<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
<td>Swimming P-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
<td>School Council meeting 7.00pm Presentation of Annual Report. Parent Information Session: Library 9:30am “Raising Anxious or Depressed Children”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
<td>Grades 3 – 4 Bounce Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
<td>Walkathon 9:15pm – 10:30pm Big Song Concert with Ms McLaughlin 12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Swimming P-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Report Writing Day (Student Free Day – No OSHC)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Cup Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Life Ed Van</td>
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<td>Thursday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Life Ed Van</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Life Ed Van 2014 Prep Transition 9.30am-10.30am Swimming P-6 First Day of Gateways Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Ally Borgelt from CERES at assembly Grades 3&amp;4 Stihl Wall Garden.</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Grade 3-4 Bounce Back Southern Cross Recycling</td>
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<td>Thursday 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Volunteers Morning Tea 11.00am-11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>2014 Prep Transition 9.30-10.30am Swimming P-6</td>
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<td>Monday 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Parent Information Session 9:30 Library “Managing Transitions” Yoga sessions all grades</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>Grade 3-4 Bounce Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>2014 Prep Transition 9.30am-10.30am Swimming P-6</td>
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<td>Mon 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;-Fri 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>School Council Sub Meetings</td>
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<td>Wed 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>2014 Prep Information Evening 7.00pm-8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
<td>2014 Prep Transition 9.30am-10.30am Swimming P-6</td>
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<td>Monday 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Subway Sounds Concert 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Picnic Lunch Retirement Presentation to Fiona</td>
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<td>Friday 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Swimming P-6</td>
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<td>Monday 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>School Council 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day @ Secondary School</td>
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<td>Thursday 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
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Monday 16th December  | Tea Billy Bush Band Workshop during the day  
                        | Christmas picnic and bush dancing 5:00 – 8:00pm
Tuesday 17th December | Students meet grades and teachers for 2014
Thursday 19th December| Grade 6 Big Day out  End of year Grade Parties
Friday 20th December  | Last Day of Term 4  1.30pm Finish

Please note the change of some dates in the Diary Dates above. The Grade Six Big Day Out is now on Thursday 19th December as the previously advertised date was already booked out at the venue and the Walkathon and Big Song was incorrectly advertised as being on Wednesday 30th October when it is actually on Thursday 31st October. Also the end of year picnic was advertised as being on Tuesday 17th December when it is actually on Monday 16th. (These errors would not have occurred if Les the Perfect had compiled the newsletter last fortnight!!)

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Walking around the school during class time has been a joy recently to see every grade totally engaged in their learning with clearly differentiated class programs in operation, that is, different groups of students working on tasks and activities specifically targeted to their level of ability. To make this work, behind the scenes, there is extensive planning of learning intentions, curriculum resources, team teaching and individual planning to bring everything to fruition. The time teachers spend in front of their grades is just the ‘tip of the iceberg’ in terms of the requirements of the profession and, to acknowledge the hard work of teachers, October 25th has been set aside for World Teachers’ Day. Because many of our part time staff don’t work on Friday we had a small celebration yesterday for the teachers at GPS and I’m sure a “Happy World Teachers’ Day” would be appreciated by staff if you see them around tomorrow.

Eating lunch inside
As many families are aware we commenced a trial last week of students eating their lunch inside from 1.30-1.40. The reasons behind the supervised eating of lunch inside were we were concerned that students were not eating all of their lunch or were eating ‘on the go’. We also wanted to promote the calm eating of food in a social environment and have all students leave the classroom at the same time so everyone had the opportunity to be involved in games and activities. Another positive side benefit of eating inside is the reduction of litter in the yard, wastage of food and the ability to clearly identify students who may not have been eating and provide additional supervision and guidance to support these students. We will definitely be continuing this approach to eating lunch for the remainder of Term Four and will review the benefits for ongoing inclusion in next year’s program.

