



SAMUEL GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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October, 2009

Issue No.15

ENROLLING NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2010

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Another busy and successful term has come to an end. This term Samuel Gilbert has celebrated a highly successful school Fete, showcased students talents at District Music Festival and Eisteddfods, Regional Public Speaking and Spelling competitions as well as Zone and Regional Athletics Carnivals to name but a few.

One stand out achievement last week was the outstanding success of the school's Debating 'A' team. Under the guidance of Mrs Eldridge, Sarah, Rebecca, Dunya and Hollie reached the Regional Debating Grand Final. Special congratulations to Sarah on being selected into the Regional Debating team.

By now, parents will have received NAPLAN results if they have students in Year 3 and Year 5. The information received by parents is very specific and parents are able to see their child's individual result and how they performed against state benchmarks.

To facilitate access to NAPLAN information for parents of NSW school students, a new website www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au has been developed. In addition to general information about NAPLAN, this website contains documents to assist parents in understanding the student report and the NAPLAN reporting scales. Parents are also invited to provide feedback on NAPLAN reporting by completing an online survey.

There will be a great deal of activity on site in the holidays associated with the ongoing B.E.R. The school Administration will also be refurbished and there will be some work carried out on the oval and the gardens at the front of the school.

A reminder that tomorrow is a 'football mufti' to raise money for Stewart House. Stewart House provides a break for students who are experiencing difficulties or hardships in their home life. This month I believe students affected in the Victorian bushfires will be attending the Stewart House facility on Curl Curl beach.

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).



We wish Mrs Elizabeth Evans every happiness as she leaves us at the end of this term to prepare for the birth of her first child. Mrs Evans has provided so many of our students with a most memorable start to their schooling and she will be greatly missed in the Kindergarten rooms. The school welcomes Mrs Karen Burgess for next term - she certainly has some large shoes to fill!

This Tuesday evening we held the first of our parent meetings for our 2010 Kindergarten families. The Transition Program continues over the first three weeks of Term 4 when parents and children join us for information and activity sessions. If you have a child starting school next year or have a neighbour or friend with a child who is ready for school it would help greatly with our planning if enrolment forms could be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Please be aware that all students should return on **Monday, 19th October** for the commencement of Term 4. There will be a P&C meeting on Tuesday, 20th October at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

I would like to thank the Samuel Gilbert School community for their support throughout Term 3 and wish all families a very safe and relaxing holiday.

Donna Harris

FROM THE RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Regional Representatives

Congratulations to all students who represented Samuel Gilbert in Regional events over the past two weeks. Spellers, Athletes, Public Speakers and Debaters all made us extremely proud. Particular mention must be made of Josh who has moved on to State level in the 100 metres 9 years old event, Sarah who has been selected to represent Sydney North in State Debating and Jess who made it to the final 9 of the Premier's Spelling Bee. A fantastic effort by everyone involved.

NSW English Competition

This year 94 students sat the English Competition. Of this number 13 were awarded Distinctions, 30 Credits and 51 Certificates of Participation. Well done to all students who participated. The Mathematics results should be available early next term, finalising the competition results for the year.

Year 4 Camp

No, we were not expecting a dust storm! Until Wednesday morning a great time had been enjoyed by all. Canoeing, Giant Swing, Cave Maze and Rock Climbing were the activities undertaken by Year 4 on our first (and only) day at camp. We had great weather and lots of fun on Tuesday and the children must be congratulated on their acceptance of our early return caused by the weather on Wednesday. A pizza lunch, games and a video helped to ease the pain and we are hopeful of securing a small refund which will be used to offset the cost of an end of year activity.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all children who participated as their class representatives in the K-2 Spelling Bee on Tuesday. All children did a great job with some exceptionally tricky words. Congratulations to our overall winners, Audrey (KM), Regan (1D) and Joe (2S). Also well done to our runners up, Charlotte (KM) Marcus (1Y) and Saleha (2V). Thank you to the many parents who supported this activity.

Kiss and Drop

Once the last bus goes in the afternoon (approximately 3:15pm) the teacher on duty will lock the front gate and bring any children still waiting in the Kiss and Drop Zone up to the school office. Please understand that as the end of school day is at 2:55 pm we would expect that all children would have been collected by this time. Please note that this week a number of parents have been booked for parking in restricted zones.



The area opposite the bus bay in Ridgecrop Drive is now a bus zone - please take careful note of all signage.

