Thursday 9 January 2014

WELCOME 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.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW FAMILIES

Students who are new to Girls Grammar in 2014 will have an Orientation Day on Wednesday 29 January. We look forward to welcoming you then. Your big sisters will meet you and make sure you are comfortable settling in. You are warmly invited to attend the Family BBQ on the evening of Tuesday 28 January.

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 STUDENT WELLBEING

The Virtues Project 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 and 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.

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.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

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

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Technology
History and Social Sciences
Science

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.

OUR 2014 OUTSTANDING PRIMARY TEACHING TEAM

2014 will be a wonderful year for our Primary School. We have a formidable team of professionals. I am excited to introduce the 2014 team of dedicated staff:

2014 EARLY LEARNING TEAM

Prep
Sheldon Olive
Year 1
Corinne Shaw

2014 DISCOVERY CENTRE TEAM

Year 2
Jacqui Bryson
Year 3
Acacia Gall

2014 SENIOR PRIMARY TEAM

Year 4
Naomi Beacom
Year 5
Melanie Hickson
Year 6
Emma Whitehand

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT TEAM

Prep-Year 1
Leonie Carroll
Year 2 & 3
Kayleen Oates
Years 4,5,6
Charmain Hayes

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Girls Grammar is a P-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:

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Prep-Year 6
Physical Activity
Scott Fuller
Prep-Year 6
Japanese
Nicole Graham
Prep-Year 6
Drama
Jessica Lamb

Prep-Year 4
Visual Art
Leonie Carroll
Years 5&6
Visual Art
Nora Hanasy
Prep-Year 6
Music
Jessica Dawes

Prep-Year 6
Library
Trudi Hamilton
Years 4-6
Science
Christie Dey
Prep-Year 6
Technology
Hannah Mounsey
CHOIRS
Girls Grammar Choirs have enjoyed significant success in the Rockhampton Eisteddfod each year. We have a P-3 Choir, a Year 4-6 Choir and a range of ensembles for Secondary students. In 2013 the Primary School started a ‘Mini Glee’ Group which is an auditioned group led by the Music Prefect.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
The Music Department offers lessons in wide range of instruments. We also offer voice lessons and Speech and Drama classes. We have a large number of instruments available for students who sign up for a semester of lessons but who may not be ready to purchase an instrument. Please contact Christina Bond in the Music Department for more information on 4930 0958 or ChristinaBond@rggs.qld.edu.au

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
Girls Grammar has a cutting-edge IT 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 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.

Hannah Mounsey will undertake a Technology enrichment 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 Director of Professional Learning, participates in lesson observations, student surveys and professional peer partnerships.

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!

OSHC & VACATION CARE
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 (OSHC) 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 organize engaging programs for students requiring extended care after school. The term time program operates from 3.00 to 6.00pm each weekday.

OSHC AND VACATION CARE TEAM
Coordinator
Nadia Hoare
Leonie Carroll
Kate Trueison
Kate Lang

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.

BOOK PACKS AND SCHOOL RESOURCES
Girls Grammar provides all the equipment your daughter will need in her learning in her primary years. Each girl will receive a book pack on her first day with all the resources she will require for 2014. Some of these resources will be stored at school and others will come home with your daughter to be named and
covered. This allows the School to secure large discounts for bulk orders and to ensure that every child is resourced adequately throughout the year.

GIRLS GRAMMAR PRIMARY – AN EXCITING FUTURE

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,

Scott Fuller

Director of Primary