Dear Parents

I warmly welcome the School community to the new year.

Following their orientation last week, boys have now settled into classes and routines, including visiting the new Library for lessons and recreational reading. Next week storytelling sessions will begin with staff and guests presenting favourite stories and poems.

The new administration area is also operating, with the School Office now located centrally. Ms Dorn, Mrs Merrick, Mr Fraser and I are working there as are Mrs Heaton, Mrs Brakell and Mrs Collins. The First Aid Centre for boys is in the new building and any correspondence for the Parents Association may be deposited at the PA collection point.

Parent Information sessions have been conducted for K-2 and Years 3-4, and on Monday 7 February parents of boys in Years 5-6 are invited to a session beginning at 7:00pm in the Hall.

Morning teas are currently being hosted by the Parents Association for each grade, with those for Year 3 and Kindergarten being held next week on Tuesday and Thursday respectively.

As well as new boys we welcome Miss Wood, Form Master of 1W to the School, welcome back Ms Ashbury to the position of K-2 Reading Tutor and Mrs Pleasants rejoins the staff to teach 4B during Term One, whilst Mr Brown is on Long Service Leave.

Across the School, there is a ‘no hat no play’ policy. All boys K-6 need their hats for break times and PE, and sit in a shaded area if they are without them. For K-2 boys the brimmed grey hat is regulation, boys in Years 3-6 may choose to wear the black cap.

On Wednesday 2 March, 1:00pm – 2:30pm, I invite all parents to attend a Reading Information Session, to learn about how to support the early reader and encourage all boys to develop their skills and maintain enthusiasm for reading.

I wish all boys well in summer sport trials and the first round of matches on Saturday week.

HEADMASTER’S AWARDS

Congratulations to the following boys who have earned Headmaster’s Awards this fortnight.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>H Xu</td>
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Mrs R J Lee
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INFANTS
This year we welcome new boys to Kindergarten, Transition, Year 1 and Year 2, and we warmly welcome new and returning members of staff.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the K-2 Information Night. It is important to remember that children, as individuals, develop at different rates. We cannot force children to learn before they are ready, but we can encourage them by providing the right kinds of experiences. It is important to remember that in the early years of schooling, it is far more important to focus on individual progress rather than making comparisons between pupils. We do not rank our boys, we group them with boys who have similar needs and interests.

Before School Care is only offered to siblings of Primary boys who are attending before school activities (debating, chess, music rehearsals etc.). After School Care is available to all K-6 boys, however, registration is essential.

This week, the following boys have successfully implemented the Social Skill of the Week - ‘Saying Please!’:
• TrB Andrew Ha
• TrE Dean Cvetkovski
• 1M Oliver Lee
• 1W Christopher Calthorpe
• 2C Michael Chang
• 2F Tihan Ritigahapola

Next week, Mrs Barnsley will create a Library display (K-2 Entrance) and talk about our new Library at Assembly (Friday, 11 February). The following week, 2C will display their work (K-2 Entrance) and perform at Assembly (Friday, 18 February). We look forward to welcoming Kindergarten to our Assemblies during Term Four.

I have been delighted with your sons this week and I look forward to a happy and exciting year.

Ms L A Dorn

FROM THE SENIOR MASTER
I have outlined a large amount of important information for parents below. I would appreciate your co-operation with these items.

- All medical forms should be returned to Form Masters by Monday 7 February. Action Plans for boys requiring epipens will be sent home shortly. All Asthma puffers should be clearly labelled and handed in to your son’s Form Master, all other medication including Epipens should be handed in to the School Office. No medication should be in the boys’ school bags.
- All boys need to have their travel arrangements clearly defined for both wet/hot and fine weather. It is not physically possible to pass on all late messages and your co-operation is appreciated.
- Travel passes are being issued as they reach the School but boys may travel without a pass until they arrive.
- The only entry points to the School for boys, are from Mawson Street or the Main School Entrance in Ayres Road. Entry to the new School Office is through the driveway entry gate in Ayres Road.
- Year 3 boys must be picked up from Mawson Street between 3:00pm - 3:15pm unless catching a bus or going to After School Care.
- Could I please recommend that parents picking up from Ayres Road (4-6), consider collecting their sons between 3:15pm and 3:30pm to avoid peak time congestion. Boys are supervised until 3:30pm, then sent to After School Care.

