



# SAMUEL GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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March, 2009

Issue No.3

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### Life Education:

Life Education sessions start today. Each class will have a session in the van with the specially trained Life Education teachers. Thank you for your support of this program.

#### Life Education Parent Meeting:

I remind parents who are interested that there is a Parent Information session for Life Education this Friday afternoon at 2.00pm.

#### Zone Swimming Carnival:

Congratulations to the 30 students attending the Castle Hill Zone Swimming Carnival next Monday. It should be a terrific day. Mrs Hart is the Team Manager. Students need to report to her on the day. Samuel Gilbert School is coordinating the carnival this year. Mrs Tudor and Ms Barclay have been very busy organising the day.

#### Year 5 Gold Incursion:

The Year 5 students will be involved in a terrific in-school activity around their HSIE theme of Gold next Wednesday.

#### P&C Meeting:

The next P&C meeting is next Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the staffroom. All are most welcome.

#### Parent/Teacher Discussions:

These will be starting next week for the families of Kindergarten students. This is a valuable time for parents and teachers to share information about your child's progress.

#### TIMETABLE

Kindergarten	Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm to 7.00pm
Years 1 and 2	Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	1.30pm to 5.00pm 3.30pm to 7.30pm
Years 3 and 4	Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	1.30pm to 5.00pm 3.30pm to 7.30pm
Years 5 and 6	Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	3.30pm to 7.30pm 1.30pm to 5.00pm

# Ray White Works

with Samuel Gilbert Public School

**Kellie McKenzie 0416 238 677**  
**Andrew McDermott 0410 598 397**

Sell your home with us and 10% of selling fee will be donated to Samuel Gilbert P&C (conditions apply).



**Ray White**

Notes for Kindergarten families have been sent home.

Notes for Years 1 to 6 will be sent home next week. This will allow us plenty of time to organize times etc.

Thank you parents for your support of this valuable program.

**Castle Hill High School Presentation:**

The Principal and Deputy Principal of Castle Hill High School will present information about our local High School. All parents are most welcome but specifically parents of students in Years 4-6.

**Date:** Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 6.30-7.30pm

**Venue:** Samuel Gilbert Library

**Working Bee:**

**Date:** Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 9.00-12.00

Families are most welcome to come and join us for our first Working Bee for 2009. Please look for the information sheet that we send home early next week.

**Clean Up Australia Day:**

Thank you to the families who supported Clean Up Australia Day last Friday. It was very encouraging seeing the students out in the various areas of our school playground collecting the rubbish. Well done students and teachers for all your efforts on the day.

**Thank you Guardian Pharmacy:**

The Guardian Pharmacy at Knightsbridge has again supported our school by supplying us with a donation of 7 Ventolin puffers.

**Education Tax Refund:**

Details of the Federal Government's Education Tax Refund can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please read this information carefully to determine if you are eligible.

**Assembly Performances:**

Junior Assembly Thursdays at 12.15pm

Senior Assembly Thursdays at 2.00pm

Week 7 - 12<sup>th</sup> March 4B

Week 8 - 19<sup>th</sup> March 3C (Run-A-Thon launch)

**Calendar:**

**WEEK 7**

Monday, 9/3 - Zone Swimming Carnival

Tuesday, 10/3 - Finals Zone Swimming Carnival

- P&C Meeting 7.30pm

Wednesday, 11/3 - Year 5 Gold Incursion

- Castle Hill High Presentation

Night 6.30-7.30pm

- Premier's Reading Challenge

Information Day 3.15pm

Thursday, 12/3 - Kindergarten Interviews

**WEEK 8**

Tuesday, 17/3 - Special Cake Day

Wednesday, 18/3 - Harmony Day

Thursday, 19/3 - Selective High School Test

- P&C Run-A-Thon launch

**WEEK 9**

Wednesday, 25/3 - Year 6 excursion to

Canberra (3 days)

- Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp

(3 days)

Sunday, 29/3 - Working Bee

**WEEK 10**

Monday, 30/3 - Years 1/2 Parent/

Teacher Discussion 1.30-5.00pm

Tuesday, 31/3 - Years 3/4 Parent/Teacher

Discussion 1.30-5.00pm

Wednesday, 1/4 - Years 1-6 Parent/Teacher

Discussion 3.30-7.30pm

Thursday, 2/4 - Years 5/6 Parent/Teacher

Discussion 1.30-5.00pm

Friday, 3/4 - Winter PSSA Tryouts

- K/1 Cross Country Carnival

- Band Workshop 3.00pm



Smoking is not permitted on school grounds

## WEEK 11

Monday, 6/4 - Year 2-6 Cross Country

Tuesday, 7/4 - Easter Hat Parade

Wednesday, 8/4 - Year 1 Excursion

Thursday, 9/4 - ANZAC Service

- Easter Scripture Service

Friday, 10/4 - Good Friday - School Holidays

### Term 2 Dates:

Please note -

- Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May is scheduled as an ANZAC Day school holiday. This is not a public holiday but is a school holiday.
- Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May - Teachers only return as Staff Development Day.
- Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May - Students return to school.

