



# GUILDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS UPDATE



Thursday 1 December 2011

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Where did November go? This term is flying past. This is the second last newsletter for this year with only two and a half weeks until students break for the summer holidays on December 16.

Guildford will be extremely busy over the rest of the term with many student and community events occurring. I hope to see you at some of these but especially our Annual Presentation Day Assembly on Thursday 8 December.

## ANNUAL HIGH ACHIEVERS BARBECUE

Yesterday we thanked our 2011 High Achievers with a tasty sausage sizzle. Students who represented the school at a high standard were rewarded with this special luncheon.

The group included:

- Our Spectacular Dance Group (Opera House)
- Our Spectacular Choir (Opera House)
- Debating Team
- Multicultural Public Speaking
- Spelling Bee finalists
- PSSA Grand Finalists (Oz Tag, Newcombe Ball Juniors, Soccer Juniors)

Thank you students and congratulations on representing our school with such pride and effort.

## REGIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION GOES A LONG WAY

It was with great pleasure and anticipation that I sat nervously in the audience of the State Spelling Bee Finals at the ABC Centre, Ultimo, Sydney on 16 October. Sharon Thio from 4/5 Cassia was participating in the STATE FINAL. Sharon is our first student at Guildford ever to participate at such a high level in a spelling bee final. She was not only representing Guildford

Public but all the students in the South Western Sydney Region after winning the Regional Final.

40 Students from across all New South Wales sat perfectly still waiting the onslaught of the word attack! Sharon breezed through about seven rounds as students one by one were eliminated. Eventually Sharon succumbed to the word "sycamore," the name of a northern hemisphere fig tree.

Congratulations on getting so very close to State Champion. A year 4 girl from Annandale won a short while later on a word that Sharon could have easily spelt had she had the opportunity. It's not so much if you win...it's how you play the game that's important. Sharon you did us all very proud. Congratulations!



## TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Today we held the fourth and final Transition to Kindy session for parents. With almost 70 Kindergarten students already enrolled for 2012, it's going to be no doubt an exciting start to school for our newcomers.

Special thanks to Miss Ali Khan for coordinating the Transition timetable but also to all the teachers, especially 2011 kindergarten teachers, Mr Toshack, School Counsellor, Mrs Alterio, Mrs Coaldrake, parents and community members who

contributed to such an informative and productive orientation to school.

It was a real pleasure for me to meet many of the parents and students of kindergarten 2012 at the session on 17 November. For our new families, welcome to our wonderful school. If you have not already enrolled your son or daughter for kindergarten for next year please do so as soon as possible.

## LEAVING OR HOLIDAYS

We need to know now if you are leaving our school community and your son or daughter will not be returning for 2012. We are about to plan classes for next year. Also staffing numbers is dependent on student enrolments across the school.

With such a positive kindy enrolment for 2012, so far, it looks like we may go up a class for 2012. Student numbers are therefore critical, as we calculate next year's staffing allocation. If you are going on holidays and may be arriving back after school resumes on Monday 30 January 2012, please write a note to me so that your son or daughter will be counted in our class numbers in the New Year. Thanks for your support.

## PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY

Our Annual Presentation Assembly will be held at 9:30am on Thursday 8 December under the COLA. I invite all parents and community to attend to help us celebrate student achievement at our wonderful school in 2011.

There will be academic and creative certificates presented to all classes from Kindergarten to Year 6, as well as sporting trophies, DUX of the School, Principals Award for Public Speaking and Performing Arts and the Holroyd Council Citizenship Award, as well as many others.

I will also announce the Captains and Prefects for 2012.

## REPORTS K-6

All students will receive their end of year report on Monday 12 December. Teachers have put a lot of time into writing reports for your information. It is vital you analyse your son or daughters' academic, creative and social progress.

I read and sign each report individually. It takes many hours and late nights so please take the time to look carefully and discuss with your son or daughter their results in all subjects and areas.

Congratulations to the many students who have performed well. There is still a big need for most students to practice reading and writing and to learn mathematics tables and facts. Practice at home can make a gigantic difference, particularly for students who are struggling.

Have a great fortnight!

*Mr Peter Lawless*  
*Principal*

**SPECIAL STUDENTS  
SENT TO SHOW GOOD  
WORK TO THE PRINCIPAL  
THIS FORTNIGHT.**



3B Abbir Taleb, Even Zhang  
3/ 4E Koby Lepua, James Dower-Junior  
Kathy Trang  
4/ 5C Matthew Chen, Adut Deng  
5WP George Duwai, Yasemin Kulak  
Hanan Handullah, Sela Masila  
6W Aida Mesanovic

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.**  
Mr Lawless  
**I HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!**

**ASSEMBLY  
STARS**

Huazen Liu 1/2P  
Viliame Ravouvou 4/5C  
Kathy Tran 3/4E  
Rahman Said 1FF



## Premier's Spelling Bee- State Final 2011



### Congratulations to one of our star students, Sharon Thio!

Sharon represented our school in junior division of the state Premier's Spelling Bee final which was held at the ABC Centre, Ultimo in week 6. Students from all over NSW battled it out in the knock-out spelling competition where there was only one winner.

