



GARDEN SUBURB PUBLIC SCHOOL

We strive for excellence, student growth and wellbeing

Term 1 – Week 3

What a fantastic day we had at the Swimming Carnival yesterday. Thank you to all who attended, the staff did an amazing job with the organisation and the students were absolutely outstanding displaying great sportsmanship throughout the day. Many records were broken, congratulations to these students!

Students in Years One to Six have voted for their class PBL Ambassadors for Semester One 2024. Congratulations to these students who will attend Student Representative Council (SRC) meetings as their class representatives. A big thank you to Mrs Butler who will lead SRC this year!

K-6W – Sherayas P

K-6B – Carter W

K-6K – Aaliyah H

K/1P – Freya G and Ella J

1H – Oliver G and Mia H

2S – Avoca L and Cali R

2/3B – Ali Q and Lucy C

3/4P – Yuna K and Ava H

4/5B- Dominic H and Matisse K

5/6F – Mabel E and Case H

Staffing Organisation for 2024

Students are all settled into the classes and getting to know their new teacher and classmates. Additional staff are timetabled throughout the week to allow teachers time to prepare for lessons and complete additional duties.

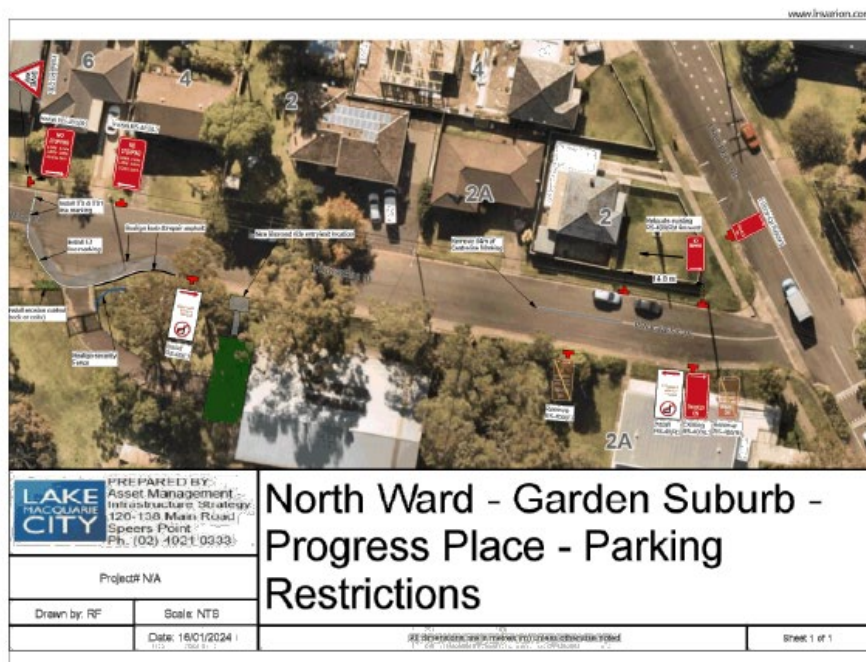
Mrs Fletcher will relieve for Mrs McShane as Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction on Monday to Thursday. Mrs Fletcher will be across all classrooms providing curriculum support, but with a particular focus on 3-6 as we implement the new curriculum.

Miss Shannon will be providing curriculum release to Ms Pitts on Thursdays and teach 2S on Fridays. Mr Pitto will be delivering relief from face to face for Stage Two and Stage Three classes. Miss Finlay-Jones will provide curriculum release to Miss Perry on Thursdays and teach 2/3B on Fridays. Miss Cass will be taking various classes to relieve teachers to work on projects, for scheduled curriculum release days or to meet with parents. Mrs Van K will deliver relief from face to face teaching for Early Stage One and Stage One on Tuesdays.

Kiss and Ride

Our Kiss and Ride was approved at council earlier this month with the plans now sitting with council awaiting the works to be scheduled. I have included a copy of the approved works.

Claire Bradshaw
Principal



Year 6 Shirts

Our Year 6 students are looking very flash in their new shirts!



