## Borough Bulletin February 5th 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
<td>Preps attend 9 till 2:30&lt;br&gt;Yoga To Go Kids&lt;br&gt;ISS V’s Streeton Away</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th February</td>
<td>Preps attend 9 till 3:30&lt;br&gt;Bounceback begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Camp Information night 6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>ISS V’s Watsonia North Away&lt;br&gt;YogaTo Go Kids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>GPS Swimming Trials 9:30 to 11:30&lt;br&gt;School Council Meeting 7 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th February</td>
<td>Circus Skills&lt;br&gt;ISS V’s Norris Bank at Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd February</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival 10 till 12:40 @ Watermarc&lt;br&gt;School Council meeting 7PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th February</td>
<td>Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)&lt;br&gt;Parent teacher meet and greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th February</td>
<td>CircusSkills&lt;br&gt;ISS V’s Watsonia – TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
<td>Twilight Sports 6 till 7PM BBQ 5 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
<td>Division Swimming Carnival Northcote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th March</td>
<td>ISS V’s Bundoora Away</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On Tuesday Margaret, Gemma, Maria and I were very privileged to listen to our Grade 6 students give their speeches for School Captain. Once again we were absolutely impressed with the preparation of the students and the passion they showed to be leaders. Each student gave a unique speech outlining how proud they were to be students at Greensborough Primary, their appreciation of the opportunities they have been given and their keen desire to give back to the school community. They had terrific ideas for further enhancing our school which were mainly designed to increase the enjoyment of younger students during recess breaks and help create a positive learning environment.

We are fortunate to have so many worthy applicants and at tonight’s staff meeting we will have the difficult task of selecting our 2015 School Captains. A meeting will be held with all students who applied for the position on Friday afternoon and the successful candidates will be announced. The students will respect the confidentiality of the announcement until Monday morning’s assembly when our new School Captains will be presented to the community.
Next Wednesday, students will assemble in House groups and listen to speeches from Grade 6 students nominating for the position of House Captain. Students in each House then vote for the student they believe is the best applicant. House Captains and Vice Captains will be presented with their badges on Monday 16th.

Since our return to school, all grades have been involved in the T.E.A.M (Together Everyone Achieves More) program. This is where class and school values are discussed, procedures and processes to achieve optimum learning are put in place and team work and social / behavioural protocols are established. Next week all grades will commence their usual class time-tables and our new whole school approach to homework, as outlined in last week’s newsletter will begin.

The beginning of the year is always a busy time, especially for families of students in grades 3-6 with extra notes sent home covering the range of activities students participate in. We appreciate your support in returning these forms promptly so that we have time to process them. I apologise in advance for the length of this week’s newsletter, however please take the time to read it, as there are important dates and information for families, especially those new to our school.

**Family Information Details**

Next week forms with student information details will be sent home for families to update. It is important that families check these details and inform us of any changes to contact numbers and also medical information, to ensure student safety and speedy communication with parents.

Please also check information re employment details as these may have changed from when you originally filled in the forms. Student funding from the Government is driven by the levels of schooling of students and their family and community characteristics, e.g. types of employment, so it is important we enter the correct data to receive the correct funding entitlement for our students.

**Class Newsletters**

Traditionally, each grade level sends home a class newsletter which sets out programs and planning for the next term. The Preps have a weekly newsletter, Grades 1/2 have a fortnightly letter and Grades 3-6 have one newsletter per term which will be sent home in the second week of term. Class letters outline most class and school administrative procedures however an important one is that if you will be picking your child up from school earlier than the usual 3.30 dismissal, it is extremely important that you first come to the office and sign your child out. Your cooperation with this safety procedure is very much appreciated.

**Parent Teacher Meet and Greet Sessions and Student Support Group Meetings**

A note is attached to the newsletter with organizational details for our first Parent/Teacher Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 25th February. This meeting will provide an opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s new class teacher to share information about their child and discuss any relevant issues. Information about class programs, organisation and learning goals will also be provided to parents at this meeting.

