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Borough Bulletin May 15th 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th May</td>
<td>ISS away V’s Watsonia Art for Tiny Tots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 19th May</td>
<td>Education Week Family Science Activities 9:30 to 11 All welcome Cross Country Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th May</td>
<td>Baker’s Delight Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22nd May</td>
<td>ISS Away V’s Norris Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23rd May</td>
<td>ISS Away V’s Streeton National Walk Safely to School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 30th May</td>
<td>ISS away V’s Watsonia Heights Art for Tiny Tots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 31st May</td>
<td>Trivia Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday June 4th</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th June</td>
<td>ISS home V’s St Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday June 9th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th June</td>
<td>Division Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th June</td>
<td>ISS Away V’s Bundoora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16th June</td>
<td>Gateways @ Duneira Estate School Council Meeting 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th June</td>
<td>Gateways @ Duneira Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th June</td>
<td>Northern Region Cross Country</td>
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</tbody>
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
We have had a terrific few weeks at school with the wonderful Grade 3-6 Camp, the fantastic outcomes in Grade 1/2 Writing, the community engagement in the Prep High Tea, the calm focus with Naplan assessments and the ongoing improvements to Buildings and Grounds.

Grade 3-6 Camp
First of all a huge ‘Thank-You’ to the staff for their extraordinary efforts in planning and running the school camp. The amount of work that goes into ensuring that every detail of transport, food, activities, medication, supervision and communication has to be seen to be believed, not to mention the twenty-four hour a day commitment whilst on camp. A particular thanks to Gemma who led the team in such a capable, thorough manner. A special thank you MUST also go to the parent volunteers, Steve Siedi, Andrew Sinclair and Erin Buckton who also worked around the clock to provide additional support for the activities and adventures on camp. Special thanks also to Maddie Pearce (Gemma’s sister) who kindly volunteered her time to assist on camp and Alicia, the pre-service teacher from the Grade3/4 area. Even though we had all these fantastic adults helping, the camp wouldn’t have been the success it was without the cooperation, energy and enthusiasm of all of the students. I have heard nothing but high praise for all students who attended and the slide show we saw at assembly last Monday certainly told the story of the wonderful time had by all.

Naplan
Naplan assessments have been conducted this week in a calm, no fuss manner. We view Naplan as one more source of information and data and work as hard as we can to make this a stress free learning experience for students. When the results are available later in the year they will be forwarded to the Grade 3 & 5 families concerned.
Magic Maths
We are delighted with the outcomes we are already seeing from the Magic Maths program. The direct, targeted nature of the curriculum delivery in this program is assisting students to sequentially build up their mathematical skills and understandings. At last Monday’s assembly Abhi B and Chloe T both received Magic Maths certificates for their application, enjoyment and achievement in class sessions.

Education Week
While next week is the official State Education Week we actually consider every week at school to be Education Week however, to acknowledge the significance of this week, we are having a Family Science morning (in line with this term’s Science focus in Integrated Studies) next Monday, 19th May, from 9.30 (after assembly) to 11.00. Please see if any family members are able to come along and be part of a scientific journey with the students in the school. We will be providing tea, coffee and biscuits at 11.00 for any adults who attend and, at 11.30 after recess, we will resume our usual school day.

National Walk Safely to School Day.
Friday 23rd May is National Walk Safely to School Day. We will be celebrating this day by encouraging as many families as possible to leave the car at home and walk to school. If you have to drive a long way to get to GPS it might be possible to do a walk around the block at school instead to have an energetic start to the day. Upon arrival at school we will be providing a very simple breakfast of cereal and juice which will be set up on trestles on the netball court. In addition to a variety of regular cereals and milk we will have some gluten free options and soy milk however, if your child’s dietary needs go beyond this, you can either let us know what we can provide or send your preferred cereal and milk along on the day. On the day before National Walk Safely to School Day we will send home with each student a yellow balloon to tie on to their school bag and a Walk to School Sticker to wear on their jumper.

