WEBSITE: www.greta-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Thank you for keeping up to date with happenings at our school.

GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL APP

SCHOOL HOURS
Supervision from: 8.30am
Classes Start: 8.55am
School finishes: 2.55pm

TERM ASSEMBLY DATES
Tuesdays at 2.10pm in the Hall (Fortnightly)
11th August Yr6
25th Aug Yr2
8th Sept Yr4

MESSAGES
Kindergarten Enrolments for 2016 being taken now.
(See ladies in the Office)

NOTES TO BE RETURNED
Updated Family Details Form
Aboriginal Dance Note
6th Aug TODAY
Stage 1 Total Homestead
19th Aug

DATES TO REMEMBER
Grandparents/Raw Art Show
11th Sept

P&C INFORMATION:
NEXT MEETING
Wed 19th August
1.30pm-2.30pm

CANTEEN OPEN
Monday - Friday

UNIFORM SHOP
Tuesdays Only
9.00 - 11.00AM

Principal’s News

“I stopped believing that I would and started believing that I COULD!”
John Cantor

RAW ART continues to provide our students with a wonderful opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in a creative way. Research supports the importance of the Creative Arts in a child’s education. Art is a cooperative learning experience that provides pleasure, challenge, and a sense of mastery. Art involves children's senses in open-ended play and develops thinking, social and emotional skills. I can’t wait for our GPS Art Show so I can gaze at and admire the efforts of all our students. Mark the date of our art show on your calendar – Friday, 11th September, an event not to be missed. ALL students need to bring a paint shirt (old shirt or paint smock) to leave at school for the term, this will assist in protecting their uniform while in RAW ART lessons.

On Tuesday, Imogen and I attended a Leaders Breakfast in Cessnock to celebrate Local Government Week. This year’s guest speaker, Australian adventurer John Cantor did not disappoint. We thank the Cessnock Council for putting on this event for the leaders and for bringing such an inspiring and motivational speaker to our community. Further in the newsletter Imogen and I have shared the key messages we took from John Cantor’s presentation.

I know I have mentioned it time and time again and I also noticed a large part of the Rutherford Technology High School newsletter devoted three pages to it this week too…. So here I go again….. our SCHOOL UNIFORM is a very important aspect of our school image and in establishing our identity. Winter is a difficult time with cold days and even colder mornings, however RED is our colour of choice and I am asking all families to make a huge effort in ensuring your child wears our RED jumper to school. I have also noted and specifically asked girls NOT to wear leggings under skirts/skorts. Leggings are NOT part of our uniform. I gladly accept thick stockings or tights, no one wants our girls cold but NOT leggings. The P&C Uniform Shop is open each TUESDAY from 9.00-11.00am and carry a large stock of items including jumpers, trousers and shirts in a variety of sizes. The wearing of school uniforms help create positive perceptions within the community, develops a sense of belonging, overcomes equity issues and helps make schools a safe learning environment.

Working together with families, staff and community to ensure all our children are happy and safe at school and achieving their best at all times.

Mrs Jayne Schmarr
Principal
John Cantor started his presentation with this message: ‘self-belief will get you to the start line but it is well directed hardwork and self-determination that takes you over the finish line’.

John is an Australian adventurer who crossed the Brooks Range in Alaska solo. Not only did he become the first Australian and only the fifth person ever to do this, he set a speed record, crossing the range in 31 and a half days. On average he hiked 52km a day and 90km a day in the kayaking section. John suffers from severe anxiety and is an ambassador for ‘Beyond Blue’. He spoke about how he has learnt to manage his anxiety, not dismiss it or let it get in the way of his dreams and goals.

John told us to break down our goals into little battles and to think why we want to reach that goal so much – have we ‘earned the right to achieve that goal? What else can I be doing to achieve that goal?’ John also said we create our own ‘emotional bookmarks’ that is, we stop ourselves from achieving our goals by giving into the ‘this is too hard, I won’t push myself’ way of thinking. We should ‘embrace difficulties’ and the moment, as they make more difficulties in the future easier to deal with. “If I can pull through today, hopefully I can face the next challenges better.” Finally John shared his strategies for achieving success not only in adventuring but also in his studies (he is currently studying Law at University) – use your time wisely and efficiently, don’t leave tasks until the last minute and don’t sacrifice your time at school or University, make the most of it.

To learn more about John or to view his story on Australian Story visit [http://www.johncantor.com.au](http://www.johncantor.com.au).

**Mathletics Champs**

Last week I presented three students with special certificates. Congratulations to Maddison, Jack and Drew for being recognised as the TOP Mathletics students for the first Semester. To master an activity, students must achieve a score equal to or greater than 85%. All three students mastered between 90% and 95% in the activities attempted.

Since the beginning of the year, student results from Kindergarten to year 6 have been recorded. On average students now score 81% in curriculum activities, this is an improvement of 13% on their first attempts. Our students have also completed 2147 activities and earned 40649 points.

Mathletics is definitely having a positive impact on our students’ knowledge and skills in mathematics. Please encourage your children to continue their learning at home by using this program as often as possible, especially on those cold wintery days.

**Headlice Information and Strategies**

Once again we are addressing this fairly constant problem that many schools encounter.

“Head lice are one of the most commonly reported health complaint from parents and teachers. The NSW Health Nitbuster program has found that when sampled, more than 23 per cent of primary school aged children in New South Wales had head lice. Infestations appear to be on the increase, due to factors such as:

- resistance to the common chemicals used in head lice products
- inappropriate use of the treatments
- changing social and school practices.

