**Borough Bulletin December 4th 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th December</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th December</td>
<td>Junior School Council Christmas Breakup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council Meeting 6:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th December</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga / Subway Sounds Senior Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panton Hill Hotel 6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12th December</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subway Sounds Junior Music Concert 2:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15th December</td>
<td>End of Year Picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tea Billy Bush Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th December</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students meet grades and teachers for 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19th December</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4 1:30pm Finish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29th January 2015</td>
<td>First Day for 2015 for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

It’s hard to believe there are only two weeks to go until the end of the school year! Apologies for the length of the newsletter however, whilst there is often a perception that schools start to wind down at this time of year, the reality is that class and school programs are still well underway and extensive planning is being carried out for 2015. So please take the time to read our news and celebrate the great programs and events happening at GPS!

**Walkathon**

Thank you to everyone for supporting this event - you have raised approximately $1200 for class sports equipment and funds are still coming in! This week you may notice all the PE storage units from classrooms lined up in the corridor near the art room, as we audit current stock and place orders to replenish class sets. These new supplies will be labelled and balls will be pumped up ready for students on the first day of term next year. For the remainder of term, we will place a variety of balls and bats in baskets in the school foyer so students will still have access to sports equipment during recess breaks. Thank you to Samantha Molyneaux for her excellent coordination of this year’s Walkathon!

**Mini Fete**

Congratulations to the Junior School Council, led by Maria Plesa, for their successful organisation of the mini fete. The weather was magnificent, the children built many happy memories and it was lovely to see so many students develop their leadership skills as they manned stalls and organised events. Approximately $1000 was raised and JSC members will meet to determine the amount that will go to Grade 6 Graduation and also identify a project for remaining funds that will be enjoyed by all Prep – 6 students.
Graduation
We are looking forward to the graduation celebrations for our Class of 2014 next Wednesday. Our graduates have been heavily involved in preparations for this event, which is a milestone in their educational and personal journey from primary to secondary schooling. Our Grade Six students have been exemplary role models of our school values for students in younger grades and will be sorely missed by all of us, especially their Prep buddies.

Gemma and Maria are keen to hear from Grade 5 parents who traditionally help with serving the Graduation dinner. This year we have volunteers to set up and dismantle the decorations, however we only have one parent who has indicated they able to help with the dinner. We understand this is a busy time of year for families however we are hopeful we receive several more offers of assistance so the dinner is a success for our graduates. Please contact Gemma or Maria if you are able to help.

Yoga To Go
We are very pleased with the feedback from parents, students and teachers about the Yoga program. The emphasis on calm activities focussing on flexibility, core strength and mindfulness is proving to be beneficial to students. Talking to colleagues at different schools it is apparent that traditionally at this time of year, children are tired and begin to struggle socially and emotionally – the strategies our students learn in yoga help them manage their emotions and remain calm and happy at this time of year.

Christmas Picnic and Tea Billy Bush Band
On Monday 15th December students will be participating in Bush Dancing lessons with the Tea Billy Bush Band. Students will begin in the morning with a whole school session and then have smaller workshops throughout the day. At the Christmas Picnic in the evening there will be bush dancing on the oval for families commencing at 6pm, followed by Christmas Songs sung by grade areas. Families are welcome to bring a picnic or buy dinner from the Parents’ Club barbeque. This will be a great way for our community to end the year and we thank Parents’ Club for sponsoring this wonderful event.

At this evening we will make a presentation to Heather McLaughlin who has decided to retire from teaching on a regular basis next year. Heather has been a fantastic addition to our staff and we have been in awe of her musical prowess and her ability to teach the children complex musical pieces in a relatively short space of time. We wish Heather well in her retirement and we’re very excited that Heather has agreed to return next year to run special musical activities each term.

Students’ Reports and 2015 Grades
A very big thank you to staff who have worked diligently over the last month to write student reports that accurately reflect students’ achievements and their areas for future learning. Many, many hours are put into reports as teachers follow an assessment schedule and ‘triangulate’ their assessment, i.e. a combination of formal assessment, teacher observation and student class work, is analysed to give a true ‘picture’ of each student’s achievement.

