**Borough Bulletin February 27th 2014**

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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**School Values**

Our recent focus on School, House and Student Wellbeing leadership positions for our Grade Six students has led us to reflect on how our students demonstrate our school values:

**Cooperation, Achievement, Respect and Empathy**

When students from Prep to Grade 6 receive a Pupil of the Week Award or a reward sticker in class or the playground, it is recognition that they have demonstrated our school values in many different ways. To further reinforce and celebrate our school values, our Publicity and Marketing Sub-Committee are investigating options to display our values on the main wall in the foyer above the students’ art work. If there are any signwriters in our community who would like to assist us in the design and provide a quotation please contact the office.
Evacuation Drill
Each term we practise one of our Emergency Management Drills to ensure we are all well prepared to act swiftly and automatically to an emergency situation. Last week we practised our evacuation drill and it was terrific to see each class calmly and quickly assemble on the oval and respond to their roll call. A special congratulations to the Prep children who took it all in their stride! In the following terms we will practise responding during a recess or lunch break and also rehearse situations where the safest option is to remain indoors. (I'm sure families will remember ‘Skippy’s visit’ two years ago when our Indoor Plan was put into effect until Animal Rescue arrived!)

Exciting News for Interactive Classroom Whiteboards
Classroom interactive boards are essential tools for teachers and students, especially with the emphasis on visual literacy and eLearning in the new Australian Curriculum. We are very pleased to announce an Interactive board will be installed on the wall in Ms Pearce’s Grade 5/6 classroom later this term!
This is exciting news not just for Grade 5/6 B, but also for our Prep class who will now have our fantastic mobile interactive touch screen for use in their room. This screen is a perfect height for our Preps and is enabled by the students’ fingers, not the pens our other screens require, that can be difficult for younger students to master. The mobile nature of the board will allow great flexibility for use in the large teaching and learning areas of the Prep classroom.

Music/Japanese
We look forward to the resumption of Heather McLaughlin’s Music and Japanese program next Tuesday March 4th. Heather’s program has changed days, so each grade will have a lesson with Heather on Tuesdays.

Swimming Carnival results
On Monday our swimming team competed at the Watsonia District Swimming Carnival at Watermarc. All students participated with great endeavour, sportsmanship and enthusiasm and we congratulate Ashley, Ala, Molly, Amy, Jordan, Ania and Immogen, who will go on to compete at the Division Swimming Carnival at the Northcote Aquatic Centre on March 4th.
Many thanks to staff for their great assistance in making the swimming trials and competitions a success and to the many parent volunteers who also gave of their time so generously.

SEDA Student
A very warm welcome to SEDA student, Alex Meriweather who is completing a placement assisting our Physical Education teacher Patrick McVeigh on Thursdays. SEDA is an education provider that offers a hands on style of education and training for year 11 and 12 students who are interested in a career in the Sports & Recreation industry.

School Captains’ Leadership Day
Last Monday, our School Captains, Nina and Jasper joined with 5000 other young leaders at the Melbourne Convention Centre to participate in the National Young Leaders Day. This is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The students were addressed by John Marsden, Daniel Flynn and Jess Fox who discussed leadership and drew on their own experiences to provide motivation to our own young leaders! The website outlining the day can be found at http://www.halogen.org.au/event/melbourne-primary

Education Maintenance Allowance
A reminder that tomorrow, 28 February 2014, is the last day for returning EMA application forms to the office. The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

Angela Morritt
Principal
Assistant Principal’s Report
Buildings and Grounds
At the end of last year the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee scheduled a range of Planned Maintenance tasks to enhance the buildings and facilities at the school this year. Approximately $25,000 was set aside to complete the following works in 2014:

- Floating timber floor over vinyl in hall area where Phys-Ed store used to be
- Line hall walls with timber veneer in area where Phys-Ed store used to be
- Put reflective film on high windows in hall
- Prep carpet to be replaced
- Door closures to be replaced
- Purchase and installation of water tanks
- Paint indoor toilets and replace mirrors. Soap dispensers for children’s toilets. Replace cisterns and pan seals.
- Scheduled painting of classrooms
- New gate on corner of The Circuit and Grimshaw St
- Access gate near outdoor learning area to be increased in size
- Cricket net refurbishment.

Even though it is only February we have made excellent progress at completing these tasks however, at the last Buildings and Grounds meeting, discussion took place about how we would really like to completely refurbish the indoor student toilets. Apart from the tasks already listed above this would involve pulling up the vinyl flooring, removing the small tiles underneath (which could be done with a working bee) and retiling the whole area (which would require a professional tiler). To have an idea if this is financially viable for us to do this year, we are now going to get some quotes to find out the costs involved. If anyone in the school community is a tiler or knows a tiler who could quote on this work it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office if you have a suggestion for quotes for tiling.

