Dear Parents

Welcome back to 2015. We are forming 10 classes this year and are currently organising the classes. Students will be put in their permanent classes on Monday. We will be organising Meet the Teacher afternoons for 2 to 7 March.

This year we have two new staff members. Mrs Abousamra will be supporting Stage 3 on Tuesdays and teaching Arabic on Wednesdays. Ms Harris will be supporting Stage 2 this year. Both teachers have a range of experiences and come very highly recommended.

Mrs Abousamra

Ms Harris

This year is the beginning of a new three year plan. Our strategic directions for 2015-2017 are:
1. Embedding deep personalised learning

We are safe, respectful learners.
2. Creating powerful 21st Century learning experiences
3. Nurturing strong reciprocal relationships.
We look forward to a very successful year of learning for students, parents and teachers.

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN’S BEHAVIOUR

Creating Links, a non-profit support agency, are holding a free parent course at our school especially for Arabic speaking families. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn some strategies to manage children in a very positive way. This is open to the wider community so if you are interested or have family or friends who are interested, please read the additional information later in this bulletin.

STUDENT WELLBEING

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

It is our policy that students are supervised by an adult at all times to ensure their safety. For this reason we do not encourage students to go to the toilet during class. There is a toilet bell at the end of recess and at the end of lunch so unless children are sick there is not a need to go to the toilet again until the next break. However, if a child is going to have an accident, they are to tell the teacher and allowed to go. It is important for parents to support us in this policy, as students can be at risk.

ISSUES AT SCHOOL

It is important that we address all concerns and issues that arise at school. If you or your child has a concern, see the classroom teacher first as they generally have a better understanding of the situation. If the problem continues, please contact the Stage Supervisors Mrs Comninos (Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2), Mr Toland (Years 3 and 4) and Mrs Azzopardi (Years 5 and 6). Mrs Manning deals with all issues of student learning and wellbeing. You can then ring me on 9790 3948.

Judy Smith Principal

*We are safe, respectful learners.*
WELCOME TO OUR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Our new Kindergarten students have been spending time with their Year 6 buddies. They have read stories together, helped them find their way around the school and learn the school rules.

SCHOOL LEADERS 2015

Congratulations to our school leaders for 2015

Captains Ahmed Zreika Lily-Jean McNair Ethan Nguyen Nancy Au Ba Cao

School Ambassador Immanuel Mansour Alyssa Assad

*We are safe, respectful learners.*
Students began borrowing from the library this week. Please ensure your child has a library bag so that they may protect any books they borrow. We are very strict about this rule. It is important that books are returned safely and within two weeks after they’ve been borrowed, so that other students have access to those books.

We are safe, respectful learners.
Our first Scholastic Book Club catalogue for the year will be sent home this week. Please note the new format which means that students will receive one catalogue each instead of two or three. If you choose to order books from the catalogues please fill out the order on the back cover and include your child’s name and class. Orders are sent to the office through the class teacher. Please ensure you have the correct cash. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please follow the instructions on the order form. All orders are to be placed by Wednesday Week 3.

We keep records of students and their borrowing rates. Students who borrow and read regularly or have access to a large number of new books at home tend to do very well at school. Students who borrow with a clearly identified library bag and take it home to a specific place in their house very rarely lose their books. Bags are available in the uniform shop, however, you are also welcome to send your child with any cloth bag that is clearly labelled with their name.

More information about classes will follow once the timetable has been finalised.

Mrs Steinfurth.
Teacher Librarian

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**LIVE LIFE WELL @ SCHOOL**

**CRUNCH&SIP**

Crunch&Sip is a set break to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the morning or afternoon, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increase concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive.

Please send a fruit or vegetable snack and a bottle of water, with your child each day for your child’s Crunch&Sip break in the classroom.

Thank you

Mrs Ibrahim

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**OFFICE NEWS**

We would like to welcome you all back to a new and exciting year. Just a few reminders following below.

All permission notes and money are to be handed in an envelope to your child’s classroom teacher. Please make sure you have the correct money with your child’s name and class on it. Please do not give it to the office, we do not issue any change.

If your child is sick or is going on holidays, please let the school know. Skoolbag has an eform for you to fill in.

We are safe, respectful learners.
Our school hours are between 9am till 3pm. Please drop off and pick up your children during these times. If your child is late or needs to leave early, please see the office for a pass. Do not go straight to your child’s classroom. Parking is not allowed on the school grounds. Please take extra care when you are dropping off or picking up your children, it becomes very hectic during these times.

Please make sure that all your child’s clothing, hats, bags, lunch box and drink bottles are labelled with their full name. We don’t keep any spare hats in the front office.

We have a Before and After School Care on the school’s premises called Unique Kidz. See on the back page of this newsletter for further details.

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**P & C NEWS**

I hope everyone had a great break and welcome back to 2015.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking will resume next Wednesday 11th February at 8.45 -9.00 a.m.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

We are currently out of stock of size 6, 8 and 10 short sleeve tops. The shipment is expected shortly. If you require these sizes please place an order with either the office ladies or at the uniform shop and you will be notified when the stock arrives. Uniform shop hours are, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 8.45 til 9am.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday the 18th of February in the small hall at 9.15 am. An election of the executive committee will occur then. It will be nice to see new faces at the meeting. Please make sure you can attend to help make our school better for our children.

Abby Yaghi
President P&C

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**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**BANKSTOWN GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

Principal’s High Tea-The Principal of Bankstown Girls High School, Mr Borg invites you to attend an informative afternoon where parents can ask questions and learn about our school while enjoying afternoon tea.

Date: Wednesday 18th February 2015 Time: 5 – 6 pm
Location: Bankstown Girls High School common room (Mona Street, Bankstown)

Please RSVP by Wednesday 11th February 2015 for catering purposes by email or phone:

_We are safe, respectful learners._
FAMILIES TOGETHER
THINK U KNOW- How kids have fun online? How to stay in control on the net?
Topics include:
• Technologies and apps popular with children and young people
• Privacy management
• Online grooming
• Cyber bullying
• Where to go if things go wrong
• Scams, fraud and identity theft
• Sexting
• Reputation management
• Steps to improve cyber safety and security

Date Thursday 5th March 2015 Place; The Uniting Church 219 The River Road, Revesby.
Please call 0407 708 626 No Cost.
We are safe, respectful learners.