**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

It’s difficult to believe there is only one week left of term! Whilst it has been a very short term, students and staff have worked well to implement engaging, quality teaching and learning programs. We have received positive feedback from the many families who have been on school tours recently, on both student behaviour and the calm atmosphere in the school. I’d like to thank all our families who have supported our programs and volunteered in numerous roles this term.

I’d also like to welcome Holly and Tristan and their parents, who have travelled all the way from South Africa to join our school community. It’s a credit to both students and their family and their classmates that they have settled in so well!

As we finalise this term’s events we are heavily focussed on planning some sensational programs to complement our existing curriculum areas for Term Two. Please read Heather McLaughlin’s exciting news about the $20,000 grant we have received from the CASS Foundation for ‘Music For Learning’. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide Professional Development for staff, deliver excellent teaching programs to students and engage families in many events. We have the Science program organised by Mrs Hirth that’s mentioned later in the newsletter and our Grade 3/4 students are collaborating with a class in Manchester, Michigan, USA to design recyclable drink bottles. Thank you to Katherine Rae for organising this wonderful opportunity for our students and teachers to Skype and exchange ideas with children across the globe. We’re looking forward to their finished products and their feedback on the program.

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**Easter Parade**
A reminder to families that on the last day of term we will have our annual Easter Hat Parade at 9.10 am on the netball court. This is a fun morning when students, and preschoolers wear their wonderful creations, each grade then has a special activity, followed by an Easter egg hunt on the oval. Our Grade 5/6 student leaders are planning for this special day and we hope many family members can join us.
A highlight of this day is the Grade 6 egg toss, where students in pairs try to throw and catch a real egg the longest distance without breaking it! Modesty almost forbids me from reminding everyone that Mrs. Hirth and I are the current champions of this event and subsequently we are retiring on a high! This year Maria Plesa and Gemma Pearce will challenge our students for the overall title.
Thank you to the families who have donated eggs for the hampers Parents and Friends are making, as prizes for the Easter Raffle. Any families who would still like to donate items for raffle prizes may send them along to the office.

**Cyber Safety Presentation November 23rd – Save The Date**
Using the Internet safely is a huge concern for families and we have been on a waiting list for a Cybersmart presentation from ACMA for quite some time. Demand for this program is extremely high and the earliest date we could access was in Term Four. Of great concern to us is that presenters are having to change the content of their presentations every 6 weeks to keep up with Internet Safety issues. Due to this disturbing fact I urge parents and caregivers to diarise this date and attend this important cyber safety presentation.
On Monday November 23rd a CyberSmart trainer will conduct presentations for students in Grades 3-6 during the day. This will be followed by a staff session after school and then a presentation to parents at 7pm – 8.30pm. More details will be made available closer to the date.

**Swimming Results**
Congratulations to Annie who competed at the recent Regional Swimming Carnival and came fourth in Backstroke, narrowly missing selection for the State Finals. Annie is achieving good results in her swimming and recently swam in a 400m open water swim to raise money for Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre. Keep up the good work Annie!

**School Mascots**
Cookies and Cream were the most popular names for our school mascots! Thank you to Sarah and Chloe who have displayed a named photo of the duo so we can now learn which is which. Our Grade 3/4 students are doing a terrific job caring for our mascots who bring a great deal of enjoyment to our students.

**Emergency Management Drill**
Well done to all our students, parents and staff for quickly and calmly evacuating the building yesterday and assembling at our meeting place on the oval. Each term we practise a procedure from our Displan, including evacuations or a ‘shut-In’, (which was handy a few years ago when an inquisitive kangaroo hopped into our grounds, and we all stayed inside the building until the Animal Rescue volunteers came). It was pleasing to see all students taking the drill seriously and moving in an orderly manner, especially the students who were not with their class when the siren sounded.