Student reports will be sent home Friday 12th December along with the class your child will be in next year. On Tuesday 16th December students will spend the morning in their 2015 classes and enjoy activities with their new teacher and classmates.
2015

We are very excited about the extra-curricular programs organised for 2015. In Term One students in Grade 3-6 will attend Mt Evelyn Camp and everyone is very pleased that we were able to rebook this venue which received fabulous reviews by staff and students in 2011.

We are also thrilled about our new ‘Circus Show-Off’ program where students will learn circus skills, use equipment and develop routines. There will be 8 sessions in all and the last session will culminate in a daytime circus display for families to attend.

The ‘Step Into Life’ fitness program will resume for students in P-2 and Grades 3-6 will also take part when Inter School Sport finishes. Preps will start their French language program and students in Grades One – Six will begin their Cultural Awareness program where the cultures and customs of different countries will be studied and celebrated in a whole school multicultural day each term.

**Home Readers**

Lyn Morris, who has done an excellent job looking after our home reading books this year, has requested families return all books by Friday 5th December. This will allow Lyn time to audit books and have them back on the shelves, ready to be distributed next year in our second full week of Term One.

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who continue to support our programs even though life is getting very busy for families at this time of year. This was especially true on Saturday at the P&F election day barbeque. Our students and staff certainly appreciate all the wonderful support we receive from GPS families!

*Angela Morritt  
Principal*

**Assistant Principal’s Report**

**Buildings and Grounds**

Last Tuesday the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee met to finalise the 2014 projects and to make plans for 2015. The final tasks we would like to complete this year are to install a pump on the water tanks behind the Outdoor Learning Centre to assist with watering of the vegetable gardens and to clear the roof area and gutters of balls in case we have a summer storm over the holidays like we did a few years ago.

We have two major plans for 2015 with these being the construction of an undercover learning and recreation area outside the library and the redevelopment of the computer hub.

**Undercover / Recreation area outside Library**

The plan is to extend the veranda roof over the courtyard outside the library to create an ‘all weather’ space where small group activities can take place or students can read, relax and have social time at recess and lunchtime which will be especially appreciated in the hot weather. We are planning on having outdoor carpet on the ground and purchasing some bright and exciting outdoor furniture for this area. We are very grateful to Parents’ Club for their fundraising support for this venture. Every year Parents’ Club ask the school what our priorities for funds from fundraising activities would be and, for next year, a contribution of funds towards this project was one of the items on our ‘wish list’

**Computer Hub**

We also have grand plans to redecorate the computer hub which is a sensational learning space which is currently underutilised mostly due to the configuration of furniture and equipment currently housed in it. For inspiration we have looked at corporate offices of companies like Google and now feel very excited at the possibilities (we just wish we had their budget!)

**Planting**
Next year also, once the heat of summer has passed we are keen to plant out the embankment between the oval and path which has recently been terraced and also the area around the cricket nets which has recently been refurbished.

**Painting**
We are also keen to setup a systematic process of repainting the classrooms and corridors. Unfortunately the funding we receive for all maintenance and urgent works is so small that employing a painter for tasks like this is out of the question however we hope that if we are able to set up a good plan and give advance notice, we may be able to systematically complete this task with volunteer labour.

**2015 Curriculum Implementation**
While most people’s thoughts are currently fixed upon Christmas and the forthcoming festivities, at school we are deeply immersed in planning for 2015. Whilst more information will be communicated next year, please find below an insight into some of 2015’s plans.

**Magic Maths**
The Magic Maths program where students work in groups targeted at their specific level of mathematical ability has been so successful that staff have requested that this program be run three times per week next year. What this will mean is that Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11.30 to 12.30 all students form grades one to six will work in their Magic Maths groups with a primary focus on ‘Number’ and, on the other two days they will work on a differentiated learning program in their grades on Applied Number (measurement, space etc.) To ensure that all Homework is specifically targeted at the students' level of ability and that there is consistency across the school in setting and following up homework, the weekly homework task will now be set by the Magic Maths teacher for the students in their group. The homework will be explained and sent home on Monday, collected and corrected on Friday and any students who have not returned their homework will be supervised in the library at Friday lunchtime to do so. Our 2014 student achievement data from Magic Maths has been exceptional and we are confident this will continue even more next year.

To support students in Magic Maths groups we are calling for anyone who would be interested in being a volunteer support person to let us know. We will have training for volunteers to give them an insight into teaching methods and approaches. The role of the volunteer would be to sit with identified students to assist them to stay focussed and complete set tasks in a timely manner. If you think this is something you might be interested in please let the office know and we will follow this up with dates for information /training sessions.