Finance
Thank you to all families who have paid their 2014 Subject Contribution. All student resources have been supplied, classroom storerooms have been stocked, fruit goes to each room on Friday, Yoga and Zumba have been booked for later in the year to mention just a few of the items /activities covered by this charge. In four weeks’ time (just prior to the end of term) we will be sending a statement home to school families with account balances at that time. As always we are very happy for families to pay accounts in regular instalments. If you have any difficulties with accounts or any charges for activities or events please contact Angela or myself.

School Uniform
We are conscious that our core business in schools is achieving academic outcomes and supporting children’s social and emotional wellbeing. As such, we don’t like to expend too much time on enforcing the school’s uniform code. However, we are also conscious that if we don’t have certain standards and expectations and enforce these, then pretty quickly the wearing of uniform becomes haphazard across the school and impossible to maintain. To this end we would like to remind families of a few issues associated with the wearing of the correct uniform.

- If stockings or leggings are to be worn they must be plain grey, black or bottle green with no patterns, lace or attachments.
- Non-school jumpers cannot be worn and students arriving in them will be given an alternate school jumper to wear during the day
- In winter the school trousers are the grey pants or green tracksuit pant (not jeans).

We would like to thank all those families who support us with children wearing the correct uniform to school and, in future, when incorrect items are worn to school, a short note will be sent home to remind families of the uniform code.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal
## Pupil of the Week

### Term One ~ Week Ending February 14th 2014

| Grade 1/2 A ~ | Caeley ~ | For being a co-operative member of 1/2 Awesome. |
| Grade 1/2 B ~ | Olivia N ~ | For always being kind and considerate of others and always starting your work quickly. |
| Grade 3/4 A | Isaac ~ | For consistently giving 100% to all aspects of his school and being a kind and thoughtful class member. |
| Grade 3/4 B ~ | Jack H ~ | For achieving great results in Maths and settling into the class so well. |
| Grade 5/6 A ~ | Barbara & Eliza ~ | For always being helpful, trustworthy and doing their best work! |
| Grade 5/6 B ~ | Stephen L ~ | For his co-operation during group speaking activities. Your role play was great. |
| O.S.H.C. ~ | Paris N ~ | For always being a great friend to others. |
| Library | Jess P Jack S | For being absolutely wonderful helping Mrs Farley in the library with the Preps. |
| P E | Ashley H | For his fantastic throwing and catching skills. |

### Term One ~ Week Ending February 21st 2014

| Prep ~ | Oliver ~ | For being an excellent, respectful listener. What a fabulous example you are Ollie!! |
| Grade 1/2 A ~ | Esther ~ | For being a caring and co-operative member of the school community. |
| Grade 1/2 B ~ | Sam P. ~ | For always being a happy and positive part of our class and always doing what you know is right. |
| Grade 3/4 A | Ashley ~ | For her constant effort and co-operation during all class activities and placing so much work in her presentation. |
| Grade 3/4 B ~ | Tyson ~ | Congratulations on a great JSC speech which showed your kind nature in caring for others. |
| Grade 5/6 A ~ | Nina ~ | For taking her leadership responsibilities beyond the school grounds. Your Mum is very impressed as am I. Keep it up! |
| Grade 5/6 B ~ | Grace ~ | For being so enthusiastic about school. She chooses to be here rather than a family holiday. What a star! |
| O.S.H.C. ~ | Ermis ~ | For his excellent effort during active sports. Well done.! |
| Art | Magnus | For doing an excellent job with his own artwork. Well done Magnus! |
| Library | Francis | For putting in a great effort during Library lessons. Well done! |
STUDENT WELFARE WITH EMMA BEVAN

Well it has been a great start to Term 1 with our Wellbeing Leaders announced and Bounce Back well underway.

Free parenting seminar at GPS! – “Total Time Freedom”

Some of you may have noticed flyers around the school advertising a free parenting seminar that is going to take place on 17th March at 7.30 pm. Debbie Rossi is a mother of four and runs a successful Kinesiology business. She is really passionate about helping other parents find strategies that help them feel calmer, less out of control and to feel like they have more energy for themselves, as well as their families. I went to this seminar last year, found it really useful, and asked Debbie if she would offer it to GPS parents. Fortunately she said yes! There are brochures up around the school and you can register to attend at the front office. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bounce Back

In the Bounce Back program students up to Grade 3 learn the ‘Bounce’ acronym, whereas beyond Grade 3, students learn the ‘Bounce Back’ acronym. Over the last two weeks I have had one session with all children from Grades 1 to 6

The Grade 1/2’s started learning the ‘Bounce’ Acronym and that ‘Bad feelings always go away again’, just like bad moods and bad days. We talked about how everybody has good days and bad days. The students did some wonderful drawings that are currently on display near the front office.

