**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back to everyone. We have had a wonderful start to 2015 and we are so excited about the year ahead.

Our school has seen a further increase in enrolments for 2014 with a fourteen class being formed. The school is approaching its enrolment ceiling and has moved within 5% of it, so can not accept any out of area enrolments. Today we welcome our new Kindergarten students. Once our Kindergarten students start the school can work toward finalising class numbers and structures. Please remember that there still may be the need to change some of our structures dependent on our final actual enrolments. We will keep you informed of any changes in this area. We have welcomed many new families to our school in 2014 and I am pleased to welcome you to our school community.

We were very excited to receive news that 5 of our students were successful in gaining Gili Scholarships for 2015. Our staff wrote submissions to the Department of Education and Communities concerning our students which were presented to a panel of AECG, DEC and members of the Aboriginal community. It is a very competitive process and in the past we have only been successful in gaining one scholarship so to gain 5 is amazing! Congratulations to Kyah, Calvin, Kiara, Janaya and Talisha who each will have access to $250 for educational purposes. The Aboriginal Education Team Macquarie Park extended their congratulations to our students and school. Well done to everyone involved!

Today parents will receive envelopes requesting payment for our school voluntary contribution and Mathletics. We are most fortunate that the majority of our community forward their contribution allowing our teachers to focus on student learning and not fund raising. I ask that you make that payment as soon as possible. All students need to make their Mathletics payment as this provides access for students to this most valuable program at school and at home. A recent national study has shown the value of students completing Mathletics on a regular basis with just 13 minutes a week making a significant difference in the student’s NAPLAN results. At only $1 a month it is certainly a valuable part of your child’s learning. Students in Years 3-6 will also be asked for $10 for their School Magazine contribution. This is again great value at $1 an issue. Each magazine provides a variety of texts for student reading. Students are always excited when the next issue arrives and it really encourages a wide range of reading. Students are permitted to take the magazines home at the end of the school year. Students Years 3-6 are asked to bring in a document wallet to keep their magazines in throughout the year.

February is always a happening month in schools and February 2015 is no exception. Our classes in Years 3-6 will be taking part in an AFL program in their sport time on Fridays. Our school Twilight Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday February 24 at 7pm at Ripples Penrith Pool. Our first P&C night meeting will be held on Tuesday February 17 in the school library. We look forward to having a great roll up of parents to this meeting. This is a week earlier than planned due to the school swimming carnival booking which was finalised before the P&C changed to night meetings. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.
Our Meet the Teacher evening will be held on Wednesday February 18. Parents will have the opportunity to hear from their child’s teacher and to ask general questions about learning and the year ahead. Our teachers will also be available to discuss the extra curricular activities the school offers for your child on the night as well. Please note this is a night for parents and teachers. Please make alternative arrangements for your children. Thanks.

A huge thank you to our school community for helping out with the funding for our two purchases above. Our new shade shelter will be a great asset at carnivals and picnics and we thank the P&C for joint funding its purchase with the school. The school has also installed a new fence along our retaining wall in the playground to increase student safety. It looks great!

I have had a couple of questions concerning scooters. As a school it is very difficult for us to store scooters and we have concerns around student and pedestrian safety. We ask that students do not ride scooters to school. Thanks for your assistance on this.

A reminder that supervision commences each day at 8.40am. To ensure student safety I ask that no students are at school before this time. Thanks for your assistance on this matter.

A congratulations to Ms Bates who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl called Alysia. Both Mum and baby are doing well!

Our students have been looking excellent in their school uniform. Can I ask that parents ensure that girls are not wearing jewelery to school and that only sleepers or stud earrings are being worn. Girls are not permitted to wear multicoloured hair accessories. Thanks again for your assistance on this.

We look forward to another wonderful year at our great school! Have a great fortnight!

Adam Wynn        Principal

ATTENDANCE

Parents are responsible for:

- ensuring that their children attend school regularly
- explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school
- taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.

