



# Friday Footnotes

Giant Steps Sydney  
Term 1, Week 5  
26 February, 2010

Dear Parents,

A fairly quiet week here at Giant Steps with programs in full swing and all students settled in for the year.

Markaling House is nearing completion with the gardens being installed this week and flooring due to be completed on Monday – we have been waiting for the concrete to dry out thoroughly before laying the rubber flooring. New turf will be laid in the Early Learning playground as well as in the K-6 playground following the plumbing works in that area.

Thanks also to Rick Karpin whose great mate, Gary donated two lounge suites to Building 31 – Music space. These are a welcome addition. Thanks also to the Holland family for their donation of some shelves, etc.

There have been lots of visitors this week to school with a number of sponsors and the members of the Endowment Fund, all of whom are so very supportive of the School and College.

Following the untimely passing of our lovely bus driver Alan last week we are now seeking someone to take up this position. If you know anyone who would be interested and who lives near the school, please let us know (we are also advertising). It is approximately 20 hours per week (morning and afternoon), 48 weeks of the year, requires a 1B licence and a flexible attitude.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Kerrie and Claire

## DIARY DATES

Saturday 6 March	Parent Welcome & Social Night
Thursday 11 March	Giant Steps Golf Day
Friday 12 March	Friday Night Siblings
Thursday 18 March	St. Patrick's Day Celebrations
Thursday 18 March	Parent Information Night
Saturday 20 March	Senior Siblings Group
Friday 26 March	Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 19 May	Ball Catalogue Closing Date

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

IMAGINE—INCLUDE—INNOVATE

# Thanks

To **Ian Bremner** who has been spending one day a week working on getting our library up and running. Thanks Ian!

To Meredith Ryan, Louis' mum for helping out in the admin department this week.

To **Alan and Jacqui Israel**, very good friends of the Karpins, for the couches that they have donated to Giant Steps.

To **Philip Dean** who has been instrumental in setting up Paypal on our website.

To **Trish Inglis** for the books and toys for Early Learning and the crèche.

To the **Holland family** for the donation of furniture.

To **Chris Thill-Turke** for the continuous work on our website.

## Well Done

Pippa Sweet, our wonderful Aqua class teacher has really gone beyond the call of duty as she switches between a teaching hat and a marketing hat. Not only has Pippa brought a number of tables to our Ball over the past two years, but she has also secured a number of sizable donations from various companies, the latest one being a \$5,000 donation from a company called Liquidnet. Thank you Pippa!



## UNIFORM ORDER

A reminder that school uniform orders are due in the admin office this coming Monday 1st March.

## Swim for Autism

In this week's Friday Footnotes you'll see some information regarding the Swim for Autism to take place on Sunday 11 April at the Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool in the Domain. A website has been set up and more information also be found at [www.swimforautism.com](http://www.swimforautism.com)

## Friday Night Siblings

**When:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
5:30-8:30pm

**Where:** Giant Steps

**What:** Dinner and games

**Cost:** \$10 per sibling

**For:** +11 year olds



## Senior Siblings Group

**When:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
11am-5pm

**Where:** Meet at Giant Steps

**What:** Surf lesson at Manly.

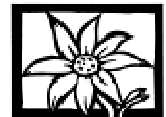
*No experience necessary, so come along for some fun!*

**Cost:** \$30 per child

**For:** +6 year olds

## WARRINGAH

### Disability Information Service Newsletter



Warringah Council

is a fortnightly newsletter with information and activities for people with a disability and their families. Copies of past issues of this newsletter are available at [www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/services/disability.aspx](http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/services/disability.aspx)



☺ Cooper Liu in Early Learning

☺ William Hurley in Lime

## Luke Dujic's first day at Maria Regina.

Luke's mum Linda says he absolutely loves it and is in his element, putting his uniform on as early as 6.30am as soon as he wakes up.



## ARTIST WITH AUTISM GETS TV SHOW

*Hello*

*On the 9th February ABC3 TV will begin screening the animated series Laser Beak Man. Laser Beak Man is the creation of 21year old Brisbane artist Tim Sharp.*

*Diagnosed with Autism at 4 years of age, the prognosis was that the best thing to do was put Tim away and forget about him. Drawing was used as a way of helping Tim to communicate and at age 11 he invented his quirky super hero that allows Tim to show the world his intelligence and wicked sense of humour.*

*As far as we know this may be an Australian first where a young man with Autism has had their art turned into a television programme. We are asking that the Autism community throughout Australia watches and supports the programme and spreads the news of ability and success.*