Head Lice
Cases of Head Lice are again being reported to the school. This is also happening at other local schools so it may be something seasonal as we have had a reasonably good run recently. A copy of the Department of Health guidelines for managing Head Lice is going home with this newsletter. Head Lice are annoying, frustrating and time consuming but unfortunately there is no quick fix or easy answer. Vigilant checking of children’s hair, the removal of eggs and monitoring for return of activity are the way to manage this pesky problem. If your child comes home with Head Lice, they need to be treated before they can return to school and we ask that you please let the office know so we can follow up with notes to the other students in the same grade so families can be particularly vigilant with their checking.

Buildings and Grounds
We hope everyone is noticing and appreciating the ongoing improvements to the school’s Buildings and Grounds. Next week the soil for the three terraced garden beds will be delivered. The excavation work for the cricket net area has continued and hessian has been hung on display boards along the corridors to provide a colourful, resilient background for displays of student work. The Publicity and Marketing subcommittee is working on having a large panoramic photo of the school buildings erected on the Grimshaw St boundary fence and, this Sunday, the Corrections Crew will be coming to the school to move soil and mulch and generally tidy and beautify the school grounds. Our students and their families are very fortunate to have such well looked after, open outdoor spaces to enjoy and we hope everyone continues to appreciate this aspect of the school.

Student Accounts
Last week accounts for costs incurred by students for items such as booklist purchases, camps, excursions etc were sent home. All items on students’ accounts are the responsibility of families to pay and we are very appreciative of the number of families who have made prompt payment of these accounts. As always, if you would like to pay for any costs by instalments, the school is very happy to facilitate this. Please ask either Les or Christina for their assistance if you would like to pay for camps etc. by instalments.
Thanks
Many thanks to the hard working band of volunteers who are gathering together such sensational prizes for the Trivia Night on May 31st. It is sure to be a great night at the new Bundoora venue chosen for this year’s event and I hope everyone is gathering together a group of family and friends to come on the night.
Thanks also to Marita for sourcing some fantastic magazine packs for the prep students.
We’re looking forward to a continued calm and focussed Term Two and would like to thank the community for their ongoing support.

Margaret Hirth
Acting Principal

Pupil of the Week

Term Two~ Week 2 Ending May 2nd 2014
Prep ~ Ben ~ For making wonderful and powerful decisions at school. He is our Mr Brave.
Grade 1/2 A Francisco~ For showing a great improvement in his writing. Well done on using sentence boundaries correctly.
Grade1/2 B Ana For her fantastic efforts in Maths this week and listening so well during class time.
Grade 3/4 A Orlando For his excellent efforts during writing sessions. Orlando has worked hard to improve the length and presentation of his writing.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Sarah~ For an amazing writing session last week. You wrote a perfectly structured Persuasive Text.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Brianna ~ For For 2 big reasons –the giant improvement in her sustained writing and for putting her hand up so much more in class.
O.S.H.C. ~ Jack ~ For an amazing effort with your craft and having a fantastic attitude towards others. Well done!
Library~ Preps~ For being such magnificent students during library. They are such good workers who always try their best. Well done!
P. E. Liam S For being a great sport and always playing fairly.
Student Wellbeing Isabelle G For all the time and effort she put into making cards for The Friendship Tree. Thank you Isabelle.

Term Two~ Week 3 Ending May 9th 2014
Prep ~ Adam S ~ For an enormous effort in learning to read. What an achievement Adam!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Christian~ For his excellent effort in his writing, especially during Big Write.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Luke A~ For being extremely supportive of other class members and always lending a helping hand.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Amberlie

For being extremely brave and walking to the top of Hanging Rock on the last day of camp. Well done Amberlie.

Grade 3/4 B ~ Aaron R

For being such a considerate and happy camper at Weekaway. Well done Aaron!

Grade 5/6 A ~ Ariel

For being the perfect camper, you showed fantastic leadership skills and wonderful manners.

Grade 5/6 B ~ Immogen S

For being a strong independent camper who showed wonderful leadership and teamwork skills.

O.S.H.C. ~ Ala

For having a great attitude towards others. Well done!

Student Wellbeing ~ Scarlett

For all the time, care and effort she put into making a poster for the Meditation Group.

