PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Many thanks to all the families who helped us shift 6 cubic meters of soil and 6 cubic meters of mulch last Wednesday afternoon to the newly tiered embankment between the oval and the path. This was a great effort and it was very satisfying to see the mounds of dirt and mulch getting smaller and the embankment looking more attractive. We are hoping Banyule Council can assist us with additional mulch to complete this area and then we will plant hardy grasses in the new year. Special thanks also to the students who worked tirelessly to help us complete this task: Alice, Ariel, Barbara, Hamish, Immogen, Lucy, Nina, Rachael and Rhymney. We are very grateful we have so many families and students who donate their time in so many different ways to support our school. We even had an ex-student, Anton B, who dropped in to book the hall and stayed to lend a hand for an hour and a half – an impressive indication of the calibre of past and present GPS students!
Yoga To Go
Students are enjoying the Yoga sessions and feedback from each class has been extremely positive. Yoga fits in with our Integrated Studies focus on health and wellbeing this term and several parents have asked how they can follow up these activities at home. Bryony, our yoga instructor, has included an article in our newsletter to provide parents with more information about the yoga sessions.

Student Support Groups
Notes were recently sent home to parents of children who have Student Support Group (SSG) meetings to arrange an appointment for this term. Thank you to the families who have returned notes indicating their availability or letting us know they do not require a meeting. We ask all families who would like a meeting to return their notes by Monday 24th November so we can finalise our SSG schedule.

Food Handling Certificates
Parents and Friends are keen to hear from any school family members who hold a Food Handling Certificate and would be able to assist at school events, e.g. barbeques on election days (November 29th), end of year picnic, etc. Barbeques are terrific fund raisers and it would be great to compile a list of parents, so we are not always relying on the same volunteers and we can raise funds to buy additional resources for our students.
If you have a Food Handling Certificate and would like to help out, please send your details to the office.

End Of Year Picnic
We are very happy that Parents and Friends have sucessfully fund-raised so we can have the Tea Billy Bush Band hold a Family Bush Dance at our Christmas Picnic on Monday 15th December. Workshops will be held with the whole school and individual grades during the day and we’re looking forward to a great evening, when family members can join the fun. Each grade will sing a Christmas carol at the picnic and families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner or enjoy the barbeque organised by Parents’ Club.

Canteen
A reminder that, from tomorrow, canteen will run each Friday and conclude on December 12th. We thank the parents who have volunteered to assist, as we now have enough parents to operate each week. Frozen orange and watermelon wedges will also be added to the menu this week.

Remembrance Day Service and RSL Scholarships
Our school captains Nina and Jasper proudly represented GPS at the Remembrance Day service at Watsonia RSL and laid a wreath to commemorate our servicemen and women. We congratulate them on being awarded RSL scholarships for being exemplary school leaders and excellent role models for their peers and younger students.
Skoolbag App
Thank you to the families who participated in the trial for the ‘Skoolbag App’, which is designed to help us communicate more effectively with our school community. At the next School Council meeting in December, we would like to make a decision as to whether we would proceed with the purchase of this program for next year and we need your feedback. Attached to this newsletter is a form that we ask all families to complete and return to school by next Tuesday 25th November, so we can determine if this program would be beneficial to you. Feedback from other schools is that parents find this a more effective method for communication, rather than hard copy notes which can be lost in the bottom of school bags. If we were to implement this program we would also continue to have an option for parents who preferred to receive a hard copy of notes.

Transition to 2015
The transition from Prep to Grade I, Grade 2 to Grade 3 and from Grade 4 to Grade 5 have been acknowledged as pivotal years for students as they move through their primary schooling. To assist students, we are having two sessions in December where all students (except Grade 6) will work in their 2015 grade levels and have a typical class lesson. Students will experience activities with both teachers at that year level as this program is not an indicator of 2015 grade lists rather it is an opportunity for students to become more comfortable with the changeover.