*This is a fantastic good news story for the Autism community in Australia and we hope that you will share it with your associates, friends and family, not just for Tim but for all children and families dealing with Autism, to spread a message of hope and to assist them as they strive for their own goals.*

*The episodes will be screened at 6.53 each morning from Tuesday 9th February, 2010.*

*For more of Tim's amazing story go to [www.laserbeakman.com](http://www.laserbeakman.com)*

*Thank you  
Judy Sharp*

*Telephone: 0407 965350  
[info@laserbeakman.com](mailto:info@laserbeakman.com)  
[www.laserbeakman.com](http://www.laserbeakman.com)*

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## Early Learning News – Week 5



**Our early Week children enjoyed their first  
“Party” session !**



**And Late Week  
have been doing  
some great  
artwork.**





## Secondary 2

# Bus Cleaning Program

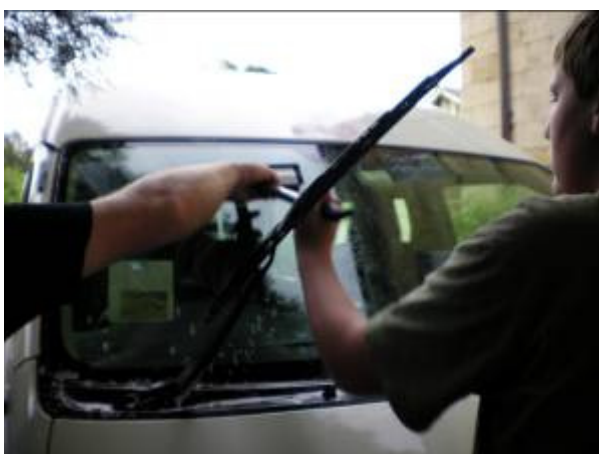
On Wednesday Mornings, Secondary 2 has a 'Bus Cleaning Program' with Justin, Lorrae and Sebastian. They are looking forward to providing the school with a sparkling and beautifully cleaned School Bus each week! They did a fantastic job this week.



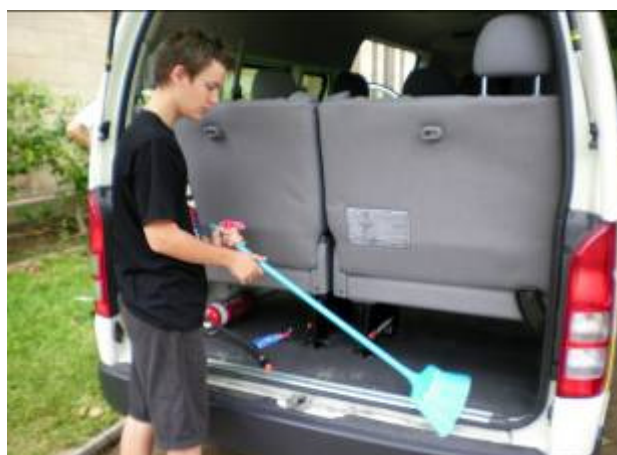
Jacques is cleaning the dashboard



Joshua enjoys his new job. And takes great care to make sure the windows are nice and clean.



Alex is having a go using the Window cleaner.



Joshua is sweeping the Bus.



# St Patrick's Day!

## Ready for some 'Wearin' of the Green?'

Planning is well underway for our St Patrick's Day celebrations. As with the Disco last year, we will be having 2 sessions with all students attending one of these sessions.

**Parents are invited to come along and join in the fun!**

**When:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 11.30-12.00 for Early Learning, Yellow Class, Purple Class and Aqua Class  
12.00-12.30 for Lime Class, Orange Class, Crimson Class and Secondary

