Diary

Thursday 28 March
1.30 p.m. Easter Liturgy/Easter Hat/Hair Parade and Easter Egg Hunt—invitation to follow

Friday, 29 March
GOOD FRIDAY

Monday, 1 April
EASTER MONDAY

Thursday, 4 April
9.00 a.m. SCHOOL PHOTOS
p.m. School Banking

Friday, 12 April
Last Day of Term 1

Monday, 29 April
STAFF DAY

Tuesday, 30 April
First Day of Term 2

Principal’s Message

Last Sunday I had the great pleasure of joining the St. Gabriel’s Sunday Spin. Once again it was perfectly organised right from the weather to the clues. The amount of work put into the event by a small band of parents is astounding. Thank you to the organising committee of the Cummings, Whitehorn, Paddy and Rowe families for all their efforts. The children were all excited to be out there with their friends from school, their Grandmothers, aunties, cousins and neighbours. While a few of us got lost, a couple more seriously than the rest (Marilyn and myself) everyone found their way to Fagan Park. The picnic was very social and the kids had fun playing on the equipment, cricket or chasing one another. All in all it was one of those wonderful days that leave you feeling tired but happy.

I had a meeting today with Candice looking at the Gift of the Gab on May 10. Put this in your diary it is shaping up to be another brilliant night. Watch this space!!

As we continue on our journey towards Easter it is a great time to reflect on not only the good times but what we learn from the difficult. If all we learn is that we are in this life together and that together our challenges are more manageable then it is a valuable lesson. Take care of yourselves and one another!

Kindy L turns Orange for Harmony Day

In their celebration of Harmony Day, how wonderful it was to see our students from Kindy L dressed in their orange clothes and eating...oranges!
Children's Awards

Week 7 Term 1 2013 (Monday, 11 March to Friday, 15 March)
Student of the Week: Logan for using his polite words (*please* and *thank you*)

Class Awards

- Kindy N - Sofia for her wonderful play skills
- Kindy L - Aurora for good listening in classroom activities
- Junior C - Keira for good maths
- Junior W - Cody for trying his best and giving things a go
- Middle DJ - Teena for trying to be a good friend
- Upper W - Miguel for working well in his sight word group
- Upper R - Blake W for always being a great role model and showing people the right thing to do

Do Your Best Award: Joshua
Be Safe Award: James K
Care and Share Award: Melanie
Wake and Shake Awards: Cullen
Social Skills Award: Charlotte for great turn taking when playing games

Week 8 Term 1 2013 (Monday, 18 March to Friday, 22 March)

Class Awards

- Kindy N - Rioghan for being a wonderful friend
- Kindy L - Ella for excellent participation in reading
- Junior C - Shari-anne for trying really hard to follow instructions
- Junior W - Tom E for excellent effort with his maths worksheets
- Middle DJ - Teena for a fantastic improvement in writing a sentence
- Upper W - Cullen for listening well in class
- Upper R - Corey L for working very hard in all his lessons

Do Your Best Award: Emma
Be Safe Award: Douglas
Care and Share Award: Hamish
Wake and Shake Awards: Dominic and Samrath
Social Skills Award: Andreas
The St. Gabriel’s night of nights is fast approaching—keep an eye on your inbox for your invitation this week and please forward it to your friends and colleagues!

We are delighted to announce that actor Jason Montgomery will be our MC for the evening! Jason has been nominated for a Logie award this year following his outstanding performance as “Decca” in the last Underbelly series. Jason is an experienced MC who will bring his charm, humour and warm personality to “The Gift of the Gab”.

Prizes and auction items…we need your help!

- We have a donation request letter available if you would like to approach your workplace or a business on our behalf. Please ask Jo.
- If you have a suggestion regarding a business you think we should approach please let us know!
- Themed packages/hampers - if you would like to donate an item to one of our themed hampers please come and chat to us and we can let you know what we need.
- All donations and assistance greatly appreciated!

Help us get those bids flying!!

Yours in Fundraising
Candice, Katrina and Jo
The Development Team.

Harmony Day Gets Yummy!

