Year 6 Farewell
**Administration Staff**

As you may be aware Mrs Wendy Potts our wonderful School Administration Manager has been successful in gaining employment as a training officer for terms 1-3 in 2016. Wendy will be surely missed in the front office. Mrs Karyn Toll will be replacing her from the commencement of term 1 2016 and she has been busy learning the ropes. We wish Wendy the best of luck in her new role!

**Staffing Changes**

Unfortunately two of our outstanding teachers will be leaving us in 2016. Ms Sophie Cowan has been appointed as a permanent teacher to Branxton Public School and Mrs Jessica Littlewood will be taking the year on maternity leave as shewelcomes the arrival of her first baby. They will be surely missed as both are outstanding educators! We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Mrs Emma Druce will be returning from maternity leave in 2016 for 3 days per week and we are excited to have her back.

**Ethics**

If you are interested in becoming an Ethics volunteer in 2016 please contact the school and we will put you in touch with our Primary Ethics coordinator.

**Capa Groups and Gala Night**

Throughout 2016 the School will be implementing Creative and Performing Arts groups of a Wednesday afternoon commencing in week 6 of term 1. All students will get the opportunity to work with different teachers in areas such as visual arts, drama, dance and choir. There will be a culminating Arts Gala night late in term 3 where all students will have the opportunity to “show off” their creations and performances. This is a really exciting initiative and one that we cannot wait to get started on!

**Students Return**

Please be aware that students return for 2016 on Thursday 28th January. For returning students class lists, teachers and classrooms will be posted on the website and facebook in mid to late January. For new students and kindergarten we will congregate under the COLA on this day.

**Bloopers**

Make sure you check out the facebook page and the website next week as Mr Mclean posts the 2015 online news bloopers – should be a great laugh!
Getting to School on Time
Hints & Tips for Parents

It is essential to establish a regular routine each morning and arriving at school on time is an important part of your child’s morning routine. It is important to be at school on time because:

· It sets up good habits for the future
· It sends a message to your child that you think that being on time is important
· It provides social benefits – good play time and discussion among friends. It gives students time to settle in before the start of the school day
· The school day usually begins with the teacher giving out information to students. Eg. Any changes to school routines, coming events etc.
· It is an opportunity for important teacher pupil interaction before school
· Students who are late to school cause disruption to the class and other students.

How to ensure your child has a happy day at school

· Make sure your child has a good night’s sleep and is in bed by a reasonable hour. This may mean insisting on a specific time for bed on a school night. Technology is best avoided at least 30 mins before bedtime.
· Make sure your child gets up early enough to
  - Have breakfast
  - Get lunch ready
  - Pack a school bag
  - Get dressed / showered
· Don’t turn the TV on or let your child use the computer / iPad unless your child is completely ready for school

Be organised yourself

- help your child pack bags and have homework and sports gear ready for the next day. Be involved with your school – meet with your child’s teacher and talk regularly.
· Offer your support and help
· Read notes from school and reply on time
· Listen to your child read
· Show an interest in homework

If you are late for school

· It is your legal obligation to provide an explanation either written or verbal to the Principal. Be aware that reasons such as “sleeping in” or “running late” are not considered justifiable reasons for lateness.

Escort your child to the front office to sign them in. Don’t drop them off at the front gate
Gold Awards & Merit Awards 2016

There has been an ongoing process of collaboration with the school community on developing an award system that is reflective of our school values. As a result there will be changes made to the merit processes for 2016.

Class merits will be handed out at fortnightly assemblies to students who have done something particularly special or tried hard at something in class.

THERE WILL BE NO SILVER AWARDS OR ACCUMULATION OF MERITS

GOLD AWARDS

There are a number of changes to the Gold Award. The criteria for this is as follows.

ACADEMIC – students demonstrate that they are meeting their personal learning goals or benchmarks.

PARTICIPATION – Students will be expected to participate in all school and class activities for example carnivals, public speaking etc.

EFFORT – Students must have at least 1 outstanding effort in both the half yearly and yearly reports.

BEHAVIOUR – Any student who has a detention or is suspended will not be eligible.

GOLD AWARDS ARE PRESTIGIOUS AND HARD TO EARN IT IS EXPECTED THAT NOT EVERY CHILD WILL ACHIEVE THIS.

