**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Our terrific start to the year has continued and students and staff are to be congratulated for working so well in the heat last week and completing the Startup Program where class and school values are reinforced and the pre-conditions for learning are established. This week has seen the commencement of our regular classroom and intervention programs, including Spelling Mastery (Grades 3-6), Corrective Reading (Grades 2-6) and the commencement of our new Numeracy Intervention Program (Grade 3-4). Our Numeracy Intervention is a trial program run by Mrs. Hirth and we will be closely monitoring student results and using these for future planning. Mrs. Loney is working closely with grades in the Prep-2 area and it is exciting to see the high quality of teaching and learning programs across the entire school. We are very pleased with the way students are working in classrooms and playing in the yard and we thank parents for ensuring students are at school and ready to begin classes promptly at 9am. A special congratulations to our Prep students who now look like they ‘know the ropes’ and have very quickly become comfortable with school routines!
School Council Elections
A reminder that there are four parent vacancies on School Council and parents can either nominate themselves for School Council or they can be nominated by another person. Nomination forms are now available at the office and need to be returned to the office by Friday 17th February. If the number of nominations matches the number of vacancies, then the parents who have nominated are automatically on School Council. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there is an election process with the timeline as set out in last week’s newsletter and available on the website or at the office.
School Council involvement includes 2x two-hour School Council meetings per term and involvement in a School Council subcommittee. Please contact Margaret or myself if you have further queries.

Student Wellbeing Program
We are very fortunate that we were able to employ Emma Bevan, our Student Welfare Officer for an additional day, so that she now works Mondays and Tuesdays. Emma runs an exemplary program and we are extremely fortunate to have a qualified Child Psychologist as our Student Welfare Worker. Emma has included a full explanation of the Student Wellbeing Programs, later in the newsletter.

Parent Teacher Meet and Greet Sessions and Student Support Group Meetings
A note was sent home yesterday with organizational details for our first Parent/Teacher Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 26th February. This meeting will provide an opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s new class teacher to share information about their child and discuss any relevant issues. Information about class programs, organisation and learning goals will also be provided to parents at this meeting. Parents of students who have Student Support Group Meetings are not required to attend these meetings as a separate note has been sent home to schedule a mutually agreeable meeting time.

N.B. Mrs Plesa’s Grade 5/6 will hold their Meet and Greet Sessions a week earlier on Wednesday 19th February. It was explained in the note that went home yesterday, Ms Plesa will be on leave on Wednesday 25th and she is very keen to hold her meetings a week earlier and meet parents and caregivers.

Uniform: Winter Skirt Orders
Orders for Winter skirts are now being finalised. As we only place one order for the year, it is important that families place orders by Wednesday February 25th with a $10 deposit. Skirt order forms are available at the office and skirt samples will be on display in the foyer.

Anaphylaxis Update including drill
Student safety is paramount at Greensborough Primary and for this reason we conducted an ‘Anaphylaxis Drill’ yesterday. During recess one of our students feigned an anaphylactic reaction and students and staff responded according to our Anaphylaxis Management Plan. We are very pleased that our response was timely and the students and staff acted quickly as they had practised in class. Molly’s epipen was ‘administered’ one minute from the onset of her reaction and her ‘recovery’ was prompt.
Thank you to all families who remain vigilant and refrain from sending nuts or nut products to school for snacks and lunches.

Twilight Sports
Don’t forget to keep the evening of Tuesday 4th March free! This is our annual Twilight Sports Night and will be held on the oval at 6pm. Families are welcome to bring a picnic or purchase dinner from the Parents and Friends barbeque beginning at 5pm. For our new families, this is a terrific night where students compete in their grade levels in House Teams, cheered on by their parents and family members who line the sides in foldup chairs or picnic rugs. Students dress up in their team colors and there is a prize for the best dressed member of each House.
Our Grade 5 and 6 students run various stalls to raise money for Graduation, including Face Painting, Hair Spraying, Nail Polishing in House Colors and much more! A schedule of the evening’s events will be sent home closer to the date.
Parents and Friends
Our Parents and Friends Club are looking for new members to assist with planning and running the excellent events that give our students so much joy and raise funds for much valued school resources. Many of the current members have students who are now in the senior grades and they are keen to mentor parents of younger students and ‘hand over the reins’ this year. This is a great idea and will ensure that activities continue. So if you have some spare time and are keen to help please contact the school.

Religious Instruction
Religious Instruction for Grades 1 - 4 will begin as soon as the new student workbooks have arrived. Classes for Grades Prep and 5/6 will begin after Jo completes her Maternity Leave and parents will be advised of this date. *Congratulations to Jo on the birth of her new baby son, Brennan!*

The thirty minute R.I. sessions will be held on Mondays from 2.30 – 3.30pm this year. It has been drawn to our attention that a special permission note for R.I must be completed by parents and this will be sent home with students who have indicated on enrolment forms that they will participate in Religious Instruction. Please return these forms to the office.