**ISS Bus Costs**
At the beginning of our Summer sport season we calculated bus costs for the four AWAY games and charged families in Grades 4-6 accordingly. We now realise one of those games is against St Mary’s and as we walk to their grounds, we don’t require a bus. This extra $10 bus fare will be used for our annual Athletics training day at Willinda Park in Term Three.
Carpark – Staff Only
To ensure the safety of our community and eliminate the risk of accidents, I am reminding parents that the internal carpark is for staff members only and is not to be used by family members dropping students at Before School Care. Staff have reported several ‘near misses’ recently as they enter the carpark from The Circuit and encounter a parent driving out. Due to the busyness of the road they do not have the capacity to reverse and it is quite a stressful and dangerous situation. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Gates - Volunteers Needed
If any parents or family members are able to assist us as ‘gate monitors’ at 9.30am or 3.00pm we would be very grateful. With our focus on quality teaching and learning programs, Gemma and Maria are concerned that the Grade 5/6 students are missing valuable learning time each day when they attend to the gates. We wish to continue keeping all our students safe by having visitors only enter the school grounds by Horonda St during the day and are hoping some parents may be able to assist with locking the gates at 9.30am and opening them at 3.00 pm. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

Speaking of volunteers, thank you to Melanie, mother of Sandi in Prep for watering our Friendship Tree garden this term. It’s terrific to see this lovely garden maintained through the warm summer months.

2016 Prep Enrolments
A reminder to families that if you know anyone who is coming to Greensborough PS next year, please encourage them to register their details as soon as possible, (this includes siblings of current students). We have already had a number of enquiries and school tours for places in 2016 and the sooner we get a sense of our intake for next year, the sooner we can start planning for grade structures.

Southern Cross Recycling – Tuesday 24th March
A reminder that Southern Cross recycling will be collecting the items left at school next Tuesday morning before 9am. This weekend is your last opportunity to clean out your cupboards and send along any pre-loved clothing, toys, manchester, cutlery, crockery, etc. Southern Cross pays us an amount based on the weight of items which goes towards Grade 6 Graduation celebrations. If you spy some ‘treasures’ amongst the recycled items, you can purchase them for a gold coin donation at the office.

Egg Cartons Needed
Thank you to the families who have sent along egg cartons for Diamond Valley Food Share. The Foodshare receive a large supply of eggs from the supermarkets and they need cartons to pack the eggs for distribution to families in need in Diamond Valley. So please continue to send along any cartons that can be re-used and place them in the tub in the school foyer.

Junior School Council
Congratulations to our students who were elected from each grade for Junior School Council. JSC members take the responsibility of representing the students in their grade very seriously and organise many great events for our students, including ‘Greensborough’s Got Talent’. Ms Plesa has already had a meeting with students and they have brainstormed a list of ideas for our school - we look forward to seeing them come to fruition. Special congratulations to Lucy and Annie as JSC Captain and Vice Captain.
Special Religious Instruction
A parent consent form is being sent home with this newsletter for parents to complete if they wish their children to attend Special Religious Instruction at school. In accordance with Ministerial Directive MD141, school principals must send this note home if a notification has been received from an accredited and approved instructor. The back of the form contains relevant information for parents. If you wish your child to attend SRI, please return the form by Friday 27th March. Once the forms are returned, I will follow the guidelines of MD141 and determine if we are able to provide adequate supervision of both students who are participating in SRI and those who aren’t. It is important that all forms are returned by this date so that a decision can be made to determine if SRI can be scheduled at GPS.

Camp
I’d like to wish all our Grades 3-6 students who will be attending Camp a terrific time next week, I’m looking forward to joining them on Tuesday and sharing all the activities. A very big thank you to the staff and parents who will be attending and working ‘24/7’ to ensure everyone has a great time. (A reminder that there will not be an assembly next Monday as we will be farewelling our campers.)

As this is our last newsletter for the term, I’d like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday over the term break!

Angela Morritt
Principal

Assistant Principal’s Report

Working Bee.
We are hoping that as many families as possible can come along before ‘pick up’ time next Wednesday March 25th (from 2.30) to help us plant out a delivery of plants on the embankment between the oval and the top path. Last year Wayne terraced this area and soil and mulch was laid and now, with some cooler weather ahead, we would like to get the plants in so they can get established over winter. We will have shovels available however if you have your own to bring along that would be a great help. The plants will be laid out in their position ready for planting and we hope families will be able to support us with this project.