GOLD AWARDS AND LEADERSHIP

The school is reviewing its student leadership policy in line with the GOLD AWARD review. At this point in time any students in year 5 2016 must be meeting the requirements for a gold award to be eligible to be nominated to run for a leadership position. There will be more information on this at the commencement of 2016.
Thank you to all the parents who returned the Positive Behaviour for Learning Surveys. We will now collate the results of this survey with the teachers and the children to be guiding in our core values. The parent survey results were as follows:

1. Respect
2. Responsibility
3. Honesty
4. Safety
5. Working Together
6. Resilience
7. Success
8. Tolerance
9. Pride
10. Courage

Congratulations to James on receiving an achievement award for sport at the Hunter Schools Sports Association Sports Awards this week. James was recognised for his outstanding achievement in the sports of athletics, cross country, soccer, touch football, rugby league, rugby union and swimming. This is a great honour and we are very proud of James, not only for his impressive sporting achievements but for the level of sportsmanship he demonstrates at all times as well as his enthusiasm to be involved and assist with all sports events. Well done James!
Last week the year 6 students were lucky enough to go on an amazing camp with Mrs Mantle, Ms Bartlett and Mr Pryce. When we hopped off the bus our friendly instructor greeted us. The first activity we did was Tree Tops. Many students conquered their fear of heights. Next we went canoeing where we paddled down the river. A highlight for me was when Mrs Mantle tipped and fell into the water. After that we went to mud world, where we had to crawl through mud. At the end of the course, we lifted each other up out of a cage where we then went down a water slide into the mud! The last activity for the day was the giant swing. It was by far my favourite activity. The swing was 15m high! The next day our class went to archery where we were able to play with real bow and arrows. Kurtis and I made our own bow out of sticks and string. The last activity at camp was the multi climb. The multi climb was where we were harnessed up and 3 students from our class had to hold you and take all your weight (crazy trust exercise) as you climbed up different obstacles that were 12m high. As the day drew to an end we all hopped on the bus with our instructor Mitch (Joel’s bff) and headed off home. We had an amazing few days away with our friends and teachers!

Lexxi Sinclair
Primary Ethics Classes

Since early 2011, NSW public school children have had a legal right to attend classes in philosophical ethics at their school if: their parents give permission for them to go to ethics classes and Primary Ethics can provide trained and vetted volunteers to organise and teach the classes.

Classes are available to all children from Kindergarten to Year 6 who don't attend the available Scripture/SRE (Special Religious Education) classes in their school. However, Primary Ethics can only provide these classes if it has trained volunteers from either the school community or the wider community.

What are ethics classes?
Ethics is a branch of philosophy that examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances. Our curriculum comprises a wide range of age-appropriate topics that primary-aged children find interesting. Students learn to think about these ethical matters together and engage in the give-and-take of reasoned argument. This process allows students to properly consider other people's points of view and to be sincere, reasonable and respectful in dealing with their differences and disagreements.

Our K-6 curriculum has 78 topics, starting with Questions and Puzzlement, introducing children to the foundation of ethical thinking. Children in the younger primary years examine issues such as being left out, sharing and bullying, while older children reflect on issues such as homelessness, fairness and teasing to help them consider the feelings and interests of others – one important aspect of moral reasoning. Other aspects include understanding consequences, having empathy and appreciating difference.

Research shows that well-reasoned moral judgement does not develop automatically as young people mature and that these skills are best developed using the methods we employ in ethics classes. Once acquired, these skills accompany individuals into adulthood.

Starting ethics classes at your school
If there are no ethics classes currently available at your child's school, you should:

let your principal know that you would like ethics classes for your child,
go to the Primary Ethics website www.primaryethics.com.au to find out more about our curriculum, information for parents and volunteering, and email Primary Ethics at info@primaryethics.com.au to let us know the name of your child's school and the year he/she is in.

We will contact you and/or your principal to get things started at your school.

No classes for your child's year?
If there are ethics classes at your school but none for your child's year, please contact your principal and the Primary Ethics Coordinator to let them know you would like ethics classes for your child. We will need to find a volunteer to start a class so volunteer yourself or ask your friends/family if they are interested. See www.primaryethics.com.au/ethnicsteacher.html
Ethics Classes for Glendale East Public School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ethics classes are now available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children who are in Non-Scripture.

The NSW government has authorised Primary Ethics, a not-for profit organisation, to design curriculum and deliver these classes. Classes are inquiry based and children use dialogue and discussion to learn how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument. Trained and vetted volunteer teachers lead discussions.

The curriculum is age appropriate with classes for Kindy, Stage 1 (years 1 & 2), Stage 2 (years 3 & 4), Stage 3 (years 5 & 6).

We can start ethics classes at our school in each stage when we have at least 8 children enrolled. Please let me know if you are interested in choosing Ethics for your child by returning the slip below by 16/12/2015. The more children and stages we have requests for, the more teachers we will need. If you are interested in either roles, there is more information at www.primaryethics.com.au.

Please email Primary Ethics Melissa.ott.pe@outlook.com with any questions you may have.

Andrew Pryce
Principal

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Please return this form if you are interested in choosing Ethics for your child.

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________ Class: ____________________

Signed: __________________________________________________ Date ____________________

School to keep this portion

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Yes, please register my interest with Primary Ethics:

My name: ____________________________________________ In 2016, my child is in year:_______

My email address: ____________________________________________

Primary Ethics will only contact you about Primary Ethics & ethics classes. Your details will be stored securely and will not be passed on to any other parties.

Glendale East Public School
8 Margot St
Glendale NSW 2285
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