The school is responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students’ sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise
- providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.

Mrs R Todd
Attendance Coordinator

EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR NEWSLETTERS

Please supply or update your email address with the Admin office to enable us to distribute school newsletters and notes via email in 2015. We are anticipating that most families will receive their newsletters in this manner. Some paper copies will be available from the school office. Newsletters and noties will also be available on the school website.

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Child’s Name: _____________________________

Class: _____________________________

Email address for newsletter: ________________________________________
Direct Deposits to school account:
When making direct deposits to the school account for excursion and activities please ensure that you include your child’s name and a description of excursion. e.g. J. Smith Carnival Westpac – BSB 032001 Account No. 163318. All canteen and P&C activities need to be paid in cash. No direct deposits to the school account should be made.

All payments and permission notes need to be handed in at the office.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions regarding payments please contact the office.

Attendance Reminder
Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school, you will need to provide a note, stating the reason for absence, to the school promptly. Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. If you have concerns in this area, please see or contact Mrs Todd on 47301201.

Cambridge Gardens Public School
34 Trinity Drive, Cambridge Park. 2747
Ph.: 4730 1201 Fax: 4729 1385

Absence note

Name ________________________________

Class ________________________________

My Child was away from __________ to __________.

Reason for this absence was:
________________________________________

Signed________________________________

Parent/Guardian __/__/____

I would like to welcome all the new students, parents and teachers that have started at Cambridge Gardens Public School this year.

I would like to introduce the P&C Executive Committee for 2015.

President – Leanne Reed
Vice President – Rebecca Mott
Vice President – Karlea Fearnley
Secretary – Samantha Lvimey
Treasurer – VACANT

We would be grateful if someone would like to nominate him/herself to fill the vacancy of Treasurer. Our previous Treasurer will be more then happy to show you what needs to be done.

NOTICE OF MEETING
A General Meeting of the Cambridge Gardens Public School P&C Association will be held on TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY at 7.00pm in the Library. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE
Membership remains at $1.00 and is now due. By becoming a member you are able to vote at meetings and therefore help make decisions about your child/children’s schooling. Please come along to our first NIGHT time meeting and pay your membership or send your $1 in an envelope marked P&C Membership with YOUR name and child’s class on it.

You can still attend P&C meetings if you are not a member, you will just not be able to vote.

SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM

Every child must eventually learn that Mum and Dad are not the bank! The good news is Cambridge Gardens PS participates in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to help develop these important savings skills. It includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of regular saving. Every time
your child makes a deposit at school they receive a Dollarmites token. Once your child has saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive Dollarmites rewards. School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 from CBA when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

Taking part in School Banking is easy
- If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in on school banking days using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.
- If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no forms to fill in! Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online.

Banking day is this **Friday 6th February**, then every second Friday. Make sure you bring your bank-book STRAIGHT TO THE OFFICE and place it in the money slot in the office. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token.

**2015 HELPERS**
Can’t make regular meetings but still willing to lend a hand. Please fill in the slip provided and return it to the office. We will add you to our Database and contact you when we have something on. We can always do with extra helpers at the school disco, Election Day BBQ, Christmas picnic and other events that the P&C run through the year.

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**Helping Hand Database**

I, __________________, may be available to help with P & C Association events throughout 2015. Please contact me on ph) __________________ or via email at______________________________

Signed______________________________

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**Meet The P & C Executive Committee:**

Each Newsletter we will introduce a member of the Committee

**The President: Leanne Reed**

I have three children attending Cambridge Gardens, in years 1, 2 and 4.

I have been part of the P&C for four years. The first two years I just helped out at various P&C run events such as the disco and mothers’ day stall. Last year I was the Vice President and this year have become the President.

I look forward to meeting the new families that have started at our school and hopefully with the night meetings we can get a wider selection of parents coming and contributing to the ideas and decisions that affect our children.

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**“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”**

(Aristotle)