Borough Bulletin January 29th 2015

Friday 30th January  Preps attend 9 till 11:30
Monday 2nd February  Preps attend 9 till 1:30
Wednesday 4th February  Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)
Thursday 5th February  Preps attend 9 till 2:30
Friday 6th February  Preps attend 9 till 2:30
YogaTo Go Kids
ISS V’s Streeton Away
Monday 9th February  Preps attend 9 till 3:30
Bounceback begins
Wednesday 11th February  Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)
Friday 13th February  ISS V’s Watsonia North Away
YogaTo Go Kids
Monday 16th February  GPS Swimming Trials 9:30 to 11:30
Wednesday 18th February  Prep Assessments. Preps not at school. (Individual assessments by appointment)
Friday 20th February  Circus Skills
ISS V’s Norris Bank at Home
Monday 23rd February  District Swimming Carnival
School Council meeting 7PM
Wednesday 25th February  Prep Assessments. Preps not at school.
(Individual assessments by appointment)
Parent teacher meet and greet
Friday 27th February  Circus Skills
ISS V’s Watsonia -TBC

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Welcome back everyone to what is shaping up to be another terrific year at Greensborough Primary! A special welcome to all our new Prep students, the thirteen new students enrolling in grades 1-6 and their families. We know you’ll enjoy joining our terrific community.
It has been lovely to see how pleased everyone was to begin school today – I’m not sure who was most enthusiastic, the students, teachers or the parents! We welcome Fiona Kelly back as a Teacher’s Assistant in the Grade 1/2 area where she will work alongside Erin Donaldson, Samantha Molyneaux and Ann Loney. With several new enrolments over the holidays, we have been able to appoint a Physical Education teacher and Kimberly Hart will teach PE on Mondays and Tuesdays and also take a Magic Maths class. Jen Farley will begin a 5/6 Literacy Extension class and Janet Troy will continue to teach an Art Extension program targeting different grade levels each term. Janet is also planning to hold another Art Show in Term Four and showcase our students’ wonderful art work. These decisions were made based on our current enrolments and may be reviewed after census day when Department funding based on our enrolment numbers is finalised.
Our current Extension and Intervention programs of Corrective Reading, Spelling Mastery and Magic Maths will continue and we look forward to building on the excellent results students have been achieving each year.
Yoga to Go and Circus Skills
We are really looking forward to continuing the ‘Yoga To Go Kids’ program for a further two sessions on Fridays this term. This program was enjoyed and valued by our community in Term Four last year and we thought it was a great way to begin the year. Following these sessions we will have five weeks of the “Little Devils Circus” program which will teach each grade circus skills and develop their coordination, confidence and team building skills.

Inter School Sport and Swimming Trials
Inter school sport for students in Grades 4-6 begins next Friday 6th February. A fixture for Summer Sport and venues will be sent home next Tuesday. Students in Grade Three will remain with Ms Storey and continue with their class programs.

Swimming Trials to select the students who will represent Greensborough PS at the District Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 16th February 9.30 – 11.30. Notes will be sent home next Tuesday with more information and parents may nominate their child to try out in different events. We urge parents to think carefully about whether your child is able to swim the distance confidently before returning the form- student safety is of paramount importance.

Permission for Excursion and School Sport
Attached to the newsletter is a permission form for excursions, sport training and sporting events. This form covers both local walking events and those requiring public transport. In the past families have indicated they prefer to sign one form in Term One, rather than multiple forms throughout the year. Parents will still be notified of all information, including location, costs, staff attending and form of transport, prior to each excursion.

Please sign the form and return it to school by Tuesday 3rd February. Teachers will then scan the form so we have a digital copy at school and teachers take the originals with them when they leave the school.

Language Program
Janet Troy will begin teaching French to the Preps on Wednesdays when they attend school full time in March. Under new DEECD guidelines, from 2015 Preps across the state are mandated to learn a language and we are very lucky that while most schools are having difficulty locating language teachers, Janet has expertise in this area. We look forward to the Preps sharing their new knowledge with us.

