### Diary

**Friday, 12 April**
- Last Day of Term 1
- No Gilroy Canteen

**Monday, 29 April**
- STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

**Tuesday, 30 April**
- First Day of Term 2 for students

**Friday 3 May**
- No Gilroy Canteen

**Thursday, 9 May**
- SCHOOL BANKING

**Friday 10 May**
- GIFT OF THE GAB

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### Principal’s Message

The last Newsletter for the term! As always, it has been a busy but good term but we are all ready for a holiday.

This week we held the last planning meeting for Gift of the Gab; this year it is the major fundraiser for St. Gabriel’s. With the help of the Committee, it is taking shape as a most enjoyable and fun night. We have a fantastic panel of celebrities including Underbelly’s Jason Montgomery (MC), Home and Away’s Lynne McGranger, former Socceroo captain Paul Wade OAM, as well as the boys from Bondi Rescue. As part of the night we have both live and silent auctions and this is where our energies need to go right now. If you have any items that you think might be suitable we would love to hear from you. The other important aspect, of course, is to fill the tables. I can guarantee that this will be a wonderful night that I am sure both you and your friends will enjoy.

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday with lovely family time in this gorgeous Autumn weather.

Take care,
Kathy

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### Ben McLoughlin at St. Gabriel’s on Work Experience

This term Ben McLoughlin, a Year 12 student at St. Edmund’s School, has been working closely with our groundsman John Donnelly every Wednesday as part of the St. Edmund’s work experience program. This has given Ben the opportunity to participate in many of the day-to-day activities of maintaining our school buildings and grounds. Ben’s experience of a regular 9 to 5 job has included using public transport to travel from home to the school.

John has really enjoyed working with Ben, particularly on the outdoor jobs. John found Ben to be very friendly and outgoing, enthusiastic to be part of our team, considerate of others and willing to do all that was asked of him.

We hope Ben has gained valuable work experience at St. Gabriel’s and we wish him well as he seeks to broaden his experience in a different occupation next term.

Happy Birthday to children celebrating birthdays in April:
- Tom J who will be 10 on 10 April and
- Scott who will be 8 on 19 April and
- Tommy who will be 6 also on 19 April and
- Kian who will be 9 on 22 April
St. Gabriel’s School’s favourite night of the year is on again, the Gift of the Gab — celebrating giving the gift of communication to generations of children with special needs.

Friday 10th May 2013, Castle Hill RSL

- **Time:** Pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm
- **Dress:** After 5
- **Venue:** Lyceum Room, Castle Hill RSL
  - 77 Castle St, Castle Hill
- **Tickets:** $130 pp 3 course dinner and beverages included
- **RSVP:** By 3rd May to events@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au
  - Enquiries Jo Biggs on (02) 9634 2367
  - [Click here for Sponsorship Details and Booking Sheet](#)

Join us for a laughter-filled evening of celebrity entertainment, in the best of company, for the best of causes!

One month to go! Have you got your table booked?

We have some amazing prizes for our silent auction but WE NEED MORE!!

You can help by:

- **Donating a prize** — it can be a stand-alone prize or a contribution towards a hamper, no matter how big or small, it will all help.
- **Getting us to do your shopping for you** — send us a donation to go into our shopping fund for prizes — we’ll do all the legwork for you!
- **Asking your local businesses for their support** — be it your hairdresser, gym, boutique or local deli.

Thanks for your support—working together we can achieve a great result from St. Gabriel’s night of nights!

Enjoy the holidays from the Development Team (Candice, Katrina and Jo)!
On this last day of Term 1, however tired students and staff and families may be, it is timely to reflect back on the term and the amazing learning that has been covered. New classes, new teachers, new friends and new routines have all been adopted, accepted and incorporated into what is now your child’s day at school. Seeing friends greet each other in the morning, learn and laugh together, confidently pack and unpack their own bags and belongings and come into my office to show me what they can read, write, express and are proud of, is an indicator to me of growth, of maturity and development – and the fact that they are in a happy place and that they feel safe.

