PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

I would like to congratulate and thank everyone in the school community for the sensational end we are having to the school year. Normally by this time, children are tired and start to struggle socially and emotionally and adults become overwhelmed by end of year tasks and also find it difficult to stay on an even keel however, this year, all we see are smiles and a calm going about of everyone’s business which has been lovely to see.

Last Thursday’s Grade Six graduation was a truly memorable evening and the speeches, performances and the conduct of the graduating Grades Sixes made everyone involved extremely proud. Colin Brookes, our local State Member, was in attendance at the ceremony to present Graduation Certificates and he was extremely impressed by the thoughtful and articulate speeches and the very obvious way in which the students were engaged with their school and community. Whilst there is no question that presenting an event such as this is a team effort, there are some particular thanks that we need to make.

We would like to thank the decorating team of Shalyn Bingham, Kathy Siedi, Carolyn James and Brenda McLennan who completely revamped all decorations for this year and had the hall and seating arrangements looking sensational. Lisa and Glenn Geraghty did an outstanding job of catering a beautiful meal for graduates and teaching staff, Gemma and Maria did an excellent job of preparing students for the evening and Angela was Master of Ceremonies for the evening helping to pull it all together.

We also had a terrific day and evening last Monday with Bush Dancing sessions during the day and a lovely community picnic and bar-b-que in the evening. Once again, events like this don’t happen without considerable behind the scenes work, and the thanks of the school community go to Marita Beard and Lara Cowan who not only coordinated this activity but also the previous activities which generated the funds to pay for all of the costs associated with hiring the Bush Band both during the day and for the evening. We also need to acknowledge the efforts of Ralph Beard who toiled all day moving equipment so the evening could run as smoothly as it did.

This past week at school has also been a hive of activity with four pallet loads of 2014 student resources arriving, groups for 2014 Spelling Mastery classes allocated and staffed and the Corrective Reading groups for next also set up with staff allocated. We will also be running a pilot program for Numeracy intervention in Term One 2014 and, based upon the success of this, it could be rolled out for the whole year.

We now have six different contractors completing work at the school over the holidays and the plan is for all new flooring, plumbing and grounds works to be completed in time for students to return to school on Thursday 30th January.

We will have our final assembly for the year tomorrow commencing at 1.00 where we will say our final farewell to the graduating class of 2013.

On behalf of all of the staff I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful holiday break and we are looking forward to catching up with everyone next year for the 2014 school year.

Margaret Hirth
Principal
**Staffing Update**

We are delighted to announce that Samantha Molyneaux will be the teacher for Grade 1/2B next year. Samantha has had the opportunity to meet her grade and parents this morning and she is already enthusiastically planning for the 2014 school year.

**Assistant Principal’s Report**

**Outstanding Academic and Sporting Achievement**

Congratulations to Matthew Beale who was awarded School Sport Victoria’s Inaugural Award for Outstanding Academic and Sporting Achievement! This award was presented to Matt at the Graduation Ceremony last Thursday evening and came as a great surprise to him. Matt has outstanding leadership and teamwork qualities and is a student who encourages his peers and lifts the morale of the school. Matt has also shown consistent improvement and application to his studies and is an extremely worthy winner of this award. We wish Matt and all our graduates all the best as they embark on their Secondary education.

**Thank You Picnic**

Don’t forget to add Thursday 6th February to your diaries! Family members are welcome to join us for games and a lunchtime picnic to thank Margaret for her outstanding contribution to Greensborough Primary. It won’t be a Farewell, as Margaret has agreed to stay on part time for the rest of Term One as Assistant Principal, however it will be an opportunity for families, students and staff to celebrate the wonderful impact Margaret has had on our school as Principal.

I’d like to thank everyone for their support with school programs this year. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and I’m looking forward to school starting back in 2014.

*Angela Morritt*

Assistant Principal

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**Pupil of the Week**

**Term Four ~ Week Ending December 6th 2013**

**Prep ~**

RED ~ Amelia
BLUE ~ Zayne

For taking every opportunity to learn everything they could in Prep this year.

**Grade 1/2 A ~**

Aaron ~

For an outstanding year. Well done!

**Grade 1/2 B ~**

Mia ~

For a wonderful improvement in all her work. Well done Mia!

**Grade 3/4 A ~**

Lilly ~

For a great job as script writer in her Literacy Group this week.

**Grade 3/4 B ~**

Jaxon ~

For his fabulous reading with expression during our Drama performance.

**Grade 5/6 A ~**

Charlotte ~

For always being on her best behaviour and following the class code of conduct. You can always be trusted to help out and to do special jobs.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Rachael ~ For consistently demonstrating a love for learning and a desire to challenge herself.

Art ~ Dayne ~ For doing a great job on his dream catcher in Art today.

P.E. ~ Patrick ~ For his terrific sportsmanship and for being a valuable team player. Great work Patrick.