Hip Hop Dance

West Dance is holding a one day Hip Hop Workshop on 13th October at the Hills Centre for students aged 10-14 years. Flyers are available from the office or alternatively refer to www.westdance.com.au.

Congratulations

We have many talented children at Samuel Gilbert and are always pleased to hear about their wonderful achievements both in and out of school. We would like to congratulate Zac S., an ex student, who recently achieved 1st place in the National Gymnastics Competition in Brisbane. Zac is now the first reserve on the Australian team to compete in New Zealand next week.

Also congratulations to Kirsten M. who recently participated in the Sydney Eisteddfod "Dance of Champions" in the Under 10 Classical Ballet section. To be selected to compete in this competition is a great achievement.

Enjoy a relaxing holiday in readiness for a busy Term 4.

Cathie Barclay

DEBATING NEWS

What a huge week it has been in debating at Samuel Gilbert Public School! As previously reported, our undefeated (A) Debating team won Zone 10 of the Premier's Debating Challenge for Northern Sydney Region which is the largest debating competition in the southern hemisphere. On Tuesday, 22nd September our team was one of 16 zone finalists who travelled to The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy for the quarter finals. All zone winners were presented with medals at a special ceremony to reward their success. Then the fun began! As the affirmative side, we won our first debate against Normanhurst West after debating "*That we should put education first*" (how could anyone argue against that!) leaving 8 teams in the competition by lunchtime.

The girls had no time for lunch and began preparing for the next debate against Collaroy Plateau Public School.

As the affirmative team we once against argued convincingly to win, the topic being "*That TV news is unsuitable for primary age children*". At the end of the day 4 teams were left in the competition including an exhausted but very excited team from SGPS. The dust storm prevented us from returning the following day to contest the semi final which was postponed until Thursday. We returned to Collaroy bright eyed and bushy tailed to debate the topic "*That circus's should be banned from using animals*" against a very determined Artarmon Public School in the semi final. It was exciting to have some Yr 5 students to cheer us on as they had arrived for their 2-day debating camp by this stage. We were thrilled to win the semi final and it suddenly dawned on us that we were now one of only two teams left in the competition from around 100 teams. There was no time to dwell on the enormity of this achievement at this stage as the girls were sent in to start preparing for the grand final to be held in a couple of hours. With nerves of steel we faced our opponent, Curl Curl North Public School to debate the topic "*That reality TV sets a bad example*". After a nerve-racking 30 minute wait, the 3 judges awarded the debate to Curl Curl North Public School who will now represent Northern Sydney Region in the State finals later on in the year. We wish them well. Our girls were all presented with a trophy to acknowledge their tremendous success. They were heartily congratulated for their sophisticated debating skills and they way in which they represented SGPS throughout the regional finals.

I cannot begin to express how proud I am of each girl in this team. Their intelligence, sophisticated vocabulary, will to learn and ability to listen to me and each other is testament to maturity way beyond their years. They have done themselves and our school community proud within a highly competitive region in the NSW Department of



HAIRHOUSE WAREHOUSE

Shop 208, Castle Towers Shopping

Centre, Castle Hill, Phone - 9234 1277

Smoking is not permitted on school grounds

Education. All girls were invited to attend the selection trials for the Primary School State Debating Competition (yet again at Collaroy on Friday 25th September!) Renee (Yr 5) was given a 'wild card' entry also to the trials following her impressive debating during the camp where a number of tutors acknowledged her debating skills. This is a great honour for a Year 5 student. Over one hundred students from the region were invited to try out and at the end of the day Sarah was selected along with 4 other students from schools within the region as part of a regional representative team to compete later in the year at the state competition. What an honour but so richly deserved! Congratulations Sarah and we wish you continued success as you train with the regional debating coach to prepare for this competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Paula who transported the girls to Collaroy three days out of four and for keeping me and my nerves company. Also, many thanks to Alison for assisting with transport on Friday for the selection trials.

Debating Camp

Chris, Daniel, Harrison, Renee and Rachael attended the regional debating camp and were in attendance for 2 of Samuel Gilbert's finals. Their robust cheering was very much appreciated. They have returned with increased debating knowledge having had the opportunity to practise their skills against other like-minded students in our region.

*Helen Eldridge,
Debating Coach*

HILLS NETWORK PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

I had the pleasure of attending the finals for this competition at Murray Farm Public School on Monday, 28th September. Our grade finalists Rebecca, Deveree, Chase and Lia all delivered their speeches confidently, with clarity and gained the rapport of their audience. The competition was extremely high this year with some very imaginative topics being chosen by students in this district. Congratulations to all our speakers for representing our school in the finals.

