



Friday Footnotes

Giant Steps Sydney
Term 1, Week 4
19 February, 2010

Dear Parents,

This week all the Secondary students headed off to camp at Milson Island. This year the camp was 3 days, 2 nights with activities such as bushwalking, cookouts, canoeing, swimming, ropes courses and a new activity the Possum Run. This is where students are in a harness, staff are at the end of a rope and students fly into the air. Most of our students had a go at this activity which is so very brave and they



certainly enjoyed it – lots of huge smiles.

Dimension Data also visited the school this week. This company supported Giant Steps last year and was one of Michelle Jocum's

contacts. They are certainly keen to continue to support the school. A huge thanks to Michelle.

Some of the staff attended Alan Gibbons' funeral today. The death of our wonderful bus driver has been felt very heavily by the staff and students in the Community College. He really touched us and we are very saddened by the loss. He will always remain as our very first bus driver.



Next week Adam Wilson from Eden Brae Homes will visit the school. This company has been a great supporter of Giant Steps for the last four years and runs a race day each year with the proceeds going to the school. Adam is presenting Giant Steps with a cheque for \$30,000 this year which is absolutely sensational. Also a huge thanks to Stan Saric who has been instrumental in this relationship.

DIARY DATES

Wed. 24 February	Dads Group
Thurs. 25 February	Mothers Group
Saturday 6 March	Parent Welcome & Social Night
Thursday 11 March	Giant Steps Golf Day
Friday 12 March	Friday Night Siblings
Thursday 18 March	Parent Information Night
Sat. 20 March	Senior Siblings Group
Friday 26 March	Swimming Carnival

Mums' and Dads' groups kick off next week and please note that the venue has changed for both groups to the Board Room in Step House.

The Early Learning building is almost there and this week the Commonwealth architect visited to inspect all the works. On Saturday the doors will be installed followed by flooring and some work on the gardens. The site certainly looks messy, however, most of that is due to the up-grade of the sewerage so do not be alarmed. We are very excited that the end is in sight and that the rain is easing off.

Thanks also to Slavko, (Luke and Nicola's dad) who will also undertake a small building project – again thanks for your support.

The Working Bee was a great success so thanks to everyone who attended. The Ball storage, the pamphlet boxes, the computer desk... so many jobs that really make such a difference. Again thanks Ian for coordinating the jobs.

Have a lovely week
Kerrie and Claire

IMAGINE—INCLUDE—INNOVATE

Thanks

Thank you to Julia Wong and the Liu family for the donation of a lovely easy chair to the new music room in Building 31. The Secondary students have loved watching Riverdance DVD dances in comfort!

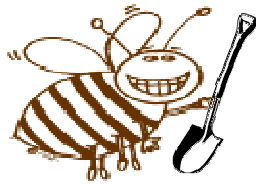
Ute or Truck Needed

There is a two seater and a three seater couch in Bellevue Hill that needs to be delivered to giant Steps. If you have a ute or truck and can help out, please call Rick Karpin on 9363 0669. Rick has said that he is more than happy to accompany anyone who can help out with this delivery.

UNIFORM ORDER

Attached with this week's Friday Footnotes are uniform order forms. If you wish to order uniforms, please return the order, together with payment to the admin office by Monday 1st March.

Working Bee



Thank you to everyone who turned up to the working Bee on Valentines Day—we had a good turn out and it was so nice to see so many new faces and of course the die hards who never seem to miss the opportunity to tackle a challenge.

The shade cloth in Building 31 looks great, the gardens look good and the Secondary staff and students were very happy with the floor in their shed.

Thanks to everyone who painted, weeded, put up benches, cleaned musical instruments, drilled and cleared away berries.