**‘Name the Mascots’ Competition**

Thank you to the Healy family for donating two new female rabbits to be our school mascots. They are a very welcome and popular addition to our school and just like their predecessor Boing Boing, they will provide much enjoyment and assist the students to develop responsible behaviours when caring for animals.

We are running a competition to name our furry friends so put on your thinking caps and send your suggestions along to the box in the foyer – don’t forget to write your name and grade on your entry!
School Council Elections
One of the major tasks for first term is the election of the 2015 School Council. There will be four parent positions available for nomination and I would urge all families to consider involvement in this important aspect of school management. The term of office is two years. The current Parent Representatives on School Council at Greensborough Primary are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Term on School Commenced</th>
<th>Term on School Council ends</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lara Cowan</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Doble</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Geraghty</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ros Murfet</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marita Beard</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simone Baldwin</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Connochie</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Smith</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2016</td>
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Those parents whose two year term on School Council have come to an end, have the opportunity to renominate for subsequent terms on School Council. School Council involvement incudes 2 X two hour School Council meetings per term and involvement in a School Council subcommittee.

Parents can either nominate themselves for School Council or they can be nominated by another person. Nomination forms will be available at the office from Monday 9th February and need to be returned to the office by Monday 16th February. If the number of nominations matches the number of vacancies, then the parents who have nominated are automatically on School Council. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies there is an election process with the timeline as set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notice of Election and call for nominations</th>
<th>Monday 9th February 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 16th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Monday 23rd February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close of Ballot</td>
<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
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<td>Vote Count</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
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<td>Declaration of poll</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Council meeting to elect office bearers and co-opt Community members.</td>
<td>Monday 23rd March (To Be Confirmed)</td>
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School Council provides a pivotal role in the effective management of the school. If you have any further queries about School Council involvement please do not hesitate to contact either Margaret or myself or a current School Council member.
**Summer Inter School sport** begins tomorrow, Friday 6th February, for students in Grades 4-6. Our first game is AWAY against Streeton PS and a detailed note with fixture and venues is being sent home today. A permission note was sent home last week that covers walking and bus/train trips for all occasions students depart the school grounds, including Inter School Sport events and training sessions. Grade 3 students will be working with Ms. Storey on Friday mornings and continuing their class programs. More information about this organisation is included in the class newsletter.

**Swimming Carnival Trials**
The Watsonia District Swimming Carnival will be held at Watermarc pool on Monday 23rd February and this is a terrific opportunity for our students to meet and compete against other students from local schools. We will be holding swimming trials on Monday 16th February, 9.30 – 11.30 and a note will be going home today with all the relevant details. If any parents can assist us it would be greatly appreciated!

**Twilight Sports Night**
Our annual Twilight Sports Night will be held on the oval on Tuesday 3rd March. This is a terrific night where students compete in their grade levels in House Teams, cheered on by their parents and family members. Dinner can be purchased from the Parents and Friends’ Barbeque or families may bring a picnic with rugs and chairs. Our Grade 5 and 6 students run various stalls to raise money for Graduation, including Face Painting, Hair Spraying, Nail Polishing in House Colors and much more! The barbeque will begin at 5pm and sporting events at 6pm. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

**Sun Smart Policy**
A reminder to families that following our Sunsmart policy, students are required to wear hats during recess breaks and all outdoor activities, e.g. Physical Education and Inter School Sport until April 30th when the UV ratings drop to a safer level. Students without hats will be directed to play in shaded areas near the canteen and outside the Grade 1/2 classrooms.

**Camp Information Night**
On Thursday February 12th at 6pm, Gemma Pearce will hold a Camp Information Night for parents of students in Grades 3-6 who will be attending our camp to Mt Evelyn on March 23rd – 25th. This night will run for 20-30 minutes and Gemma will answer any parent queries on this night.
Medical forms for Camp will be sent home on Monday 16th February and we ask families to return these promptly as it takes considerable time to collate them and staff often need to contact parents to clarify instructions.