STUDENT WELFARE WITH EMMA BEVAN

The Friendship Tree
This week we started The Friendship Tree with our Grade 6 Wellbeing Leaders offering friendship and support to other GPS students. We have had a fantastic start with many visits to the tree from younger students in the school. If your child sometimes feels lonely or just doesn’t have anyone to play with, please encourage them to come to the tree. The Wellbeing Leaders are there at both recess and lunchtime reading stories, chatting to other students or playing games like charades.

Bounce Back
This term the 1/2’s have started learning about emotions. We have talked about many different feelings and this last two weeks talked about fear and worry, as well as the ways we can help ourselves calm down from feeling frightened and worried. I have made a “Worry Box” for both classrooms, so that if a student has a worry and can’t concentrate on their work, they can write down their worry, put it in the box and let it go for the rest of the day.

The Grade 3/4’s are learning ‘E’ from the Bounce Back Acronym, which stands for ‘Everybody experiences sadness, hurt, failure, rejection and setbacks.’ We talked about how these experiences, although not pleasant, are a normal part of life, and that everybody goes through them.

Our 5/6’s are exploring the value of ‘Respect’, and in particular good manners versus bad manners. We talked about why having good manners is part of being respectful and self-respecting. The children watched and laughed as Miss Pearce completed a role play where she had to demonstrate really bad manners in a job interview!

Counselling
Remember everyone that we now have Joanne Terkel, a registered psychologist, coming into the school every Wednesday to offer the GPS students counselling if needed. Students can receive up to 10 free sessions of counselling per year. So if you think your child may be struggling at the moment or just need someone to talk to please contact myself, Angela Morritt or Margaret Hirth to get things started.

I am not sure whether it is just me, but lately I have come across quite a large number of children who are dealing with death and loss. During these times parents are often overwhelmed themselves and/or do not know how to help their child cope with the inevitability of death and loss in life. I came across this article which explains how children cope with death at each developmental stage, and thought it might be helpful.

Helping your child deal with death
When a loved one dies, it can be difficult to know how to help kids cope with the loss, particularly as you work through your own grief. How much kids can understand about death depends largely on their age, life experiences, and personality. But there are a few important points to remember in all cases.
Explaining Death in a Child's Terms

Be honest with kids and encourage questions. This can be hard because you may not have all of the answers. But it's important to create an atmosphere of comfort and openness, and send the message that there's no one right or wrong way to feel. You might also share any spiritual beliefs you have about death.

A child's capacity to understand death — and your approach to discussing it — will vary according to the child's age. Each child is unique, but here are some rough guidelines to keep in mind.

Until kids are about 5 or 6 years old, their view of the world is very literal. So explain the death in basic and concrete terms. If the loved one was ill or elderly, for example, you might explain that the person's body wasn't working anymore and the doctors couldn't fix it. If someone dies suddenly, like in an accident, you might explain what happened — that because of this very sad event, the person's body stopped working. You may have to explain that "dying" or "dead" means that the body stopped working.

Kids this young often have a hard time understanding that all people and living things eventually die, and that it is final and they won't come back. So even after you've explained this, kids may continue to ask where the loved one is or when the person is returning. As frustrating as this can be, continue to calmly reiterate that the person has died and can't come back.

Avoid using euphemisms, such as telling kids that the loved one "went away" or "went to sleep" or even that your family "lost" the person. Because young kids think so literally, such phrases might inadvertently make them afraid to go to sleep or fearful whenever someone goes away.

Also remember that kids' questions may sound much deeper than they actually are. For example, a 5-year-old who asks where someone who died is now probably isn't asking whether there's an afterlife. Rather, kids might be satisfied hearing that someone who died is now in the cemetery. This may also be a time to share your beliefs about an afterlife or heaven if that is part of your belief system.

Kids from the ages of about 6 to 10 start to grasp the finality of death, even if they don't understand that it will happen to every living thing one day. A 9-year-old might think, for example, that by behaving or making a wish, grandma won't die. Often, kids this age personify death and think of it as the "boogeyman" or a ghost or a skeleton. They deal best with death when given accurate, simple, clear, and honest explanations about what happened.

As kids mature into teens, they start to understand that every human being eventually dies, regardless of grades, behavior, wishes, or anything they try to do.

