Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Well this is the final newsletter for Term 1 before we start our Easter and Term 1 Holidays on 2 April. School breaks up at 3pm on Thursday and resumes on Tuesday 21 April. I’m sad to say that this is also my final newsletter as your principal. Please see my spread of photos from Harmony Day last week and also photographs taken recently in the playground and at assembly. Enjoy! Best looking kids in Australia!

Farewell Guildford… I will not forget You!

With a heavy heart it is now almost time for me to say Farewell to each and every one of you in the Guildford Public School Community. To all the wonderful students, staff and community please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude for everything you have done and contributed, now and over the past 13 years.

This is a quick snapshot of my career. I enjoyed all my schools but left the best to last.

1976 … Whalan Public School (Mt Druitt)
1981 … Hilltop Road Public School (Merrylands) … Received my first promotion in 1983
1989… Parramatta Public School … Executive Teacher
1992 … Metella Road Public School (Toongabbie) … Executive Teacher
1995 … Hilltop Road Public School … returned as Assistant Principal
1999… Berala Public School … Deputy Principal
2003 … Guildford Public School … Principal

Guildford Public School is indeed a fantastic school, in so many ways, and I will certainly miss it considerably, however I have thought long and hard about it, and believe it is the right time for me to move on to new experiences that life may have in store. I had originally planned to retire at the end of 2014 however decided to stay for our Centenary. This was a special event that I just couldn’t miss. I was so proud to be the principal of this school when we celebrated this amazing milestone and I’m glad I stayed just that bit longer.

When I started here as principal in 2003 the school had approximately 365 students and only 20 staff. We now have 510 students and close to 40 staff members. The student population was about 70% from non-English speaking background and today it
is over 93%. I have particularly enjoyed the dynamic and multiculturalism of our school.

Over the years, I feel you the community, have worked alongside my staff and me to help achieve significant improvements and many great outcomes for our students across academic, social, artistic and sporting areas. I have now known many students who have enrolled in kindergarten over the years, move through their seven years of primary school and then leave us for their respective high schools. I always get excited when ex-students come back to visit and say hello. It feels somewhat like a family reunion to me! I have seen many outstanding teachers and executive appointed over the years through merit selection and priority transfers and I have been enormously impressed with how my school staff has embraced professional development enthusiastically and passionately so as to further support quality teaching and learning. My staff has been supportive and I sincerely value their amazing contributions and their ability to take on board initiatives that have been introduced over the years. They too have taught me many skills and I have grown as a person and educator because of them.

I am so proud of the amazing Multicultural Days we have had every second year since I started and our polished whole school Annual Concerts that have given every student an experience in quality performing arts. These are just two areas I introduced with the support of you and the teachers which have become part of our school's culture. Our involvement every year in Our Spectacular at the Sydney Opera House is another area we have achieved together.

In 2003 when I started here the school had just a very small computer lab, and reading and maths resources were low and very out of date. Through the enthusiasm of the community in completing surveys we were successful in being placed on the Priority Schools Program. This gave us the injection we needed and funding to start a cycle of improvement in much needed resources and professional development. The continuation of this, followed by National Partnerships has seen an incredible improvement in resources across all areas as well as extra staffing for our school. I could not have done this without the support of both staff and community. While the school should not become complacent, we can certainly celebrate our success over the past years as a community that worked together. By 2014 we had, an interactive whiteboard in every classroom and work area, a well-equipped library, computer room, teacher resource room and air conditioning in every classroom including our hall. Together we sought funding to erect a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) in the playground and seating for students and parents was also purchased. In 2014 we had new fences erected finally getting rid of the awful barbed wire security fence of past years that made us look more like a prison than a school. With ongoing playground improvements and a Multi-purpose sports court installed, as well as our wonderful new double story classroom block (gained through the Building Education Revolution) which was opened in 2011, our school now has developed and improved for all of us. It has become a very inviting presence in the local community. It is clear there is a stronger move towards innovative practises. Of course there is always room for new improvements ahead but we should be happy with what we have achieved so far.