*Helen Eldridge,
Public Speaking Coordinator*

FROM THE LIBRARY

Just a reminder for you to fill up those Stewart House Bags with unwanted clothing items and send them back to School on the first day or two of Term 4.

These holidays might be the ideal time to have a good clean up of those cupboards, drawers and wardrobes.

Your help will be greatly appreciated by both Samuel Gilbert Public School and the wonderful Stewart House Charity we support.

Thank you in anticipation,
*Deidre Bridie & Jutta Smith,
Charity Coordinators*

BAND REPORT

As third term comes to an end the bands can look back at this term and feel very pleased with all the wonderful performances they have done - Fete, Grandparents' Day, Hills District Music Festival and the Ryde Eisteddfod.

The holidays are a great time to recharge ourselves for a final term of performances. The bands are competing in the Galston District Music Festival in Week 2. Please return the permission notes (which have been issued this week) as soon as possible.

To all the musicians who are sitting AMEB exams in October, keep practicing over the holidays and good luck in your exam! If you notify us of your name, instrument and exam grade via the band box we look forward to congratulating you via the newsletter.

The bands are holding their final concert/workshop of the year on Friday, 6th November. This is a great opportunity for families to hear how well the bands are playing and to show our Year 2 students what a wonderful experience the band program can be for all students. All families are welcome to listen to the concert in our hall free of charge.

The next Committee meeting will be Thursday, 29th October at 7.30pm in the staffroom.
*Sue Lack,
Band Committee*

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

Our first order of girl's shorts and socks has arrived from the supplier. As far as the shorts go we only received a limited number and will have another order coming mid Term 4.

At this stage our trading hours for Term 4 will remain the same (Mondays from 2.00-2.30pm and Tuesdays from 8.30-10.00am). For those parents attending the Kindy Orientation days, we will also be open from 10.30-12.00 on Wednesday, 28th October and 10.00-11.30am on Thursday, 5th November. If you can help out on either of these Kindy Orientation days can you please come and see us in the Uniform Shop. The Kindy Orientation is one of our busiest times so we would appreciate any extra help. Details of trading hours for early Term 1, 2010 will be issued towards the end of Term 4.

Dr Shoe will be on site on 20th October and 24th November from 8.30-9.30am. Again, for those attending the Orientation days, he will also be in his usual position outside the Canteen on 20th and 28th October from 10.15-11.30am and 5th November from 12.15-1.15pm.

Please note that there have been no price changes from Term 3 therefore Term 3 order forms will still be accepted during Term 4.

Enjoy the holidays!

Leisa Whiteside & Sally Birthisel
Uniform Shop Coordinators

SAMUEL GILBERT AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Vacation Care will be operating during the next school holidays from Monday, 12th October to Friday, 16th October.

Activities include movies, bowling, bushwalking, technology and drama. The cost is \$30 per day plus excursion costs. For bookings please contact the Centre on 9899 2729.

Lesley Soper, OOSH Coordinator

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

• **Gazelles Netball Club** registration day is Saturday, 24th October at Coolong Street Netball Courts between 11.00-2.00pm. Late registrations after 24th October will only be taken to fill any vacancies so please register on time if you are interested in playing in 2010. Early registration is also available. We have many players from Samuel Gilbert and surrounding schools and welcome everyone with or without experience. New

players will require a passport sized colour photo and a copy of Birth Certificate/passport. For more information please ring Leanne Marcer on 9659 0967 or www.gazellesnetballclub.org.au.

• **Castle Hill Sports Netball Club** is having a registration day on Saturday, 17th October at Kellyville Plaza from 10.00-2.00pm. Girls aged 7-8 needed and new players welcome. For more information please go to www.chsnetball.com.au

MISS CASSIE'S DANCE CAMP

Miss Cassie is running
a Dance Camp
at her newly built dance studios



The Camp will run on
Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th
October
from 9.00am to 5.00pm

Classes include
Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Acrobatics, Drama/Singing,
Modern/Contemporary, Musical Theatre,
Breakdance, stretching and strengthening

All this for only **\$30 per day**

Venue address is
Unit 10, 155 Glendenning Road, Glendenning.
Only 12 minutes from Castle Hill just off the M7.

Please book your position now by ringing
Cassie on 0412 929 924.

Guardian

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



Knightsbridge