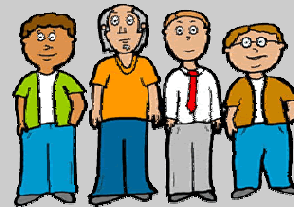
As always a special thanks to Ian and his son David for coordinating the day and sourcing all

Lawn Mowing Roster

We need to get this going again as the lawns are in desperate need of a good mow given all the rain we have had. So if anyone is keen to put their names down to mow the lawns, please email michelle@giantsteps.net.au

The lawns need to be mowed every second week in the summer and every fourth week in the winter. It would be helpful if you have a mower and or whipper snipper but this is certainly not a requirement. We would like to kick this off starting next weekend so please drop us an email if you are willing to mow.

DADS' GROUP



All Giant Steps' fathers are invited to our Dads' Group which will take place this term on Wednesday 24th February. The venue will be in the Staff Room starting at 7 pm.

We'll order delivery from there so please bring along some cash money (\$20 will do) and BYO as beer and wine have never failed us before. Get ready for a good night of light talk, pure male bonding and occasionally some more serious topics.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

See you there!

Emmanuel Bourges

Please confirm your presence via e-mail at emmanuel.bourges@giantsteps.net.au

The Giant Steps Oriental Ball catalogue is closing in only 3 months. Prizes are needed now!"

St Patrick's Day!

As you may know, this term's music theme has been 'Irish Gigs and Ballads'. We are planning to tie this into a St Patrick's Day celebration performance and dance on Thursday 18th March (the day after) sometime between 10am-2pm.

If you know anyone who is a performer of Irish music, particularly the fiddle, please ask them to contact Bronte at: bronte.arns@giantsteps.net.au
Also, if you know of any brothers, sisters, cousins etc who do Irish Dancing, complete with the outfits, we'd LOVE them to come in on that day and show us some live moves.

Thanks!
Bronte

Mother's Group

Come along for an evening of chat, cheese and wine, and to consider the proposal for Mother's weekend away later this year.

Date:
Thursday 25th February
6:30pm onwards

Where:
GS staffroom

Bring:
Cheese, nibbles and wine to share with the group



RSVP: Helen
helen.appleton@giantsteps.net.au



to Leonardo Papa and
Genevieve Lord
in Early Learning

Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents with Learning Difficulties

Presented by Dr Ann Wignall

Director North Shore and Ryde Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Clinical Psychologist
Co-developer/author of the Cool Kids Anxiety treatment program with Ron Rapee,
"Treating Anxious Children and Adolescents" (a therapists book)
and "Helping your Anxious Child" (a parents guide).

Tuesday 16 March, Stamford Grand, North Ryde.

Registration 7pm, Presentation 7.30 – 9.00pm (approx.)

Registration is available online through our website www.ldc.org.au from 12 February 2010.
Space is limited so please register early to secure your place. Registrations close 10 March 2010.

If you require further information contact:
P 9806 9960 E info@ldc.org.au



office at The Children's Hospital at Westmead
po box 140 Westmead nsw 2145
p +2 9806 9960 www.ldc.org.au

Music and Art in Secondary 1

On Monday afternoons, Secondary 1 has an 'Art and Music' session in Building 31 with Pamela and Bronte. How does it work? Well .. here's one example!

This week, the boys went on their regular 'Music Walk' with Bronte in middle session, which everyone enjoys as a group and makes us feel good. We took a basket along and collected items of interest along the way - nice crunchy, scented leaves, bark, flowers and pine cones. Alain also took photos of us walking along, enjoying the music, the sunshine and the company. In the Music and Art session, we rolled out a big sheet of paper and created our own 'Music Walk' landscape, from scrunching up the grass, fluffing out the clouds, and adding our own favourite things from the walk. We then put our photos on top to look like we were walking along the road.



Chris was very excited about the photos of the guitar, so he glued one on himself and had a play on the guitar with a big smile. The acoustics in the room are pretty loud, so live music drifted in and out, helping to maintain the calm atmosphere.



The final product will be displayed in the classroom and referred to during the week, and used as a visual for commenting and sharing of good times.