While Sharon was an outstanding competitor, the competition was fierce and she lost out on the word 'sycamore'. Sharon ought to be extremely proud of her achievements in the Premier's Spelling Bee competition this year. She represented GPS with poise, courage and confidence.

The Premier's Spelling Bee is an initiative designed to foster a love of words and spelling and encourage and support literacy development within state-run primary schools around NSW. It provides an opportunity for students to showcase their skills in spelling in a fun and challenging environment.

This year a record 115,455 students from across the State took part in the competition this year from a record 807 schools, making it the largest spelling bee in the country.

*Right: Sharon Thio with her state finalist certificate and medallion.*



Mrs Byrnes  
Spelling Bee Coordinator

## BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that if they wish to bring cakes to school for their child's birthday for the class to share, please bring them as cupcakes. We do not have the amenities for whole cakes to be cut and plated. Thank You.

Cindy Alterio Office



## Tricky words have young spellers all abuzz

**Words to watch**

- hierarchy
- inoculate
- bureaucracy
- poignant
- oscillate

**Spelling suggestions**

- Read different texts.
- Write frequently.
- Familiarise yourself with spelling rules.
- Become familiar with root words so you don't get confused with prefixes and suffixes.

Spelling champ: Guildford Public School year 4 pupil Sharon Thio.  
Picture: Gene Ramirez

**FIND OUT HOW SHARON THIO WENT IN THE 2011 PREMIER'S SPELLING BEE ONLINE: HOLROYDSUN.COM.AU**

BY Melanie Kembrey

TO become a top speller is no piece of cake.

For starters, one must be able to spell words like piety.

A wannabe bee contestant must read the dictionary often, memorise language origins and be alert but not alarmed by homonyms.

Guildford Public School pupil Sharon Thio is well versed in what it takes to be the best in the bee.

She was competing to be the best speller in the state in the Premier's Spelling Bee as the Sun went to print yesterday.

"You have to keep on reading books because that's important in developing your vocabulary and you should try to read the dictionary as often as you can," Sharon, in year 4, said.

The young wordsmith said she practised spelling every evening.

She said one of the most difficult words she had ever encountered — one

that wasn't even on her spelling list — was pharmacological.

But don't fret, she now knows that 14-letter monster off by heart.

And she breezed through the regional finals with the successful spelling of the "easy" word daffodil.

"I always highlight the words I don't know and practise until I know them," Sharon said.

"It doesn't matter what my outcome is in the competition, I'm just going to try my best."

Sharon said she had always loved words and when she's not spelling she loved to write stories and read Harry Potter books.

More than 115,000 primary school students entered the annual statewide competition that was started in 2004. Seventy-eight students made it to the junior and senior state finals held in Pyrmont Ultimo.

Guildford Public School student Lian Yang was also competing in the senior category yesterday.

## Q & A

**students' voice**

The *i* goes before the *e* (except after *c*). When you want to make a word to a plural you drop the *y* and add *ies* (unless of course the word has a vowel in it). And if a word ends in *e* you drop the *e* and add *ing* (but if it ends with *y*, and has a consonant, you simply add *ing*). The nouns and crannies of spelling rules can sometimes be as difficult — and as atrocious — to learn as saying: *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* backwards.

Reporter Melanie Kembrey and photographer Gene Ramirez asked students at Guildford Public School if they enjoyed spelling (sic).

**Ritika Ganga:** Not really but I think it is important because when I read books spelling really helps me understand the words and it helps me to write speeches.

**Thomas Gattolisi:** I made it to the regional spelling bee final this year but got knocked out on the word martyr. I know how to spell it now though.

**Angela Nguyen:** I actually kind of enjoy spelling as it helps me enhance my vocabulary and reading skills.

**Ricky Nowell:** It's not my favourite subject but spelling is still good. I like maths the best.

## Fundraising News

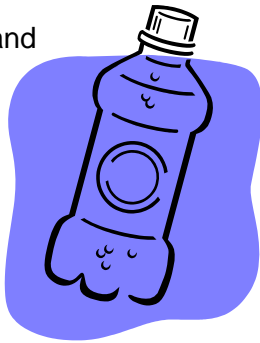
A huge thank you to all students who purchased spider drinks and supported mufti day last Friday. A special thank you to our wonderful parents for your continuous support in our fundraising events. The weather could have been better but it was a huge



success and we managed to raise \$745.00. This money will go towards the year 6 end of year gift to the school.

Thank you to Mr Crowther and Miss Blewitt for their hard work and organisation on the day with their year 6 students. It would not have been such a success without your efforts. Well done Guildford!

Thank you again.  
*Mr Peter Hanna*  
*Stage 3 Assistant Principal*



*PBIS: Safe & Respectful*

Showing respect in the playground can be achieved by allowing others to play with you, not teasing or bullying, following playground rules and respecting the teachers and equipment of the school. We have noticed many students showing respect for school areas such as the toilets and wash sheds. We would like to remind students to remember the toilet rules such as:

- Not to throw paper on the walls or in the toilets
- Keep the toilet area clean by flushing the toilets and putting any paper in the bin
- Turn the taps off when they are finished washing their hands
- Do not play in the toilet area or splash water
- Remember not to put your fingers in the door space

By doing all these things we will continue to keep the school SAFE.

*Mrs Panagos*  
*PBIS Team*

## FEATURE CLASS

### 3/4 EUCALYPTUS

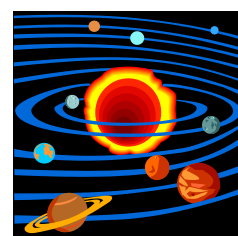
This semester we have been learning about the universe in Science.

We have watched some very informative videos about the Solar System on the classroom's smart board. These short information films have included the sun, stars, galaxies such as the Milky Way, the nine planets and the moon. The children were engaged during these sessions and found them to be both interesting and fascinating. Most children now have developed a good understanding and knowledge about the vastness and the various objects that make up the universe.

The art work which the children have enthusiastically and creatively made this semester has been based on this science unit and has made our classroom colourful and appealing.

Many of the students have designed and constructed some wonderful projects on space. This work has involved the children using their research skills to gather relevant information and their creative skills to present it attractively. These tasks have helped to consolidate what they have been learning and studying throughout the semester.

Well done 3/4E







## Transition to School

On Thursday 3 November we welcomed the Kindergarten students for 2012. We have had three Kindergarten Transition days since then, with the final transition day on Thursday 1 December. Most of the Kindergarten students for 2012 have come along to these sessions to spend time with their new friends.

Over the past 3 visits some staff from our school have shared informative sessions with the parents. The topics included The Best Start program for Kindergarten, Technology at Guildford and Events at Guildford PS.

While the parents where at the information sessions, the new students tried some of the activities that they will be doing next year. They included reading, singing songs and making some artworks.

Some of the 2011 kindergarten children have been assisting them with the activities, encouraging them to try new things and assisting them with craft activities. Thank you Amy, Sueda, Sytori, Jimmy, Yusef and Ayat.

Miss A Ali Khan  
Kindergarten Transition Coordinator

### HEAD LICE

Head lice is an ongoing problem at school. It is a constant battle to keep this in check at school. **IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CHILD IS CONSTANTLY FREE OF HEAD LICE SO THAT OTHER CHILDREN ARE NOT BEING INFECTED.**



Departmental regulations recommends that children are to be treated with medication from a chemist until **ALL THE LICE AND EGGS ARE DEAD AND REMOVED FROM THE HAIR. Medication will not remove the eggs (attached to the hair) Parents should remove the whole hair strand to remove the egg.** You may decide it necessary to keep your child home until it is treated. It would be appreciated if all parents could check their child's hair in natural sunlight at least once a week, every week.

Cindy Alterio. Office

## SPARK MENTOR PROGRAM of the Australian Business Network

Once again a number of our students have been participating in a reading program with mentors from the Commonwealth Bank, organised by the Australian Business Community Network. The students enjoyed the sessions as did the mentors. At the completion of the program both mentors and students spoke about their experiences. Here are some of their comments:

*"The part I enjoyed was when we did partner reading."* Ali Razaee

*"I liked reading and writing sentences about the story".* Livai Saukuru

*"I liked talking to the mentor about the book."* Hala Ayouch

*"...It was a thrill to see Hassan stand up and give a speech today because two months ago, he was so shy.*

*It's been wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the students and how much they want to read and look at books now....." ( quotes from mentors as they enjoyed morning tea with the students)*

At the completion of the program the students received a certificate and book from the Commonwealth Bank.

I'd like to give a special thank you to Mrs Ferguson who ran the program while I was on leave for all her time and support.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### TERM 4

6/12/11	Parent Helpers Morning Tea
8/12/11	Presentation Assembly K-6
9/12/11	Parent Helpers Raffle Wrapping
13/12/11	Year 6 Farewell
16/12/11	Last Day for Students
30/01/12	School Resumes for 2012 Yr 1-6
31/01/12	School Starts for Kindergarten

### Learn Music on Keyboard at Guildford Public School

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- \* Fun music games
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*Whispers from*  
*the Library.*

### Farewell Year 6 Monitors

Every year it makes me proud and sad to farewell the Year 6 Monitors. This year we've had very efficient monitors in Year 6 and as always the Year 5 Monitors have BIG SHOES to fill. But as usual, 99.9% of the Year 5 Monitors always become great monitors.

Thank you to Rebel Smulders, Brianna Georgis, Andrew Huyhn, Tooa Rees, Zuhour Dannawe, Zeinub Hussuin, Matthew Sitima, Sabine Hasna, Zayne Krupowicz and Nunia Tokabobo for your wonderful help this year as monitors. Good luck in your future.

### Welcome New Monitors for 2012

After a very intensive training session, both myself and the Yr 6 trainers (Rebel Smulders, Andrew Huyhn, Zuhour Dannawe, Zeinub Hussuin, Zayne Krupowicz and Tooa Rees), have finally selected 13 new monitors to be put on the rotating roster next year. These new monitors were selected by the following criteria:

- Knowledge of how to shelve books from the Non Fiction, Fiction and Junior Fiction shelves.
- Knowledge of how to identify books in wrong sections of the library.
- Knowledge of how to identify Premier Reading Challenge Books and other specially placed books in the library (i.e. Aussie Nibbles, Clifford Books, etc).
- Time management (showing up on time, not forgetting their training days and following a roster).
- Enthusiasm
- Following instructions and showing respect to the monitor trainers, (this doesn't only mean behaviour but it also includes not being a "know all" and telling the trainers what to do).

The new monitors are:

3 Bluebell: Vishu Garg, Taylan Yag, Mirna Abdulawab, TJ Cooper-Reynolds, Luke Dannawe, Chelti Madamba and Meena Moosawi (Reserve).

3/4 Eucalyptus: Jane Waqa and Katherine Henry

4 Rose: Sonia Lingad, Vannessa Lam (Reserve)

5W: Angela Nguyen and Katherine Kochergin. (Reserve).

Those monitors who are reserve are solely used to replace monitors who are away.

If your child was not selected to become a monitor, please remind them and encourage them that there are other positions at school that they can try out for in 2012. If your child is in Year 3 or 4 they can apply to become a monitor next year.



TODDLERS WELCOME.

### Please continue to return all books.

Thank you for the positive response about returning books to the library. It's important that all books are returned before Stocktake ends. Keep having a good look for books that you may have at home. These books will be searched for in the library as well, but please continue to search for books at home.

### Thank You to Parent Helpers

Special thanks has to go to Mrs Rees for all her help she has done in the Library this Year. Also thank you to Mrs Mendoza and Mrs Wijesurendra. Thank you to Mrs Thorne for her help sorting out books.



Mr Norambuena (Teacher Librarian).

## HOLIDAY RAFFLE



Guildford Public School is continuing the tradition of the Holiday Raffle this year

Each child will bring home a book of 10 tickets to sell at \$1.00 per ticket or \$10 per booklet. There is a wonderful range of Christmas Baskets to be won.

Please return all ticket stubs and money to the Office by Tuesday 13 December 2011.

You may collect more tickets from the office when returning the first booklet.

The raffle will be drawn on  
Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 2:00pm in the  
School Hall.

Parents are welcome to attend the draw.

Thank you for your continued support.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED ON FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2011 TO HELP WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE BASKETS FOR THE RAFFLE. PLEASE COME TO THE SCHOOL HALL IN THE MORNING.**



**RSPCA**  
New South Wales

**Project Guardian Angel**  
**RSPCA**  
New South Wales

**Pauly needs a miracle this Christmas!**  
Will you become an RSPCA Guardian Angel and help us get through the Christmas crisis?

My name is Pauly, I was found on the side of the road near the NSW town of Orange. No one knows how I got there... not even me. I was in a pretty bad state when I was taken to the local shelter. My fur was matted and dirty and I was cold and shivering from being outside for so long. When I was cleaned up, they discovered I only had one eye... this wasn't a surprise to me, but they were sure shocked!

**I love people. I just hope that one of you might love me. I know I only have one eye but I'm counting on someone seeing that I would make a great pet. Until that time, will you be my Christmas Guardian Angel?**

Christmas is a particular time of need for the RSPCA. Every year thousands of animals turn to the RSPCA for help and hundreds still remain in desperate need of financial support so they can find new homes.

You can donate online or by sending a cheque to your [state based RSPCA](#) or by simply calling 1300 777 221. You can make a real difference this Christmas. In making a one off donation or a gift donation for a friend, you will join others in becoming a Guardian Angel to an animal in need this Christmas. You can stop this crisis by donating now and becoming a Guardian Angel to a deserving animal.

