PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

This term we welcome several pre-service teachers who will be mentored by our staff and will also be a great support to our teaching and learning programs. Just as we have high expectations for our students and set goals for their learning, similarly staff also set high goals for themselves in their Performance Plans which have been finalised this week. To increase our Professional Knowledge of the AUSVELS curriculum areas and exemplary teaching approaches, staff engage in regular Professional Learning sessions. This week our Literacy coordinators Anne Loney, Jen Farley and Lyn Morris are running a session on ‘The Big Write,’ so we can further improve our students’ writing skills. Next week we will be working with colleagues from different schools in our network to moderate students’ writing samples and ensure we have consistent standards for marking students’ work.

We are very pleased that our school passed our regular scheduled asbestos audit this week. Approximately 80% of Victorian schools contain some form of asbestos and we are very fortunate at GPS that it is confined mainly to heating flues which are behind locked doors, some vinyl floor tiles and outside eaves. As part of the DEECD’s guidelines all government buildings now have to display labels on all external doors to inform contractors who may undertake work at the school. The feedback from the auditor was very positive about our adherence to DEECD guidelines and safe management procedures.
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service
Our school has been invited to attend the annual Vietnam Veterans’ Commemorative Service held at Greensborough Memorial Park this year on Saturday August 16th from 11.00am. This Service is held each year on the Saturday before what is known as Long Tan Day, 18th August, the official Vietnam Veterans’ Day and is on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, at which eighteen Australians paid the supreme sacrifice.

The service is not held to glorify war, but to honour the service of those that died and those that have since passed on and the Vietnam Veterans’ Association also see this as an opportunity to pass on some of our nation’s history to the youth of today.

Our School Captains and Vice Captains will represent Greensborough Primary School by attending the service at War Memorial park and laying a wreath, similar to the Anzac Day ceremony. If any families would like to join us, we will assemble behind our Greensborough Primary School banner at 10.50am at War Memorial Park. Students are asked to wear their school uniform.

2014 Parent Opinion Survey
On Monday the Parent Opinion Survey was sent home to thirty families randomly selected by our office CASES21 software system. Parent opinions are important to us and information provided is used to support future school planning and improvement. Responses are confidential and are sent unopened to the Education Department for collation. If your family received this survey, I urge you to return it by tomorrow Friday 1st August.

Student Wellbeing
Our Student Wellbeing Program is highly valued by our community and Colin in Grade 1/2A has come up with a great idea to not only enhance our Friendship Tree activities, but also to try to win prize money to purchase additional ipads and new sand equipment for our students to enjoy.

Colin has liaised with our Student Welfare Worker Emma, to enter the Woman’s Day ‘World’s Longest Bracelet’ Competition. Our Student Wellbeing Leaders will have looms and bands at the Friendship Tree each day and Mrs Troy is kindly lending us the looms from the Art Room so that students can work together and try to create the world’s longest rubber band bracelet and break a Guinness World Record. The competition closes 24th August and the winning school will receive $5000.

If any families would like to donate rubber bands or make lengths at home to add to the bracelet, that would be greatly appreciated.

Special Religious Instruction
Thank you to families who returned their forms for children to attend SRI by the due date, as this enabled us to process them and inform families of the result in this edition of the newsletter. Responses indicated that approximately 25% of our students would attend Special Religious Instruction if we were able to supervise all students in accordance with the new DEECD guidelines. After analysing numbers in each grade area and available staff, it has been decided that SRI will continue and be supervised by Mrs. Hirth and myself in the Library and Staffroom respectively, and class teachers will stay in their classrooms with remaining students. Grade Prep – Two will join together as one group in the Library from 2.55 – 3.25. Mrs Hirth will collect them from their classrooms and return them prior to the school bell. Grade 3/4 students will be in the staff room from 2.30 – 3.00, followed by Grade 5/6 from 3.00 – 3.30.

Greensborough Primary has a long history of being inclusive and respecting all members of our community and I am confident that the above arrangements will minimise disruptions to class programs and respond to the wishes of our school community. Students who do not attend SRI will continue to complete activities in class that consolidate their learning.

Ipads
Students are enjoying using our new ipads in their classroom programs and once we have finalised the Volume Purchasing Agreement with Apple, Ms Donaldson and Ms Molyneaux will be able to download new apps to enhance our Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Studies programs.
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
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.