The Grade 3/4’s looked at how we can bounce back from challenges. We talked about how nature bounces back and how are bodies bounce back after illness. Looking at ‘B’ from the ‘Bounce Back’ acronym, the students considered how ‘Bad times don’t last. Things always get better. Stay optimistic.’ A couple of students did some fantastic role plays to show each other the difference between being optimistic and pessimistic. They were very entertaining!

This term the Grade 5/6’s are exploring the nature of courage and stepping out of your comfort zone. The students had some great examples of how some of them had already had to step out of their comfort zones and into leadership positions in the school.

(*Please note Grade 3/4 and 5/6 parents a copy of the ‘Bounce Back’ acronym is attached to the back of this newsletter)

In the meantime take care and hope to see you there on the 17th March!

Emma

Clean up Australia Day

Greensborough Primary School will be participating in this year’s Clean-up Australia Day on the 28th of February between 12:15 and 1:30 by assisting the community with tidying up recreational areas within our district. The Grade 3/4’s will be walking down to Whatmough Park and Kalparin Lake and cleaning around the wetlands and duck pond under the supervision of Mr Blake and Mr McVeigh. The Grade 5/6’s will be walking to the War Memorial Oval and cleaning up under the supervision of Miss Pearce and Mr Hitch. Please contact teachers if you are able to assist on the day.

Chess Club

Christian from Subway Sounds is starting A Chess Club here at Greensborough Primary School. This will take place on Fridays at mid lunch-time. All children who have an understanding of the game as well as those who are interested in learning chess from scratch are welcome to come along and have a go. There are a small number of complete sets of chess pieces at the school but donations of chess sets from school families will be greatly appreciated.
Interschool Sports Report

On the 14th February the teams played Watsonia North at home.

Bat Tennis Boys
Unfortunately we lost but we had a great and fair game.
Captain: Jasper

Bat Tennis Girls
Nicole played her first singles match and everyone else played really well. We did lose but we had a fair game.
Captain: Eliza

Basketball Boys
I saw some really good teamwork and sportsmanship and great passing. The scores were 4 to 48 and everyone had a good game.
Captain: Jakob

Basketball Girls
I shot 1 goal and Millie shot 1. We all played very well but we lost the game. Emily went really well and tried to shoot a goal but missed by a little bit. There were some tough players on the other team. The final score was 6 to 77 their way. We all had a great time playing.
Captain: Britney.

Rounders
Greensborough played extremely well and our catching and throwing skills were the best they have been. Watsonia North played amazingly and they were very well organised, sadly so organised that they won.
The highlight was when Jess caught some one out and our runs were all very well done.
Captain: Jessica

Parents and friends
Thank you to all school families who have supported Book Club in term 1, together you have helped the school earn $170 of free books. Additionally a big thank you to the Brain family who donated money towards book purchases.

Twilight Sports
Thank you to people who have volunteered to help on the day, Tuesday March 4th. We are still in need of some more volunteers so if you can lend a hand it would be much appreciated.
Come and join our
GPS Giant Dragon!

As part of our extension program, a group of Grade 4 to 6 students is busy on Thursday mornings creating our Giant Dragon for the Arty Farty Festival Grand Parade.

In regular Art sessions, all other students in the school are creating masks, puppets, flags and kites and are encouraged to attend with their families on the day of the parade. Could all children and adults who are taking part in the parade please wear a plain red top with black pants.

Marching down Burgundy Street to Sills Bend, the Grand Parade is a chance for everyone to come together and celebrate creativity, community and childhood! In 2013 the parade attracted over 800 people and 35 groups from the community, including schools, local arts groups, sporting clubs and organisations.

**Date:** Sunday 23 March, 2014

**Time:** The parade begins at 10:00am. **Assembly at 9am.**

**Where:** From Mount St. Heidelberg, down Burgundy Street to Sills Bend on the Yarra River

**Dress:** Plain red top and black pants

**Access:** The parade route is fully accessible by car and is also accessible by foot, wheelchair and mobility aids. Participants should be aware that the entire route is approx. 2.5kms and the morning of the parade will involve extended periods of time standing / waiting

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**Arty Farty Festival 2014**

**Sunday March 23rd**

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**Twilight Sports**

Tuesday the 4th of March is the Twilight Sports Night. Parents and students are invited to have a picnic on the oval and enjoy a few races and sporting events. A B.B.Q dinner will start at 5:00 and the races and activities will begin at 6:00. Please fill out the form below if you will be available to assist with the finishing line and scoring table.

Please come in House colours and there will be a prize for best dressed person in each house!

Regards Chris Blake, Erin Donaldson and Janet Troy.

Parent name............................................................................................................ Yes I can help

............................................................................................................ No I can not help

Students Name........................................................................................................
BOUNCE!
When you feel unhappy, you can BOUNCE back again and feel better.

Bad feelings always go away again.

Other people can help you feel better if you talk to them.

Unhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset. Think again.

Nobody is perfect. Mistakes help you learn.

Concentrate on the good things and have a laugh.

Everybody feels sad and worried sometimes, not just you.