TERM 1 - 2024

ATTENDANCE: WEEK 2



KINDERGARTEN: 100%
 YEAR 1: 100%
 YEAR 2: 96%
 YEAR 3: 98%
 YEAR 4: 96%
 YEAR 5: 97%
 YEAR 6: 96%

PERCENTAGES ARE CALCULATED BASED ON THE YEAR GROUPS' AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RATE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Above 95%
 Expected Attendance



90-95%
 Minimum Standard



Below 90%
 Educationally at Risk



EVERY DAY COUNTS

CHILDREN WHO HAVE A POSITIVE START TO SCHOOL ARE LIKELY TO ENGAGE AND EXPERIENCE ONGOING ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS

TERM 1 - 2024

ATTENDANCE: WEEK 3

KINDERGARTEN: 95%
 YEAR 1: 94%
 YEAR 2: 96%
 YEAR 3: 91%
 YEAR 4: 96%
 YEAR 5: 94%
 YEAR 6: 94%



PERCENTAGES ARE CALCULATED BASED ON THE YEAR GROUPS' AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RATE

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Dates for your Calendar

Central Parent Calendar

Term 1	
Week 4	
Meet the teacher afternoon	Wed 21 Feb 3:30 – 4:30pm
Assembly	Fri 23 Feb
Zone Swimming Carnival	Fri 23 Feb
Week 7	
NAPLAN Yr 3 & 5	Wed 13 Mar – Fri 22 Mar
Week 8	
Sentral finance migration	Details to follow
Week 9	
Easter Hat Parade	Mon 25 Mar
Good Friday – public holiday	Fri 29 Mar
Week 10	
Easter Monday - public holiday	Mon 1 Apr
Reptile Park Stage 2 & 3 Excursion	Tues 2 Apr
Oakvale Farm Early Stage 1 Excursion	Wed 3 Apr
Hunter Valley Zoo Stage 1 Excursion	Thurs 4 Apr
Assembly	Fri 5 Apr
Week 11	
School photo day	Tues 9 Apr

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Meet the teacher afternoon

We welcome parents and carers into the school on Wednesday 21st February from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. You will have a chance to meet your child's teachers and look around your child's classroom. If you intend on coming please complete [this form](#) for catering purposes. The uniform shop will be open if you need to try on and order any uniforms. They have plenty of second-hand items for sale.



SAVE THE DATE

Easter Hat PARADE

MONDAY 25TH MARCH, 2024

More details to come

School Photos

On Tuesday 9th April students will have their school photo taken. Please make sure students are dressed in full school uniform.

To view packages and order online go to www.newcastleschoolportraits.com

The GSPS Shoot Code is: 410231

Orders to be placed before photo day to avoid a late fee.

If you would prefer to pay cash envelopes are available in the office.

Move to Sentral Finance

With the addition of Sentral Finance to our school management system you'll experience a more holistic and efficient way to handle financial matters and stay connected.

We have always valued our relationship with parents and carers, and we remain focused on looking for ways to improve and enhance how we interact with you.

For this reason, we're proud to announce the upgrade of our service, via Sentral Finance. This new module offers parents an easy and convenient way to make payments and manage permissions.

We've also made sure Sentral Finance integrates fully and seamlessly with the Sentral for Parents Portal and App to ensure a smooth transition.

You will now be able to sign permissions and make payments at the same time to provide an even more efficient way of handling your child's school finances.

Whilst we migrate across to Sentral Finance, our systems will be offline for a short time. During this time payments will be unavailable. We anticipate to be using Sentral finance from Week 8 Term 1. We will keep parents and carers updated via the Sentral parent portal.

To support you with our move to Sentral Finance, please review our FAQs. They're designed to help you become more familiar with Sentral Finance and all its benefits:

FAQs (<https://www.sentral.com.au/sentralfinanceparentfaqs>)

You can also find our Sentral for Parents Portal and App, FAQs here (<https://www.sentral.com.au/portal-app-help#faq>)

We're confident you'll find Sentral Finance a welcome and helpful addition to how our school can support you.