**Spelling Mastery Groups**
Based upon placement tests all students from grades three to six have been placed in Spelling Mastery groups which will also be conducted three times per week. As is the case with our maths data, our spelling results have improved dramatically since we commenced this program so we are committed to continuing it in 2015.

**Home Reading**
At the start of next year we have our ‘Start Up’ program which runs for the first two days and the next full week and then, after that (Monday February 9th) all programs including Magic Maths, Spelling Mastery and the Home Reading program begin. We are also looking to make changes to the way in which upper students record their home reading so we can better track the quantity and quality of home reading done by students in the upper school.

We are excited by the programs we have in place for next and confident they will assist students to achieve the best academic outcomes.

*Margaret Hirth*
Assistant Principal
**Student Welfare News**

**Bounce Back**
Our 1/2s have done a fantastic job this term exploring the nature of friendships. We have looked at how helping, turn taking, sharing and this fortnight, listening are such important parts of friendly behavior. The listening skills we shared were, facing the person you are listening to, not interrupting, nodding or saying ‘mmm’, smiling if the person says something you like, and asking a question when they have finished talking. The students were able to practice their listening skills on each other sharing stories in pairs. They did a great job and I saw some excellent examples of listening!

This fortnight the Grade 3/4s continued their unit on Emotions. In this session we explored Anger. We talked about the signs our bodies give us when we start to feel angry and then I introduced the students to ‘The Anger Rules’. These are ‘It is OK to feel angry BUT don’t hurt others, don’t hurt yourself, don’t hurt property, DO talk about it.’ The children then had lots of great ideas as to how we can ‘Be the boss of our angry feelings’, and brainstormed different ways we can manage our anger. If you would like a copy of ‘The Anger Rules’ for home, just let me know and I will send one home with your child.

While our Grade 5s work on leadership, the Grade 6s and I have had a couple of sessions on transitioning to Year 7 next year. The students completed a questionnaire asking them their thoughts and feelings about moving onto Secondary School. While we discussed these as a group, I encouraged the students to take the questionnaire home to show their parents. We also explored what coping strategies they were going to use, that they had learned through Bounce Back, to help support themselves during this big change.

Hope you are all well and take care.

*Emma Bevan*

**MUSIC NEWS**

On Tuesday, 2nd December, Jon Madin returned for one of his wonderful music days with all the GPS children. All classes had a workshop with Jon during the morning. This was followed by a concert from 2.30 - 3.30 in which each grade displayed something of what they had done with Jon. His website is at [www.marimbamusic.com.au](http://www.marimbamusic.com.au) if you want to see some of the fantastic invented instruments the children got to try - Echocellos, Musical Bikes, Ding Boxes etc.

It was good to see some family members able to come and see our performances on 30th October when the children all sang “Paint You a Song” and showed off some of the musical pieces learnt during regular lesson time. We finished the concert with a terrific performance by the Year 5/6 children who have been playing in the Extension Music group. Well done everyone!
Library News

I would like to thank all my helpers during the year, from the book shelvers to the book coverers. An extra special thanks to Joan who comes every Monday to shelve books for me and tidy the shelves! Your assistance makes my job a lot easier. Thanks also to all those who have made donations to the library.

Overdue/Lost Books
I have sent notes home today regarding overdue books. I would like all books returned as soon as possible. Please see me if there is a problem locating your children's books. If you cannot find your missing books please keep an eye out for them over the holidays. If at the beginning of the new school year the books are still missing, then as per school policy there will a charge of 50% of the total cost of the book. This money will be put towards the cost of replacing the lost book/s.

If you are leaving the school lost books will need to be paid for before the end of the school year. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Holiday activities related to books
The Tiger Who Came To Tea by Judith Kerr
Arts Centre Melbourne
2 – 18 January 2015
Hold onto your biscuits! The tea-guzzling Tiger roars into Melbourne this summer in this mischievous musical play brought to you by the team behind We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Join Sophie and her unexpected guest for some tea-time mayhem packed with oodles of magic, sing-a-long songs and clumsy chaos.
This stunning stage adaptation of the classic tale by David Wood, deemed the UK's 'The National Children's Dramatist' and the undisputed leading writer and director of plays and musicals for children. Direct from a sell-out season in London's West End, where it broke box office records. Kids will “squeal with delight!” (Daily Mail, UK)
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
The Movie
Gum stuck in his hair signals the start of a disastrous day for 11-year-old Alexander. One calamity follows another, but when Alexander tells his family about his misadventures, he finds little sympathy. Alexander begins to wonder if bad things happen only to him, but he soon learns that he's not alone when his mother, father, brother and sister all find themselves living through their own calamitous days.