The Library is open after School in the following circumstances:
- Year 3-6 boys waiting for a brother or travel buddy who is doing an official school activity (eg sport, music, drama) until 4.00pm
- Year 3-6 boys whose parents have an appointment with a Master until 4.00pm
- Any K-6 boy who is accompanied by a parent until 4.00pm – this is a good opportunity to share reading time with your sons
- Year 3-6 boys whose parents are unable to collect them at 3.00pm - in extraordinary circumstances - may stay until 3.30pm when they will be taken to After School Care.

In all cases, boys are to do homework or read quietly. The Library is not an alternative to After School Care.

Parents please read the enclosed letter from the Bursar, regarding School Pupil Accident Insurance.

Mr D W Fraser

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES
K-6 Parent Reading Information Session
Every year we hold a Parent Information Session on Reading. We believe that this is a most important opportunity to share with parents the variety of approaches we use to assist boys learn to read, understand what they are reading and then appreciate the world of literature and knowledge, found within the pages of a book. As boys grow and change, so do their reading habits and needs. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2 March from 1-2:30pm in the Hall. In the next newsletter I will write about the specifics of what we will cover.
**Book Amnesty Box**

If any class novels, library books or Infants readers ever turn up at your place, we would welcome them back. The Amnesty Box lives in the School Office, and books can be anonymously put in the box anytime. Last year we welcomed back over 100 books, representing over $1500 of lost resources. Any school books that turn up can be anonymously left in the Book Amnesty Box outside the Office. No questions asked! Thank you to all the parents who have already found lost books and popped them in the book Amnesty Box. Keep them coming!

*Mrs C J Merrick*

**FROM THE MUSIC MASTER**

**Welcome to Music 2011**

Instrumental lessons began this week for most boys. Preparing the music timetable is a huge task, so thank you to parents who were able to accept the lesson time given to their son.

**Ensembles Week 3**

All morning ensembles, including choirs, commence at 7.30am. PLEASE always arrive at 7.25am to prepare for your rehearsal.

Mrs Fane welcomes all interested boys to School Choir on Friday mornings. Provisional string ensemble lists for primary boys are on display on the windows of the Music Department.

**Senior and Maffey Strings**

Mr Smith needs all string players in Years 5 and 6 to come to the Hall on Tuesday morning at 7.30am.

**Bambini and Pennington Strings**

Tuesdays 3.00 to 3.45pm. Boys will come down to the Music Department in class groups. Bambini violins (Transition and Year 1) will rehearse in the Ensemble Room. Pennington violins (Year 2) will be in the Hall. All cellos rehearse in the Music Room. Parents please collect your sons from these rooms at 3.45pm.

**Band Auditions**

Auditions for new boys and for those who missed the previous audition, will continue this Monday, 7 February, at 7.30am in the Hall with Dr Busan. Only boys who have not yet auditioned need to be there. Stevens Wind Ensemble commences in Week 4 (Monday 7.30am)

**St Ives Singers Auditions**

St Ives Singers is open to boys in Years 5 and 6 by audition. Interested boys should meet Mr Platt in the Music Room at 7.30am on Thursday 10 February (Week 3). The first rehearsal for Vocal Scholars will also be held on this day. St Ives Singers rehearsals will commence in Week 4.

**Wanted!** Keen Primary boys to learn to play oboe or bassoon. Please see Mr Smith.

**Second Hand Instruments for Sale**

As a service to parents wishing to buy or sell a second hand musical instrument, a notice will be on display outside the Music Office for the first few weeks of Term 1 enabling parents to communicate with each other directly. Please contact the Music Office with the make of the instrument and the asking price.

**Annual Concert 2010 DVD** - last orders by Friday 11 February

Please forward $10 in an envelope marked with your son’s name and class to the Music Office if you wish to purchase a DVD. Cash only, thank you.

*Mr M S Smith*

**FROM THE SPORTS MASTER**

The Term 1 Summer *Sports Draw* accompanies this Newsletter and we look forward to a great year. *CIS Tennis Trials* - We wish the following Year 6 boys: Yuta Ito, Izac Carracher and Alcuin Lai, all the best as they try their hand (forehand?) at PLC on Thursday.

