From the Principal

Dear Sherwood Grange Community,

Dorothy was absolutely right … “There’s no place like home!”

I am thoroughly delighted to be back “home” with you at Sherwood Grange. Our year has started extremely well and as you would expect, quality teaching and learning is evident in every classroom across the school.

I would like to thank my wonderful staff for taking such great care of Sherwood Grange while I was working at another school last year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Mr Peter Shearer and Ms Karen Macphail for taking on the role of relieving principal and maintaining our high expectations and continuing to move our school forward.

2015–2017 School Plan

We are currently finalising our 2015–2017 School Plan. As part of this process we are ensuring that our Strategic Directions are aligned with the recently released “Public Schools NSW – School Excellence Framework”.

I am excited by our plans for the next three years at Sherwood Grange and would like to share with you our School Vision and our Strategic Directions, both of which are a direct result of extensive consultation across the community last year and investigation into best practice educational research.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

At Sherwood Grange Public School our focus is on EVERY CHILD

As a learning community our purpose is to meet the academic, social, emotional, creative and physical needs of EVERY CHILD in our care.

We seek to create a challenging learning environment that encourages a sense of belonging, high expectations for success and differentiated instruction that is responsive to individual differences. Within a caring, respectful, supportive environment, our school is committed to instilling in each student a desire to learn and accept challenges. Our school community is committed to developing students who are resilient and adaptable, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to continue their education and become personally fulfilled, socially responsible and informed global citizens of the 21st Century.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2015–2017

At Sherwood Grange Public School our focus is on EVERY CHILD

Strategic Priority 1
Excellence in learning and wellbeing

Strategic Priority 2
Excellence in quality teaching

Strategic Priority 3
Excellence in educational leadership and organisational management
Safety Spotlight

Arrival at school

For safety reasons, students must not arrive at school before 8.25am.

This is because there is no teacher on duty prior to the bell ringing at 8.25am. If children arrive before playground duty commences it means they are unsupervised and this is unacceptable.

Before school care is available at our onsite OOSH which is run by Holroyd Council. For enquiries please call 9892 4207.

Skoolbag

Have you remembered to download our App?

From the beginning of next term newsletters will be published electronically via our Skoolbag App and on our school website.

Paper copies will only be sent home if specifically requested.

State Election

Our school hall will be used as a polling place for the upcoming state election on Saturday 28th March.

Our wonderful P&C volunteers will be holding a Sausage Sizzle, so be sure to tell your neighbours and friends.

For Your Information …

Please find the following attached at the end of this newsletter:

- School Rules
- BYOD Initiative
- Uniform Expectations

Vicki Robertson

Upcoming Events - Term 1

Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3/3</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4/5</td>
<td>Yr 6 Holroyd HS Open Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9/3</td>
<td>Drumbats incursion K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/3</td>
<td>World’s Greatest Shave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Week 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16/3</td>
<td>Yr 6 Merrylands HS Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17/3</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Week 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25/3</td>
<td>Student Learning Conferences (evening)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 28/3</td>
<td>State Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Sausage Sizzle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Week 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1/4</td>
<td>Easter Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3/4</td>
<td>Good Friday Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy Holidays

Monday 6/4 to Friday 17/4

Term 2

Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20/4</td>
<td>School Development Day - staff only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21/4</td>
<td>Students return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22/4</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24/4</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Ceremony</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Readers of the Week: Kai Nightingale

When do you read?
I like to read at bedtime.

What do you enjoy reading?
I enjoy reading ALL of the books in the Captain Underpants series.

Library news

Welcome back to the library for 2015.

We have a brand new look this year with the new furniture in place and some rearrangement of the library resources. Make sure you ask your children about the changes.

Congratulations to the new 2015 Library Monitors who received their badges last week and begin their duties in Week 5. Our school library could not be open at lunchtimes without their help.

Our Library Monitors are- Comfort, Lana F, Summer D, Antony, Shannel, Laura G, Taneshya, Victoria, Kiram, Aljenny and Georgina. I look forward to working with you this year to make the school library a great place to be!

Mrs Parnis
Teacher Librarian

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our Swimming Carnival. You all put in a great effort, swam your best and as always, displayed impeccable behaviour. The teachers were very proud of you.

Special congratulations to Michelle T. who broke four school records, some of which were set all the way back in 1994! Well done Michelle!