Being principal of a large and growing school has had its challenges. There have been times I've had to make hard decisions which may not necessarily have pleased everyone. But that is the job of a leader I believe. Often it's not until sometime later, after the decision or the journey travelled, that we then look back and see the long term benefit. Regardless, when I look back I see essentially the good times, the achievements made and celebrated.

As a teacher my underlying and motivating influence has always pivoted around the students. I feel blessed from God that I have been in the teaching profession now for nearly forty years. There can be no better profession, I believe, than working with children and helping them to achieve success, confidence and to develop skills that will help them in their life. That's the part that links a good teacher so intrinsically to the parents and carers, as we share a common goal.

As I have previously mentioned, I have always during my career enjoyed the visits and contacts made by students who have come back to say hello. How delighted I was at the Centenary Carnival day, just recently, seeing and talking to many past Guildford students. Hearing about their success at high school and their university experiences of medicine, dentistry, law and education (to name just as few) are the things that teachers and principals dream about. Last year I was contacted through e-
mail by a middle aged man who was a student in my very first class back in 1976 at Whalan Public School. Yes! I clearly remembered him! He is now a grandfather himself and we reminisced about the Year 6 class I taught so many years ago when I was a young inexperienced teacher of just 21 years of age. (Look at the photo of my first class...yes that’s me!)

And as I remember Craig Whity of that Year 6 class, and his peers, all those years ago, so too will I remember you.

The students have made my time at Guildford so very rewarding. Their smiles, laughs, innocence and humour; and their multicultural beauty and unpretentious natures, will always be in my heart. I thank you for giving me this opportunity of being principal of Guildford Public School. It has been an absolute honour serving and working with this community. Please continue the friendliness and support you have given me, with the new principal who will be appointed in the near future. Miss Walpole has been selected by the Director of Schools; Dr Mark Carter to be the Relieving Principal for Term 2 until the Department of Education and Communities selects their candidate for the position. I know you will support her as you have done in the past. I encourage you to keep up the great standards and high expectations you have achieved with student uniform, attendance and community involvement. However, be open to new ideas and innovations, yet continue to hold on tight to what we value in our school and community, and to what we have all worked so hard to achieve. I’m proud to say that this school has a very good name in our community. Together we have achieved this by building on past strengths and moving forward. I wish the new principal, when appointed, all the very best and may they be as happy here as I have been.

So now in conclusion, on 2 April I will not say goodbye. It is not a word I have ever liked. I will only say farewell my friends and hope we meet again. Until then may God Bless each and every one of you students, teachers, staff and parents. Keep Smiling! Thank you for the memories!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lawless
Principal Guildford Public School
(January 2003- April 2015)

May I end with this quote?

-Time flies, but the memories collected along the way can never be replaced.

Ashley Tusdale | FAREWELL
Audit of Road Safety Around Guildford Public School

For many years I have been campaigning for improved road safety around Guildford Public School. I often have discussed concerns with Holroyd Council and the Roads and traffic Authority (RTA).

I have also often requested the installation of a pedestrian crossing and crossing lights on Military Road at the top of the hill south of the school.

I’m pleased to advise that Holroyd Council will do an audit of road safety around Guildford School this week.

I’m hoping that perhaps they too may see the need for lights and a crossing.

Over the years some improvements have been made with the flashing 40km signs installed, however, as you have often suggested to me, there is more that can be done. I agree!

Parents should campaign and write/call Holroyd Council too to request improvements. Good luck with this safety campaign in the future.

SPECIAL STUDENTS SENT TO SHOW GOOD WORK TO THE PRINCIPAL THIS FORTNIGHT

KD  Chris Bull, Tasneem Zakout
KS  Karim Jama, Waleed Al Aar Zakaria Aderdour
1A  Wael Saddeedine
1B  AJ Floyd, Kelly Vuong, Hyder Al Anesy, Hilal Abdulrahman
1M  Tristian Estpham, Maha Faraz
1/2R  Vanshikal Kumar, Leilani Thuston
2A  Divjot Grewa, Joseph Wker, Ceana Fogarty, Layel Jbara, Sorena Afhar
2B  Fatima Colley, Anna Whaanga
2/3C  Faraz Hussain, Lana Abouzaid
3/4K  Zac Singca
5/6N  Nakita Whaanga, Layan Alsaedi, Joanna Habib, Harnoor Brar
5/6T  Brent Macaraeg
Community Language
1B  Hilal Adulrahman
1CH  Mohamed Daoudi
5/6C  Amani Naaman
5/6L  Fatima El Kassab