Harmony Day is the day when we all think about our differences, and realise how rich and interesting those differences make our world. The aim is of course to build understanding and tolerance for people who are different from ourselves, but why not have a bit of fun at the same time? In Upper R we looked at different diets, why some people need to eat differently from others, and how we can show understanding and respect. We read a book called ‘Eat Like A Dinosaur’ that talked about people who feel sick when they eat grains or dairy. Then we tried a wonderful lemon tart that Xavier’s mum Kitsa sent in. Some people wolfed down four slices! Others just had a nibble or a sniff, but everyone agreed it looked great. Best of all, there was a little bit left for the hungry teachers in the staff room! Seriously yummy!
My name is Jo Castle, and I have recently joined St Gabriel’s as the teacher of Junior C.

I grew up, studied and worked in London, England. I worked as a teacher in a mainstream primary school for two years, and spent one year working as a teacher in a Special Needs School. Last year I decided the cold weather in the UK was no longer for me, so I made the move to Sydney.

I consider myself extremely lucky to have joined a school as welcoming and supportive as St Gabriel’s. I am committed to providing all the children at St Gabriel’s with positive and engaging learning experiences, and I look forward to getting to know everybody within the St Gabriel’s community.

Boardies Day

Following our recent fundraising for Surf Life Saving NSW, we received the following e-mail from Simon, the President of Dee Why SLSC:

“The members of the Dee Why SLSC would like to thank the students and teachers of St Gabriel's School for donning their boardies and supporting us in our volunteer service to the bathing public of the Dee Why community. We feel honoured that you chose to support us and be assured the funds raised will go to purchasing equipment to advance our lifesaving ability.

Thank you very much the 800 members of the Dee Why SLSC.”

Coles Sports for Schools Promotion 2012

Following the hugely successful Coles Sports for Schools promotion last year when we were able to collect nearly 40,000 vouchers, an exciting delivery of sports equipment arrived last week.

May and Jay are pictured here showing off our new resources which will give our children a lot of fun.
The clouds cleared and the sun shone, just as the first teams arrived at the School for our 2\textsuperscript{nd} Sunday Spin. Everyone looked fabulous in their Irish outfits and the cars looked a treat! “Happy” the St. George Dragon was there with Evi and Tom to wave the cars off. First stop was finding the ‘pot of gold’ and the children were delighted to find our St Gabriel’s Leprechauns (Mrs Rispoli and Mrs West) in their wonderful outfits.

Then it was off to find Peppa Pig and Elmo. A great time was had at the half-way playground and everyone tried their hand at quoits and enjoyed a well earned coffee. Our mystery destination was Fagan Park, where the Lions Club, Crestwood cooked us a lovely lunch and Gilroy students provided face-painting. The playground, of course, was a hit and it was wonderful to see families having a great time with soccer and cricket games and meeting families new to the school. Our 2013 Sunday Spin Prize winners were:

- **First Prize**  “The Ant Hill Mob” (Westacott family)
- **Second Prize** “Nicandra” (Rufati family)
- **Third Prize** “The Turners” (Turner family)

We would sincerely like to thank St George, Castle Hill and Lions Club, Crestwood for their ongoing support of this event. Thank you also to the dedicated staff and teachers of St. Gabriel’s, who took time out of their weekend to assist us on the day. We much appreciated the help of the Sunday Spin committee and especially to Ben and Amelia Cummings, who spent many hours setting the course and questions. Looking forward to next year!

Annette & Colin Whitehorn (Melanie’s parents)
Sunday Spin—What a great day!
**Chicks 'R Us**

On Monday, 18 March, twelve embryo eggs were delivered to St Gabriel’s and were placed in an incubator. By day two, four chicks had hatched and over the next few days, even more. Our children have had great fun visiting our chicks to see them as they hatch and watch them as they grow and many of our children have had the opportunity to even hold them as you can see.......
Upper R Visits Morocco

In HSIE this term, Upper R has been learning all about life in Morocco. This country is hot, dry and quite poor, so people there do some things that are a little different to us. We made a mud brick, just like the ones used to build houses in Morocco, and Mrs Murphy told us that she had built a real mud brick house when she was a little girl – wow! We had beautiful henna tattoos put on our arms that lasted for days, we made stained glass windows and tiled floor designs. Mrs Murphy showed us how she made her own toys when she was little, just like a lot of children in Morocco do. Then we all made our own clay pots. Now that they are painted and varnished they look amazing! Soon we will be learning how people in the desert can get water from leaves, and at the end of the term we will learn about a special feast called Eid Al-Fitr. Visiting other countries is a lot of fun!

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.