**WANTED – BASKETBALL REFEREE**
Miss Pearce is looking for a basketball referee to referee our home games. Games are on Friday Mornings (with the exception of 26th February which will be held on a Thursday) between 9:15 and 10:45am and will be held on the following dates:

- **February 20th** Round 3
- **February 26th** Round 4 – this game has been changed to THURSDAY
- **March 13th** Round 6

Please let Miss Pearce know ASAP if you or someone you know is able to assist. Thank you!
**Friday Fruit**
Each Friday a fruit platter is provided to each grade as a healthy snack for students. Parents' Club subsidises half the cost of the platters and they are greatly enjoyed by the students.

A roster will be drawn up of approximately 2-3 parents to cut the fruit up each week. If anyone has time on Friday mornings to assist with cutting up the fruit please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and return to the office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

*Angela Morritt*
Principal

**Assistant Principal’s Report**

**Volunteers to Assist with Magic Maths**
Thank you to those people who have expressed an interest in volunteering time to assist in Magic Maths sessions. The role of the volunteer will be to provide support for small group and individual work with students in Magic Maths sessions to assist in ensuring all students gain sound understandings. Those volunteering would not be working in the same group as their own child as we have found that children can often be more distracted when mum or dad are working in the room however those volunteering can be assured that while they are assisting a child in one group, their child is receiving support from another parent in a different group. Magic Maths sessions will be on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11.30 to 12.30 however it is not essential that volunteers be available for all sessions as any help for any of the time would be appreciated.

We will be providing ‘training’ sessions for volunteer parents which will outline:
- The scope and sequence of the maths program
- Strategies to support the development of mathematical understandings
- Techniques for building up automatic response skills
- Protocols for confidentiality

A session covering these areas will be offered next Monday at 2.30 in the library. If you are interested in assisting with Magic Maths but are unable to attend this session please leave a message at the office with times you are available and I’m sure an additional session can be scheduled.

**Curriculum Programs**
From next Monday all curriculum programs will begin including Magic Maths, Spelling Mastery, Corrective Reading and all specialist and grade programs. Homework begins on Monday as well as the Home Reading Program. All children will also be bringing their Mathletics password home on Monday. The school pays a subscription for all students in the school to access Mathletics both at school and at home and we really hope that families will ensure that children can access the Mathletics program. If families would like an information session on Mathletics to assist their child to gain the maximum benefit from the programs available we are happy to provide this. Please let the office know if you are interested and, if there is sufficient interest, a session will be scheduled.

**Playgroup**
We are very excited that the first session of our new playgroup will be on Tuesday 17th of February from 9.15 to 10.45. Playgroup will be in the school hall where we have a range of lovely toys and equipment for the use of participants. A small structured activity will be set up and the session will include a group activity, story and morning tea. Many thanks to Janet who has assisted with the production of a lovely brochure to promote the playgroup (copies available in the office). We hope all school families with pre-schoolers will join in and the word will be spread to family and friends in the area.
Redevelopment of Computer Hub
I hope everyone has had the opportunity to see the transformation of the old computer hub which will soon be our new collaborative ICT learning area. With the installation of new windows, the removal of an old air conditioner and display boards, and the whole area repainted, we were set to have new carpet tiles laid next Monday however, when the old carpet was lifted, it was revealed that there were old vinyl tiles and we now have to wait for the Department to remove these before the new carpet tiles can be installed. Hopefully this will not delay this project for too long as we are excited to get the furnishings in and put this terrific space to good use.

Student Accounts
In the week beginning Monday 23rd February, student accounts will be sent home which will include all charges including the Grade 3-6 camp, interschool sports bus costs and student booklist charges. There are a number of families who are paying these costs in instalments and this is noted on our system however accounts will still be sent home so families have current information regarding outstanding balances. If any families have difficulty with accounts please contact the school office.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal

STUDENT WELLBEING
Happy New Year everyone! It is lovely to be back and I am looking forward to another great year of Wellbeing at GPS. Next week Bounce Back will start up again. It has been great to hear some fantastic stories from parents already about their children displaying resilience at certain times over the holidays. I love hearing these stories about the children using their coping skills. It is a pleasure to work with the students here at GPS who are always enthusiastic during our Bounce Back sessions.

