FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our first off-site Swimming Carnival was held at Macquarie University Pool yesterday and it was a wonderful day. The boys embraced the House spirit and the level of involvement was particularly impressive. For many of the boys, the challenge of swimming the length of an Olympic-sized pool was daunting but met with tenacity and there were many satisfied smiles at the end of the pool. The House chants were very entertaining and Oscar Platt deserves a special mention for playing his trumpet for the whole day!

I would like to thank the Sportsmaster, Peter Derrin and the Swimming Master, Matt Bulger for their enormous contribution in making the meet so enjoyable for the boys and to the rest of the staff for their support in making the Carnival run so smoothly. I look forward to our first off-site Athletics Carnival at the Athletics Track, Homebush on Monday 28 July, next term.

Correspondence:
A few years ago the School made the decision to send Newsletters and other various notes to parents home via email to improve the lines of communication and reduce the amount of paper used.

While this move has proved convenient and reliable, there is a concern that many parents are not reading the Newsletter or opening emails regarding important information.

The School endeavours not to bombard parents with too many emails but I encourage you to take the time to read what is sent so you can support what your son is doing.

Your son will be bringing home today the ‘Notes for Parents’ booklet which outlines many of the School’s routines and procedures.

The website also provides a wealth of information including the Newsletter, Calendar and Term Dates; and specific details relating to Music and Sport at the School.

Invitation to a Piano Recital
I would like to bring your attention to an attachment from Dr Volians and Mr Goska inviting you to a special event for the whole Grammar community. Pianist Simon Tedeschi will be performing in The New Hall at College Street on Tuesday 11 March at 7:00pm. Tickets are available for members of the Grammar community at a special reduced price of $25.00 for adults and $10.00 for concessions. More details are in the attachment.

Mr I Stephens

FROM THE SENIOR MASTER

Parking arrangements for Saturday 22 February (PA Cocktail Party)
Please read the attachment to this Newsletter about parking for this event.

Absences
Parents must advise the School by phone on the morning on the first day of absence (Reception 8302 5200), preferably by 9am. Absence must then be explained by letter, signed by a boy’s parent or guardian, which must be brought to School by the boy on the day he returns.

Medical appointments
Medical or other appointments should not be made so as to prevent a boy from attending School for class or any other School activity. If this is unavoidable, leave must be sought in advance from the Headmaster. In urgent cases, an explanation must be forwarded as soon as possible afterwards.

Applications for Boys’ Leave
Requests for leave should be made via the School email addressed to Mr Stephens. The email address is stives@sydgram.nsw.edu.au. An email response will be sent to parents accordingly. We ask parents not to assume that leave is granted.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Digital Citizenship
Digital citizenship is a term that describes how a person should act while using digital technology and has also been defined as “the ability to participate in society online.” As a School we are very mindful of the increasing amount of technology our boys are exposed to. The boys are part of the digital generation and are introduced to technology at a much younger age.

At Sydney Grammar School we want to harness the power of technology but at the same time ensure that the safety of our boys remains intact. In 2014, all boys in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be taking part in an online Digital Citizenship programme to develop their awareness of safe and appropriate use of technology. You will be able to find further information about how you can support your son at http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au. Below is a list of the topics that will be covered in 2014. A PDF of “Parents’ Guide to Online Safety” is attached to this Newsletter.


**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE**

This term, I will be visiting the Year 3 classrooms to discuss the BOUNCE BACK Programme. We will be focusing on two aspects of the programme: Core Values and People Bouncing Back.

The Core Values unit provides concrete and practical activities to help students understand the importance of eight core pro-social values and how these values determine how they behave and relate to others. The discussions and activities in this unit focus on teaching students how to behave in ways that reflect a variety of values e.g. honesty.

The People Bouncing Back unit introduces human resilience, or the capacity of people to bounce back after experiencing difficulties, challenges or hard times. Teaching students coping skills makes it more likely that they will be able to respond effectively and adaptively to challenges and emotional distress.

Our greatest glory is not in 'never falling', but in rising every time we fall.

(Confucius)

Social Skill of the Week
Week 4 - Sharing with Others
Week 5 - Playing Fairly

I am looking forward to attending the Cocktail Party next week. I will see you there!