As your teen's understanding about death evolves, questions may naturally come up about mortality and vulnerability. For example, if your 16-year-old's friend dies in a car accident, your teen might be reluctant to get behind the wheel or even ride in a car for a while. The best way to respond is to empathize about how frightening and sad this accident was. It's also a good time to remind your teen about ways to stay safe and healthy, like never getting in a car with a driver who has been drinking and always wearing a seatbelt.

Teens also tend to search more for meaning in the death of someone close to them. A teen who asks why someone had to die probably isn't looking for literal answers, but starting to explore the idea of the meaning of life. Teens also tend to experience some guilt, particularly if one of their peers died. Whatever your teen is experiencing, the best thing you can do is to encourage the expression and sharing of grief.

And if you need help, many resources — from books to counselors to community organizations — can provide guidance. Your efforts will go a long way in helping your child get through this difficult time — and through the inevitable losses and tough times that come later in life.

Mourning the Loss

Is it right to take kids to funerals? It's up to you and your child. It's appropriate to let kids take part in any mourning ritual — if they want to. First explain what happens at a funeral or memorial and give kids the choice of whether to go.

What do you tell a young child about the funeral? You may want to explain that the body of the person who died is going to be in a casket, and that the person won't be able to talk or see or hear anything. Explain that others may speak about the person who died and that some mourners may be crying.

Share any spiritual beliefs you have about death and explain the meaning of the mourning rituals that you and your family will observe.
If you think your own grief might prevent you from helping your child at this difficult time, ask a friend or family member to care for and focus on your child during the service. Choose someone you both like and trust who won't mind leaving the funeral if your child wants to go.

Many parents worry about letting their kids witness their own grief, pain, and tears about a death. Don't — allowing your child to see your pain shows that crying is a natural reaction to emotional pain and loss. And it can make kids more comfortable sharing their feelings. But it's also important to convey that no matter how sad you may feel, you'll still be able to care for your family and make your child feel safe.

**Getting More Help**
As kids learn how to deal with death, they need space, understanding, and patience to grieve in their own way. They might not show grief as an adult would. A young child might not cry or might react to the news by acting out or becoming hyperactive. A teen might act annoyed and might feel more comfortable confiding in peers. Whatever their reaction, don't take it personally. Remember that learning how to deal with grief is like coping with other physical, mental, and emotional tasks — it's a process.

Nevertheless, watch for any signs that kids need help coping with a loss. If a child's behavior changes radically — for example, a gregarious and easygoing child becomes angry, withdrawn, or extremely anxious; or goes from having straight A's to D's in school — seek help. A doctor, school guidance counselor, or mental health organization can provide assistance and recommendations. Also look for books, websites, support groups, and other resources that help people manage grief. Parents can't always shield kids from sadness and losses. But helping them learn to cope with them builds emotional resources they can rely on throughout life.

Written by D’Arcy Lyness, PhD from KidsHealth.org

Take care everyone

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**Emma.**

**Parents and Friends**

A reminder that next Tuesday is Baker’s Delight Lunch Day and orders will be placed with the baker on Friday morning.

A big thank you to Kim Hill for her work in organising the day.

A reminder that our Trivia Night is on Saturday 31st May. There is a list in the foyer for people to list their names if they wish to make up a table group for the night.

Below is a list of businesses who have very generously made donations of goods and services in support of the night. We would like to thank them for their support.

<table>
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<th>Adina Ski Hire, Bright</th>
<th>Latrobe Golf Park</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amcal Tom Lane Pharmacy</td>
<td>Lower Plenty Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autobarn, Eltham</td>
<td>Officeworks, Bundoora</td>
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<td>BIG4 Holiday Park, Bellarine</td>
<td>Oz Ten Pin Bowling</td>
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<td>Boynton’s Feathertop Winery, Porepunkah</td>
<td>Puffing Billy</td>
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<td>Bright Alps Guest House &amp; Cottages</td>
<td>Rare Bears</td>
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<td>Brazilian Butterfly</td>
<td>Rebel Sport, Greensborough</td>
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<td>Bright Brewery</td>
<td>Skaterz</td>
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<td>Bright Chocolate Bean to Bar</td>
<td>Simone Pérèle</td>
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<td>Bunnings, Eltham</td>
<td>Sole e Luna, Bright</td>
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<td>Dan Murphy’s, Eltham</td>
<td>Sovereign Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diamond Valley Dance Academy</td>
<td>Step Into Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Housekeeping</td>
<td>The Star Hotel, Bright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granny’s Pantry, Harrietville</td>
<td>The Sweet Retreat, Bright</td>
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<td>Greensborough Hotel</td>
<td>The Tennis Guru</td>
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<td>Greensborough Picture Shop</td>
<td>Van Dyk’s Swimming Academy</td>
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<td>Greensborough Plaza</td>
<td>Xiang Hair Greensborough</td>
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<td>Greensborough RSL</td>
<td>Yarrambat Park Golf Course</td>
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<td>Hair 4 Kids, Watsonia</td>
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Art for Tiny Tots

