It is indeed exciting to return to school and see so many more students. We welcome back our existing families and trust that the break was an enjoyable one, and welcome with open arms our new families. We welcome our eight new Kindy students: Kollah-jade, Jessica, Aaliyah, Iris, Jack, Dominic, Billie-Jo and Dylan; Sarah in yr 6; Summer in Yr4 and Hudson in Year 3. We hope you have a very happy and productive time at our beautiful school.

Mr Barnes: is still on leave, currently cruising somewhere in America, enjoying himself, relaxing and wishing us all well.

Our Staff: Mrs Moss is relieving in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays; Mrs Keenan returns to the school office for Wednesdays and Thursdays; Mrs McLennan has the Years 3-6; Mrs Urio is teaching on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and some Tuesdays (Principal’s Release time).

Swimming Carnival: This year we will be combining with not only Hillside PS but also Annangrove PS in our annual swimming carnival on Friday 22nd February. As usual this event will be held at Galston Aquatic Centre. Parents are requested to take their child directly to the pool by 9.15 and pick them up from the pool at 2pm. Of course parents are always welcome, and indeed encouraged, to stay and cheer their children on! A special note explaining procedures will come home shortly.

Assemblies: Our first assembly will be commencing Thursday 14th February. We hope you will be there! The K-6 assemblies will be fortnightly events as noted on our side section. Parents and family are always welcome. Assemblies commence at 2:30pm in the 3-6 classroom.

Opera house Recorders: Our school has again been offered places in the Festival of Instrumental Music 2013– Combined Recorders. Our students in Yr 3-6 will be participating in this amazing experience as they work under the tuition of Mrs McLennan and Karen Tan in readiness for the Opera House performance of the Banksia Concert on Tuesday 27th August 2013. Students involved will receive information regarding this at a later date.

Dance: We are indeed fortunate to again secure the dance tuition from Natasha Schuddeboom. She is studying Dance at Galston High School for her HSC as well as being a dance teacher part-time after school hours. We thank Galston High for allowing this to take place. She certainly did an amazing job last year!

Helping Hands Morning Tea: Each term we will be holding a special morning tea in the library where our parents can meet over "a cuppa" and a chat while they assist us by covering books and laminating resources. It’s a fun way to help the school and mix with others at the same time. It is usually held in the 7th week of term making our first one on Thursday 14th March at 9:00am.

On the lookout for ….. Gems!!!!!!! We know there are many to be found here!
**Leadership Camp:** This week our two school captains Julian and Vanessa will be heading off to Vision Valley for our North Sydney Region Leadership Camp.

Our captains are very fortunate to be guided in leadership skills from such experienced and dedicated teachers. Not only will they gain many desirable skills to assist them in their roles as captains, but they will be able to mix with leaders from other schools in the region, making connections with students and other teachers.

I know they will have a great time. We will all look forward to hearing about their experiences upon their return, and to the sharing of skills with their fellow leaders in Year 6.

**Kitchen / Garden Program:**
Once again we are ready to commence this wonderful program. This year we are running it on Friday afternoons.

We are fortunate to again have the capable assistance of Alecia in the cooking area.

**How Wonderful!**

Seeing the confidence of our new students and the welcoming acceptance of all, visible in the playground.

A small reminder to parents that if you have any concerns at all regarding your child, their work or an issue with another child in the school, we ask that you please speak to the class teacher to clarify the situation. Sometimes things are not quite as they seem.

Do remember that in a small school, teachers are extremely busy, covering anything from 2 to 4 duties a day as well as preparation and marking. It may be, therefore, better to make an appointment to ensure satisfaction all round.

Ann Mills
Relieving Principal
Middle Dural PS

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**Days to note:**

- Wednesdays = Scripture
- Thursdays = Library day and assembly every 2nd week
- Friday = Sports day and Canteen day

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