Playground
Towards the end of Term Three there were a number of games banned from the playground at recess and lunchtime which were all a variation of tiggy. These games were banned because of ongoing disputes about the rules of the game, an absence of fair play (children refusing to continue playing when they had been tug) and also a grey area when some students believed they had been pushed while other students said they were just tagging them as part of the game. Because children are generally fractious at the end of term, we decided the best policy was to stop all games of tiggy and, in fourth term, to revisit the rules and see how future games go. At last Monday’s assembly we went through the rules and parameters of a game of tiggy. In years past, children would play the game, have differences of opinion, sort them out and continue on but, the absence of resilience which has been identified as a key concern in today’s primary school aged children means that significant adult support is required even for fun childhood games to run smoothly. Hopefully, with a new term and new guidelines, students will be able to play these games in a happy and cooperative manner without ongoing adult guidance and supervision.
Stihl Grant
The ever resourceful Marita sourced a grant opportunity from Stihl which the school was successful in applying for. The grant includes a wall garden frame which will be installed on the wall outside the Grade 3/4 area and potting equipment to pot up plants for the walled garden. Included in the pack was also a range of vegetable seeds which we will use to propagate for the vegetable garden and for the walled garden during term time but, bearing in mind that we are heading into the hotter weather, we will be potting up some resilient drought tolerant plants which we will purchase with a gift card that was also included with the grant. The Grade 3/4s will be working on this project on Monday 11th November.

Working Bees/Painting/Garden Beds
A combination of labour from the Corrections Crew four times a year, the employment of a local handyman for regular maintenance tasks and Wayne’s sensational ongoing commitment to the school has meant that we have not needed to have a community working bee this year. Next year, however, we are planning to have a number of days set aside where we are hoping volunteers will assist with progressively moving through the school to apply a fresh coat of paint in corridors and some classrooms. We are also hoping to initiate a program which has been successfully implemented in other schools where each class is assigned a small garden area to have responsibility for the design and maintenance of. This has proved to be a terrific community engagement activity in some schools and we are hoping that this will refresh and reenergise some of the garden beds around the school. More information about these initiatives will be communicated closer to the time of implementation.

Social Media
As I have done in the past I am urging parents to be vigilant about their children’s interactions on social media. Increasingly young children are innocently and naively being engaged in interactions with strangers which can have significant and serious ramifications. We rigorously implement cyber safety policies at school but this is a situation where families need to be proactively involved in their children’s social media activities.

Grade structures 2014
At next Monday’s School Council meeting a proposed grade and staffing structure will be presented for discussion and approval. The approved model will be communicated to the community in next fortnight’s newsletter. Thank you to those families who have passed on specific requests for their children for next year. This information will be factored into planning for class structures when this process is begun towards the end of November. 2014
As is always the case, fourth term is a hive of activity with planning for 2014. Currently student resources are being ordered so that they can be delivered this term, ready for use on day one of 2014. We are also conducting a trial of Yoga classes on Monday 18th as we are hoping to have a term of Yoga next year, just as we have had a term of Zumba this year. At the next School Council meeting the school charge for 2014 will be approved and this will be communicated to community members in the next newsletter. At this time it will also be possible for those families eligible for the EMA to fill out their 2014 application forms.

Head Lice
Thank you very much to those families who have returned permission forms for Head Lice checks. We will be resending these notes home to families who have not responded as I’m sure you will appreciate it is important that as many families as possible are on board for this process. The first head lice checks of the whole school will take place next week and families of affected children will be notified with the procedures that are required to be followed prior to their children returning to school.
**Life Education Van**
Many thanks to those families who have returned the notes and payment for the Life Education Van program which begins on November 6th. The teacher resources and student workbooks have all been distributed to grades to ensure that the maximum benefit and learning outcomes are obtained for this excellent program. A Parent Information Session will be held in the Life Education Bus on Thursday 7th November at 9.05.