After this week we have four weeks of school remaining and while class and specialist programs are continuing their focus on achieving their learning outcomes, much work is being done behind the scenes in preparation for next year. 2015 grade lists are being finalised this week and I thank families who have contacted us with requests for next year.

Yoga to Go Kids - Life Skills Group
It has been fantastic teaching all year levels yoga for the past two weeks and students have showed great enthusiasm and skills! The younger year levels have been taken on 'journeys' to the beach and to the jungles of Africa. During these classes we have been learning our Sun Dance (also known as Sun Salutation that is a series of poses done in combination with the breath), practiced our breathing and discussed how we can focus on our breath to help to keep ourselves calm. Students also used their teamwork skills combined with their body movements in a game called 'crabs and dogs', and they showed honesty, fair play and beautiful jumping skills in our snake game. We always finish stretching our bodies in a Yoga Mexican Wave and then rest on our backs for up to five minutes. During this time, students are asked to lie as still as they can and simply try to focus on their breathing, or the music that is playing. This is a simple technique in mindfulness and can be used anytime and encourages students to pay attention to the present moment.

The Year 5/6's have been also been learning a Sun Salutation and the focus has been on building strength and flexibility in their bodies, including core strength, as well as encouraging breathing in each pose. Ask your Year 5/6 student to demonstrate a beautiful triangle pose and wide-angle pose! This group have also been working in pairs and will do more of this over the coming weeks. Partner yoga can help us to stretch and move our bodies further as well as adding new perspective and encouraging us to think of others. All classes finish with relaxation using mindfulness techniques to help us stay in the present moment - really beneficial even for just a few minutes.

Bryony Marshall-Radcliffe
Yoga teacher
Grade 3/4 Excursion to the Banyule Rethink Centre
Grade three and four students had a great time at an educational excursion to the Banyule Material Recovery Centre on the 10th of November. We saw the main hub of separating and packaging recyclable materials and the machine called ‘Merf’ that enables this to happen. The students were involved in an interactive information session that taught the value of recycling through song and dance along with game show hosts and role play to show how we can choose recyclable packages when we are shopping.

Chris Blake
Grade 3/4 teacher

Student Welfare News

Bounce Back
This fortnight the Grade 1/2s have continued their unit on Friendship. This term we have looked at how being helpful and taking turns are aspects of friendly behavior. This fortnight we talked about the importance of sharing in friendships. The students then brainstormed some of the other behaviours they like in a friend, such as kindness, letting people join in, and using nice manners.

The Grade 3/4s are continuing their unit on Emotions. Over the last two weeks we have focused particularly on feeling worried or anxious. We talked about where we feel worry in our bodies and then learned all sorts of strategies for managing this somewhat unpleasant feeling. We finished off the session with a relaxing Mindfulness exercise. There is a poster in the classroom depicting the various coping strategies the students learned. If you would like a copy of this poster for home, just let me know and I will send one home with your child.

Our 5/6s are also continuing their unit on Emotions. This fortnight we continued talking about Anxiety and discussed times when it is normal to be anxious, such as before a test or starting something new like year 7. I gave the students a handout titled ‘Managing Anxiety’ which listed all sorts of strategies for managing anxious feelings. I explained that this list is like an Emotional First Aid Kit, and that they can try different strategies at different times to see what works for them. You might like to ask your child to show you the handout so you can remind them of a strategy when you see them becoming anxious. Obviously if you think your child is struggling with feelings of anxiety then you can speak to myself or Angela Morritt about obtaining more support for your child.

Take care.

