PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Thankyou to all the parents and caregivers who attended Parent/Teacher interviews last night. This was a good opportunity to discuss semester one results and set new goals for semester two. Staff have already begun planning for next term’s units of work and many have arranged to meet during the holidays to finalise planning and ensure they are ready to begin the term.

Due to the high winds this week and our concern for students’ safety, the grades spent several recess and lunch breaks inside. We know everyone would have preferred to be outside running around and we appreciate their cooperation to play appropriate games inside. Several branches did fall during the winds and the gutters that Doug cleared last week are no doubt filling up again!

Family Fun & Fitness Morning
A reminder that family members are welcome to join us tomorrow morning on the netball court at 9.10 - 10.50 for a fun filled morning of games and fitness. This is a great way to end the term and Matt from Step Into Life has planned a tabloid of activities to keep us engaged. Students from different grades will be grouped together and we hope many family members join us. Don’t worry if you don’t want to work up a sweat, as we need people to turn the ropes and cheer the teams!

Friendship Tree
If you haven’t had a chance to see the Friendship Tree recently, pop down and have a look at the wonderful makeover the Healey family have given the tree. They worked tirelessly over the weekend to lay artificial turf and adorn the tree with wonderful decorations. There are further plans afoot to plant a sensory garden and lay pavers which our Grade 6 students will decorate as their legacy to GPS. Under Emma’s guidance our Student Wellbeing Leaders are being great friends to the rest of the students and it’s lovely to walk past and see them reading stories, playing games or completing chalk drawings under the tree. Thanks again to Katie, Shane and Bill for enhancing this area.
Canteen
Thank you to Lisa Geraghty for her sensational effort in providing a canteen service at GPS. Lisa’s delicious homemade food will be sorely missed, although we totally understand that it was not economically viable to continue. We appreciate Lisa’s attempts to continue the service by cutting back to one day this year however the amount of orders placed were not sufficient to continue. Parents and Friends recognise that many students enjoy ordering a ‘special’ lunch and will be running several Baker’s Delight lunch days next term. All money raised will go towards our ICT purchases. School Council will investigate further options for the canteen and if anyone is interested in running the canteen or knows someone with all the necessary food handling requirements please contact the office.

School Council
Welcome to Leanne Connochie & Simone Baldwin who kindly volunteered to join School Council and fill the two vacant parent positions. A reminder that school council meets twice per term and sub-committees meet two weeks before SC meetings.

ICT Purchases
Thank you to everyone for supporting Parents and Friends fundraising efforts! Erin Donaldson is excitedly ‘wheeling and dealing’ to purchase as many ipads as we can with funds raised. Erin is sourcing a storage unit that will keep the ipads secure and also update them as they charge. There are several other costs involved, e.g. protective covers and tech time to connect ipads to our server, etc and Erin is working hard to finalise orders so students can begin using the ipads next term.

Thank you Chris!
Chris T. has been an outstanding long-serving volunteer at GPS and is an invaluable support assisting in class programs. This term we formalised this arrangement and employed Chris for two hours a week to work in the Prep classroom. Chris has indicated he has been very happy at GPS and grateful for the opportunities we gave him, however at the end of this term he is moving forwards in a new direction. We will miss Chris’s sense of humor and valuable assistance at school events and in class programs. We wish Chris all the best in his future endeavours and would welcome him back at any time.

Book Week Writing Competition: Poetry
Each year our Book Week Celebrations include a writing competition and students have previously written a picture story book that was judged by their peers. In recognition of the diverse talents of our students and to acknowledge that writing has many different forms, this year we have changed the genre to poetry. As in previous years, each class will judge the three best poems to be shortlisted and then the staff will vote. The winner will be announced at assembly. Next term Ms. Farley will provide us with more information about the exciting activities planned for Book Week.

Brain Food
Emma Bevan our Student Welfare worker raised the topic of Brain Food with our staff last week. It has been recognised through research that people regularly need food and water to maintain high level brain function. This has important implications for students in our school. “….brains run better on a “Nibbling diet”. Nibblers were shown to have better cognitive functioning, fewer discipline problems, lower cortisol levels, better glucose tolerance and better maintained insulin levels. (John Joseph – Focus Education “Food for Thought : The Critical Foundation for Brain Care”). Our teachers currently allow children to have a water bottle in class and they are keen to implement Brain Food as well. They will provide a mid-morning Brain Food time for students. (The time will be flexible due to the variety of activities in which students participate over any given week). Brain Food time is not a play break. It is a time when students are encouraged to eat small amounts of brain-healthy food that helps maintain the glucose supply to the brain. Parents/Caregivers are asked to support this initiative and provide children with healthy food options to eat at Brain Food time. It would be helpful if the food provided for this snack time is separate from what is provided for recess and lunch and appropriately stored (eg in a separate container). Appropriate Brain Foods are generally unprocessed and ensure a slow release of glucose rather
than a quick fix provided by high sugar/fat filled foods, which do not sustain the consistent glucose input the brain requires. 