CONGRATULATIONS!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

Mr Lawless
I HOPE TO SEE YOU before the end of the term.
Best Wishes and Take Care

Mr Peter Lawless
Principal
**Term 1 – Week 6**

Our PSSA T-Ball/ Softball teams travelled to Granville and played against Granville South Public School in round 3 of the competition.

**T-Ball News**
The boys T-Ball team lost their game and the score was 11 - 3. The girls T-Ball team won their game and the score was 12 - 11. Both games were very close. Well done to both teams for starting to learn different strategies when batting and fielding.

**Player of the Match – T-Ball**
Boys Mahmut Atilgan
Girls – Jana El Ramlawi

**Softball News**
The boys Softball team lost their game and the score was 11-3. The girls Softball team won their game and the score was 8-7. Both teams played extremely well. I was very impressed with their sportsmanship and the way they put their training into practice.

**Player of the Match – Softball**
Boys – Asad Mazhar
Girls – Nicole Croombes

**AFL News**
The Junior AFL team lost their game and the score was 33-32. The Senior AFL team lost their game and the score was 100-nil. Great game by the juniors, seniors need to kick more goals.

**Player of the Match – AFL**
Junior – Zac Singca
Senior – Joseph Malakieh

---

**Term 1 – Week 7**

Our PSSA T-Ball/ Softball teams travelled to East Granville in round 4 of the competition.

**T-Ball News**
The boys T-Ball team won their game and the score was 14-5. The girls T-Ball team won their game and the score was 13-1. Both teams played well and there were some great catchers “out”. Well done keep it up.

**Player of the Match – T-Ball**
Boys Mansoor Tamaki
Girls – Madison Osekerita

**Softball News**
The boys Softball team had a draw their game and the score was 10-10. The girls Softball team won their game and the score was 10-5. Both teams played well and are consistently improving with their catching and batting skills. Had some amazing home runs this week!

**Player of the Match – Softball**
Boys – Asad Mazhar
Girls – Nicole Croombes

**AFL News**
The Junior AFL team lost their game and the score was 38-0. The Senior AFL team lost their game and the score was 22-3. Both teams played their best and showed great sportsmanship.

**Player of the Match – AFL**
Junior – Rahman Said
Senior – Lorima Rokosuka
Our PSSA T-Ball/ Softball teams played against Guildford West Public School in round 5 of the competition.

**T-Ball News**
The boys T-Ball team lost their game and the score was 17-11.
The girls T-Ball team lost their game and the score was 12-17.
Even though we lost both games we have all learnt some new skills this week. Great sportsmanship from Yousef Nabizadeh. Well done both teams.

**Player of the Match – T-Ball**
Boys – Ibrahim Alhalabi
Girls – Sarian Georgis

**Softball News**
The boys Softball team lost their game and the score was 14-9.
The girls Softball team won their game and the score was 18-8.
Fantastic effort and another win for the girls team. Although the boys lost they played well and learnt to play safe and not waste opportunities.

**Player of the Match – Softball**
Boys – Renalds Sar
Girls – Tara Nogueira

**AFL News**
The Junior AFL team won their game and the score was 41-6.
The Senior AFL team lost their game and the score was 29-13.
Everyone played their best and had a fantastic positive attitude.

**Player of the Match –AFL**
Junior – Hamza Kamara
Senior – Brodan Wallace

---

**ELECTION DAY**
**SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 2015**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**COME AND GRAB A SAUSAGE ON A ROLL AND CAN OF DRINK**
In regards to school events, could parents please make sure that all permission notes are filled in correctly with the students first and last name, class and signed by the parent. Could you also please make sure the permission note & money are paid before the due date as the event needs to be organised.