**Where:** K-6 Playground

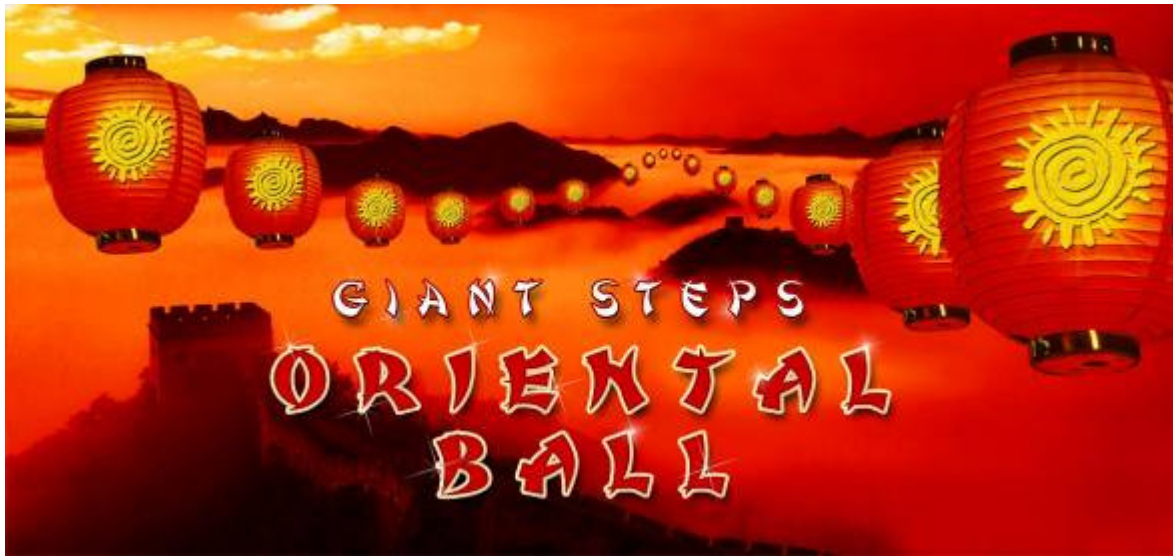
**What to wear:** **GREEN!**

So far, we will be enjoying some green food and drink (natural ingredients), songs we have learnt, some big group Irish dances, and a special guest will be playing the bagpipes!

If you are able to help with: performers, dancers, setting-up/packing away or in any other way, please contact Bronte at:

[bronte.arns@giantsteps.net.au](mailto:bronte.arns@giantsteps.net.au)

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**THE CATALOGUE IS CLOSING IN ONLY 11 ½ WEEKS!**

**HELP IS NEEDED OBTAINING PRIZES.**

Thank you very much to Elaine Wilhelm, Heather Ng, Julia Wang, Mary Webhe and Ian Bremner for organizing and sending in the red envelopes we were after – we now have enough. They will make a great addition to the night.

Thank you to the families who have already started organizing and sending in 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 11 ½ weeks!**

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](mailto: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.

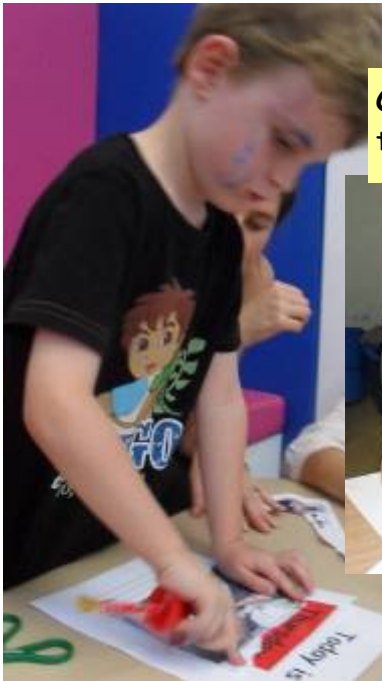
The Ball Committee

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# This Week's Awards—Congratulations



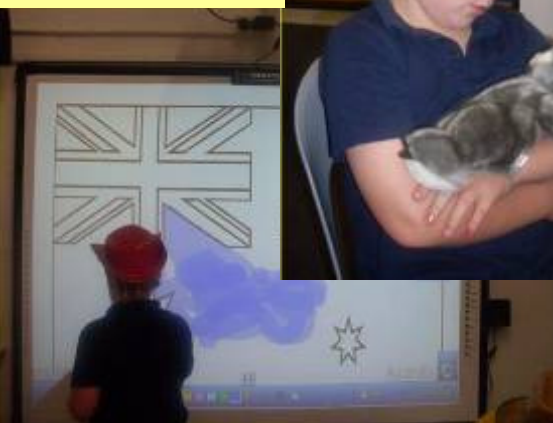
**Gus Mackay:** For excellent participation in the "My World" unit of work.



**Cooper Roche:** For great drawing, cutting and pasting and helping the teacher pack away.



**William Hurley:** For excellent participation in "My World"



# Giant Steps Parent Social Night



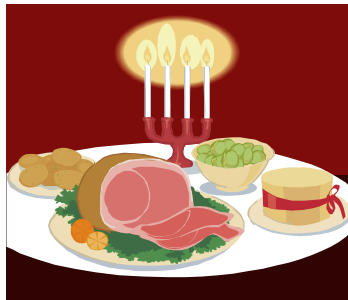
**All parents** who have children attending Giant Steps from Early Learning up to Post School, **(especially our new families)** please come along for a fun social evening of getting to know new families and catching up with old friends.