Acceptable Brain Foods include:
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Fresh mushrooms
- Dried fruit (eg apricots, prunes, raisins and sultanas)
- Rice cakes
- Plain unsalted popcorn
- Seeds (eg sunflower, sesame, tahini, linseed and pepitas)
- Chick peas and other legumes
- Cheese sticks/cubes

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you everyone for a terrific term! A reminder that school finishes at 1.30pm tomorrow. I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and look forward to everyone returning reinvigorated on Monday 14th July.

Angela Morritt
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Buildings and Grounds

At the midway point of the year we have completed most of the 2014 planned maintenance tasks. These have included:

- Installing the timber floor and panelling in the hall
- Replacing carpet in the prep room
- Installing reflective film on the high windows in the hall.
- The replacement of ‘slow action’ door closures around the school
- Replacement of mirrors in the indoor student toilets
- The refurbishment of the cricket net area (half completed)
- Installation of lighting sensors in the art room, library and hall
- Replacement of all lighting tubes in art room, library and hall with energy efficient LED tubes
- The establishment of an account with a company to provide soap dispensers for all student toilets

In addition, there have been a host of ‘urgent works’ such as unblocking the sewer on numerous occasions, ongoing maintenance and repairs to the school’s air conditioning and heating units, replacement of weathered timber beading around windows around the school and the replacement of steps and landing in the fernery area.

We have also completed some additional projects which have enhanced the interior and exterior appearance of the school such as the tiered gardens in Horonda and Grimshaw Sts and the covering of all interior display boards with blue hessian.

We were fortunate to secure some funding a few years ago for additional grounds works such as mowing and the removal of garden waste however, the contractor, who in the past has always been extremely reliable, has not responded to all calls and messages since the Term One break (we had hoped to have some works completed over the Term One holidays). We are now in the process of being allocated a different service provider from the parent company and, hopefully, over the holidays we will have all lawns and nature strips mowed, the fence line cleared of grass and accumulated branches and leaf litter removed. Next term Wayne will be launching into the final stage of the cricket net refurbishment and we will continue with gathering quotes to continue the renovation of the indoor student toilets.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee always welcomes feedback and ideas for work around the school so, if there are any projects you would be keen to see us embark upon, please let a member of the B&G committee know. The committee is:

Wayne Robinson, Ros Murfet, Glen Geraghty, Lara Cowan, Angela Morritt and Margaret Hirth.
Finance
At the last Finance subcommittee meeting and School Council meeting, the issue of the non-payment of student accounts and the impact this was having on the school’s cash flow was discussed. Student accounts are for costs incurred specifically for the student concerned such as camp, excursions, uniform items and booklist items and, as such, as is set out in the Government’s Parent Payment Policy, are the parents’ responsibility for payment. This week current statements have been sent home to all families with outstanding accounts. As always, the school is very happy to facilitate payment in stages that work within your financial capacity and to provide any assistance that we can. Please, if you have any queries regarding the account sent home, could you please contact the office and Les, Christina, Angela or I will provide assistance.

Magic Maths
This week all students in grades one to six have completed maths assessments to measure their mathematical growth since the implementation of the Magic Maths program and, based upon this, to establish the Magic Maths groups for Term Three. In the first week of next term staff will analyse data and establish goals and actions plans for the second semester. Magic Maths will recommence in week two of Term Three and we are looking forward to the continuation of the success and achievement that we have seen this term.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal

Parents and Friends
The Bunning’s BBQ last Sunday raised $901.40. Thank you for organising to Marita, Ros and Tina and to the volunteers on the day Sylvia, Katrina, Karen, Ellena, Tim, Abbey, Kylie, Josie, Adriana and Lara. Also thanks to Mrs Morritt and Mrs Hirth for helping with the setting up and packing up. Next term Parents and Friends will be running three Baker’s Delight lunch days, a sausage sizzle and a Footy Pie Day as there will be no canteen operating. Orders will need to be at school on Tuesday so that food can be delivered on Friday. All profits will continue to go towards buying I- Pads for Junior School.
Fundraising for the first half of the year has raised close to $10,000 and the purchase of I Pads and storage facilities for them is in progress.

STUDENT WELFARE WITH EMMA BEVAN
The Friendship Tree
Well our Friendship Tree is now famous, pictured in The Age on the weekend! I am so proud of the Wellbeing Leaders and the fantastic job they continue to keep doing each week. I am also so pleased to see some of the younger students inviting each other to play, without any prompting from the Wellbeing Leaders. It seems that friendliness is catchy!