- Thank you
- Happy Christmas Reading!
Parents and Friends

Election Day BBQ – A huge THANK YOU to our many helpers on Saturday who assisted in the BBQ: Michelle Crawford, Tim, Ellena, Stuart, Rod, Kylie, Leanne, Louise, Abby, Susie, Tina, Ros, Lara and Paul. Together we sold lots of sausages and drinks, and raised around $600 which will go towards completing the class set of iPads.

Bakers Delight Christmas Drive - Forms have been sent home, detailing the yummy Christmas cakes and fruit mince tarts direct from Bakers Delight. If you need another form, spares are at the office. **PLEASE RETURN ALL ORDERS BY FRIDAY 5th.**

Christmas Raffle – Tickets were sent home Tues/Wed. Please write your name and phone number on bought tickets, and return by Monday Dec 15th (Christmas Party), when the raffle will be drawn.

Fantastic Prizes up for grabs! Together **totalling over $550!** Tickets are $1 each.

1st Family Wheelbarrow Pack: Wheelbarrow, Slab of Crown Lager, Wine, Kids’ Toys, Toiletries, Breakfast Cereals, Bakingware, and more! (RRP $250)

2nd Family Food Pack 1: $50 Baker’s Delight Voucher, Medium Chocolate Gift Box from Hahndorf’s, Sparkling Wine (RRP $90)

3rd Mum’s Beach Pack: Lulu bag and beach towel, skincare pack. (RRP $80)

4th Mum’s Gift Hamper: Skincare, jewellery, candles and more to pamper Mum! (RRP $40)

5th Family Food Pack 2: $25 Growers Fresh Sculli Bros Voucher, Hahndorf’s Chocolates (RRP $35)

6th Mum’s Pamper Pack: Skincare and Candles (RRP $30)

7th Christmas Pack: Christmas decorations and Hahndorf’s Chocolates. (RRP $20)

Thank you to all families that have been able to donate items for the Christmas Raffle. Local businesses have also been extremely generous. Our thanks to Bunnings Eltham, Dan Murphy’s Eltham, Baker’s Delight Greensborough, Growers Fresh Sculli Bros Greensborough, Hahndorf’s Fine Chocolates Greensborough and Greensborough Plaza Centre Management.

Christmas Party – We are seeking volunteers to help with the BBQ and with selling icypoles and drinks. Please return slip if you can help. Roster is also posted in the office. The money raised for the Christmas Party and Raffle will go to iPads, and also to purchasing a watering system for the vegetable garden and other gardening equipment.

Icypoles on very hot days – A couple of weeks ago, Parents & Friends distributed icypoles to all students (for free) to help cope with the heat. We hope to do it again before we break up for the year as the students really enjoyed them.

*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

Yes I can help with the BBQ at the Christmas Party:

Name ___________________________________
Child’s Name_____________________________ Grade ________
Term Four ~ Week 7 Week Ending November 21st 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. ~ 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 ~ For the effort she always puts in to improve her understanding.
O.S.H.C ~ Magnus ~ 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 8 Week Ending November 28th 2014

Prep ~ James ~ For being a great role model for every other learner in Prep C. What a champion!!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Evie ~ For consistently being a kind and helpful friend to everyone, especially at swimming last week.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Finlay ~ For his wonderful efforts in reading this week.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Ashley ~ For her consistent hard work during class activities.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Zac ~ For being a great friend in the class room and in the yard. Well done!
Grade 5/6 A ~ Josh ~ For his outstanding improvement in Maths progressing a whole year this semester.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Amy ~ For being a wonderful student every day of the year. Amy could easily earn a ribbon every single week.
Art ~ Tua ~ For a fantastic job with his print making. Well done Tua!
Student Wellbeing ~ Christian ~ For showing everyone how well he can listen during Bounce Back last week