Please put the student's first and last name on the envelope together with the student's class, what the money is for, and how much is in the envelope. If any change is needed it will be given back to the child with the receipt.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please see the example given:

**TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Mufti Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Mr Lawless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Guildford Public School**

Phone 0632 9675  Fax 0892 1325

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>FIRST NAME &amp; LAST NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASS</td>
<td>WHAT CLASS THEY ARE IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPOSE</td>
<td>WHAT THE MONEY IS FOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMOUNT</td>
<td>$ MONEY IN THE ENVELOPE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your co-operation in using separate envelopes for each collection is appreciated. Please include permission note with payments.

---

**Guildford Public School**

Phone 0632 9675  Fax 0892 1325

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>Tino Baker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASS</td>
<td>E3a. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPOSE</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMOUNT</td>
<td>$ 26.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your co-operation in using separate envelopes for each collection is appreciated. Please include permission note with payments.

---

**Homework Help**

- Are you a student of Primary School?
- Are you struggling with your homework?
- Would you like someone to help you with your homework?
- Come to talk to us!

---

**Granville Multicultural Community Centre**

8 Factory St
Granville NSW 2142
HARMONY DAY
Photographs by Mr Lawless of our wonderful students proving why this is the Best School.... Thanks for the wonderful memories! I won’t forget you kids! Love you all!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th>DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Digital Technologies Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>Science Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY Queen’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June to 12 June</td>
<td>Stage 3 Canberra Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>Spelling Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

- Dr. Seuss
Australian Mobile Dental Care Clinic

On Monday, Tootsie, the tooth mascot visited our school to talk to the students about the Mobile Dental Care Clinic and some of the services they provide. The clinic will be coming to our school in Term 2, week 5, to provide FREE dental care. Permission notes were sent home last week and all information regarding the dental clinic and its services are explained on the note. If you would like your child to have their teeth checked by the dental clinic, please ensure you return your note as soon as possible.

Mrs Haidar
Assistant Principal
Mobile Dental Care Clinic Organiser

Special Assembly for Mr Lawless’ Retirement

Parents, carers, past students and community members are invited to attend a special assembly for Mr Lawless on Wednesday 1 April, at 9:15am, under the COLA. Please join us to celebrate his valuable contribution to Public Education and as a Principal at Guildford Public School. We hope to see you at this special event.

Miss Ali Khan and Ms Walpole
(Assembly Coordinators)
Gardening Club News.

Gardening Club has been up and running since Week 4 now. We’ve planted radish seeds, beans and made fruit salad with fruits that can be grown in anyone’s garden.

Next term Gardening club will no longer be on a Thursday due to conflicting times with other non-hobby groups. So to be flexible, we have decided to hold Gardening Club on Monday after school from 3:05pm to 3:45pm.

It is very important that you pick up your child from Apia Road (near School office), and no later than 4pm.

Thank you.

Mr Norambuena and Mrs Soryal (Environment Coordinators).

NEW DAY FOR GARDENING CLUB

Term 2: Mondays
3:05pm to 3:45pm

Clockwise: Happy gardeners planting; Eating our homemade fruit salad; Mrs Soryal and some very excited gardeners.
Whispers from the Library

Return books

Please remember to return all library books on the last week of school, (Week 10).
PLEASE, if you are going to travel over seas do not take school library books with you!

Library Bags.

Library bags are avaialbe for puruchase at the library. Please see what times are best to purchase a bag. I teach classes in the library and can’t stop my lessons to sell a library bag. Library bags are $4.

There are new times to come and purchase library bags:

- **Monday:** All day after 9am
- **Tuesday:** after school ONLY
- **Wednesday:** Not avaialble.
- **Thursday:** All day after 9am
- **Friday:** CLOSED

Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) Changes

Due to printing cost and other reasons, it has been decided if you child participates in this year’s PRC, they have to print their own certificate. The only certificates to be handed out will be Gold, Platinum or Medals.

Premier’s Reading Challenge has commenced

Premier’s Reading Challenge has now started and I encourage all students to partipate. In Term 2 I have set aside a week to teach students how to enter their books on the website. I have also considered doing a workshop for parents one afternoon next Term. If you are interested please let me know, or one of the executive staff know.

Thank you 😊

Mr Norambuena

(Teacher Librarian)