And a HUGE thank you to the Healy family for all of the time and effort they put into decorating the tree and surrounding garden over the weekend. We are so lucky at GPS to have so many amazing families who give their time, energy and resources to the school.

Bounce Back
Over the last two weeks the Grade 1/2’s have looked at different ways to calm themselves down. We talked about having a ‘Happy Place’ that we can go to if we need some time out. The students then did a drawing of their own ‘Happy Place’.

The Grade 3/4’s are up to the ‘A’ of the Bounce Back acronym, which stands for ‘Accept what can’t be changed, but try to change what you can first’. In this session the children brainstormed many things that we have to accept in life. We then considered that even though these things happen, we can do all sorts of things to help ourselves feel better.
Our 5/6’s are continuing their work on a ‘Friendliness Protocol’. The students have been brainstorming strategies to deal with unfriendly behaviour and are considering ways that friendly behaviour can be maintained over time.

**Parent Information Sessions**

**Bounce Back**
Next term on Monday 4th August there will be an information Session on the Bounce Back program for parents just after assembly. I will go over what the students have done this year, provide handouts and am happy to answer any questions that you may have about the program. Session will last for about 45 mins.

**School Readiness**
On Wednesday 30th July at 7:00pm I will be running a session on school readiness. This session is for both GPS and non GPS families who have children looking to start school soon. Often parents are undecided as to whether to hold their child back or start them at school. This session will be advertised to all the local kindergartens, so if you know anyone who might be interested please let them know. It is free and will run for 45 minutes.

Enjoy your holidays everyone,

*Emma.*

**Lost property**
A reminder to all parents that if your child has lost any uniform items (jacket, windcheater etc.) would you please encourage them to check to see if it is in Lost Property

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**Pupil of the Week**

**Term Two~ Week 7 Ending June 6th 2014**

- **Foundation ~ Isaac P ~** For an awesome week, learning all he can! Great concentrating Isaac! Clever thinking too!
- **Grade 1/2 A ~ Lucas~** For showing an outstanding improvement in his writing. Keep it up Superstar!
- **Grade 1/2 B ~ Alex~** For being a respectful and responsible class member.
- **Grade 3/4 A~ Grace~** For trying extra hard in Maths activities this week. Great work Grace!
- **Grade 3/4 B ~ Cooper~** For being such a hard worker in all that you do. You are achieving great results.
- **Student Wellbeing~ Matt R~** For all his help at the Friendship Tree.
- **Art~ Bridie~** For a brilliant achievement on her Bird Project. Fantastic work Bridie.
- **Library~ Jack S~** For being an excellent monitor during Library. Well done Jack!
- **P E~ Brad~** For his fantastic effort during PE lessons.
- **Music~ Oliver Prep~** For leading a group singing our “Ohayo” song. Great work!
- **Japanese~ Scarlett~** For making up a really long sentence in Japanese. Well done!
Term Two - Week 8 Ending June 13th 2014
Foundation ~ Ashley ~ For bright, new ideas she shares with us every day in Prep C! Awesome!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Colin ~ For trying hard in all areas of learning, especially during Corrective Reading.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Ben ~ For doing such a great job on your “Fish” report and for such positive behaviour this week!
Grade 3/4 A ~ Michael ~ For the great effort he has put into his learning this week.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Ala ~ For being such a thoughtful student in 3/4B. You help others to achieve. Well done!
Grade 5/6 B ~ Campbell ~ For his achievements in Literacy. His writing is outstanding and his reading results are impressive!
Student Wellbeing ~ Jordan C ~ For being so kind and mature at The Friendship Tree.
Library ~ Esther ~ For putting in a fantastic effort with her class work about spiders

Term Two - Week 9 Ending June 20th 2014
Foundation ~ Emma P ~ For very clever explaining all she knows about “Scales” in Maths this week.
Grade 1/2 A ~ Celeste and Evie ~ For an outstanding term. Well done girls!
Grade 1/2 B ~ Toby ~ For putting in such a great effort this week with your Big Write.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Isabelle ~ For excellent participation in Inter School Sports this week and a sensational effort in Reading Groups.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Harry ~ For being such a wonderful student and helping others when they need assistance.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Nic V ~ For showing excellent concentration on his work all week.
Student Wellbeing ~ Alice C ~ For being friendly and helpful to younger students at The Friendship Tree.
Library ~ Rachael and Rhymney ~ For producing an excellent response to the short storey “A Secret Place”. Well done!
Music ~ Sean Patrick ~ For a great job playing the bass part on the Marimba.
Japanese ~ Amelia ~ For always listening so well in class.