School Captains
Last Thursday Margaret, Gemma, Maria and I were very privileged to listen to our Grade 6 students give their speeches for School Captain. It was heart-warming to see the calibre of our senior students and their enthusiasm and commitment to be leaders in our school community. In every presentation there was a strong sense of pride in the school and a genuine desire to represent and serve the school well. This ‘connectedness’ to the school is a positive and shining aspect of Greensborough primary and this is the message that we want spread in the wider community, that is, that this is a school where students feel important, feel involved and engaged in the daily life of the school. Once again it was an extremely difficult task to elect our leaders as each of them gave an inspirational speech and by their past actions have proved themselves extremely worthy of the honour of leading our GPS student body.

It is with great pride that we congratulate *Nina* and *Jasper* who were elected School Captains and *Jordan* and *Daniil* who were elected School Vice Captains.

We are looking forward to announcing the House Captains and Student Wellbeing Leaders at next Monday’s assembly. Nominations and voting in classes for the final School Leadership positions of Junior School Council, will then be conducted and announced.

Thank you to the Davies family
A big thankyou to the Davies family who very kindly gave Boing Boing, our school mascot, a lovely holiday over the holidays. Caring for an animal takes great commitment and we are very grateful to the Davies family for keeping him safe and happy over the holiday period. If any families would like to mind Boing Boing during the school holidays this year, please contact me. He has his own food, utensils, portable ‘caravan’ and a harness if you want to take him for a walk. (Yes I was duped at the pet shop with ‘must haves’ for rabbits!)

Grades 4-6 Interschool Sport
We had a very smooth start to Interschool Sport which commenced last Friday for Grade 4-6. Thankyou everyone for the prompt return of permission notes and payment for bus travel. Last week the schedule for matches was sent home and a list of venues for each school. Parents are encouraged to check this schedule if they wish to attend matches and support the teams. It was terrific to see so many Greensborough parents who came along last week to provide encouragement to our students, who played with great sportsmanship and enthusiasm.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the assembly to celebrate Mrs Hirth’s achievements as Principal and I’d like to say thank you to everyone who has offered me their best wishes for my Acting Principal role this term. Our staffing is settled for the rest of term and I am looking forward to working with our School Community to continue our journey of School Improvement.

*Angela Morritt*
*Acting Principal*
Assistant Principal’s Report
I would like to thank everyone for the warm wishes and kind thoughts on my resignation last week. I am enormously proud of the achievements of Greensborough Primary over the past four years and know the school has a fabulous future to look forward to.
Part of this future is the appointment of the new principal. There is a rigorous process associated with this and all involved are bound by strict confidentiality and merit and equity guidelines so, whilst I can outline the process and the timeline, beyond that there is no capacity for staff or School Council members to provide additional information. The panel which selects the new Principal will consist of the School Council president, a parent representative from school Council, a staff representative, and two department representatives, one of whom must be a practising principal. The position will be advertised on the Department’s Recruitment Online site and applicants will need to address a total of six selection criteria (five set by the Department and one local selection criteria determined by School council). Once advertised the position is open for two weeks and then two weeks are set aside for shortlisting and interviews. At the end of this process the selection panel report is presented to School council and school Council can either accept this report, refer the report back to the panel for further consideration or disagree with the recommendation. It is planned to have a position offered to the successful applicant by the end of Term One and then there is a two week ‘appeals process’ period. This is always a time for change for schools but Greensborough has been extremely fortunate in having no changes of staff or disruption to programs during this time.
Pupil Free day
Each year, every state government school is able to have four Pupil Free days. At Greensborough we have traditionally had two days at the start of the year to set up programs and then one day mid-year and one at the end of the year for assessment, moderation and reporting. This year however, whilst we had the two days at the start of the year we now have the opportunity to join with Bundoora Primary and Watsonia Heights Primary on Wednesday March 19th for a whole day Professional Development session on the VCOP (Vocabulary, Connecters, Openers, Punctuation), Big Write program which was implemented with outstanding success in Erin and Fiona’s grades last year. We apologise if this Pupil Free day in Term One causes families any difficulties however, to try and offset this, Out of School Hours Care will be operating on the day and Jacqui is now accepting bookings so please let her know if you will be requiring this service. The final remaining Pupil Free Day for 2014 will be on Monday 3rd November (the Monday before Cup day)

Margaret Hirth
Acting Assistant Principal
Term One ~ Week Ending February 7th 2014

Prep ~ Emma B ~ For a fantastic first week at Big School. Emma brought her beautiful smile every day!

Grade 1/2 A ~ Mia ~ For being an extremely helpful and caring member of our class. Well done!