**Wet weather line - 9990 8472**

**After School Sport** - please ring after 1:45pm and note messages.

**Saturday Morning Sport** - please ring after 7:00am and note messages.

*Mr R C Baker*

**FROM THE TEACHER-LIBRARIAN**

I have enjoyed welcoming the boys to our new library. The boys have been very enthusiastic about the facilities and it has been a very popular place, especially at lunch times.

Next Friday your boys will take home their first book club order forms for the year. Scholastic Book Clubs are offered to our families to give them the opportunity to purchase reasonably priced books in a convenient way. The book clubs operate once or twice a term. Order forms are always sent home on a Friday and must be returned by the following Wednesday at the latest as the orders are compiled and despatched on those Wednesday afternoons. Please be sure to fill in your son’s name and class on the form and pay the correct full amount owing in cash, by cheque or credit card, following instructions on the form. Parents are welcome to come to the Library before or after school to read and borrow with their boys.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the year.

*Mrs J K Barnsley*
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 7 – 19 FEBRUARY 2011

MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY
7:30am  Morning Fitness (Years 2-6)
10:00am  Assembly (5-6) (6M – Cowper)
7:30pm – 8:30pm  Information Evening for Parents (5-6)

TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY
7:30am  Chess Grading – New Boys and Year 3 boys - 3H Classroom
7:30 – 8:20am  ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching
10:00am  Assembly (3-4) (4B – Cowper)
10:30am  Year 3 Staff/Parent Morning Tea – Foyer

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY
8:45am – 10:30am  PA Committee Meeting – Hall

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY
7:30am – 8:20am  ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching
7:40am  Chess Coaching Begins for Term 1 (Years 1-2) - K-2 Activity Room
10:00am  Kindergarten Staff/Parent Morning Tea – Foyer
1:00pm – 1:30pm  Visit to Sir Eric Woodward School

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY
7:30am  Morning Fitness (Years 2-6)
10:00am  Assembly (Tr-2 (Library Carpe Diem)
3:00pm  Newsletter

SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY
Summer Sport Round 1

MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY
7:30am – 8:15am  Chess Coaching Begins for Term 1 (Years 3-6) - Year 3 Activity Room
10:00am  Year 1 Staff/Parent Morning Tea
10:00am  Assembly (3-4) (3H – Dent)

TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY
7:30am – 8:20am  ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching
10:00am  Year 1 Staff/Parent Morning Tea – Foyer
10:00am  Assembly (3-4) (3H Dent)
1:15pm – 1:30pm  Lunchtime Concert (3-6) – Ensemble Room

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY
7:30am – 8:20am  ‘Basketball Skills’ Coaching – Session 2
8:45am – 10:30am  PA General Meeting – Hall

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY
7:30am – 8:20am  ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching
10:00am  Year 4 Staff/Parent Morning Tea – Foyer

FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY
7:30am  Morning Fitness (Years 2-6)
10:00am  Assembly (Tr-2) (2C SWEET)

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY
Summer Sport Round 2

FROM THE CHESS CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome back to another year of Chess at Sydney Grammar School! This week all boys were given a chess information note. Thank you to all the boys who have returned their registration forms. Chess grading will be held next Tuesday at 7.30am in 3H for new boys to the School that are interested in being part of the Chess Club. Once we know how many boys are involved in the Chess Club, then groupings and days will be allocated. Your son will be notified of his Chess Club day. Chess Club starts in Week Four.

I can report on the success of our Champion A Team from 2010. There were four NSW teams participating in the Australian Schools Teams Championship which was held in Perth last December. Our team consisted of Nathan Tan, Calvin Wang, Rowan Willathgumwa and Kevin Willathgumwa.

The Victorian school (Deepdene Primary School) won the competition, with SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL St Ives 2nd and Queensland (King’s Christian College) placed 3rd. The boys finished 1 point behind the Victorian team. Well done boys!

“Openings teach you openings. Endgames teach you chess!”

Mrs S Hardwick

2011 Term Dates
Thursday 27 January – Orientation Day New boys
Term I  Friday 28 January – Wednesday 6 April
Term II  Wednesday 27 April – Friday 24 June
Term III  Tuesday 19 July – Friday 16 September
Term IV  Monday 10 October – Tuesday 6 December (Presentation Day)