Hub redevelopment
We have ordered a new circular table for the redeveloped hub area and another matching table to go in the 3/4 wet area. Our computer technician has reconfigured the best of our old desk top computers and some of these will now be moved back into the hub area. Whilst we have a number of ideas regarding additional furniture items we would like for this area, we have decided to use what we have for Term Two, see how the space works, and then make a decision regarding future purchases. We are very pleased with the way in which this area has come together and look forward to progressively moving through the school to repaint and recarpet areas.

Library Outdoor Learning area
The outdoor learning area is now completely framed up and the roofing will be installed early in Term Two. We have obtained quotes for outdoor carpet for this area and will be looking to purchase suitable furniture for all weather use. Parents Club are assisting us with the funding of this aspect of the redevelopment and we are very grateful for their support.
**Student Accounts**
Two weeks ago student accounts were sent home and we are very appreciative of the prompt manner in which many families have attended to accounts. A number of families have opted to have payment plans which we are very happy to facilitate. Some accounts however, require quite immediate payment and the critical one at the moment is payment for camp as the school has to pay this invoice in full straight away, which can be very problematic if we have a large number of outstanding payments from families. If you have difficulties with camp payment please let the office know and we can work out a strategy for payment that will work within your family’s budget.

**Term Two Science program**
As has been previously communicated RMIT teaching students will be delivering a Science program to all students in Grades one to six for six teaching hours during Term Two with a focus on the Physical Sciences. Class teachers will be delivering a program for the remainder of the term with a focus on Chemical Sciences.

RMIT have contacted me with a list of items they will require to support the delivery of their program and, before I go out to buy them, I thought I would put this list in the newsletter in case any families are able to donate some of them.

We require:
- Torches
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Wire (for circuits)
- Small globes
- Mirrors

If you are able to supply any of these items please send them to the office. Your support will be most appreciated.

**Magic Maths**
We continue to be very pleased with levels of student engagement, enthusiasm and achievement in Magic Maths sessions. Moving into second term, across the school, we are going to have a focus on the automatic recall of all times tables. Magic Maths teachers will be assessing students in their groups to establish the next step for focus and practise and this will be communicated via homework books. Many thanks to Simone Wilson for providing ‘times-table’ songs to be played before the bells during the school day and, in addition to this, we will posting tables charts around the school and pursue all avenues to provide as much stimulus and interest as possible. If you are able to assist your child with practice at home to skill them up for automatic recall it would be enormously helpful for your child’s mathematical development and progress.

**Playgroup**
We have been really pleased with the interest from school families in the Tuesday morning playgroup with lots of social connections and developmental play taking place. We have had some interest from outside the school community and hope this may extend as the program goes along. Many thanks to those in the school community who have generously donated the toys and books to enable us to provide a variety of quality activities for the enjoyment of all. If you know of anyone with a baby or preschool aged child who may be interested please get a copy of the playgroup flier from the office and pass it on.

**Last day of Term Breakfast at School**
On the last day of term from 8.30 on, we will have a breakfast table set up on the netball court for cereal and juice and a healthy start to the school day. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a social breakfast with their friends.

_**Margaret Hirth**_
_**Assistant Principal**_
Student Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing Leaders 2015

Earlier this week Mrs Morritt and I informed twelve very excited Grade 6 students that they were this year’s Wellbeing Leaders. So it won’t be too long now until our Friendship Tree will have Wellbeing Leaders in attendance at recess and lunchtime. Due to the upcoming camp, the Leaders will be announced formally at the first assembly of Term 2 on Monday 13th April for any parents or friends who don’t want to miss the Leaders receive their badges and T-shirts.

The 2015 Wellbeing Leaders are: Sarah, Jayde, Callista, Grace, Abhinav, Lillian, Nicholas, James, Brianna, Molly, Emily and Khushi

Mrs Morritt and I are confident that these students will role model excellent friendship skills to the younger students and will use their kind, compassionate, caring natures to create a safe, friendly atmosphere around our tree.