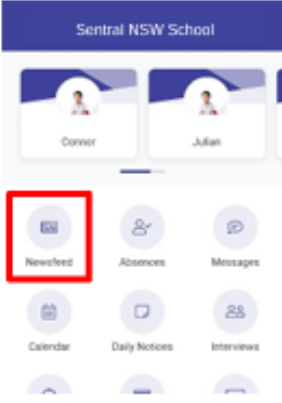
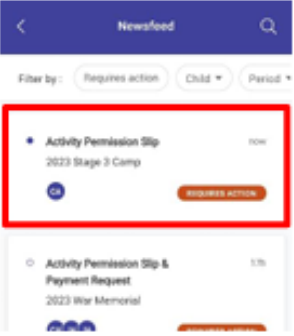
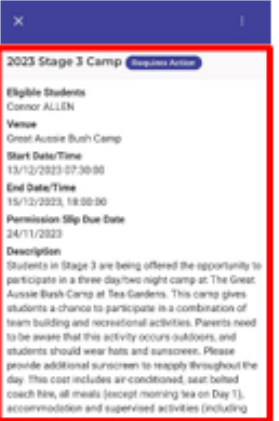
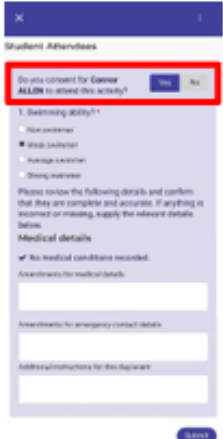
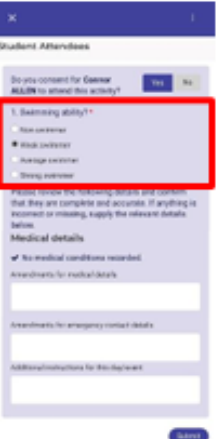
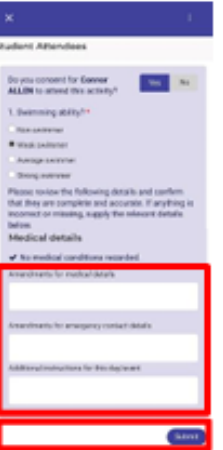
Updating details

Please update the office if your details or family situation has changed. You can find a 'Family Information update form' under the 'Forms' icon in your Sentral parent portal. You can also complete this form at the office.

Sentral Permission Guide

Throughout the year, we may notify you of an upcoming activity (excursion or incursion) that may or may not incur a cost. Here is a guide on how to give permission for an activity in your Sentral parent portal.

Giving Permission for an Activity

<p>1. Open the Sentral for Parents App and click on the Newsfeed tile.</p> 	<p>2. Search for the Activity you wish to give permission for and click on it.</p>  <p>Notice how this activity is asking for Permission ONLY.</p>	<p>3. Read through the information provided carefully.</p> 
<p>4. Scroll down to the bottom of the screen to give your consent.</p> 	<p>5. IF the school has requested for questions to be answered, please provide responses.</p> 	<p>6. Add any important amendments to your contact details or your child's medical details for THIS ACTIVITY ONLY and click Submit.</p> 



Library

The library is now open for borrowing. Students must have a library bag and there is a two book limit for infants and three book limit for primary. Students may borrow books during lunch time and during their class library lesson.

The Resilience Project

The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM), and Emotional Literacy to build resilience.

Check out their website for more information: [The Resilience Project](#)

And check out TRP@HOME; a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family, to help improve your wellbeing and build resilience.

[TRP@HOME](#)

Learning and Support

This year Mrs Stephanie Couch and Mrs Roma Dorahy will be supporting student learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Couch and Mrs Dorahy are finalising their timetables and parents/carers of students that have been identified to work with them will receive communication within the next week.

If your child has seen a specialist over the summer holidays and received an updated report could you please email a copy through to the school email. This will be shared with the Learning and Support Team and your child's teacher to ensure the most appropriate supports are put in place.

Seasons of Growth

Last week Mrs Couch participated in professional learning in the Seasons for Growth program. This program builds knowledge and capacity of professionals to provide a safe space for children, young people and adults to learn knowledge, skills and attitudes to understand and respond to experiences of change, loss and grief. Miss Johnson will be completing this training in the near future and we will be offering opportunities for students to be referred to the program in the near future.

Sport

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students that participated. The Zone Carnival is on Friday 23/02/24. Students selected to represent at Zone have received a permission note.