Grade 1/2 B ~ Jack ~ For always helping others and being very kind to all members of our class.

Grade 3/4 A Lucy ~ For her enthusiastic attitude regarding all areas of her school work.

Grade 3/4 B ~ Imogen J ~ Congratulations on a fantastic start to the year at Greensborough P.S. Well done!

Grade 5/6 A ~ Sean Patrick ~ I am so impressed with your fantastic behaviour. What a great start to the year.

Grade 5/6 B ~ Jessica P ~ For the most wonderful start to the 2014 school year. We are very proud of you!

O.S.H.C. ~ Jessica D ~ For always being a great helper. Thanks Jess!!

Inter School Sports
On Friday the rounders team played Streeton PS. The scores were 14 to 21 our way. Good job to Jordan for catching people out and Lily for batting the furthest. We played really well in the first innings. Good job to Nina for running to get people out.

Nina Grade 6

Grade 6 Graduation Fundraiser
Quelch icy poles will be available for sale from the canteen on Monday lunchtimes from next week.
Quelch icy poles are 50cents each. At this stage only the icy poles are available on Mondays.
A big thank you to the parents coordinating this Graduation fundraiser

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Bakers Delight
When you go to Bakers Delight Greensborough please mention that you are from Greensborough Primary School (ask family and friends to do the same). All purchases made in the school's name accrue points which end up being converted to fundraising dollars for the school.
It was great to see some new faces at the first meeting of P&F for the year. We do need some more people to help out with an exciting year planned. Activities such as the school disco will be difficult to run without more assistance.
STUDENT WELFARE

Happy New Year everyone! I’m looking forward to a great year ahead at Greensborough Primary School. We’ve organized all sorts of new ideas this year to enhance student wellbeing.

What is Student Welfare?

For those families that are new to GPS, I thought I would explain a little about my Student Welfare role, what is available to families and how to access the service. Firstly, my name is Emma Bevan and I am the Student Welfare Worker here at Greensborough Primary School. I am also a registered Child Psychologist and mother of four. I am available at the School on Mondays and Tuesdays and my role involves running the classroom wellbeing program “Bounce Back”, consulting with parents, counselling children, and offering classroom support. From time to time I also conduct parent information sessions throughout the year.

How do I access the program?

If you would like to contact me, simply call or drop into the front office and ask for a “Student Welfare Form”, fill it in and I will make contact to organize a time to meet up, or for those parents who work full time, we can consult over the phone. I am available for all issues related to student wellbeing and resilience. Sometimes parents just want to touch base with me to find out whether their child’s behaviour is normal, or if it is something that they should be worried about. If you ever feel this way, please call, that is what I am here for, and peace of mind or a plan of action can be very reassuring. Alternatively, sometimes parents will contact me just looking for a few strategies to help their child with a particular issue such as taking hours to go to sleep, refusing food or managing time spent on the computer.

If you think your child may benefit from some counselling then I am available to discuss this with you also. Unfortunately, our counselling psychologist Victoria Rock has left to fill another position. We are currently in the process of finding a replacement for her. Last year, having a counselling psychologist working regularly within the school worked really well for the families involved. Many commented how convenient it was to have the counselling sessions held in the school, as it reduced the amount of time the child was away from the classroom.

What’s happening in Student Welfare in 2014?

Meditation

The beneficial impact of meditation on physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing is now very well substantiated in research. So this year, I will be running a meditation class for students, staff and parents of GPS. Over the year we will try various types of meditation so the students can find the styles that best suit them.

Sessions commence at 2pm at lunchtime on Mondays, run for 20 mins, and are free.

Bounce Back

This year the very successful ‘Bounce Back’ program will be run in the classrooms from Grades 1 to 6 throughout the whole year. Students will have fortnightly sessions where they will learn fundamental skills to develop resilience, happiness and a positive self-image. In every newsletter, I will give a little synopsis of what we covered in the most recent sessions so that you can ask your child about what they have learned.

Also, later this term (dates yet to be confirmed) I will run a number of parent information sessions for parents on the ‘Bounce Back’ program so you can find out more about the program, and how you can support your child’s progress toward enhanced resilience and wellbeing.

Wellbeing Leaders and the Friendship Tree

This year at Greensborough Primary School we will be introducing a new program known as the “Wellbeing Leaders Program”. Ten Grade 6 students will be chosen to be the Wellbeing Leaders of Greensborough Primary School.

Leaders in these roles will be known to students and staff as kind, caring and responsible individuals who enjoy looking after other people and helping their fellow students.
The Wellbeing Leaders will have two main responsibilities:

- To come up with wellbeing ideas that benefit students, staff and families of GPS.
- To be ‘on duty’ one day per week at ‘The Friendship Tree’ offering company, care and advice to younger students.