Some students will now go on to represent our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival.

Miss Montgomerie
Birthdays ... cup-cakes only

We would like to remind you that we are more than happy to celebrate birthdays within classrooms by singing “Happy Birthday” and handing out cup cakes (enough for each child in the class) supplied by parents or carers. Anything else, however, is not appropriate within the school setting.

We ask that you do not send candles, party hats, cakes that need to be cut, balloons, lolly bags etc.

Please remember, cup-cakes only.

Debating Team for 2015

Congratulations to our new debating team, Mohammed B, Alex, Annelia, Louise, Alyssa A, Georgina, Shannel and Isaac.

Everyone prepared and presented very interesting speeches, well done.

Miss Montgomerie

Student Safety & Wellbeing

We request your assistance to help our school be allergy friendly.

We kindly ask that you do not bring any NUTS to school. This could be in the form of nuts in muesli bars to Nutella sandwiches. It could endanger the lives of those with allergies to nuts.

Thank you for considering the safety of others.

An important message for Parent Helpers

As of June 2013 the Department of Education and Communities updated its Working With Children Policy. The Working with Children Check is an important part of the NSW Department of Education and Communities’ recruitment process to prevent people who pose a risk to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children from being employed or engaged in child-related work.

Our school embraces and encourages all parent volunteers whether it be in the classroom, at sporting events or transporting students to and from specific events such as debating or enrichment programs. However, it is now mandatory that ALL parent / carer volunteer helpers complete:

- A Declaration for Volunteers
- Proof of Identity. 100 point check

If you are a new parent helper in the school you will be required to complete a working with children check. Please see Mrs Gullen in the office for a declaration form.
P&C News

Welcome 2015 Students and Parents

The P&C would like to welcome all parents and carers to the 2015 school year. We look forward to working with all of you throughout the year. The P&C has many functions within the school. We are here to act as a voice of parents and carers within the Sherwood Grange community. Encourage parent and community participation within the school and to bring parents, caregivers, students and teaching staff into close cooperation.

That being said, one of the P&C’s primary roles is that of a fundraising organisation. All funds raised by the P&C throughout the year provide ongoing financial support to the teaching and learning needs of all the students at Sherwood Grange. The students are fortunate to have such a generous group of parents whom are not only willing to provide additional financial support to the school, but also volunteer their time to ensure all of the activities and events organised are successful. Please stay tuned for our upcoming fundraising initiatives.

Payments to the P&C

The P&C cannot accept any payments through the school’s online payment system. Please ensure that payments are still made through the BLUE BOX and also with exact money as we are not able to give change. The P&C is looking into online payment options, so stay tuned!

Athlete’s Foot

The Athlete’s Foot provides a range of approved school and sports footwear. They will match the foot type and shape with the activity being undertaken to ensure that every piece of footwear is perfectly fitted for every member of your family. The Parramatta and Merrylands Stores provide sponsorship to Sherwood Grange Public School in the form of a $5.00 donation for every pair of shoes sold. This does not only include shoes for your children, but any shoes you purchase for any member of your family.

When purchasing shoes for Friday sport please remember that our School Uniform Guidelines stipulate “predominately whiter joggers”.

The Uniform Shop

The P&C run the School Uniform Shop which is currently open every Friday morning between 8.30 and 9.15am. The funds raised through sale of uniforms are given back to the school to help purchase essential learning resources. If you are unable to get to the Uniform Shop during the hours of operation, please feel free to print off an order form from the school website and leave it in the BLUE BOX along with payment.

Facebook Group

If you aren’t already a member of the P&C’s Facebook page, be sure to join. It is a great way to keep up to date with events at the school as well as get to know other Sherwood Grange families.

The group address is https://www.facebook.com/groups/67344799436361/.

Iceblocks

Some of our wonderful parents and carers have volunteered to occasionally sell iceblocks as a treat on hot days. It will not always be possible to let you know in advance, so we suggest that your children keep 50 cents in their school bag.

Next P&C Meeting

Tuesday 17th March commencing at 6.30pm in the Staff Room.