Ms L Dorn

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES**

What kinds of thinking do we value?

It's a big question for a Friday afternoon, I agree, but if we know what kinds of thinking we value we can decide what thinking we want to promote in our classrooms. Developing a Culture of Visible Thinking stems from research at Harvard Graduate School of Education and is grounded in the belief that learning is a product of thinking. At St Ives, we see our classrooms as places of intellectual stimulation where learning is viewed not in test scores but in the development of individuals who can think, plan, create, question, and engage independently as learners.

Yesterday, our P-2 staff met and used a Visible Thinking routine called Compass Points to talk about the new English curriculum. We used the four compass points E for excitement, W for worries, N for needs and S for stances, steps or suggestions. The evidence of thinking was documented and will give us something to build on as we continue to reflect upon and implement the wonderful new teaching and learning activities we have designed. The good news was no-one got lost on this Visible Thinking journey! Yesterday's meeting (after our exiting, colourful Swimming Carnival) reminded me that it is indeed a privilege to work with such amazing educators who are committed to furthering their own professional learning with the end goal of providing even more enriched and challenging experiences for our boys.

Mrs C Merrick

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**FROM THE SPORTSMASTER**

Yars 3-6 Swimming Carnival

Yesterday, Macquarie University Aquatic Centre, splashed in red, green, blue and yellow, showcased efforts of tenacity and determination. All the boys competed with outstanding sportsmanship and were driven along by their Houses who cheered, under perfect blue skies, arm in arm, and in unison.

Many thanks to all the parents for supporting your sons' involvement and for those parents who were able to attend – I hope you enjoyed the atmosphere. As the House coloured hair rinse, zinc 6-packs and war paint fades this weekend I hope your son looks back with fond memories of the day.

All boys' efforts will be acknowledged at next week's 3-6 Sports Assembly. Swim team members and reserves will be notified soon, and best wishes to all the boys for upcoming events. Congratulations to all the boys on their efforts.

Saturday Sport

Change of fixtures

There have been 2 changes to this weekend's fixtures;

Tennis C/D will now be played at 7:30am against St Aloysius' College. The venue, Chatswood Tennis Club is located at 52 Fullers Rd.
Softball A will now play at 8:00am against Trinity Grammar School. The venue remains the same at Bressington Park.

**Year 5/6 Basketball**
All Year 5/6 basketball matches this week against Trinity Grammar School, are located at Llandilo Avenue, Strathfield.

**Winter Sport selections**
Winter sports selections have been finalised this week. Teams for football and rugby will be entered into Saturday competition based on the selections you have made. Thank you for your support with completing these selections online.

**Cross Country training**
In the preparation for the Cross Country Carnival, training sessions will be held at School. Training will begin in Week 5 from 7:45am - 8:20am each Wednesday and Friday. This will not replace Ball and Boy sessions. Boys in Years 2-6 are welcome to attend.

**Wet Weather Line**
If you are unsure about the weather for weekday afternoon training and for sports fixtures on Saturdays, please call the Wet Weather Line on 9990 8472.

**Illness on a Saturday**
A message may be left on the Sports Office phone 8302 5246 and a written explanation to be addressed to the Sportsmaster on the following Monday. Thank you.

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

**Ensembles**
Morning ensembles are now underway. Please can all boys arrive at 7.25am ready to play at 7.30am. Band rehearsals will begin in Week 5 once all auditions are completed.

**Band Auditions**
All boys who learned brass, woodwind or percussion last year and who have not auditioned are to meet Dr Busan in the Hall at 7.30am on Wednesday 19 February (Week 4). Boys will be asked to play a scale and a short piece on their instrument.

**Choir Tour**
A letter will go home with further details early next week.

**Taiko**
Boys have today brought home a note stating which Taiko Group they are in. The lists are also up on the Music Office window.

**Musicianship**
Commences 7.30am Wednesday 19 February for those who expressed interest last year. Any enquiries, please phone Music Office on 8302 5242.

**College Street Music Scholarships 2015**
A reminder that the closing date is Friday 7 March 2014. Information for boys currently in Year 6 is available on the College Street website.