However happy and organised children are at school, we are not the children’s primary ‘others’ – it is you, the parents, guardians and grandparents, who love, nurture, feed, clothe, organise and advocate for them. Children with special profiles have profound, ongoing reliance on you – to be as emotionally available and observant as you can be, to offer play, risks and boundaries that they can cope with. You are the adults in their lives who will be their heroes and offer them the challenges they crave, within the nurturing safety of your love.

This is not a guilt trip!! It’s an acknowledgement of everything you do for your children and an invitation, too, to be yourselves this holiday and enjoy the companionship and fun that your children want to share with you – release your ‘inner child’ and see where it takes all of you!

Warmest regards

Dianne

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROMOTION 2013

Last year with the amazing support of our families, staff and the community, we collected nearly 82,000 stickers and as a result “earned” lots of wonderful resources for our classes.

We have once again registered for this year’s promotion which runs from Monday, 8th April to Sunday, 9th June. When you shop at Woolworths you will be given one Earn and Learn Point for every $10 you spend. Sticker cards may be downloaded from the Woolworths website at www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn or are available from the school office and completed cards may be brought to school and placed in the collection box at reception. You are also welcome to send in loose stickers. Don’t forget to spread the word and encourage friends and family to collect for us.

Do your shopping at Woolworths and know that you are supporting our school!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both the Garland and Barakat families on their recent bereavements

We are thinking of you all at this sad time

School Banking Dates for Term 2, 2013

Thursday, 9 May
Thursday, 23 May
Thursday, 6 June
Thursday, 20 June

Kindly diarise these dates for sending in deposit books, money and completed deposit forms. If anybody would like to open a student account or would like more information about school banking, please speak to Val
St Gabriel’s News

Children's Awards

Week 10 Term 1 2013 (Tuesday, 2 April to Friday, 5 April)
Student of the Week: Loki for great listening and talking in class

Class Awards
Kindy L - Andreas for doing his best to follow the classroom rules
Junior C- Giuseppe for great reading
Junior W - Joshua for great work in maths
Middle DJ - Asher for listening attentively to his peers’ news and asking questions
Upper W - Aaron T for being a sensible class member with a good attitude
Upper R - Douglas for following the class rules
Do Your Best Award: Blake W
Be Safe Award: Arpita
Care and Share Award: Miguel
Wake and Shake Awards: Thomas B, Jayden and Ella
Social Skills Award: Aaron S

Week 11 Term 1 2013 (Monday, 8 April to Friday, 12 April)
Student of the Week: Emma for working hard in class

Class Awards
Kindy N - Arabella and Tommy for being the best partners in dancing
Kindy L - Samir for doing his best to follow instructions in the classroom
Junior C- Jasmine for having beautiful manners all term
Junior W- Thomas B for great work telling us what he is thinking and how he is feeling
Middle DJ - Jack for drawing some fantastic pictures and Nick for great sharing of a news item with his peers
Upper W - Kian for being a happy and caring class member
Upper R - Melanie for excellent communicating skills and working hard in class
Do Your Best Award: Scott
Be Safe Award: Milena
Care and Share Award: Evi
Wake and Shake Awards: Callum, Ryan and Blake M
Social Skills Award: Shari-anne
My name is Belinda Roso and I am delighted to have joined the Learning Support team at St. Gabriel's this year.

I have a corporate background and have also been working as a swimming teacher at Hills Swimming since 2009. I am a single parent of 8 and 5 year old girls. My eldest daughter suffered a mild bi-lateral hearing loss as a result of glue ear, was chronically ill as a toddler and has always struggled with her co-ordination, reading, writing, vision and speech. She was diagnosed with severe verbal and visual SLD (dyslexia) last year.

As a mother supporting her needs combined with my passion for working with children, I was inspired to leave the corporate world. I completed my Certificate III in Education Support in June 2012 with the goal of becoming a Learning Support Officer. After completion of my certificate, I secured regular casual work at 3 schools (two in special needs and one in main stream).

