It’s difficult to comprehend that this will be the last Newsletter for the Year!

I’m feeling very proud of our students after reading about their many achievements in their school reports. I can also sincerely say that we have an amazing teaching staff here at Gwynneville. The staff continually go above and beyond to extend their knowledge and skills and provide our children with so many quality and diverse experiences across a broad range of areas. It has been a great year of academic, sporting and cultural success for our students. Some of our many achievements this year include:

- K-2 students achieving excellent reading levels due to the huge success of the L3 Literacy program that Mrs Ahearn led.
- Outstanding NAPLAN results for our Year 3 and 5 students.
- Extensive Professional Learning for all teachers in Literacy, Numeracy, Student Welfare and Aboriginal Education. Mr Jennings and Mrs Krauss recently attended a Conference in Brisbane.
- Performing at the Illawarra Choral Festival and Southern Stars.
- Gaining 2nd place in the nation wide Archibull Competition.

We have also been proactive in improving our communication with parents. The introduction of our Facebook Page and the Phone App have been highly effective.

I would like to thank our hardworking P&C and all of our parents who work with us and continue to support us in making Gwynneville the best school. I wish you all happy and safe holidays and look forward to another great year in 2015.
MRS JEAN GROVES

I would like to acknowledge the Retirement of Mrs Groves and her many contributions to Gwynneville Public School over her 35 years of service.

Mrs Groves has been more than a School Administration Manager. She has been an integral part of the school community. Mrs Groves has been, over the years, the first point of contact for many of our new families when they arrive. She has always provided them with the kindness and support needed to begin their new life here. Mrs Groves will be remembered for her contributions to all aspects of our school.

We wish her a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement and know that she will enjoy the opportunity to focus on her family.

SCHOOL NEWS

TALENT SHOW
Our 2014 Talent Show is almost here. Our full dress rehearsal is on Monday, 15 December. The children will need to bring all props including their music and costumes.
Our talent show is on Tuesday, 16 December and everyone is welcome to attend and see some very talented Gwynneville students.

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER PROGRAM
What a great year we have had both in the garden and the kitchen. A great big thank you to all those people who have supported us throughout the year and we hope to see you all in the garden or kitchen next year.
We hope that early in the new year we will have recipe books for sale with all of the recipes we have cooked so far as a part of the program. We will keep you posted as to when they will be available.
Medibank Private is one of the major sponsors of The Stephanie Alexander Program. They have

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students

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offered some support for next year both in the kitchen and garden.

Comments about our involvement in the program:
The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden Program is a fantastic addition to what we learn at school. Everybody gets a turn at all the activities both in the garden and the kitchen. We get to grow, cook and share food made from the freshest ingredients in our garden. By Ali M

The program is a great way to get kids involved in the kitchen and garden. I also ate many foods that I would never normally eat. By Bede

TEACHER VS STUDENTS
This year our teacher vs students T.ball game will be on Wednesday 16th December on the bottom field. The game will begin about 9.30am and you are most welcome to attend.

COMPETITION FINALIST
Recently year 6 entered a competition in the magazine “Country Style”. Our Harvest table photo wasn’t successful in winning but one of our Year 6 students Max Butler was a finalist in the Garden Diary section. This was a great accomplishment for Max to be a finalist in a national magazine. Well done Max from all of Gwynneville.

THANK YOU
A great big thank you goes out to all the parents, grandparents and students at Gwynneville for all their support and participation in all the school activities that were organised this year. I hope that you all enjoyed participating as much as I enjoyed organising them for you. I wish you all a very safe Christmas and will see you all in the new year.

Mrs Devlin

PREMIER ILLAWARRA BUS SERVICE
The Premier Illawarra school services from December 1 will be leaving on time as per timetabled services.

MOBILE PHONE APP
We have just purchased an App called Skoolbag that will be accessible for parents with iphones or smart phones. Staff are currently undergoing training. Eventually you will be able to access the newsletter, forms, permission notes for excursions and any other information pertinent to our school. Please don’t be alarmed if you can’t access the App, as all information will still be available in hard copy.

STUDENTS LEAVING AT THE END OF YEAR
Parents please notify the school office if your child/children are leaving at the end of 2014 as early as possible so next year’s classes can be organised. This does not pertain to our Year 6 students.

LIBRARY BOOKS
Library books need to be returned to the Library.

KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY
On Friday, 12 December Year 6 will performing their last assembly item with their buddies in KS. This will be their final performance in front of the whole school and I’m sure one that will be very emotional.

KINDERGARTEN’S ENTRY IN THE BUNNINGS CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

[Image of Christmas tree]
A FAREWELL AND THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM MRS GROVES

As I write this note to parents, caregivers and children I am wondering where the 39 years have gone (since I first began employment with the Department of Education) and in particular the last 35 years when I have been at Gwynneville Public School. The years have flown by but they have been good years, filled with many experiences and opportunities to meet and help new principals, work colleagues, parents, grandparents, caregivers, helpers and children.

When I first began employment at Gwynneville in 1979 we were handling around $6,000.00 annually, using a handwritten cash book. Now all of the receipting and payments are done using a computer and the transactions are over $400,000.00 annually. Thus, it can be seen that there have been huge changes over the years in the way school finances are carried out, as well as technology.

Gwynneville Public School has been a great place to work - beautiful grounds and great staff and wonderful students who have come from either our local area or from many countries overseas. I believe we have been fortunate and privileged to experience the combination of local and overseas children. It is good to have our Australian identity, but it is also good to experience the many cultures the children from overseas countries bring to our school and, in their doing so, enrich our lives.

We have also been fortunate in having a small, but hard-working P & C Association over the years and there have been, and continue to be, many improvements to the school because of the hard work of these Mums and Dads. Thank you to these Mums and Dads who have given, and continue to give, so much of their time for the benefit of the children and staff.

While I look forward to retirement and enjoying other activities and adventures in the years ahead, there will be sadness, as well, at leaving this place that I have been a part of for so long and where I have been in contact with so many lovely people and children.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to all parents, grandparents, staff, helpers, scripture teachers and children for your friendship and support over many years and I wish you all good health, happiness and success in the years ahead.

Thank you everyone from Mrs Jean Groves, School Administrative Manager.

FREE Children’s Dance Classes for Term 1 2015

Dance World is offering one term of free dance classes in Jazz, Ballet, Tap or Hip Hop. (New students only.)

For more information visit www.danceworld.com.au, email doug@danceworld.com.au or call Doug on 0421 712 749.

7/54 Montague St, Nth Wollongong
VPA STUDIOS is the Illawarra’s newest Performing Arts and Dance Studio located at the University of Wollongong’s Recreation and Aquatic Centre. The venue is complete with an in house café and top class fitness and sporting facilities for parents, students and visitors. VPA Studios aims to develop a creative, engaging and inclusive environment where students can grow and reach their full potential. We offer an extensive range of classes in a variation of styles including Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Contemporary, Dance Conditioning, Technique and Acting.

If you would like to enquire about classes at VPA Studios, please contact Victoria on 0425 276 405.

Attention Parents!!
Looking for something fun to do with the kids in the school holidays?

“BUBBLE SOCCER”

The ‘NEW’ craze that’s sweeping the Illawarra and the World!
Right here on your doorstep at ‘eightfoxavenue’ INDOOR sports centre in Wollongong!

For 8-16 yr olds ONLY! (minimum 8 players)
Check out our pictures and video’s on our Facebook page at www.eightfoxavenue.com.au

*Call now, and mention your school for a 50% discount during the School holidays!
Bookings are essential, call Gary to book on 42288322.

"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year." Charles Dickens