Margaret Hirth
Principal

**Assistant Principal’s Report**

**Athletics**
Congratulations to all the students who recently represented the Watsonia District by competing in the Division Athletics Carnival at Meadowglen Stadium in Whittlesea. We are very proud of the achievements of all the students, especially Ania B who came third in 100m and second in Long Jump and Matt B who placed third in 200m. Ania then went on to compete in the Regional Athletics Carnival and narrowly missed out on a third place medal. Ania is a quiet achiever and we celebrate her success in achieving fourth place!

**Swimming**
Our swimming program is going very well. A big thank you to the parents who volunteer their time to assist with the supervision of children walking to and from Watermarc. As this venue is so close to our school, we save a great deal of time and money walking, rather than having to use buses and extra adults are essential as we cross roads and walk along the footpaths.
Please remember if rain showers are predicted then students should wear jackets. It is also a good idea to label clothing as all the polo tops and shorts look alike and sometimes students can accidentally scoop up someone else’s clothing and place it in their bag.

**Southern Cross Recycling - November 19**
Please note that the Term Four Southern Cross Recycling Day is held earlier than in Terms 1-3 and follows Recycling Week. This is your last chance to clear out your cupboards and send along manchester, kitchen goods, toys, clothing, shoes, books…in fact anything except electrical goods. All items can be left on the trolleys set up in the corridor leading to the hall.
Don’t forget if any families spy a ‘treasure’ they would like to take home, just contact the office to make a donation. As we are paid by weight, a gold or silver coin donation would be sufficient.
Thank you to the families who have supported the Grade 6 Graduation Fund by sending along items each term for recycling throughout the year.

Angela Morritt
Assistant Principal

**LOST PROPERTY**
There are a number of unclaimed (and often unnamed) items at lost property, next to sick bay.
If you have lost any items please claim them before Friday 1st November as they will be put into second hand uniform supply or discarded after that date.
The items include school windcheaters, a GPS dress and jackets, rugby tops, swimming towels, scarves, a pillow with pink pillow case, pencil cases, a purple lunch box and a handbag.
With Thanks
Term Four ~ Week Ending October 11th 2013

Prep ~ Red Group ~ Zidaane ~ for a fabulous 1st week at G.P.S. We have found a lovely new friend.

Blue Group ~ Jackson ~ for clever, precise, measurement of length.

1/2 A ~ Teague ~ for his huge improvement in the quantity and quality of his writing. Well done!

1/2 B ~ Breannon ~ for being a wonderful camper during the Grade Two sleepover. Fabulous behaviour and manners.

3/4 B ~ Rhonda ~ for a fantastic first week at Greensborough. Well done!

5/6 A ~ Alice ~ for her outstanding results on her NAPLAN. You have shown a huge improvement.

5/6 B ~ Daniel ~ for the ongoing improvement to his reading comprehension. Lots of teachers have noticed.

PE ~ Sarah ~ for her terrific Rounders skills and strategic game play. Well done Sarah!

Art~ Naomi ~ for doing very careful cutting and fringing to make her Lion. Well done Naomi!

Japanese~ Hannah ~ for singing some of the tricky Japanese words in one of our songs all on her own.

Music~ Ashley ~ for keeping the bass going really well in one of our Marimba pieces Well done!

Term Four ~ Week Ending October 18th 2013

Prep ~ Red Group ~ Jack~ For having the best time at the P/1 Breakfast! WOW!

Blue Group ~ Leo ~ for his beautiful manners and kind sharing at P/1 Breakfast.

1/2 A ~ Liam ~ for his outstanding use of WOW words during our Big Write sessions.

1/2 B ~ Phoebe ~ for a sensational piece of writing about the Grade Two sleepover. Well done!

3/4 A ~ Kara ~ for such a well prepared and presented project on the human heart and for showing us a real lambs heart! Yuk!
3/4 B ~ Madeleine ~ for presenting your project in a professional manners. Well done!

5/6 A ~ Jordan ~ for his constant positive attitude towards our school work. Keep up the cheerful attitude.

5/6 B ~ Nina ~ for her persistence during our work on long division. Well done!