Emma Bevan
Early Intervention and Learning Group.
This organisation runs a Parents Support Group for parents, carers, students and teachers. They are holding a discussion group meeting on the subject “The Art of Calm Parenting”
This will be held at Degani Eltham 1/6 Luck Street Eltham at 10AM on Friday 28th November. Entry is free with cost of refreshments to be borne by those attending.
RSVP: Reena on 0414 702 952 or Chitran on 0410 377 981
Website: interventionsandinclusion.com

Mini Fete Reminder
As the Mini Fete is quickly approaching, teachers, students and the Parents and Friends Club are busy getting themselves ready.
The Mini Fete will be held on Thursday the 27th November from 3:30pm-5:30pm.
There will be many fun activities to participate in, such as a Colouring Competition by 3/4A, Handball Competition by Mr McVeigh, Ring Toss by 5/6B, Lucky Dip by 1/2B, and Sandbag Throw by Ms Farley.
Many things will also be for sale such as Seedlings by 3/4B, Rainbow Rice by the Preps, Toys by 1/2A, and Art Supplies by Ms Troy.
The Parents and Friends Club will also have some After School Snacks for sale.
We are very excited and hope to see you all there!

We’re wondering if anyone would be interested in volunteering their time and supervision (or even some prizes*) for the following activities during the Mini Fete:
· Knock Out Competition*
· Round the World Competition*
· Skipping
· Sandcastle Competition*
· Band/Music
· Or any other suggestions?
The activities will run on and off over the two hours. If you are available, could you please let me know by either coming to see me in Room 6 or leaving me a message at the office.
Junior School Councillors and Miss Plesa

Mini Fete Helpers
Grade 5/6A are looking for some volunteers to help face paint for our stall. If you would like to donate your time please contact Miss Plesa in Room 6.
Thank you,
Miss Plesa and 5/6A

Christmas School Holiday Program
Enrolment forms for this coming holiday program have been distributed through the classrooms. Extras are available from the office if required. Completed forms are due to be returned by 12th December so that planning can be completed.
**Library News**

**Book Fair**
It was fantastic to see all the visitors to the library taking advantage of the ‘Buy one get one free’ book fair. Thanks also to the parents and children who assisted me with collecting money and keeping an eye on things. It was great fun watching many of the children trying to work out the best way to improve their bargain!

**End of Year procedures**
Just a reminder that as the year draws to an end we would like all library books returned to the library by **December 12th**. Borrowing will cease the week ending **Friday 28th November**.

**If a child is reading a fiction book and requires more time to finish the book they can have a chat to me and we can work something out.**
I will send home notes to remind you of any overdue books that your child has and I would appreciate it if you could help them to have a search for them.
If books have been lost a note will be sent home as per school policy that requests **50% of the cost of the book**. I am very sorry but lost books are very expensive to replace – a hard cover picture story book is between $25 and $30, whilst fiction books can range from $10-$20. Some of the non-fiction books are even more costly.
Thank you to those people who have contacted me regarding lost books. I understand that books can be misplaced or left at other relative’s homes. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your child’s lost books.

**If your child or family is moving house and changing schools at the end of the year can you please make sure all their books are returned.**

**Xmas Gifts**
If you are looking for an excellent bargain for Xmas gifts we have some book distributors who bring in books for sale. At present the book seller has a set of picture story titles - 10 books with DVDs for each book. The cost is $25 and this is exceptional value. The distributor is returning on Monday 24th to take orders so if you are interested you can check them out in the staffroom.

Thanks again
**Happy Reading**
Jen Farley

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**Parents and Friends**

**Bakers’ Delight Day** – Friday Nov 28th. **Forms due by MONDAY 24th.**
Thanks to Bakers Delight for another successful Bakers Delight food day last Friday.
If you shop at Bakers’ Delight in Greensborough Plaza be sure to mention you are from our school as we accumulate points, which helps us on our Bakers Delight Days.

**Bakers’ Delight Christmas Drive** - Forms will be sent home next week for ordering yummy Christmas cakes and fruit mince pies direct from Bakers Delight.

**Election Day BBQ** – Saturday Nov 29th. Thank you to all families that have indicated they can help for a 2 hour slot. We still have a few spots left, so if you can spare 2 hours pop into the office to see the roster. It would be great to get more people with Food Handling Certificates (if possible).

**Christmas Raffle** – prizes almost finalised, tickets will be coming home soon. Thank you to all that have donated items. Raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Twilight Picnic.

**Christmas Twilight Picnic & Carols** – Mon Dec 15th. Roster will go up for BBQ helpers closer to the date, along with more information about the night.