Lime Class

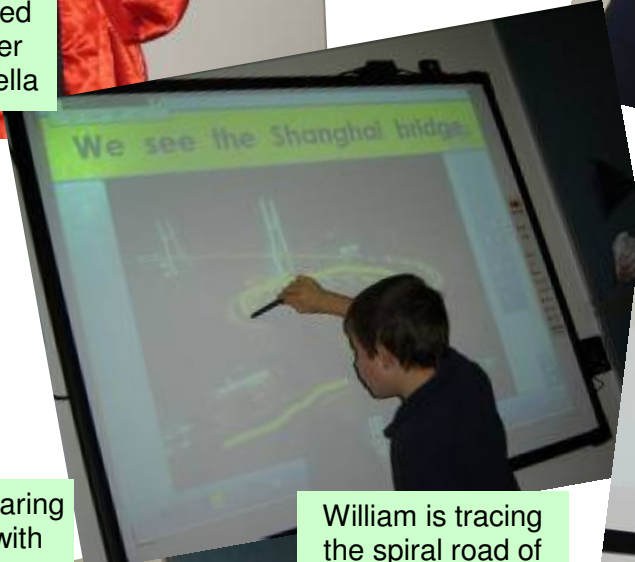


Emma is showing off her red coat and her paper umbrella

What wonderful fun Lime class is having learning about the world. This week our plane has landed in China. We've had our passports stamped and we're exploring the music, clothes, landmarks, food and culture that makes China so unique.



Sophie loves to put her umbrella up and down



William is tracing the spiral road of the Shanghai



Joel is interested in the animals, bells and fans of



Mary thinks this Chinese hat is awesome!



My World - China



Orange Class have embraced the Term 1 Integrated Unit "My world". Featured here are photographs of their explorations in "China". We have enjoyed festive dance, playing instruments and making fans.



Early Learning



We have been busy working and playing in Early Learning! Well done everyone—especially to our new students





THE CATALOGUE IS CLOSING IN ONLY 3 MONTHS! HELP IS NEEDED OBTAINING PRIZES.

The Ball is the one event of the year when **the involvement of the entire parent body is requested.**

The most important things we need your help with are PRIZES and BUMS ON SEATS. **We ask that all families assist in whatever way they can by obtaining prizes, corporate sponsorships and inviting guests.**

Please note the Ball Catalogue will close on 19 May this year – IN JUST 3 MONTHS! Please start organizing prizes now.

We need to source some special prizes for the Main Auction. If you have any contacts that would be willing to donate a prize, please let us know. We are looking for things like:

Airfares and accommodation (particularly in Asia)

Cruise

Vesper Scooter

Special experiences and unique opportunities – eg. A walk with John Howard achieved \$10,000 a couple of years ago.

If you need any advice or assistance, please contact Leanne Maccallum on

leannemaccallum@optusnet.com.au

or phone on 9580 6213 or 0421 844 758.

The email version of the invitations and the corporate sponsorship invitations will be emailed soon. People will be able to purchase tickets using Paypal this year and we are just finalizing this facility before invitations are sent. This should be done by next week.

The Ball Committee

GSSIBLINGS



Senior Siblings Group

When: Saturday 20th March 11am-5pm
Where: Meet at Giant Steps
What: Surf lesson at Manly beach!
No experience necessary, so
come along for some fun!
Cost: \$30 per child
For: +6 year olds

Friday Night Siblings

When: Friday 12th March 5:30-8:30pm
Where: Giant Steps
What: Dinner and games
Cost: \$10 per sibling
For: +11 year olds

Hi All,

While we do not know enough about this website to offer an endorsement, we draw this to your attention for your information.

I am very happy to welcome everyone to Autism Links.

As you can see by our website we want to make it a great source of information for parents. Building an online community so parents/carers who are raising Autistic children, teachers and care givers can help those that have recently found out that their child has Autism.

All members have the ability to list upcoming events and social/support groups to post their meeting times to let everyone know when these events are on.