Music Lessons

PMI Music have started lessons on a Thursday. If you would like your child to have music lessons at school complete the enrolment via the PMI website. They will schedule your child in to have their lesson during the school day.



Group, Pair & Private Lessons

- PMI PLUS is now offering keyboard and guitar music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit our website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please [ENROL TODAY](#) via the PMI PLUS website
- Lessons run during school hours on school campus
- Only \$28.50 for Pair Lessons and \$37.50 Private Lessons - **\$22.50** group lessons also available.
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

P: 1300 467 092

E: hello@pmiplusmusic.com

www.pmiplus.mymusicstaff.com



Ethics at Garden Suburb Public School

Ethics (Special Education in Ethics) is an alternative for students not attending scripture classes.

The Ethics program builds students' critical reasoning ability, helping them think through different issues and identify strong and weak arguments. In ethics lessons, students are introduced to and encouraged to practice reflective thinking, empathy, perspective-taking, communication and dialogue and other skills they need to navigate ethical dilemmas and make informed choices.

The ethics classes run every Wednesday at 2:30 pm

The program is made possible by parents and community volunteers. This year, the program has one volunteer.

To make the program available to all years in 2024, we are seeking volunteer teachers to join the program. Teaching ethics is a great way to get involved in the classroom and support the school.

Ethics teachers receive free training from Primary Ethics. Primary Ethics is a not-for-profit organisation approved by the Department of Education to design curriculum and training for the ethics program. Training is available either face-to-face or through online workshops. Primary Ethics provides detailed lesson plans and materials.

If you would like to find out more or if teaching ethics is a possibility for you or someone you know (we'd love to hear from some grandparents!) or if you want more information, please get in touch with Julia, julia.kosheleva@primaryethics.com.au.

For more information about the ethics program and to volunteer, visit <https://primaryethics.com.au/volunteer/> or contact [Julia.kosheleva@primaryethics.com.au](mailto:julia.kosheleva@primaryethics.com.au)

Primary
ETHICS

"In time, not very much time at all, it will be the decisions of the children we teach today that will shape the world."

Dr Simon Longstaff – The Ethics Centre

Book Club

Parents please use the below links to access the Book club catalogue and order online using the LOOP app.

Catalogue - <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/book-club/>

LOOP - <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 Out Now!

Book Club Issue 1 has started to be distributed to students this week. Issue 1 is packed full of great quality, affordable and popular titles!

If a paper catalogue has not made it home, please head to the link provided below for a link to the digital catalogue.

Please remember to place all orders online via the LOOP (Scholastic website or the LOOP app). See link below.

Particular mentions are:

Item 010. Bin Chicken, Feeding Time at the Zoo, the newest release by the incredibly talented Kate & Jol Temple!

Item 105. The Wild Guide to Starting School is a hilarious picture book about the routines and expectations about starting school by Laura and Philip Bunting; and

Item 015. is Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker which happens to be the 2024 National Simultaneous Storytime book!

All Book Club orders accumulate rewards for our school, which we use to purchase books for our library collection!

Please place all orders by 3pm on **Monday 19th February**.



 SCHOLASTIC

Book Clubs

Every Child Deserves a Good Book

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Week 3 Term 1

Welcome to all our new families. At GSPS we pride ourselves on caring for the environment and encourage sustainable practices with both our staff and students. As you would have noticed, we have a large school grounds. Our grounds are home to a variety of wildlife like possums, native bees, birds and recently I have seen a little brown rabbit.

During the year we hold environmental days like Clean Up Australia Day and Tree Day. Our vegetable garden needs some work as it suffered over the summer holiday and the students are invited to help.

In each classroom, the library and the staffroom we have a recycling bin and a compost bucket. On Tuesday we encourage everyone to go waste free, with 'Totally Trash Free Tuesday'. Staff on Tuesday lunch duty hand out dazzlers to students who have a waste free lunchbox.

In the playground, students have a choice of 4 coloured bins to dispose of their waste. The green bin is for food scraps. The blue bin is for drink containers (poppers, cans, juice bottles) that go to Return and Earn. The yellow bin is for recycling (paper bags, scrunched into a ball foil, hard plastic orchy cups or ice cream cups). The final bin has an orange label Rubbish. All other waste goes into the rubbish bin, this includes soft plastics, sandwich bags, cling wrap, chip packets, zipper doopers wraps, sauce packs, lunch order bags covered in sauce and coffee cups.