Bounce Back

This week I was with the Grade 1/2s and we completed a session on ‘Personal Space’. We talked about what our personal space is and how it might get bigger or smaller depending on who you are with. We also considered some of the body language (or clues) that people might use to show you that you have moved into their personal space and they don’t like it such as: crossing their arms, leaning back, frowning, no longer making eye contact.

We then practised what you could say, kindly and confidently, if someone does step into your personal space and you would rather they didn’t. The phrase I gave them was “Stop, you are in my personal space. Could you please step back?” This is said calmly and firmly. Then a number of the children were able to role play this scenario and teach the other students.

Have a great week everyone.

Emma.

Library News

Children’s Book Festival 2015

Sunday 22nd March at the State Library Victoria and the Wheeler Centre 10am – 4pm

Free Event

The big day out for little readers is back … it’s time for the annual Children’s Book Festival celebrating the wonderful world of children’s literature and storytelling.

It’s a day when The Wheeler Centre invite kids and their parents to dive into the pleasures of books and reading, in as many different ways as possible. All you have to do is turn up and start roaming across the lawns and throughout the State Library and the Wheeler Centre - there’s plenty to discover. For one big day, it’s all been turned into your very own children’s literary playground.

Meet your favourite authors and illustrators from big names like Shaun Tan, Hazel Edwards and Andy Griffiths, to terrific emerging talents in the world of children’s books. There are storytellers, musical acts and performers of all sorts to discover. Grab a book from the picnic library … and sink into a beanbag to get lost in it. Help create a giant book that will become a memento of the day. And drop by the Children’s Book Festival Monster Marquee, where you can make your own horns to wear all day long.

Read, listen, dance and make things … it’s an active day of fun for the whole family to enjoy together.

Suitable for ages 5 to 11. www.wheelercentre.com/events
On Twitter and Instagram #kidsbookfest
This is a fantastic day out for children and adults alike. Hop on to their website to have a look at the program.

Thank you – For those who donated the many plastic bags to the library. I am very happy to take more next term.
Camp Week – We will be running on a different timetable next week. Grade 3/4s will have their library lesson on Thursday.
Holiday Borrowing - Children are very welcome to borrow for the holidays. If you would prefer that they didn’t borrow as you are going away can you please let them know.

Jen Farley Librarian
Happy Reading

MUSIC FOR LEARNING project
After applying in January for a grant from The CASS Foundation, we are all very excited to hear that Greensborough Primary School has been successful. During Terms 2 and 3, the “Music for Learning” project will involve all children, staff and interested family members in music experiences that link with other areas – literacy, numeracy, drama, art and Japanese language. These sessions will be led by: Sarah Brooke, a teacher with wide experience in schools (particularly in music, drama and art); Heather McLaughlin (who taught Music and Japanese at GPS from 2010-2014); and Jon Madin (well known to students and families for his amazing musical instrument inventions). The teachers at our school will be boosting their skills and confidence in music, and linking various aspects of classroom learning through music activities. There will be several opportunities for school families to be involved as well.
On many Fridays in Terms 2 and 3 beginning on 1st May, children and teachers will work with Sarah Brooke, Heather McLaughlin or Jon Madin.
The CASS Foundation funds programs and projects in Education and Science/Medicine, which have the capacity to provide a benefit to a significant sector of the Australian community. “In the field of education, CASS has a preference for funding innovative, curriculum-based projects which are sustainable in the long term and which may have the potential to be exemplars for change.” Mrs Morritt was deeply involved with a major project in a previous school which was also funded by the CASS Foundation, and it was a big success in motivating school engagement.
Ms McLaughlin will be running Music Extension groups as part of the project, and we plan some marimba performances at local community events (such as the Eltham Farmers’ Market). We will also have school groups performing at an Oxfam fundraising concert in September.
Our thanks to the CASS Foundation, and look out for updates to this project and to hearing more music around the school.