### End of Year Dates:

For your information -

- Term 4 is a short term with only 9 weeks
- Week 9, Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December is the school's Presentation Assembly
- Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December is the last day for students.

*Andrew Bowmer*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY

### National Young Leaders Day:

Last Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, I had the privilege to accompany four of our School Prefects to the 2009 National Young Leaders Day in the city. J, R, G and R helped me to catch the correct bus from Knightsbridge shops into the city. Along with 7000 other students from across the State we all totally engaged by some inspirational leaders across many areas of life, all sharing their achievements and tips to what makes a great leader.

James Roy, children's author, Bridie Carter from McLeod's Daughters, Natalie Cook, Olympic Gold Medalist and Mark Barretta, Sunrise Sports presenter, all shared their personal journeys to success and encouraged all the potential leaders in the audience to follow their dreams and to never give up.

All speakers reinforced to the students that leadership was about people and involved establishing goals and developing a plan to achieve these goals.

All speakers had truly inspirational messages and extremely valuable lessons for all the "young leaders" in the audience.

### The Life Education Program:

Commences this Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and continues through until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Children wishing to purchase Life Education products should bring the correct money in an envelope marked with their name and class on the day their class is timetabled (refer below). For parents wishing to find out more about the Life Education Program there is a session timetabled for parents on this Friday afternoon.

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March - 5S, KE

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> - 1D, 1S, 4W  
Parent Session

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> - 5M, 6S, KS

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> - 3/4T, 4B, KM

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> - 6H, 3J, 2V

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> - 2N, 3C, 2S

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> - 1Y, 1L, 5J, KR

### Parent Teacher Discussions:

Notes for the upcoming Parent Teacher Discussions sessions will be coming home at the start of next week. Kindergarten parents should have already received and responded to their Parent Teacher notes.

**Can I encourage parents to respond to the Parent Teacher notes promptly (especially the parents of Stage 3 students) to ensure you receive your preferred session time.**

### Harmony Day:

Harmony Day is Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, but at Samuel Gilbert we will celebrate Harmony Day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Harmony Day is about celebrating Australia's community, participation and cultural diversity.



# HAIRHOUSE WAREHOUSE

## Shop 208, Castle Towers Shopping

## Centre, Castle Hill, Phone - 9234 1277

Smoking is not permitted on school grounds

On Wednesday students all students are encouraged to wear orange clothes. More information will be coming home at the start of next week.

*Donna Harris*

#### **P&C REPORT**

The first Fete Planning Meeting was held on Tuesday night and we were able to get commitment from a lot of people to run various stalls and activities.

At this stage we have a coordinating committee of Nicole Clifford, Tracy Imber, Diane Lawson, Andrew Bowmer and myself .

Thank you to those parents who have come forth to run and help on stalls and activities so far. There are only a few vacancies still to be filled, so if you think that you would be able to commit to organising a stall or activity or even job share the role with someone else please make yourself known to either myself or any of the coordinating committee. I know 23<sup>rd</sup> August seems a long way off, however we need to start organising now to make the "FETE of '09 a Fun Time!" and a profitable one.

We also need volunteers on the day so if you can lend a hand for a couple of hours on the day, please let us know, your help will be greatly appreciated, get in early and pick your choice of areas on which to help out.

Now as the weather has started to cool down we have scheduled another **Working Bee** on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**. Many hands make light work and if you could please spare a few hours from 9.00am onwards, together we can really make a difference to the school grounds. It would be nice to see some new faces this time to help out the regulars; it's a rewarding morning's work and a good opportunity to also meet other families within the school.

There is a P&C meeting this coming Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, in the staffroom commencing at 7.30pm. I hope to see a lot of parents attending.

*Allan White, P&C President*

#### **P&C FUNDRAISING DAY**

Our first fundraiser for the year will be a Golden Circle Fun Run. This will run in conjunction with the Annual Cross Country on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Children will be asked to collect sponsorship money from family and friends.

Each child who raises over \$10 will receive an incentive prize. More information will be sent home in the next few weeks.

*Emma Brock, P&C Fundraising Committee*

#### **FROM THE LIBRARY**

As you already know from the letter sent out this Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the **Premier's Reading Challenge** has begun. Last year not only did we have many children successfully complete the PRC but we also had many children actually receive their **Gold Certificate** - a certificate awarded to participants who have successfully completed four consecutive Premier's Reading Challenges.