On Friday 2nd May we had a wonderful morning meeting new and some old friends, as well as doing lots of **drawing** with lots of new media except pencils! Some of us drew with sparkly metallic textas, some of us made the prettiest rainbows with dot markers, many of us made a giant life sized pictures of our selves and some of us tried drawing with chalk too! What a lovely morning completed by a feast of Fairy Bread, Fruit and Yogurt! Yum! Hope to see you at Tiny Tots on Friday 16th at 9.30am when we will explore the Art area of Collage or cut and paste!!!
Many thanks.
Michelle

Step into Life

At Step into Life we’re convinced that the key to a happier, healthier lifestyle is regular exercise. We have a huge variety at Step into Life, which means it is always interesting and you are constantly working your whole body.

The empowering outdoor cardio and strength session combining boxing, kicking and self-defence techniques. Punch, kick and jab your way through a fun and highly motivating session that will calorie burn, build strength and leave you with a healthy sense of achievement – no previous experience required. Available 9:15am Wednesday mornings.
Mat Nelson

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Billy Cart Action

Do you have a billy cart? Do you know someone with a Billy cart? Well here is your opportunity to test drive it on a closed road. Join us and wear your racing gear (BYO helmet and padding) to win one of our great prizes. Following our Billy cart workshop, we are giving the participants an opportunity to test drive their new Billy Cart so come along and join in the Fun!

**When:** 25th May 2014  
**Where:** Yando Street, Greensborough  
**Time:** 10.30 – 1pm  
**Cost:** Free

For further details please visit our website [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au) or call 9490 4222  
Free events but bookings are essential.  
Refreshments provided.
Greensborough Primary School’s

Trivia Night

When: Saturday May 31st 2014
Time: 7pm for 7:30 start
Place: Bundoora Community Hall
20 Noorong Ave, Bundoora (turn at Dairy Bell on Grimshaw St)

This evening of fun will be our major fundraising event for the year, and a great opportunity to socialise with school families. There will be lots of games with **great prizes, a raffle, a silent auction and a door prize**. Bring lots of spare change (gold coins) and cash to buy auction items (credit card facilities available on the night, but not EFTPOS). All **profits from the Trivia Night will go to purchasing new IT equipment for the school**. You can either organise your own tables of 8-10 people, or Parents & Friends Group can put you on a table with other families from your child’s class. There will be a board in the office foyer where you can put your name down on a table, **BYO nibbles and drinks**. There will be a **points bonus for the best dressed table**, so BYO tablecloth, centrepiece and anything else you can think of! Choose a theme, make paper chains, or pick a colour – it’s up to you to be creative!!

**Trivia Night Ticket Order Form (return with payment please by Wed 28th May)**

Parent’s Name:________________________________________ Child’s Class:__________

I would like to book ________ tickets at $10 per person. Total cost enclosed: ________________

Payment Method [ ] Cash or [ ] Cheque or [ ] Credit Card

**Credit Card Payments**

 [ ] VISA card [ ] MasterCard

Card Number: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ Expiry Date: ___ / ___

3 digit security number ___ ___ ___

Card Holders Name: __________________________________________ Amount: $________

Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

Please put me on the same table as (name) __________________________________________

OR Please put me on a table with other parents from my child’s class (tick) [ ]

(OPTIONAL) I can help out with: Setting up [ ] Packing up [ ]

Phone number: ________________________________ .... Thank you!