Date: Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Where: Giant Steps Library

Start: 7.30 pm

**BYO: Food (see below) PLUS your own drinks including soft drinks**



Early Learning Families – salads, vegetable dishes, nibbles  
K – 6 & Post School Families – please bring meat dishes, quiche, bread  
Secondary Families – please bring dessert or fruit  
(The kitchen will be available for re-heating if required)

**Return to the office or email RSVP by MONDAY 1 March to Leanne Maccallum – [leannemaccallum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:leannemaccallum@optusnet.com.au)**

For enquires, contact your Parent Advocacy Group representative



## Parent Social Night

- Yes, I/we would love to come.
- No, unfortunately I/we can't make it.

Name: ..... No.attending .....

I/we will bring .....

## Do you need respite?

Do you provide full time care for a person with a disability?

Is the person you care for aged 0-65?

If yes: you may be eligible to receive **Flexible Respite**

### What is Flexible Respite?

- **Planned short-term and time limited breaks** in order to support you and the person you care for (including a combination of in home care; community access/out of home; individual/ group programs; day time/ overnight stays; holiday services; after school and vacation care).
- A **positive experience for the person with a disability** including the opportunity to interact with community members.

Hours of respite will be negotiated between the service provider and your family.

When you call us to make a referral, you will be asked how often you would like respite, and what sort of respite you would like.



The following service providers\* provide Flexible Respite services in the Metro South Region and will meet at the Flexible Respite Panel\*\* (FRP) in April 2010 to prioritise and allocate respite referrals:

**South East Sydney:** CIVIC Disability Services; Eastern Respite & Recreation; House with No Steps; Life Without Barriers; Sunnyfield.

**South West Sydney:** Catholic Care; Creating Links; The Disability Trust; House with No Steps; Interchange Wingecarribee; The Junction Works; Macarthur District Temporary Family Care (MDTFC); The Northcott Society; Share care; The Spastic Centre

**Inner West:** The Ella Centre; FRANS; House with No Steps; Sunnyfield



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services are also available

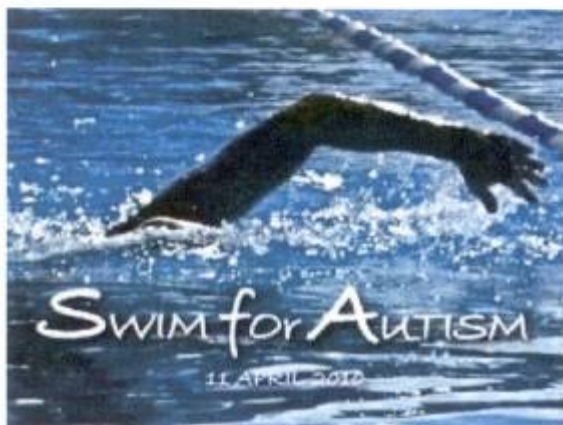
For more information and to make a referral, call Metro South ADHC (Ageing, Disability and Home Care- NSW Department of Human Services) Intake on **93343700**

\* Individual service providers have been funded for specific funding types, and allocation is subject to eligibility criteria.

\*\* FRP is a combined panel for the following funding types: Disability Assistance Package (DAP) Flexible Respite for Older Carers; Teen Time; and Flexible Respite (Stronger Together)

# SWIM FOR AUTISM

HOME FUNDRAISING REGISTRATION PRIZES SPONSORS CARLOS CUP  
GIANT STEPS PHOTOS



Carlos Cup winner  
2009 completed  
16km or 320 laps in  
4 hours 58 minutes.



## Welcome to the Swim for Autism 5 Hour Challenge

On Sunday the 11th of April 2010, will be the 2nd Swim for Autism 5 Hour Challenge at the Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool in the Domain. By taking part you will be raising money for for autism and Giant Steps Sydney.

The money you raise will help children with autism have a chance at independent living. With your help we aim to raise \$25,000.

### How the Challenge Works

The premise of the event is simple - swim as many laps as you can in order to raise funds via your sponsors, while having fun at the carnival atmosphere that the event creates at the ABC pool. You can swim 1 lap, 50 laps or swim the entire for 5 hours, it's your challenge.

Everything you need to know about the Swim for Autism 5 Hour Challenge can be found on this website.

Use the links at the top of the page to direct yourself around the website and most importantly to register to swim in the event. Registration has started and will end on Friday, 9th April. Sign up now to secure a time to swim.

If you have any enquiries, please direct them to [k@fexis.com](mailto:k@fexis.com)

We look forward to seeing you in the water!

DONATE

Support Swim for Autism on Facebook

Join the Group

facebook

Join the Cause

facebook

*With your support we can help children with autism reach their potential*

[www.swimforautism.com](http://www.swimforautism.com)