Our ultimate goal would be to raise money to help the single parents and low income families, through our Paid advertising and fund raising activities. As you know it can be very expensive.

We look forward to building a long relationship with everyone and hope everyone gets a lot out of being a part of Autism Links. We are always happy to receive feedback on how we can improve the site. This can be provided through the contact form on the website, emailing me at admin@autismlinks.com.au or calling me directly. I have included my mobile number on the attached newsletter.

Please feel free to forward this on to anyone who would benefit from Autism Links.

Tamara

Autism Links

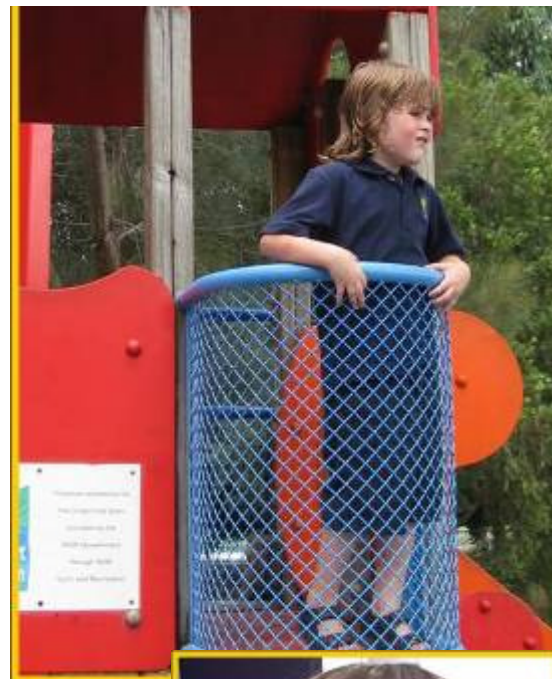
admin@autismlinks.com.au

www.autismlinks.com.au

This Week's Awards—Congratulations



Cooper Liu: For settling in so well to Early Learning. Well done!



Charlie Mury: For settling in so well to Yellow Class. Great Job!



Lewis Holland: For settling in well to Purple Class. Well done!



Thibault Plante: For helping set up Assembly

8th Giant Steps Golf Day



When: Thursday 11 March 2010

Registration at 12pm, play commences at 1pm.

Twilight dinner and charity auction from 6pm.

Where: Bonnie Doon Golf Club, Banks Ave, Pagewood.

Entry fee \$200 per person which includes green fees, light lunch, on course refreshments, dinner, drinks following golf.

RSVP: 26 February to Rick or Millie Karpin

Phone: 93630669 Fax: 93630649

*Email: milliekarp@bigpond.com * Entry Form attached*

2010 GIANT STEPS CHARITY GOLF DAY ENTRY FORM



- Yes, I/we would like to play @ \$200 per player.
I enclose \$.....as payment for the players listed below.
- No, I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of
\$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$.....

Donations to Giant Steps Sydney Ltd are tax deductible Reg. Charity: DGR 32778
 Payment (cheques preferable) to Giant Steps Sydney Ltd or please charge my
 Bankcard M/C Visa Diners Amex

Credit Card No. _____ Expiry Date ____ / ____

Individual player / I would like to be grouped with the following players. (please circle)

Player 1 Golf Club Member atHandicap
 Name
 E-Mail
 Phone (H/W)(Mob)

Player 2 Golf Club Member atHandicap
 Name
 E-Mail
 Phone (H/W)(Mob)

Player 3 Golf Club Member atHandicap
 Name
 E-Mail
 Phone (H/W)(Mob)

Player 4 Golf Club Member atHandicap
 Name
 E-Mail
 Phone (H/W)(Mob)

**Golf carts can be arranged directly with the pro shop on 9344 5835
 Golf attire required for all players.**

Please fax entry form to Rick Karpin on 02 9363 0649
 Or mail to 1 Arthur Street Double Bay NSW 2028
 For further information please phone Rick or Millie Karpin on 9363 0669