Last year we mooted having a Cultural Awareness program for our Grade One-Six students however we are now investigating several exciting new opportunities. We will advise parents of any further developments in curriculum programs.

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.

Special Religious Instruction
We are mandated according to DEECD guidelines to send home a letter each year to families asking them to indicate if they wish their child to attend Special Religious Instruction offered to the school by an approved provider. If an approved provider contacts the school we will provide families with more information and send home the relevant information and forms.

My Skoolbag App
Last year we conducted a trial of this app and the response from parents was very favourable. School Council decided to purchase this app and we will have staff and parent training sessions to ensure we fully use this resource to make receiving and sending notices easier for parents. Dates and information will be sent home as soon as the dates for these sessions are finalised.

School Banking
School Banking will resume next Tuesday 3rd February. Thank you to Odette Strickland for continuing to offer this service.

It was terrific to see staff spend several days in the holidays planning units of work and setting up their classrooms in preparation for a smooth start to the year. Classrooms today were full of engaged students excitedly completing tasks and catching up with their ‘old and ‘new’ friends.

Angela Morritt
Principal
Assistant Principal’s Report

Buildings and Grounds
Over the holiday period work has continued on the redevelopment of the computer hub area near the grade 3/4 classrooms. Wayne has removed an old air conditioner, installed laminated glass panels in the wall along the corridor and rerouted some cabling so we can have a central bank of tables. Today a painter has commenced work repainting this area and, on Monday 9th, new carpet tiles will be laid. New furnishings will be purchased and display boards covered to make this a comfortable, engaging work space where students can work either individually or collaboratively in groups using computers, lap tops or iPads.
Work will soon commence on the undercover area outside of the library.
Many thanks to;
- Wayne for his work over the holidays
- The Cowan family for clearing the large sand pit
- The Healey family for refreshing the friendship garden
- The Hill family for watering gardens over the holidays

Curriculum 2015
Magic Maths commences Monday 9th February for all students from grades one to six. There will be three sessions per week on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11.30 to 12.30. Based upon assessments conducted at the end of last year students have been placed in the groups targeted at their specific level of ability and understanding. This year, as well as the highly focussed classroom sessions, the homework task for the week for every student from grades one to six will be set by their Magic Maths teacher. This means that the homework content will be explicitly targeted at the student’s level of ability and understanding and will provide the opportunity for all students to practise and consolidate class curriculum content. Homework will be sent home on Monday and needs to be returned by the Friday of the same week. Any students who have not returned their homework by Friday will be involved in a ‘Homework Club’ at lunchtime on Friday supervised on a rotating roster by teachers. More information will come home in the next few weeks about Magic Maths approaches and outcomes. At the end of last year I put out a call for any parents who would like to volunteer to be support people for students in Magic Maths classes. We will be providing training sessions which will outline the scope and sequence of the maths program and strategies for providing support and assisting students to achieve positive outcomes. If you would be interested in being involved in this program please leave your name at the office and, depending upon the level of interest, training sessions will commence as soon as possible.
On Monday 9th February the Home Reading program will commence for every student in the school and Mathletics passwords will also be coming so students can access this program and get the best possible value for the subscription that we have purchased for every student at Greensborough Primary.

Play Group
As mentioned last year we will be running a playgroup at Greensborough Primary in 2015. The playgroup will run on Tuesday morning from 9.15 to 10.45 commencing Tuesday 17th February. We look forward to all school families taking advantage of this opportunity to have positive social interaction for your pre-school aged child and hope that everyone will spread word of this initiative through the wider community so we can have a good level of community engagement and involvement in this program.

Parents’ Club Fundraising
Yesterday the school took delivery of another eight iPads purchased with funds raised by Parents’ Club last year. The storage trolley which now contains twenty four lap tops has been fully funded by Parents Club and we are extremely appreciative of this and look forward to the Parents’ Club activities this year and the resources and facilities funds purchased from this fundraising.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal