22 February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Glenmore Park Public School. We hope you and your child will enjoy a very happy association with our school and we look forward to the year ahead. The Kindergarten teachers for 2016 are:

KD  Mr Denny
KK  Miss Kosic
KP  Mrs Pembroke
KL  Mrs White
KW  Mrs Watts (Relieving Assistant Principal)

BEST START
Best Start assessments provide Kindergarten teachers with information on each child’s current knowledge in literacy and numeracy. These assessments have been completed and you will be provided with some written feedback this evening. The feedback suggests ways you can best support your child’s future learning at home. Should you wish to speak to a teacher regarding your child’s progress at any time please make an appointment via the front office.

COMMUNICATION
General communication will be via the School Newsletter which goes home fortnightly on Tuesdays. This newsletter will be available via the Skoolbag App or on our school website. Grade and class notes will be sent home as required, usually on Thursdays. Whilst in the early days of Kindergarten ‘quick chats’ may occur between teachers and parents or carers, please realise that teachers are keen to bring children into class as quickly as possible to commence lessons and speaking with parents at the classroom door is very disruptive for the flow of routines. Please notify the class teacher in writing if there is any change to your child’s arrival or departure routine.

STUDYLADDER
Kindergarten will be using a free version of Studyladder, an online educational program which allows students to learn at their own pace. Studyladder is a K-6 web based educational program designed by teachers. The program is curriculum based and covers Mathematics and Literacy. Your child has been given a username and password which can be used to access Studyladder. It is not compulsory for your child to use it at home, however regular access will help your child to reinforce what they have learnt in school. It will also help to build their confidence through practice. Studyladder does not allow student access to social networking. Your child will NOT be able to chat with anyone via Studyladder. Go to www.studyladder.com.au and login using your child’s school username and password which has been provided to you. If you have any questions please see your child’s teacher.

NEWS TELLING
One of the regular class activities is the sharing of news for which each child gets a turn once a week. Below the day that has been allocated to your child is marked. You can help your child to prepare for this with either some topics to talk about or something to bring in for showing eg. my weekend, photos of an event. News topics will be introduced later in the year.
On this note, however, it is important that students do not bring valuable items to school at any time, as it can be very heartbreaking if a belonging is broken or lost.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school could you please send a note explaining the absence with the child on their first day back at school. This is a departmental requirement for our class rolls. These need to be handed to the class teacher. Partial absences will need to be explained and requests for extended holiday leave will need to be applied for on a form available from the school office. For your ease, absence notes can be submitted via our Skoolbag App.

### DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

Please consider that just over 100 new Kindergarten children have begun school and the drop off and pick up around Kindergarten classrooms can become very congested in the mornings and afternoons. Therefore, it would be appreciated if children enter the classroom as quickly as possible with their teacher/s. As you can see, there is not a lot of room for strollers and prams on the walkways so please park these to the side if possible. The children have been learning to line up on the dots outside the Kindergarten rooms. Parents may wait and see the children move off into the rooms for the first month of school, after that we will issue a request for you to leave your child in the playground (due to safety requirements the playground is a parent free zone). At the end of the day, parents have been picking up their children from inside the classrooms at 3:00pm. As students become more familiar with the school and are settled, parents can collect them from outside their classrooms. If your child attends after school care please notify the class teacher so arrangements can be made to ensure your child gets to the bus lines safely and on time.

### LIBRARY

All Kindergarten classes will have the opportunity to borrow books from the Library. KW and KL will borrow on Monday afternoon and KD, KK and KP will borrow on Tuesday afternoon. Students need a clearly labelled library bag for borrowing. Students are not allowed to borrow if they do not have a bag in which to place their books.

### SPORT

Kindergarten Sport will be held on Wednesdays and students should wear their sport uniform. In Term 1 the children will participate in the “Dance2bfit” program for Sport. The Sport program will change each term and more details will be given throughout the year.

### EXCURSION

The Kindergarten excursion will take place in Term 3. We have booked a visit to Calmsley Hill Farm. More information will be provided about this later in the year.

### HOME WORK

We will commence a Home Reading Program in Week 5 of this term. Students will be given a clear folder which contains a reader to read with you, a reading log to record any reading that you do with your child, sight words to learn, number cards to play games with and log on information for Studyladder. Folders are due in each Friday.

### UNIFORM LABELLING

Students must wear a school hat during the day in the playground, and it should be CLEARLY LABELLED as must all jackets or jumpers. All Kindergarten students need to have a change of underwear and socks in their bag (also labelled).
CANTEEN & MONEY
To begin the year, the teachers would prefer if Kindergarten students could refrain from bringing money to school. The canteen is a popular venue and soon the children will be keen to ‘shop’ at school. In these early days it is more important that children beginning school learn to play, make new friends and use the bathroom during break times rather than ‘lining up’ at the canteen. Many lack the responsibility to securely look after money so it would be appreciated if Kindergarten children did not use the canteen for the first few weeks of school. Their teachers will be showing them how to buy later this term. All money should be in a purse, wallet or secure plastic bag. Older siblings may buy for younger ones.

If your child needs to order their lunch please write the order on a lunch bag with your child’s name and class, the order and the amount enclosed. Please let the class teacher know if your child has an order.

MONEY
All money for school activities should be taken to the front office in a sealed and named bag or envelope and dropped into the slot before school rather than taken to the classrooms. Online payments are also available.

LUNCHES
Sometimes too many choices in lunch boxes can be confusing. Recess should consist of a small snack and/or a piece of fruit and a drink. Lunch is usually a sandwich and/or a piece of fruit and a drink. All containers should be labelled with name and class. Students are encouraged to drink water from the bubblers when outside.

CRUNCH AND SIP
Kindergarten students will participate in our whole school healthy eating program called ‘Crunch and Sip’. At 10 o’clock each morning, students can eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables (no tinned or processed fruits) and/or have a drink of water. Please see your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

For health reasons, please discourage any sharing of food at school and refrain from buying food for other children at the canteen. PLEASE NOTE: We now have a number of students in our school who have a condition called anaphylaxis whereby coming into contact with certain products can cause them to become dangerously ill. The main offending product is nuts, or sometimes egg, so it is vital that students DO NOT BRING NUT OR EGG PRODUCTS INTO THE CLASSROOM. We cannot stress enough how important this is and how ill a child can become simply by someone having a peanut butter, egg or nutella sandwich in the classroom. Any students having special health issues should be highlighted to the classroom teacher.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES
Thank you to the parents that have already sent in the school supplies for their child. We are making great use of it all.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with you and your children. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Craig Denny, Natasha Kosic, Christina Pembroke, Linda White, Andrina Watts
KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Natalie Mansour
PRINCIPAL