**Second Hand Instruments for Sale**
As a service to parents wishing to buy or sell a second hand musical instrument, a notice is on display outside the Music Office for a few more weeks enabling parents to communicate with each other directly. If you have an instrument to sell, please contact the Music Office with the make of instrument and your asking price.

Mr M Smith

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**FROM THE LIBRARY**

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Studies have shown that children get ready to read years before they start school. Parents and caregivers play a critical role in developing early literacy skills in children beginning at birth. One way you can help your son get ready to read is to spend time in our Library before School or after School. Parents are tremendous role models - if your son sees that you think reading is important and enjoy it, he will follow your lead. Children learn best by doing - and they love doing things with YOU. So come into the Library and share a book with your son.

The Library is open at 8:00am – 8:20am and after School from 3:00pm – 4:00pm for parents and their sons.

Reminder that the Library will be closed on Monday 10 March and Monday 17 March from 8:00am.

The Library always requires help with covering our steady stream of new books. If you are able to assist with covering or other tasks in the Library please contact the Office, Mrs Hardwick in the Library or Mrs Helen Wong through the Parents’ Association.

Mrs S Hardwick

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**FROM THE TUCKSHOP**

Please find the current Tuckshop Menu attached to this Newsletter.

Mrs C Shields
# Calendar of Events 17 February - 1 March

## Monday 17 February
- 7:30am - 8:20am: Swimming Squad (Years 2-6)
- 7:30am - 8:15am: Chess Coaching begins for Term 1 (Years 3-6)
- 10:00am: Assembly (3-6) (Swimming Awards)

## Tuesday 18 February
- 9:00am - 11:00am: Year 1 Staff/Parent Morning Tea
- 1:15pm - 1:30pm: Lunchtime Concert (3-6)

## Wednesday 19 February
- 7:30am - 8:20am: ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching (2-6)

## Thursday 20 February
- 9:00am - 11:00am: Year 4 Staff/Parent Morning Tea
- 1:00pm - 1:30pm: Visit to Sir Eric Woodward School

## Friday 21 February
- 7:45am - 8:20am: Basketball Coaching (Years 2-6)
- 10:00am: Assembly (K-2)

## Saturday 22 February
- 6:30pm - 9:00pm: Summer Sport Round 3
- 6:30pm - 9:00pm: PA Cocktail Party

## Monday 24 February
- 7:30am: Swimming Squad (Years 2-6)
- 10:00am: Assembly (5-6) (5A)

## Tuesday 25 February
- 9:00am - 11:00am: Year 2 Staff/Parent Morning Tea
- 10:00am: Assembly (3-4) (3C)
- 10:30am: Tour of the School for Prospective Parents
- 1:15pm - 1:30pm: Lunchtime concert

## Wednesday 26 February
- 7:30am - 8:20am: ‘Bat and Ball’ Cricket Coaching (2-6)
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm: Year 1 Reading Information Afternoon

## Thursday 27 February
- 9:00am - 11:00am: Year 6 Staff/Parent Morning Tea
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm: Year 2 Reading Information Afternoon
- 1:00pm - 1:30pm: Visit to Sir Eric Woodward School

## Friday 28 February
- 7:45am - 8:20am: Kings Invitation Swimming Carnival
- 10:00am: Basketball Coaching (Years 2-6)
- 3:00pm: Newsletter

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## Saturday 1 March
- Summer Sport Round 4

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## From the Office

- Reception (8:15am-4:15pm): 8302 5200
- Absences (please ring by 9am): 8302 5200
- Facsimile: 9449 9875
- After School Care Bookings: 8302 5200
- After School Care Direct (Mrs Bayliss) 3pm: 8302 5226
- Counsellor (Mrs Hough): 8302 5223
- Headmaster’s Secretary (Mrs Heaton): 8302 5217
- Enrolments (Mrs Schwartz): 8302 5218
- Music Secretary (Mrs Templeton): 8302 5242
- Sportsmaster (Mr Derrin): 8302 5246
- Sport Wet Weather Line: 9990 8472
- Tuckshop (Mrs Shields): 8302 5225
- Uniform Shop (Mrs Stephens): 8302 5224