Thursday 24 October 2013

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014

Dear Parents of Girls Grammar Primary Students

Congratulations on choosing Girls Grammar as the best provider of a caring environment with staff who will support your daughter’s academic, emotional and social development and wellbeing during her important Primary years. The Girls Grammar family is privileged and proud to be given the responsibility of delivering both a rich and rewarding educational experience for your daughters and a connected and supportive experience for you.

A CARING COMMUNITY

JUST THE RIGHT SIZE

Girls Grammar is committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to explore her potential and realize her strengths in every area. Our school is the right size to ensure that every individual is valued and nurtured and that everyone has a voice and opportunity. Our classes will continue to be capped at 20 students in 2014, ensuring personalised care and attention for every child.

COMMITMENT TO WELLBEING

The Virtues Project, the Daniel Morcombe Curriculum and the Girls Grammar Care Program focus on strengthening resilience and persistence for your daughters. Compassion, empathy and conscience are nurtured through mutual and self-respect.
FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

An all-girls environment allows girls an opportunity to explore every possibility without the limitations of self-consciousness. Girls can try anything, achieve anything. There are no boundaries to their exploration. Girls Grammar girls are courageous, powerful and strengthened by the support of ‘sisters’ in all year levels.

OUR 2014 OUTSTANDING PRIMARY TEACHING TEAM

2014 will be a wonderful year for our Primary School. We have a formidable team of professionals, working with the guidance of the Director of Primary, Scott Fuller. I am excited to announce the 2014 team of dedicated staff:

2014 EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TEAM

Prep
Sheldon Olive

Year 1
Corinne Shaw

Learning Enrichment
Leonie Carroll

2014 DISCOVERY CENTRE TEAM

Year 2
Jacqui Bryson

Year 3
Acacia Gall

Learning Enrichment
Kayleen Oates

2014 SENIOR PRIMARY TEAM

Year 4
Naomi Beacom

Year 5
Melanie Hickson

Year 6
Emma Whitehand

Learning Enrichment
Charmain Hayes
ENGAGING CURRICULUM
HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Girls Grammar expects that every child will achieve success. Expectations are high and every child is supported to achieve her best.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Girls Grammar is a Prep-12 School. As a result, we are able to schedule Primary classes into specialist learning environments such as studios and laboratories, as appropriate. All Primary students at Girls Grammar receive specialist teaching in the following curriculum areas:

SPECIALIST PRIMARY TEACHING TEAM

Prep-Year 6
HPE
Paula Goodman

Prep-Year 6
LOTE (Japanese)
Nicole Graham

Prep-Year 6
Drama
Jessica Lamb

Prep-Year 3
Library
Trudi Hamilton

Prep-Year 3
Music & 4-6 Band
Jessica Dawes

Years 2-6
Strings Program
Danielle Boto

Years 4-6
Visual Art
Hannah Mounsey

Years 4-6
Science
Christie Dey

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

As part of the classroom curriculum, at every level, students also explore the full Australian Curriculum including:

- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Science
TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
Girls Grammar has a cutting-edge technology infrastructure. The entire campus is wireless and every classroom is technology enabled. Effective exploration of technology to enhance learning is embedded in all classroom practice.

In 2014, the ELC and the Discovery Centre will have class sets of laptops available for students in every lesson.

Each student in Years 4-6 is provided with her own tablet or laptop. Classes will be supported to implement innovative applications for learning technologies and all students will learn about their digital footprint and responsible use.

Naomi Beacom will undertake a Technology Project Lead role through which she will mentor Primary teams to embed technology-rich resources in their classroom teaching.

TEACHERS’ PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
The teachers delivering the learning experience for Primary students in 2014 will be working closely in pairs and in Professional Learning Communities. Every Girls Grammar teacher will share her expertise and strengths to enrich practice and learning opportunities for others. Every teacher sets professional learning goals with the Professional Learning Coordinator, participates in lesson observations, student surveys and professional peer partnerships.

PROMOTING AND NURTURING STUDENT VOICE
Personal development includes developing each child’s capacity to form and voice a view, to present an idea and to present in front of an audience. Girls Grammar nurtures the development of confident interaction with adults. Students in Years 4-6 are members of Student Committees or Councils and elect student leaders who represent their cohort and host School Tours for prospective families.

As student leaders of our Primary School, Year 6 students are identified as Mentors for all Primary students by wearing a PRIMARY SENIOR badge and through embroidery on their PE Uniform so that they can be identified at all times. Year 6 students take the role of Big Sisters for new students, including Prep students.

2014 COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Every teacher at Girls Grammar offers activities for students either at lunchtime or before or after school. The range of activities is broad and engaging and designed to provide enrichment opportunities for all interests. Calendars are published each term. Look forward to a Primary Musical in 2014!
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE & VACATION PROGRAM

In the mornings on school days Girls Grammar employs staff who supervise the ELC play area from 7.15am to 8.20am. This is not part of the Out of School Hours Care Program and there is no charge to families who make use of this. Students arriving early must be signed in by a parent.

Our team of professional and positive OSHC staff organise engaging programs for students requiring extended care after school. The term time program operates from 3.00 to 6.00pm each weekday. During school holidays and on public holidays the Vacation Care Program operates from 7.30am to 5.30pm. We remind families that Vacation Care is available only to families of enrolled Girls Grammar students. Your daughter must be registered in advance before she is able to attend OSHC. In 2014, some activities will be provided exclusively to children in OSHC at no additional cost. This includes ‘Get Active’ afternoons.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE AND VACATION CARE

GIRLS GRAMMAR PRIMARY – AN EXCITING FUTURE

This year we have confronted the enormous challenge of our closest competitor announcing plans to open more than 350 additional Primary places. Some of our families have made the decision to join the much larger School. We wish them well and thank those of them who attended an exit interview for sharing a conversation with us.

As a result of the extraordinary circumstances of the moment the decision has been made to welcome families for whom Girls Grammar is their chosen school. We may therefore temporarily exceed our cap of 20 in some levels during Term 4. I reassure you of our commitment to classes being no larger than 20, and feel confident that this unusual situation is unlikely to ever be repeated.

The Girls Grammar Primary School is now stronger than ever. We look forward to warmly welcoming the many families who have chosen to join the Girls Grammar family in 2014. We look forward to sharing our passion for and commitment to this lovely little School, where everyone matters and where every child has every opportunity to explore, to develop and to achieve success.

Kind regards,

Melinda Scash
Principal

Scott Fuller
Director of Primary