PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The school year is off to a great start with all students adjusting well to their classroom routines. Class information notes will be sent home soon letting you know routines and requirements.

This year at Gundagai Public School we have formed seven classes. The range of criteria used for forming these classes included social relationships, academic ability, age/maturity, gender balance, access to support programs, and organisation of teaching groups. In some cases we have had to form composite classes and this involved consultation between the executive and past classroom teachers. I have included some information about composite classes below.

Once again I remind parents to please feel free to contact the school if you need clarification of school programs or procedures.

Information about SuperCover will also be sent home soon. SuperCover is a great way to pay in advance for all of those extracurricular activities that come up throughout the year. Please read the information provided and consider it as an alternative method of payment. SuperCover is optional and you may still choose to pay for activities as they arise however, last year most of parents chose to use the SuperCover method as an easy alternative.

As the school year begins, we would like to remind parents of the importance of students wearing the appropriate school uniform each day. Our school uniform reflects the school community standards and contributes to the health and safety of students when engaged in school activities. We seek your assistance in ensuring students come to school in the acceptable school uniform.

Brad Griffith
Principal

COMPOSITE CLASSES

Classes that are made up of children of different year levels have traditionally been called composite classes. In recent times, these classes have also been labelled stage-based classes, multi aged or family classes.

There are two reasons why these classes are formed this way:

• Educational - where they are seen as having an educational benefit for the students and;
• Administrative - where there is an uneven enrolment in school years. This occurs in most primary schools.

Classes are formed following either of the above criteria or a combination of these criteria. Furthermore, all Primary schools are staffed by a state wide formula which works in favour of having smaller class sizes in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. This makes good sense as this is the age when students will be doing most of their leaning and class sizes need to be kept to a minimum. As a result classes from Year 3 to 6 will have a higher number of students.

At Gundagai Public School we have formed 5 composite classes this year as a consequence of our enrolment pattern.
The range of criteria used for forming these classes included social relationships, academic ability, age/maturity, gender balance, access to existing school support programs, and organisation of teaching groups. In composite groups where the Year level has been split amongst two classes, both classes will be doing similar work.

Organising to Teach the Curriculum
Regardless of how classes are formed each individual student is taught and assessed in terms of syllabus learning outcomes.

Each of the six primary syllabus areas are organised into three syllabus stages.

- K = Early Stage
  - Years 1 and 2 = Stage 1
  - Years 3 and 4 = Stage 2
  - Years 5 and 6 = Stage 3

The stages of development each have a number of learning outcomes children are generally expected to achieve as they move through their primary school education. It is also recognised that some students will be performing at below stage level and some above. It is the teacher’s responsibility to plan, program, present and evaluate syllabus outcomes for individual students.

Teachers use a variety of teaching/learning techniques and classroom organisation strategies to achieve this end. Strategies teacher’s use include teaching to need and learning styles, using different grouping strategies, effective classroom organisation and regular assessment and reporting on student progress.

As always, parents are welcome at any time to discuss the reasoning behind composite class formations or why their child was placed in a particular class.

CLASS STRUCTURE
Seven classes have been formed to cater for the 165 students enrolled at Gundagai Public School. Last Friday students were placed in class group

- Mrs Fiddes .................. K/1F
- Mrs Elphick .................. 1/2E
- Mrs Somerville .............. 2/3S
- Mrs Carpenter .............. 3C
- Mr Shipp ...................... 4S
- Mr Ennis ...................... 5/6E
- Mrs French ................... 5/6F

- Library lessons will again occur each week for each class and will be taught by Mrs Kingwell at this stage. Also once again our music program will continue being taught by Mrs Argaet.
- Mrs Armstrong will teach Reading Recovery each day.
- Mrs McIntyre will teach Support for Learning Assistance four days a week.

A separate information letter for each class will be sent home in the next couple of days.

LIBRARY TIMETABLE:
Tuesday .............. K/1F, 1/2E and 1/2S
Wednesday ........ 3c, 4s, 5/6F and 5/6 E

ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This popular sporting event will take place this Friday 11 February. The carnival will be an all day events for 3-6 students, while K-2 will participate in water play activities from midday. All parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

Information on the carnival and canteen facilities was sent home last week. Permission notes and canteen lunch orders need to be returned to school by this Thursday.
2011 SPORT LEADERS

Last week students elected sport captains and vice-captains for our three sporting houses ~ Freeman, Rafter and Perkins. Best wishes on a successful and rewarding year of sporting leadership and achievement go to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice-Captains</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERKINS</td>
<td>Mathew Thomson</td>
<td>Ricky Wheeler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chelsea Tout</td>
<td>Shae Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREEMAN</td>
<td>Matthew Peterson</td>
<td>Joseph Carberry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amber Britt</td>
<td>Tahlia Crane</td>
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<td>RAFTER</td>
<td>Harrison Daley</td>
<td>Brady McGrath</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Josie McInerney</td>
<td>Clare Tout</td>
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RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YEAR 3-6

Please support the PSSA fundraising raffle by selling a book of raffle tickets and bringing in a grocery item for the hamper. Funds are needed to purchase ribbons, trophies, starting caps, uniforms and to subsidise the buses used to transport teams to Albury for regional swimming and athletics carnivals. The raffle will be drawn at the District Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 22nd February 2011. Raffle tickets will be handed out today.