While head lice are not known to carry disease, they are a nuisance for parents and children. The social stigma associated with head lice infestation can affect children’s comfort and ability to learn in the classroom. Unsuccessful treatments can frustrate parents and lead them to seek more desperate measures that may be harmful and ineffective”.

This is not something we as individuals can tackle alone. We need our whole school community to cooperate with us in ensuring if your child/children present with head lice that you as a parent pursue appropriate treatment and make an effort to rid your child/children of them as quickly as possible. We understand that this can be a tedious procedure but thank you for your co-operation. For more information go to the Nitbuster website.

**Principal’s Stars of the Week**

[Images of students]
Greta Public School - Future Enrolments

Child’s Name ____________________________ Date of Birth ___________

Address _________________________________ Phone No. _____________

Parent Name/s __________________________________________________

Preschool Name _________________________________________________

Year starting school ___________________________

This information will be used for planning. If you are able to give us any details about future enrolments it will be of benefit to us. Otherwise, this slip may be given to a friend or neighbour to be filled out by them and returned by your child.

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
TUESDAYS ONLY
9.00AM - 11.00AM
Order Forms are available outside of these hours.

P&C NEWS

There is a new winter menu again for the snack shack, some items that were not selling have been removed and other items have been added.

If any parents are able, we need donations of 3L plain milk for our free cereal breakfasts that are now on offer. Just drop it in to the snack shack! The free cereal breakfast has been really successful thanks so much to a kind donation.

The new screen door has now been installed, yay!

From Monday there will be a new competition starting – the eat fresh to win competition – where when children purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and fruit and vegetable packed meals they will earn points. The signs are up so have a look.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th August at 1.30pm to 2.30pm in the Library so please come along. If you can’t make it but would like to have an input or get more information please email me and I’ll put you on our mailing list for a copy of the agenda and the minutes after each meeting.

If you have any concerns or suggestions please contact us via greta-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Attention P&C or come along to our meetings usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Regards
Krista Findlay-Egerton
Secretary

CANTEEN ROSTER
7th Aug Kayla, Renee
10th Aug Bec, Louise
11th Aug Lauren, Renee
12th Aug Pat, Susanne
13th Aug Pat, Pam
14th Aug Sandra, Belinda

Expression of Interest - Parent and Staff Focus Groups

Throughout this term the Rutherford Learning Community are holding a number of parent and staff focus groups. The focus group will meet with a Principal representative from the Rutherford Learning Community to seek feedback on the transition process from Primary to High School. If you would like to participate in this focus group please complete the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST and return to school by: Friday, 7th August 2015. As the focus groups are formed you will be notified if your EOI has been successful and when the meetings will take place.

X

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I ____________________________ would like to take part in the Rutherford Learning Community Focus Group.

I can be contacted on: Home Phone: _____________________________ Mobile: _____________________________

I have a child /children in Years ________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ Date: _____________
Community News

“BINLESS” SUCCESS - SUPPORT US IN THIS CHALLENGE

Our first “Binless” day for the year was quite a success with many students taking up the challenge of bringing fruit and vegies to eat and sandwiches packed in reusable containers. We will continue to remove garbage bins from the playground every Wednesday in an attempt to teach students responsibility for their environment as well as making healthy eating choices.

‘Waste free lunches’: it’s simply food that is packed without packaging! Why and what?! Well, on average, a child who has a disposable lunch generates three pieces of rubbish per day, which equals a monstrous 30kg of waste per child per year! By making the most of the natural packaging of food (e.g. peels, skins, rinds, etc) and by wrapping food in packaging that can be re-used or recycled, you’ll be drastically reducing the environmental impact of your food.

Having a fresh and healthy lunch also helps kids concentrate and gives them more energy. Most healthy foods also come with only a little packaging or natural packaging, which makes packing a waste free lunch easy.

School News

ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Last Friday, Miss Hassett and I had the great pleasure of taking a group of Greta athletes to Woodberry as part of the Annual Zone Athletics Carnival. Our students participated enthusiastically in many events and showed great sportsmanship and tenacity as they competed against students from other schools with a much bigger population than ours. Thankyou to the students and to the parents for your ongoing support with transport and encouragement. A special shout out to Mrs Jacobs for her wonderful managing skills on the day.

Organising Teacher
Mrs Hemsworth

SAVING THE DATE!!!
FRIDAY
11TH SEPT
AN EXCITING TIMETABLE OF EVENTS INCLUDING MORNING TEA, SINGING, DANCING CLASSROOM VISITS & BBQ LUNCH WILL BE ADVERTISED SOON SO YOU CAN PLAN YOUR VISIT !!!

Grandparents Day/Raw Art Exhibition

Australia’s largest multi-sport & exercise program for preschoolers aged 2.5–6 years

NOW IN MAITLAND

Classes available Monday–Sunday
5 sports covered per term including:
• Soccer • Tennis • Hockey • AFL • Cricket
• Athletics • Basketball • Rugby • Golf • T-ball

Call the team at Ready Steady Go Kids or visit us online for locations and times in your area.
1300 766 892
readysteadygokids.com.au

McHappy Day
17th October 2015

Every Tuesday 9am - 10am
50c will be donated to CHARITY when you purchase a large Coffee!!

At Rutherford, Singleton, Greta McDonald’s

1st September - Westpac Helicopter Service
8th September - Beyondblue
15th September - Kaleidoscope
22nd September - Leukaemia Foundation
29th September - McGrath Foundation