Leah Archer P&C President
School Rules

Be safe

Be fair

Be a responsible and resilient learner

At Sherwood Grange our students are expected to:

- Display our **School Values** of
  - respect and tolerance
  - care and compassion
  - integrity
  - fairness
  - excellence
  - responsibility

- Adhere to the New South Wales Department of Education and Training (DET) **Core Rules**

  All students in NSW government schools are expected to:
  
  - Attend every school day, unless they are legally excused, and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
  - Maintain a neat appearance, including adhering to the requirements of the school’s uniform or dress code policy.
  - Behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school.
  - Show respect at all times for teachers, other school staff and helpers, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities.
  - Treat one another with dignity and respect.
  - Care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Initiative - 2015

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is transforming our society in many ways. Examples include: the means by which we gain access to information; our methods of communication, networking and collaboration; and how we manage our daily lives. The extent of its impact on education is yet to be fully realised, but technology is proving to be a very powerful tool when used strategically to enhance teaching and learning.

The BYOD initiative involves students bringing in personal devices to be used as an educational resource in the classroom. Devices, which play a significant part in student's lives already, will provide opportunities in the classroom that were once thought impossible. It will give access to information at the press of a button, it will allow for student directed learning and will make learning more meaningful to each and every student.

After the successful implementation at the end of the 2014 school year, it has been decided to spread the initiative to all 3-6 classes in 2015. This will be a planned and detailed process to ensure we maintain the safety and educational standards for every child at Sherwood Grange.

A few key points about BYOD at Sherwood Grange Public School:

1. BYOD is optional. Students who do not have access to devices will use school resources such as desk top computers.
2. At Sherwood Grange we value face to face teaching. Devices will be used to aid some lessons – they will not replace quality teaching.
3. Safety is our priority. Precautions will be put in place to keep all our students safe on site and within the digital world.
4. The wireless network is filtered and secure in compliance with the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). It will be the same filter and proxy settings as the desk top computers we have in the computer labs and within every classroom.
5. We have a team of dedicated staff involved in maintaining safety and educational standards through the consistent reviewing of current research and literature. We will continue to evaluate and improve our educational and safety standards at Sherwood Grange.

All other information is provided in our school BYOD policy. Students and parents will be required to sign a BYOD Parent and Student Agreement before devices can be used in classrooms.

For more information, the DEC has provided relevant literature to support a BYOD initiative. It can be found at: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/technology/computers/mobile-device/BYOD_2013_Literature_Review.pdf

This is an initiative we are excited to implement. We understand the implications of devices at school and aim to work in conjunction with the school community to further enhance the wonderful opportunities at Sherwood Grange.

We are comfortable in knowing that the teachers at Sherwood Grange will continue to be the most influential part of your child’s learning.

Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is most important. – Bill Gates
Uniform Expectations - 2015

Items in **red** should be purchased from the **P&C Uniform Shop** so as to ensure uniformity across the school.

**Summer Uniform (Term 1 and Term 4)**

**Girls**
- Short sleeve white shirt with school crest on the pocket
- Bottle green culottes (also called a ‘skort’)
- Short white socks (no tennis/low sports socks)
- **Black shoes** with laces or velcro
- Bottle green, white or black hair accessories only
- **Bottle green fleecy v-neck jumper (school crest)** or **bottle green fleecy zip up jacket (school crest)**

**Boys**
- Short sleeve grey shirt with school crest on the pocket
- Grey shorts
- Short grey socks (no tennis/low sports socks)
- **Black shoes** with laces or velcro
- **Bottle green fleecy v-neck jumper (school crest)** or **bottle green fleecy zip up jacket (school crest)**

**Girls’ and Boys’ Sports Uniform**

All students K-6
- Sherwood Grange PS Sports polo shirt and black Sherwood Grange PS sports shorts
- **White socks** (no tennis/low sports socks) and **predominantly white joggers** with **white laces**
- **Bottle green fleecy v-neck jumper (school crest)** or **bottle green fleecy zip up jacket (school crest)**

* All students are expected to wear a **school hat** (school logo) or **cap** (school logo) when outdoors.

* Jewellery is to be kept to a minimum. Students may wear a watch – no bright colours. **Earrings must be studs or sleepers.**
  * **Nail Polish or makeup should not be worn.**
  * **Head scarves should be white or bottle green.**

Thank you for understanding, supporting and promoting the high expectations we have at Sherwood Grange Public School. Our reputation as an outstanding school is well-deserved and is a result of our students, staff and families working closely together.