If you have not lodged an EMA form at school this year and believe you may be eligible for the August instalment, please contact the office to obtain an application form and return by **Monday 4th August 2014**. Parents who received the first instalment EMA payment at school don’t need to lodge another EMA application form to receive the second instalment payment. For more information about the EMA, visit [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx)

Angela Morritt
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Buildings and Grounds
You will notice ongoing improvements around the school grounds which most recently have included planter boxes in front of the heritage building and repairs and improvements to security lighting. Our goals for the remainder of the year have been set and these include finishing the refurbishment of the cricket net area, widening the gate in Horonda St near the oval for access for trucks and emergency vehicles, continuing the refurbishment of the indoor student toilets with a focus on painting, installation of paper towel and air freshener dispensers and investigation of options to improve the appearance of the floor. We will also continue with the program of installing light sensors in the school buildings to assist us to reduce our electricity bills and we will complete a host of ‘behind the scenes’ maintenance tasks such as replacing tap washers and updating down pipes from guttering around the school. The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee work extremely hard to keep the school’s facilities in the best possible shape and we welcome any feedback or suggestions to assist us with this process.

I mentioned at assembly last Monday that it would be terrific if we could have a concerted effort to return the sand surrounding the large sandpit back into the sandpit. Many students have lent a hand to do this and we would like to thank all of them with an especially BIG thanks to Aidan B who was able to site manage the operation over a couple of lunch breaks and have the area looking sensational.

Student Accounts
Thank you very much to all those families who have either settled their accounts or set up payment plans to cover the cost of camps, excursions, booklist items etc. At the next School Council meeting we will be tabling all activities and events for the rest of the year for School Council approval and then put these up as charges in the school’s accounting system so families can have an accurate idea of the costs right through to December and can approach these in whatever way works best for them. These charges will include swimming for the whole school, sports costs for grade 4-6, excursion and incursion costs and graduation expenses for the Grade Six students. We hope having this information well in advance will assist families with their financial planning for the rest of the year.

Magic Maths
In Magic Maths we are having a focus on using money as a tool for counting, addition, subtraction and problem solving and for establishing understandings of the decimal system. Particularly in the junior grades it is fantastic to give your child a handful of money to count, to pay for items when shopping and to calculate change and saving goals. Thank you to those families who sent along bags of silver coins for use in maths session. These have been greatly appreciated and are being put to very good use.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal
**Premier's Reading Challenge**
As the Premier's Reading Challenge is finishing up at the end of August, I'd like to encourage all students to give it their best go and try to finish. If you are in grades Prep-2 you have to read at least 20 books, and if you are in grades 3-6 you have to read at least 10 books (which I'm sure you've already done!).

A special mention to the following students who have already finished the challenge: Bailey, Barbara, Naomi, Hannah, Aaron, Amelia, Joshua, Rachael and Ashley. Well done!

For extra notes and recording sheets see Miss Plesa in Room 6.

Happy Reading!

*Maria Plesa*

**Athletics**
Next Friday 8\(^{th}\) August, the students in Grades 3-6 will be travelling by bus to Willinda Park to participate in Athletic trials to select the team for the upcoming District Athletics Carnival. We will be leaving school at approximately 9.05am and returning by 1.00pm. This is a large event to organise and in the past we have been fortunate to have the assistance of parent volunteers. If you are able to come along and assist with supervising, scoring or judging events please let your child’s class teacher know. Parents can meet us at the track or there may be room available on the buses.

*Alison Gibson*

**Parents and Friends**

**Sausage Sizzle**
A reminder that our Sausage Sizzle Day is Friday 8\(^{th}\) August. So that we have time to order and collect the food we need orders to be returned to school by Monday 4\(^{th}\) August.

Have you liked our school Facebook page yet? Go to: https://www.facebook.com/GreensboroughPrimarySchool and click "like" to get updates from the school page.

**STUDENT WELFARE WITH EMMA BEVAN**

**Bounce Back**
The Grade 1/2s have continued exploring ‘Friendship’. This week we looked at the difference between letting people join in and excluding people. The students considered times when their friends had let them join in and how that made them feel. If parents want to follow this up at home we read a beautiful book called ‘John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat’ by Jenny Wagner. It is a great story about friendship and inclusion.

The Grade 3/4s are up to the ‘C’ of the Bounce Back acronym, which stands for ‘Catastrophising exaggerates your worries. Don’t believe the worst possible picture.’ In this session the children considered how sometimes it is easy to think that things are going to turn out terribly, but that they rarely actually do.

Our 5/6s are learning about how to deal with conflict. We talked about how disagreements are going to happen, but that there are good ways and bad ways of dealing with conflict. As we grow up and learn to relate to people, respectfully disagreeing is a useful skill. We had some very funny role plays as the students demonstrated the various ways of managing a disagreement.