To receive a certificate, **Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 students must experience 30 books, Years 3 & 4 students must read 20 books and Years 5 & 6 students must also read 20 books.** As previously explained in the recent letter, Kindergarten Teachers will be reading these in class but this should not deter Kindy parents from sharing these wonderful books together at home.

For K-2 children, books can be **read to the student, read with the student** in a shared reading scenario or **read independently** by the student. One certificate will be issued to each successful student in a year. The readings should be completed by the school deadline, **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August**, in order to validate all entries in the Challenge. All entries must be sent to the PRC to arrive by 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.

**At least 25 of the 30 books must be on the Premier's Reading Challenge K-2 book list.** A maximum of five of the books read can be books that are not on the Premier's Reading Challenge book list. Personal choice books however, should be of a similar quality to the books on the list or chosen because they are particularly appropriate to the individual student. Similarly for students in Years 3-6, **at least 15 of the 20 books must be on the PRC 3-6 book list.**

If you would like more information on the Challenge you can visit the website at -

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

This is also where you will find the set reading list. A print copy is also available in the Library at school. As soon as your child has completed the Challenge, please let me know so Mrs Bell or I can validate it.

### **Premier's Reading Challenge Parent Information**

#### **Meeting:**

**An Information Meeting will take place in the Library next Wednesday, 11th March at 3:15pm** to answer any queries you may have. If you can't make it to the meeting, please feel free to drop into the Library and I will do my best to help.

I will put reminders in the school Newsletter to keep you all on track and let you know when the completion date is coming up. If you have not received the original letter with the consent form and permission slip attached, please let me know as I have spare ones in the Library.

Thank you for your support.

***Deidre Bridie, Relieving Teacher/Librarian***

### **THANK YOU & BEST WISHES**

A huge thank you to the Samuel Gilbert community for your flowers, thoughts, phone calls, prayers, visits, offers of meals and general support during this most difficult time. It has been sincerely appreciated and a great help.

To all our swimmers competing at the Zone Carnival, try your best and swim hard. I will try to come and see you compete but if I don't make it, I will certainly be thinking of you.

***Miss Elaine Cater***

### **BAND REPORT**

The first Band Committee meeting for 2009 successfully filled all committee positions and is working well for another good year of music. There is still an opportunity to join as a general committee member to be involved as a helper. There needs to be a constant influx of new members as we lose families each year as their children move on to secondary education. Please feel free to attend our next meeting.

Planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Band Celebration took an unexpected turn as we discovered that the first band was formed during 1991!! Isn't it amazing how 18½ years feels like 20 years!! It has been decided to continue

planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but hold it in 2011 when it is actually due.

The Band Treasurer is currently working on invoices for Semester 1 and they will be sent home with the children soon. Please pay them promptly.

The Term 1 Band Workshop is to be held on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Week 10) straight after school. Afternoon tea will be served from 3.00pm and the workshop/band sessions will be conducted from 3.30-5.30pm. It is anticipated that all musicians will attend and will have a very enjoyable afternoon.

The 2009 Band Camp is to be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May (Week 2, Term 2). Permission notes will be sent home with the students next week. Please return them promptly to help with the planning of camp activities and band/tutorial sessions. This is one of the highlights of the band program and thoroughly enjoyed by all students and teachers.

The next Band Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm.

***Sue Lack, Band Committee***

### **FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP**

If you came into the Uniform Shop on 17<sup>th</sup> February and ordered 2 x size 6 Bomber Jackets and 2 x Size 6 Long Sleeve Polo Shirts, can you please come to the Uniform Shop on either Monday (between 2.00 & 3.30pm) or Tuesday (between 8.30 & 10.00am). Thank you.

Just a reminder that we still have the old style uniforms for sale well below cost price. We still have available:

- Short Sleeve Lemon Polo Shirt \$8  
Sizes 4, 10, Adult Small & Adult Large
- Winter Long Sleeve Blouse \$8  
Sizes 4, 8, 12 & 16
- Summer Dress \$20  
Sizes 5, 6, 10, 14 & 16
- Winter Tunics \$25  
Sizes 4, 10 & 12
- Winter Culottes \$25  
Sizes 6, 12 & 14

Please be aware that the Short Sleeve Polos and Summer Dresses will be donated to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal at the end of Term 1. Only the new style summer uniforms will be available for

purchase from Term 2. All old style uniforms can be worn for the remainder of 2009.