**GREAT NEWS!**
P & F currently have the funds to purchase another 4 iPads for the Junior School. The Junior School are finding the iPads to be terrific learning tools. The Senior School indirectly benefit too, as this means the Notebooks are freed up to use more often and they are also able to borrow the iPads..
**P & F Funds Raised Terms 3 & 4:**
- Father’s Day Stall - $462.42
- Scouts Raffle - $526.30
- Footy Pie Day - $291.33
- Bakers Delight Days - $1482.66
- Sausage Sizzle Food Days - $959.06

**P & F Purchases Terms 3 & 4:**
- iPad Trolley - $2399.00
- 16 iPads - $6540.00
- Gazebo - $203.67
- Half of Fruit Friday

*Note. The financial figures reported in the newsletter are ratified at our P&F meetings.*

**Mini Fete Nov 27th After School Snacks Available**

- Popcorn 50cents per bag
- Chocolate 30cents each
- Whole pieces of fruit $1 each
- Lollies and lollipops 10cents each

- Quelch Icy Poles 50cents each
- Berry Nice Yogurt and Fruit Icy Poles 50cents each
- Sunny Boy Ice Blocks $1.50 each

- Golden Circle Juice Boxes $1 each
- Cans Soft Drink $1.50
- all money raised going to grade 6 graduation.

**Next Meeting Date - Tuesday Nov 24th @ 9:15am**

Held in the staff room. New families are very welcome and younger siblings are welcome to play while we chat.
Thank you for your ongoing support of the P & F group as we support and fundraise for our school community.

*Kim Hill – P & F Coordinator*

**Watsonia Heights Football Club** invites girls to attend a coaching session for girls followed by a BBQ.
This will be held at RMIT Bundoora in McKimmies Road Bundoora on 30th November starting with Under 11s and younger at 9AM followed by Under 12s and 14s at 10:15 then Under 16s at 11:30
For further information go to [www.whfc.org.au](http://www.whfc.org.au) or email info@whjsc.org.au
Term Four ~ Week 5 Week Ending November 7th 2014

Prep ~ Kingston ~ For bravely blowing bubbles, splashing and running in the water at swimming.
Grade 1/2 A ~ Esther ~ For her outstanding effort in Literacy this week.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Abigail ~ For her wonderful efforts in the Walkathon.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Ami B. ~ For her outstanding effort in all areas of her classwork.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Tyson ~ For being so confident and entertaining when you presented your report.
Grade 5/6 A ~ Abhay ~ For your constant hard work and contributions to our class discussions.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Jordan C ~ For the effort she always puts in to improve her understanding.
O.S.H.C ~ Magnus S ~ For always enjoying his time in O.S.H.C. and being a great helper.
Art ~ Khushi ~ For an excellent start in the Art room, especially with her “Mask” printing project.
Student Wellbeing ~ Evie ~ For always behaving with kindness and respect

Term Four ~ Week 6 Week Ending November 14th 2014

Prep ~ Isaac ~ For his outstanding effort, hard work and concentration in his writing. Great work!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Caeley ~ For showing a HUGE improvement in reading. Keep it up!
Grade 1/2 B ~ Hannah ~ For her best efforts at swimming each week.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Lucy ~ For excellent questions and participation during our Recycling excursion.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Bailey ~ For being so focused during the Recycling excursion. Great job!
Grade 5/6 A ~ Madeline ~ For always being a kind, respectful, helpful and patient student who always tries her best. Well done Maddy!
Grade 5/6 B ~ Stephen L~ For his effort during his reading presentation.
Art ~ Max P ~ For a great improvement in his Art skills and presentation.
Library ~ Willoughby ~ For excellent browsing during Library time. Well done!
Student Wellbeing ~ Leah – Prep For being brave and making friends at The Friendship Tree.
Junior School Council ~ Immogen J For her very helpful and clever contributions to our JSC meetings. You’re a clever cookie!

Cooperation  Achievement  Respect  Empathy