THE RIGHT WAY

To assist parents in their understanding of how things work at Gundagai Public School, each newsletter this term we will provide information on the school's operation. This week the focus is on school attendance.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ~ The Education Reform Act requires students to attend school every day that the school is open. If your child is absent:

FULL DAY ~ provide the class teacher with a written explanation (using green absentee note with this newsletter, more available from the office on request) upon his/her return to school OR phone Ms Agnew with the details.
Discuss issues such as school refusal with the Principal.
Arrange appointments, tuition and family business outside school hours.
Don’t allow your child to develop regular patterns of absences, Friday and Monday are prime examples.

LATE ARRIVAL ~ should your child arrive after 9.15 am call at the office and collect a LATE NOTE.
Child hands late note to their class teacher.

EARLY DEPARTURE ~ should you need to collect your child at anytime during the school day, call at the office and collect a PERMISSION TO LEAVE slip. Hand this note to your child’s teacher or the teacher on playground duty.

FRUIT BREAK

Fruit Break is a way for the school to promote healthy eating and care for the environment. Each day children are asked to bring fresh fruit or a vegetable snack to school to eat during the morning session. The scraps are then collected each day and placed in the compost bin.

Fruit or vegetable sent in must not be manufactured or processed, eg Rollups, Fruit Bars or canned fruit. It’s a good idea to send in a tea towel or paper towel for fruit that may be sticky, eg oranges. I encourage you to send fresh fruit or vegetable in with your child each day.

Reminder: The canteen is closed until further notice.
KINDERGARTEN 2011 with their Year 6 buddies...
SCHOOL BANKING
School banking will commence this week. Banking is every Wednesday. New accounts for students can be opened by visiting the local Westpac branch.

P&C AGM
The P&C AGM will be held next Wednesday 16th February at 7.00 pm. A nomination form is attached for Office Bearers positions. Please look closely at the range of activities the P&C is involved in throughout the school. Without your support, many of these activities will not be able to function. An example of this is our Canteen which at the moment cannot reopen without a subcommittee to run it.

I encourage everyone to come to the AGM and ordinary February meeting to find out more about how the P&C operates and to consider helping out with the P&C in some way.

AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE
- MONSTER Maths Books $2
- Home Reader Bags $4
- Recorders $5
- SRC Badges $4

CLOTHING POOL
The clothing pool is open every Wednesday from 9.00 am to 10.00 am for the purchase of new and used uniforms. If you are unable to attend the clothing shop on Wednesday mornings, orders can be sent into school. Please enclose payment. Orders will be filled and sent home with your child.

Roster:       Wednesday 9th February ~ Bec Smart
              Wednesday 16th February ~ Meredith Tait
The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday 16th February 2011 at 7.00 pm in the school library followed by our February meeting.

At the AGM all P&C Committee positions will be declared vacant and then re-elected. They are:

**P&C Executive:**
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary and Public Officer
- Treasurer
- Fundraising Officer
- Publicity Officer

**Canteen Committee**
- Treasurer and Vice President
- Stock Control and Ordering
- Rosters

**Clothing Pool**
- Treasurer
- Clothing Pool Stock Control
- Clothing Pool Ordering
- Roster

P&C is involved in many different areas in the school:
- Canteen is operated by the P&C and parent volunteers 3 days a week. It provides healthy snacks and lunches at affordable prices and makes $3000 - 4000 each year which is used to purchase items for the school.
- Clothing Pool is open every Wednesday morning and is non-profit. It is staffed by volunteers and allows parents to buy school uniforms locally and for much less.
- Fundraising allows P&C to pay for approximately $10,000 worth of resources for the school each year.
- Provide a Scholarship for a Year 6 student going to Gundagai High School each year.
- Pay for Student Injury Insurance for every child at the school each year.
- Involvement in various school initiatives such as input into School Policy development (e.g., Welfare Policy), funding submissions and decisions regarding proposals and future directions for the school.

We encourage everyone to come to the AGM and our ordinary December meeting to find out more about how the P&C operates and to consider helping out with the P&C in some way. We are always after volunteers to assist in the Canteen, the Clothing Pool, with fundraising and with other activities as they occur.

Nominations for a position can be made beforehand by filling out the nomination slip attached and returning it to the school office by Monday, 14th February 2011 or by making a nomination in person on the night.

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**Name of Nominee:** ___________________________________________

**Position nominated for:** ______________________________________

I, __________________________ give my written consent to be nominated for the above position at the Gundagai Public School P&C Association AGM, Wednesday 14th February 2011.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: _______________________

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