I feel so blessed to have been offered this role. I mainly work in Junior W and Upper R, yet I know every child's name at St Gabriel's and have spent time with them all. In July this year I am undertaking my undergraduate studies at Macquarie University with the goal of becoming a teacher. I am looking forward to meeting you as time goes on.

Thank you so much to all the parents who assisted us on school photo day helping to supervise children—we are looking forward to receiving some beautiful photographs!

In Upper R we entertain any excuse for a party, and since the feast of Eid Al Fitr is a major party in Morocco, why not have an early one here too to celebrate the conclusion of our country study unit on Morocco? Eid Al Fitr occurs at the end of Ramadan and is a religious event where people pray and give thanks, help others in need, spend time with their families and friends, and of course, eat! Lots of delicious food came in to school, so just before lunch, the Upper R family said our own prayer, helped get the food ready, and ate and ate and ate. We had sausage rolls, strawberry cream lollies, popcorn, banana bread and chocolate roll – not everyday food but definitely feast food. There was a delicious raspberry tart that was very popular and thankfully there was still a little left for the hungry staff at the staff meeting (many of whom had had their noses pressed against the glass while our feast was on)! But the ‘above and beyond’ prize has to go to the authentic Moroccan cookies, researched, baked and sent in by one lovely mum: all was experiential learning at its best – at school and at home!
St Gabriel's Wonderful Celebration of Easter

Thank you to all the parents who came along to our Easter Liturgy last Thursday. We do hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as the children did, especially when they paraded in their colourful Easter hats (and hair) and then scoured the playground to find Easter Egg Pictures which they then traded for eggs from our “Easter Bunny”. Well done to Logan who won the enormous Easter Egg in the raffle!
Entertainment Books

The new 2013/14 Entertainment Books are now available at $65 each (Sydney Greater West, Sydney North and Sydney). $13 from each book sold comes directly to St Gabriel's School.

Your Entertainment Book can be purchased on-line at www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/21426e9 or place your order now, either by:

   Telephone:  9634 2367
   Fax:         9634 2610
   Email:       reception@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au

Please see our website for further details.

Warmest congratulations to Libby Noble whose knitted book received a “Champion” Award at this year’s Royal Easter Show. Each picture in the book illustrates one of the houses that Libby has lived in.

We are so proud of you, Libby!

Upper R Visits Gilroy Canteen

This term Upper R has been learning about using money. Some of us have been looking at menus, choosing items and adding up the total cost. Others have been learning to recognise Australian coins.

Last week we visited Gilroy canteen to practise our money and ordering skills. We lined up, waited for our turn, said what we wanted, and used lots of 'please' and 'thank-you's'. Lesson over, it was time to enjoy the proceeds of our lessons! The lovely ladies in the canteen even showed us around. We saw food being prepared and lunches ready to be collected.

Next term we will visit again!
The Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia invites you to

RAZZAMATAZZ! 2013

The Immune Deficiencies Foundation of Australia (IDFA) would like to invite you to their annual Children’s event that is Razzamatazz!
Razzamatazz! is a live performance show featuring Australian and International Performers who will entertain, amaze and astound the whole family!
This event is held only once a year, and the tickets provided are free of charge due to the generosity of your local business community.

RAZZAMATAZZ! - Sunday 5th May 2013
Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre
597 High St, Penrith

Show times are 2.30 p.m. or 5.00 p.m. and ticket requests (giving your name, postal address and letting them know you are a St Gabriel’s family) can be sent via:

- Fax: 9386 9917
- Email: sponsorthekids@bigpond.com
- Ticket coordinator: Max Barr—9387 5826

Everyone needs a ticket including adults and carers. Show duration is approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes plus a short interval

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Student Term Dates for 2013

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Gift of the Gab, Castle Hill RSL  Friday, 10 May

It is the policy of St Gabriel’s to distribute information when requested regarding activities and information concerning disability. This does not imply that St Gabriel’s endorses these activities or the information contained therein in any way.