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Each coloured bin has photos of items that are suitable. Older students are always able to help younger students dispose of their waste.

Our sandpit has been closed for a period of time, it required some maintenance. Fresh sand is due next week. If any families have old kitchen utensils, appropriate for use by students in the sandpit, and are willing to donate them please drop off at the office, (wooden spoons, spatulas, aluminium cake trays are some suggestions).

Julie Brewer



TOTALLY CRASH FREE TUESDAY



On Tuesdays, students and staff are encouraged to bring their lunch, recess and fruit to school in a reusable container, and bring a refillable water bottle. Rubbish bins will be removed from the playground, and students will take home any food packaging.

HELP GSPS BE TOTALLY TRASH FREE ON TUESDAYS!

Canteen News

Make your child's day with a birthday bucket from the canteen. It's easy to order through your Quickcliq account. Make a meal order, click on the date of your child's birthday and you will see 'Birthday Bucket', then select their class.

QuickCliq quickcliq.com.au

Register today!


Sign up & register quickcliq.com.au

Add credit to your online wallet, or pay as you go

Pay & place your order. It's that easy!

Discover the benefits of cashless school payments

Perfect for ordering school meals & uniforms, it's quicker to click.

Register today  It's quick & easy

Contact the team: Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:00pm on 1300 11 66 37 | support@quickcliq.com.au

Canteen Roster

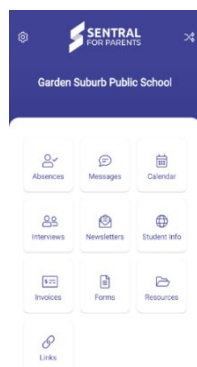
If you can spare some time to help out in the canteen please contact the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Week 3		Week 4	
Wed 14/2	Donna & Cena	Wed 21/2	Donna & Danielle B
Thurs 15/2	Closed – Swimming Carnival Day	Thurs 22/2	Donna & Karen
Fri 16/2	Donna, Simone & Bryn	Fri 23/2	Donna, Min & Help needed

COMMUNICATION

Please use the following forms of communication with the school to stay up to date.

Sentral Parent Portal App



The school uses the Sentral Parent Portal app to communicate all school updates, newsletters, permission notes and fundraising opportunities with our parent community. Parents can also submit absence requests, check the school calendar for upcoming events and message the class teacher.

All new parents and carers to the school should have received a welcome email with instructions on how to register and your access key. If you don't have an access key, please let the office know. Parents can have multiple access keys for each parent to stay up to date on what's happening in the school.

Quickcliq

Canteen and Uniforms orders can be purchased online through the website QuickCliqu. Parents are encouraged to register an account, add their students details to the account and purchase credit through the website. For detailed instructions please see ['How to'](#) guide.



Website

Information regarding the school's policies, planning, reporting, expectations, P&C and so much more can be found on our [website](#). All parent payments and enrolment applications are made online using the quick link tabs along the top of the home page.

Facebook

The school has a Facebook page where you can find information on student successes, good news stories and community information. Our school Facebook page can be found by searching 'Garden Suburb Public School' on Facebook.



NSW School Updates app

The NSW School Updates App has the ability for parents and carers with children in multiple schools to receive newsletters and updates within the same app and receive push notifications on their phones when newsletters and events are posted by the school. Information feeds are filtered by school year are customised for parents and carers and includes direct contact line details to the school.



PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE

KOTARA BEARS

Players Needed!!!

REGISTER NOW

Scan Here



- | | |
|------|-----|
| U5/6 | U9 |
| U7 | U10 |
| U8 | U11 |

Veg-tastic lunchboxes

Your child doesn't need to wait until dinner to eat their vegetables.

Swapping out sometimes foods for vegetables can help your child reach their daily vegetable needs.

Try:



Zucchini fritters



Green beans



Roasted sweet potato



Capsicum sticks



Corn



Pumpkin scone

For more veg-tastic lunchbox ideas visit: www.swapit.net.au/vegetables