Library ~ Olivia ~ For creating a fantastic picture based on the illustrations in “Weirdo”. Well done!

**Term Four ~ Week Ending December 13th 2013**

Prep ~ RED ~ Kate ~ For taking every opportunity to learn everything they could in Prep this year. Great efforts!

BLUE ~ Hamish

Grade 1/2 A ~ Celeste ~ For such a terrific year. You have showed an outstanding work ethic. Well done!

Grade 1/2 B ~ Harley ~ For the diligent way he approaches all of his school work.

Grade 3/4 A ~ Emily ~ For great work in writing a Christmas story that had to be exactly 50 words long.

Grade 3/4 B ~ Lilly ~ For such a great start back at Greensborough P.S. and making new friends.

Grade 5/6 A ~ Stephen L ~ For always being the first person sitting on the floor and putting up with Ms Plesa’s things on his table.

Grade 5/6 B ~ Nicholas M ~ For remembering to smile so beautifully all the way through the Graduation Ceremony after all of Miss Pearce’s nagging

Art ~ Zidaane ~ For very good behaviour in Art today and getting along well with his friends.

Library ~ Jordan R ~ For being an interested and enthusiastic class member for 2013.

P.E. Oscar ~ For being a terrific team player and for his excellent skills.

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS**

The winners of the Christmas Raffle are:

1. Emily J
2. Carol A
3. Zach P
4. Parkinsons
5. Kathy Siede
6. J Smart
7. Margaret Hirth
8. Simone Pulford
9. Steve Siede
10. Diane Jose
11. Billy Cairns
12. Lachlan B
13. Grace H
14. Wendy Murphy
15. Strickland Family
16. Bev O’Brien

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make our School Christmas Party the best yet.
STUDENT WELFARE NEWS

Well here we are in this final week at school and the last week we will be with our Grade 6’s! Over the last couple of weeks the Grade 6’s and I have been working on their transition to Secondary School, exploring ideas around what they expect and how to cope with all the change they are about to experience in their lives. We talked about how normal it is to have a ‘mixed bag’ of feelings when we transition from Grade 6 to Year 7, sometimes feeling excited, nervous, apprehensive and scared all at once. The students were strongly encouraged to keep communicating with their parents during this period, as being able to share and talk about what they are going through is pivotal to a successful transition from Primary to Secondary School.

We also had a great session on boundaries, personal space, body language and non verbal cues. We talked about the sort of behaviour that leads to respect, and alternately the types of behaviour that lead to disrespect, using public figures and celebrities as examples. Any parents of Grade 6 students, you might like to ask your children about this session as they were very engaged and quite amused at some of the activities!

Next year, the funding for my role will continue, and with the availability of some additional funding I will be here on Mondays and Tuesdays, which will hopefully allow for even more well-being initiatives to take place around the school.

Merry Christmas to you all and I look forward to seeing you all next year,

Emma.

CANTEEN NEWS FOR DECEMBER:

The final day for the canteen this year was Monday 16th December.
The canteen will re-open on Friday 31st January 2014.
In 2014 the canteen will open on a FRIDAY ONLY. There will be no canteen service on Mondays.
A copy of an updated menu for first term 2014 is attached with this newsletter.

Happy Holidays ~ Lisa & Glenn Geraghty

Library News

As the year draws to a close I would like to share with you two lovely book related moments.

Letter to Patricia Mullins

After our class work on the shortlisted books during Term 3, two of the Grade 4 children – Molly and Madeline asked if they could write to Patricia Mullins because they were so impressed with her illustration for Lightning Jack. Patricia is an expert in tissue paper collage and we have three samples of her work in the library, courtesy of a visit she made to Greensborough Primary School in the late 90s.

I organised to send the letter to her publisher and then the girls waited for a reply. Every week that I arrived at school they would run up to me asked if I had received a reply! I felt terrible telling them no. But two weeks ago they did receive a reply. A parcel arrived with a hand written letter – double sided with illustrations and a two copies of one of her books, which Patricia had inscribed personally. I even received a letter! I have never seen two more excited and happy girls. Such a thoughtful response has enriched their lives.
Cooking Time
We have many children who love to borrow recipe books and recently Grace H and James F created a wonderful fish dish out of the book that Grace had borrowed. Grace’s mum Susie, captured the moment for us!

Thank you to all those people who have helped me this year, either at home with covering or during library lessons with the borrowing. Your help is invaluable. I would also like to extend my thanks to Joan, a grandparent who comes every Monday and shelves books. Joan is returning next year although Chloe is moving to secondary school! Also enormous thanks to Marita for conscientiously organising the Book Club. We receive points from all that you buy and have been able to purchase many new titles especially for the 3-6 reading scheme which uses sets of class novels.

If you are leaving Greensborough Primary at the end of the year or have any overdue books could you please return them to the library ASAP. I have sent notes out to those children who still have books.

Thanks again
Happy Reading and have a happy and safe holiday.

Jen Farley