We are now taking donations for 2<sup>nd</sup> hand stock. Please note that only the following items can be sold as 2<sup>nd</sup> hand stock through the Uniform Shop:

- ✓ Girls Short & Long sleeve Blouses - new style only
- ✓ Girls Shorts & Long Pants - new style only
- ✓ School Backpacks / Excursion Bags / Library Bags
- ✓ Winter Skirts - new style only (no altered tunics)
- ✓ Summer Dresses - new style only
- ✓ School Tracksuits/Spray Jackets/ Jumpers
- ✓ Sports Shirts, Shorts and Skorts
- ✓ Boys Polos (Long & Short sleeve) - new style only
- ✓ Boys Shorts and Trousers
- ✓ Zipper Jackets

Hats, hair bands and scrunchies, socks and tights can not be sold as 2<sup>nd</sup> hand stock. Thanks for your cooperation.

If anyone has an old portable / cordless phone or a printer that's in working order, we would appreciate it being donated to the Uniform Shop. Thanks.

*Leisa Whiteside & Sally Birthisel*  
*Uniform Shop Coordinators*

### **CANTEEN NEWS**

Firstly, an enormous thank you to everyone who have put their names down to volunteer - we really appreciate it as I am sure do the children who have to spend less time queuing at recess and lunch.

We only have a couple of shifts left to fill so if you are able to help out on one of the times below please come in and see either Jenelle or myself.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of Month - 1<sup>st</sup> shift, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, all day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month - 1<sup>st</sup> shift
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Month - 1<sup>st</sup> shift
- 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month - 1<sup>st</sup> shift

Next Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March the Canteen has been asked to cater for the officials lunches at the Zone Swimming Carnival. If anyone has a spare hour or so in the morning we would really appreciate some help.

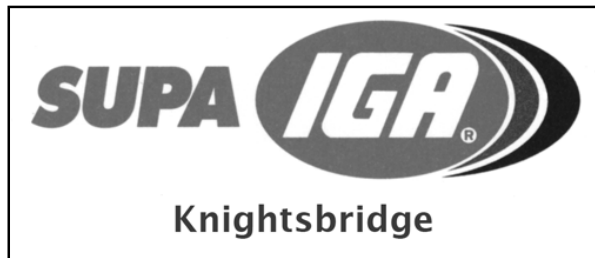
For St Patrick's Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March the Canteen will be having a treats day. We will be selling lots of special food, lollies, cakes and icecreams which we do not normally stock. So bring along your extra change and keep your eyes open for the tiny leprechaun which might just lead to a pot of gold.

Our next Canteen Committee meeting is planned for Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm at Donna's house - please ring 9634 3029 for more details. All welcome!

*Judy Naudi & Jenelle Lockrey, Supervisors*

### **OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

- Kellyville Kolts Soccer Club is seeking extra players for the Winter Competition in U6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 16 mixed boys and girls teams; U14 and U16 girls; and all age ladies. To register with the club please contact Leo Bonnerans on 0411 150 131.
- Gazelles Netball Club is looking for two girls turning 7 in 2009 to join a fantastic little team playing Netta (modified game with lower hoops). Training is at Coolong St, Castle Hill and 8.00am Saturday games at the Kellyville Complex on Wellgate Avenue. Please see our website [www.gazellesnetballclub.org.au](http://www.gazellesnetballclub.org.au) for further information. If you would like to play please contact Carlijn Van Baal on 9680 9703 or [carlijn@bigpond.com](mailto:carlijn@bigpond.com) as soon as possible. Season commences Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- Baulkham Hills Australian Football Club is running some free after school Footy Clinics at Charles McLaughlin Reserve, Baulkham Hills on Thursday nights from 4.00-5.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to learn more about AFL come to the clinics or contact Greg Nance on 0431 288 980.
- NSW Cavy (Guinea Pig) Show - 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 at the Castle Hill Showground. Free entry into the hall. See competition cavies of many varieties shown and judged. For more information call Maria Amos 9411 3590.
- The Hills Community Aid and Information Service Inc is holding a Grandparents Time Out Morning on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00-12.30pm at 92 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills (opposite Jasper Rd School). Free childcare provided. Includes lunch, lucky door prizes and giveaways. Bookings essential so please phone 9639 8620.

The logo for Guardian, featuring a stylized 'G' with a figure holding a shield, followed by the word "Guardian" in a serif font.

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE PHARMACY**  
*OPEN 7 DAYS*  
MON-FRI 8:30AM-7:00PM  
SATURDAY 8:30AM-4:00PM  
SUNDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM  
PH: 96803252 FAX: 98948401

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE MEDICAL CENTRE**  
**INSIDE THE PHARMACY**  
"COMPLETE HEALTH SERVICES"  
*BULK BILLING*  
OPEN 6 DAYS  
MON-FRI 9:00AM-6:30PM  
SATURDAY 9:00AM-1:00PM

### **The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back**

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

### **Are you eligible?**

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

### **What can you claim?**

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

- ❗ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or


sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

### **When can you claim?**

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

 **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

 For more information:

- visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- phone the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.