Counselling
Just a reminder to parents that children can obtain counselling here at the school with a registered psychologist, Vikki Tsoulakas, who comes to us via the OzChild organization. Students are entitled to up to ten sessions of counselling per calendar year and the sessions are bulk billed. Please contact myself or Angela Morritt if you would like to pursue this further for your child.

Wellbeing Leaders
Next week I will be speaking to the Grade 6’s regarding the Wellbeing Leader positions for 2015. I already know a few children who are very keen to be involved at the Friendship Tree. For those Grade 6s who are interested in becoming a Wellbeing Leader I will provide them with a form next week that they are to take home, discuss with their parents, have their parents sign and then return the form to me. After this we will commence their training so that we can have our Leaders out at the Friendship Tree as soon as possible.

Have a great week everyone,
Emma.

Parents and Friends
Canteen will operate on Fridays again this year beginning Friday 6th February. The items on sale will be the same as last year.
We could use a couple more volunteers to help out during terms 2 and 3. You would only be required on one Friday for the term. If you can help, contact the office or Simone Baldwin.

We are also looking for a volunteer to help with school banking on Tuesday mornings for approximately 1 hour. Again if you can help let the office or Odette Strickland know.
Welcome to another year in O.S.H.C. We have had a busy start to the year with many families enrolled in our O.S.H.C program. There have been a number of changes in the program and just a few reminders of the running of O.S.H.C.

Electronic devices have now been limited to two days a week at O.S.H.C. The children may bring along these devices on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. We feel this will encourage more active play whilst here in O.S.H.C.

Due to the increase in numbers to our program it is essential to book your child into Before and After Care. You can call us direct on 9432 1802 or book at the office. We have an answering machine during hours we are closed, so please feel free to call us out of hours.

Our cancellation policy at O.S.H.C is 24hr notification is to be given to ensure you are not charged for the session. In the event your child is away sick, please provide a medical certificate to ensure you are not charged for any absences.

Accounts are to be paid on a fortnightly basis unless other arrangements have been made with the O.S.H.C coordinator. If you are having difficulties with your account please speak to the coordinator.

In the past we have had a number of issues regarding parents being late to collect their children. We here at O.S.H.C close at 6pm sharp. Our licence only allows us to be operational till this time. Parents will be given three verbal warnings after which they will be issued with a letter notifying them if the problem continues after this time, your child may be excluded from the program. We understand that events may be out of your control which may cause you to be late, please ensure you have arranged other alternatives to collect your child by 6pm.

Just a reminder in O.S.H.C we follow the No Hat No Play policy, which starts in September and continues until the end of first term each year. We ask if the children could please bring a spare hat from home to be left here at the program. 

We look forward to another fantastic year here in O.S.H.C.

*Jacqui & Talina.*

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**Term One ~ Week 1 Week Ending January 30th 2015**

- **Prep ~ Sienna W ~** For an amazing start to her Prep year.
- **Grade 1/2 A ~ Ethan ~** For an enthusiastic start at GPS. Keep up the good work Ethan!
- **Grade 1/2 B ~ Ben ~** For a wonderful start to Grade 1.
- **Grade 3/4 A ~ Sophie C ~** For a wonderful start at GPS!
- **Grade 3/4 B ~ Amiere ~** For a fantastic start to Grade 4 at GPS.
- **Grade 5/6 A ~ Mackenzie ~** For a wonderful start at GPS! For a great effort in his first week in Grade 5. Jack put in 100%.
- **O.S.H.C ~ Jack H ~** For being a great buddy to our new students. Well done Esther!
- **O.S.H.C ~ Esther ~**

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I am able to assist with cutting the platters of fruit on Friday mornings:

Name______________________________

Phone Number:_____________________________

Child’s name _______________________________ Grade: _______________________