your kids see you eating and enjoying vegetables, fruit and water.
- **Give children multiple opportunities to try new foods.** Children need to be offered a new food a number of times. If they say they don’t like something after a first taste, don’t take it off the menu straight away.
- **Get the kids involved when choosing and buying fresh vegetables and fruit.**
- **Get the kids growing vegetables and herbs.** If children are involved in the growing of herbs and vegetables, they are more likely to try eating them.
- **Get the whole family preparing vegetables and fruit for family meals.** This helps kids become more familiar with them. They’re more likely to try something they’ve prepared. Even young children can get involved in tearing up lettuce!
- **Make vegetables and fruit easy to see.** Keep a bowl of fruit on the kitchen table. Prepare some vegetable sticks and keep them in a container at the front of the fridge at children’s eye level.
- **Complete the Crunch&Sip® At Home Challenge.** This can be downloaded from Healthy Kids Association website – www. healthy-kids.com.au.

---

**Crunch&Sip® Information for Parents**

**What is Crunch&Sip®**

Crunch&Sip® is a primary school program that lets children crunch on vegetables and fruit and sip water in the classroom. It encourages children to choose vegetables and fruit as a snack and water as a drink. These healthy options provide important nutrients for kids, allows them to ‘re-fuel’ and can help improve their physical health and concentration.

**Instructions for Parents**

Crunch&Sip® takes place each day in the classroom. Please send your child to school with some vegetables or fruit and a water bottle, so they can take part in this great program.

**Why are vegetables and fruit so important?**

Eating a variety of foods is important for good health, both now and in the future. Poor eating habits have been linked to a number of diseases, such as heart problems and some forms of cancer.

**Don’t forget the Water?**

Children rarely drink enough water and often forget to drink unless reminded. Crunch&Sip® allows them to drink water in the classroom, avoiding dehydration, which can cause headaches and irritability.
Please always pack plain water and some vegetables or fruit. Some ideas are:

**WHAT TO PACK**
- Water
- Whole Veg
- Fruit Slices
- Veggie Sticks
- Dried Fruit
- Whole fruit

**PLEASE DO NOT PACK**
- Fruit Leathers
- Fruit Juice
- Veggie Chips
- Muesli Bars
- Popcorn

**TIP:** For younger children, chop vegetables and fruit into bite size pieces.

**TIP:** On weekends, get the whole family involved with Crunch&Sit™ at home.

**TIP:** Vegetables and fruit taste best and are cheaper when you buy what's in season.

**TIP:** If you can't buy fresh, try canned fruit in natural juice.