(Parents of Grade 6 students please note: Emma will be training the Leaders in “Emotional First Aid” and “Peer mediation/conflict resolution skills”. If the children cannot solve a problem at the tree they can come into the office for help, they will not be expected to solve issues beyond what is age appropriate. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself, Mrs Hirth or Mrs Morritt.)

The Wellbeing Leaders will be announced in assembly on Monday 17th February.

It looks like there is plenty to look forward to in terms of Student Welfare this year at GPS. If any parents have any ideas to develop and enhance student wellbeing, please feel free to contact me at the school. In the meantime, take care,

Emma.

G.A.T.E.WAYS
Some parents may have received information in the last fortnight about G.A.T.E.WAYS programs offered at a variety of locations in Term One.

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.

Children are selected for programs by their classroom teachers, who will send home an ‘expression of interest’ form. Once these forms are returned to the G.A.T.E.WAYS co-ordinator (Gemma Pearce) and faxed, G.A.T.E.WAYS let the school know which children have confirmed places and which ones are on waiting lists. This information is then relayed to parents. Those children with confirmed places will receive a Confirmation Slip and Application Form (to be sent with payment to G.A.T.E.WAYS).

Any questions of queries, please contact Gemma Pearce.

Library News
Welcome back to another exciting year at Greensborough Primary School. We have been back at school two weeks now and all the children have visited the library for lessons and borrowing; apart from the Preps who begin borrowing this week.

Opening Hours – This year I am at school on Wednesdays and Thursdays and as I do not have yard duty before or after school the library will be open from 8.45am – 9.00am on both days and after school on Wednesdays 3.30-3.45pm. Please feel free to drop in if you have the time. Children are always welcome.

Parent Helpers
Last year I had some wonderful parents who either helped with covering books at home or at school. If you would like to help cover books or assist in other ways in 2013, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you would like to assist in any way.

Class Borrowing - If there is a parent who would like to assist with their child’s class borrowing during their lesson or with any class lesson I would be very happy to train you. This allows me more opportunities to help children with selections. You do not need to stay for the entire hour. Please contact me through the office if you would like to help with library tasks.

I would like to extend an enormous thank you to Joan Robinson, my Monday helper who has returned, to shelve and tidy the library on a weekly basis.
**Library Bags**

It would be appreciated if all children in Grades Prep – Grade 4 have a named library bag to protect their library books. It is also a handy way of keeping track of the books when they bring them home. The bag can be fabric or strong plastic. I have spare bags at school if someone forgets their bag or requires one.

**Lost Books**

Unfortunately we had quite a few books that were damaged or not returned at the end of 2013. The school policy is that we request a 50% contribution towards the replacement of the book. If that is not received then the cost of the book is to be added to school accounts. I will be sending home notes to alert those parents whose children’s books were not returned in 2013.

**Lesson Days**

**Wednesday**

Both Grade 1/2s, Both Grade 5/6s and 3/4 Gibson/Storey

**Thursday**

3/4 Blake and Preps

*Jen Farley*

Librarian

*Happy Reading*

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**Grace Park Preschool** still has vacancies for the 4 year old program and 3 year old program.

3 year old program - 6 hours per week Tuesday and Friday morning 8.30 - 11.30
4 year old program - 15 hours per week - Monday 9.15 - 2.15, Wednesday 11.00 - 4.00 and Thursday 9.15 - 2.15

**Enrolment into the Subway Sounds Program**

Welcome back everyone. This is a quick reminder about the enrolling arrangement for the Subway Sounds Instrumental Program. If you are already enrolled you do not need to fill out a new enrolment form for the term, your child will simply continue in the program into term one. For any new students, I have been handing out forms during the first week of term, however if your child did not obtain a form there should be spare enrolment forms at the school office. I will accept new enrolments up until Friday the 14th of February for starting in term one this year.

Also the day on which lessons will take place has been changed. Lessons will no longer be on a Monday but instead be on Friday.

If your child has been part of the Subway Sounds Instrumental Music Program last year and, for what every reason, you wish your child to discontinue in the music program, please let me know in writing as soon as possible.

Thank you.

*Christian Duboudin* (Subway Sounds)
School Banking Day Reminder:
☑ Remember School Banking is every Tuesday.
☑ Remember to fill in your deposit slip and place money in the Velcro pocket. No minimum amount.

Schools receive $5 for every account activated through the School Banking program (i.e. for each student who banks through school for the first time). 5% of every deposit made at school (up to a maximum of $10 commission per individual deposit).

Tip….Place a reminder in your calendar, diary or phone for the night before to remember banking day

2014 Rewards

2014 reward items include a:

- Handball
- Scented Pencils
- Penguin and Dolphin Keyrings
- Whale Shark Pencil Case
- Tin Moneybox
- Swimming Bag
- Projector Cup
- Sea Streamers