PE ~ Alexandra ~ for working hard to improve her forehand strike and working well with her partner. Well done Alexandra!

Art ~ Cooper ~ for persistence in Art this week, this led to a great piece of work!

Library ~ Jess ~ 5/6 for excellent work during library. Jess added some insightful comments during our book discussion.

Music ~ Amber for a great job playing “Music For a Found Harmonium” on the marimba.

Japanese ~ Grace 1/2 A ~ For lovely singing of the Japanese song “Saita”

G.A.T.E.WAYS Programs
Over the school year your child may have been offered in a place in one of the programs offered by G.A.T.E.WAYS.

G.A.T.E.WAYS (Gifted and Talented Education, Extension and Enrichment) was established in 1994 by Win Smith and Jill Lawrence, both of whom have backgrounds in teaching and parenting gifted children. It is their aim to provide opportunities for children of 'like-minds' to participate in programs that will challenge them intellectually and help develop their individual talents beyond the classroom. Initially G.A.T.E.WAYS ran several ‘Festival of Workshops’ series during holiday time. These programs were so successful that the Brainwaves Club was established. Subsequently many schools approached G.A.T.E.WAYS to host school-time programs. Since that time, short term and extended programs in all areas of the curriculum have been offered in schools throughout Melbourne and ‘On Location’. In addition, G.A.T.E.WAYS has run programs in Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales, the ACT, Queensland and Bangkok. Children from all education sectors attend G.A.T.E.WAYS. Over the years G.A.T.E.WAYS has earned a considerable reputation. Consequently programs fill very, very quickly. G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent, non-funded organisation.

Teachers very carefully select students from their classes that may fit the criteria for any available G.A.T.E.WAYS programs.

If you would like any further information about the programs or the selection considerations for G.A.T.E.WAYS programs, please contact Gemma Pearce or visit the G.A.T.E.WAYS website at [http://www.gateways.edu.au/](http://www.gateways.edu.au/)

SUBWAY SOUNDS CONCERT
It is concert time once again for all Subway Sounds Instrumentalist and we are returning to the old format of a single event for all performers. Monday December the 2nd is our day at 6:30pm in the school hall and all are welcome. All children are scheduled to perform at least one item. As in past concerts, door prizes can be won and exam students will be presented with their certificates. Our concerts are always full of fun times and talented students keen to show their great skills to all the mums and dads, so I hope to see everyone there and would love to catch up for a chat. See you all there.

Christian Duboudin
Subway Sounds
Hi everyone,

This term I have been facilitating the ‘Bounce Back’ program with the Grade 3/4s. They have been delightful participants and I thought I would share a little of what we have covered. In our first session together, we talked about bouncing back and looked at the way nature bounces back after difficult times. We talked about the way forests regenerate after bushfires, and how our bodies heal after illness or injury. We then looked at the difference between optimism (the belief that things will get better) and pessimism (the belief that things won’t get better) and the students did some very entertaining role plays showing everyone the difference between the two ways of thinking.

In the second session we talked about the importance of having other people around you that you can talk to if necessary. The students all identified three ‘safe adults’ that they knew they could go to with a problem. I encouraged the students to share this with their parents, but you may need to prompt them to tell you who they chose. After this we explored ‘Helpful’ and ‘Unhelpful’ thinking, again with some entertaining role plays. Each week the students are given follow up activities to be completed during class so that the themes are incorporated into the classroom context. Both 3/4A and 3/4B have a ‘Bounce Back’ wall where some of the work we have done together can be displayed and referred to in the classroom.

Also, just a reminder that there is an information session for parents on ‘Raising Anxious and Depressed Kids’ on Monday 28th October just after assembly in the Library. The session will run from 9.30 until 11.00am. I will explain the signs and symptoms of anxiety and depression, what factors are likely to increase the chances of a child becoming anxious or depressed and what practical steps to take if your child is prone to or has a diagnosis of anxiety or depression.

Look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime take care,
Emma.