**Parent Information Sessions**

**Bounce Back – Reminder – This coming Monday!**
Monday 4\(^{th}\) August there will be an information session on the Bounce Back program for parents just after assembly. This session will last for 45 minutes and will summarise what the children have learned so far this year. I can answer any questions you may have.

Take care

*Emma Bevan.*
Art News

Art Extension Group
This term the Grade 5/6 students in the Art Extension Group are continuing their work on the bollards for the garden that leads to the school office. These bollards will show four different child-like characters, each holding up one of the school values. As soon as this project is completed, students from Grade 3/4 will be selected for a new Art Extension project, followed by Grade 1/2 students in Term 4.

Exterior House Paint needed
For the above project, we need to use exterior house paint. If you have any water or oil-based paint you would like to donate, we would be grateful if you could leave it at Reception. The colours we need are anything except white or cream. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Term 3 Visual Arts Program
Our focus this term is on modelling and construction. We are developing new skills using clay, Play dough, Plasticine, ModelArt, Das and Magiclay, as well as doing some woodwork sessions towards the end of term.

Janet Troy
Art Teacher.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week at Greensborough Primary School
During the week Monday August 18th - Friday August 22nd we will be celebrating Book Week at G.P.S. Book Week is the week when the Children’s Book Council of Australia announces the winners for the best of Australian children’s literature that was published in 2013. I will be sending home a flyer with the newsletter on the 14th August outlining the events that will take place. There will also be a Trivia sheet for children to complete with the help of adults if you wish. There will be a prize of a $10 gift voucher for the winners to spend at the Book Fair. Winners will be announced the morning of the Book Parade. Encourage your children to have a go. All Trivia sheets can be placed in a box outside of the library. The box will be in place from Friday 16th August till Thursday 21st August. One of the activities is a Book Fair. We have booked a Book Fair that will run from the afternoon of Tuesday 19th August until the morning of Tuesday 26th August. This is a great way to purchase a book but also support the school as we raise money from the total of items sold. Our annual Book Parade will be on Friday 22nd August.
And of course we will be holding a Multi-Age day on Wednesday 20th August.
Connect to Reading is the theme for this year’s Book Week. With the wonderful assistance of Mrs Troy the Art teacher, we have put up a display outside the library. So next time you are walking past have a look.

Book Fair
PS. Volunteers needed!!! If you have 30 minutes spare to help at the Book Fair that would be fantastic. I require some helpers before and after school for about 30 minutes. It would be for about 30 minutes either before or after school from Tuesday 19th pm till Tuesday 26th August. Could you please send back the slip from the end of this newsletter, if you can assist.

Thanks

Jen Farley
Teacher Librarian
Pupil of the Week

Term Three~ Week 1 Ending July 18th 2014

Foundation ~ Will ~ Will is a thoughtful, patient, bright and happy classmate who is achieving wonderful things in his first year at school.
Grade 1/2 A ~ Alejandra ~ For an outstanding start at Greensborough Primary School.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Leo ~ For putting such a great effort into your class work this week and for being so positive.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Emmet ~ For the fantastic effort he has made to complete all of his class activities this week.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Zac ~ For his persistence and effort during High Jump trials! Amazing!
5/6 A ~ Alice ~ For displaying creativity and being inspirational in singing to the class, the song she wrote in writing.
5/6 B ~ Andy ~ For consistently contributing to class discussions and always putting his hand up.
Library ~ Oscar ~ For being a responsible, thoughtful and respectful worker.
PE ~ Jamal ~ For showing great determination in all sports.
Student Wellbeing ~ Ella ~ For all her hard work under The Friendship Tree.

Term Three~ Week 2 Ending July 25th 2014

Foundation ~ James ~ For a brilliant effort to show us all he knows when he is writing.
Grade 1/2 A ~ Ermis ~ For an outstanding effort when writing his colour poem. A great achievement!
Grade 1/2 B ~ Hudson ~ For a fantastic job on your colour poem.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Ami ~ For her outstanding effort in all areas of her school work and her positive attitude.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Anika ~ For being an enthusiastic reader.
5/6 A ~ Robert ~ For an exceptional start at Greensborough Primary School. We are learning a lot from you.
5/6 B ~ Annie ~ For showing maturity in managing herself independently with all her learning.
Library ~ Ashley ~ For being a fabulous helper for Mrs. Price.
Art ~ Michael ~ For a great effort with Pot Making skills in our Clay sessions.

I am able to assist at the Book Fair on the following morning or afternoon. Please circle the date you are available. I will send back a confirmation slip.

Name ..........................................................
Contact Number ..............................................

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