Heather McLaughlin, Administrator, “Music for Learning” Project.
Parents and Friends

Sushi Day
A big thank you to Juishi Sushi for supporting us on our first Sushi day. The feedback we had from families was extremely positive so we hope to run another Sushi Day next term.

Baker’s Delight Day
Reminder: Tomorrow (Friday) is Baker’s Delight Lunch Day for everyone who has ordered.

Easter Raffle
Thank you to all families that have donated items for the Easter raffle. We have been able to put together 5 baskets of Easter goodies for prizes, including one basket with lots of craft items (and just a couple of choccies). This is in addition to the $100 Hahndorf chocolate hamper. Please return all tickets by Friday morning (27th) as the Easter raffle will be drawn during the Easter Bonnet Parade (last day of term). Tickets are 50 cents each. Additional tickets available at the office.

Easter Hot Cross Buns
A Hot Cross buns order form also came out last week. This year the hot cross buns are provided by Bakers Delight in Greensborough Plaza. $2 from each 6 pack of buns goes towards the school. Order forms are due back Friday 20th of March (tomorrow) with delivery on the Thursday 26th.

Spring Bulb Drive
Last week we also sent home a Spring Bulb order form. This drive is being run through Garden Express and all funds raised are going towards the Library redevelopment. You have the whole school holidays to ask friends and family if they would like to order bulbs, and the forms are due back next term on Monday 20th April.

Trivia Night – Saturday May 23rd
Don’t forget to mark this date in your calendar. We are still gathering items for the silent auction, so if you have your own business and would like to donate goods or services, please leave your donation or a note at the office. Thank you.

Kim Hill on behalf of P&F

Book Club
Just a reminder that Book Club orders are due in no later than Monday 23rd March.

Canteen News
Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to be on the roster for Terms 2 and 3. It is great to be able to keep the canteen open. There is also some discussion around it being open on Monday. There will be a canteen meeting on Friday 17th April at 9:15AM in the staff room for any parents who would like to come along to discuss menu items – summer to winter and opening on Monday. If you can attend this meeting please RSVP to Simone Baldwin via text on 0427 746 663 or just come on the day.

Simone Baldwin
Term One ~ Week 5  Week Ending March 6th 2015

Prep ~ Adrian~ For being so kind, caring and very wise. What a fabulous classmate!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Emily ~ For always displaying our school values, especially respect.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Abdi ~ For trying particularly hard during writing sessions this week.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Hudson M ~ For his wonderful effort in all areas of his classwork this week.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Hudson H ~ For his fantastic public speaking, using eye contact, clear speech and humour.
Grade 5/6 A ~ Lilly ~ For being a caring and sharing member of our classroom.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Max H ~ For his concentration and effort in class this week. Max has really demonstrated the GPS value of achievement.
Library ~ Annie. For writing some excellent justifications for her work about The Stolen Generation.

Term One ~ Week 6  Week Ending March 13th 2015

Prep ~ Sandi ~ For being so kind and helping our garden to grow. Sandi invited friends to help too. Well done Sandi!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Willoughby and Colin ~ For an outstanding effort during Big Write. I am very proud of you both. Keep it up!
Grade 1/2 B ~ Harvey ~ For always being a kind and responsible class member. Keep it up!
Grade 3/4 A ~ Tristan ~ For a great start at Greensborough Primary School.
Grade 3/4 B ~ Holly ~ For being so confident and making a great start at Greensborough Primary School.
Grade 5/6 A ~ Zac ~ For being a helpful and kind student. You have had a wonderful term. Well done!
Grade 5/6 B ~ Imogen ~ For her insightful responses in reading this week.
OSHC ~ Oliver ~ For always using his manners in OSHC.
Art ~ Mason ~ For concentrating brilliantly in Art this week. Mason completed his work to a very good standard.
Library ~ Kingston ~ For completing his class activity to an excellent standard. Well done Kingston!
University High School Open Day
University High School run a Select Entry Accelerated Learning program starting in Year 7. Applications for entry to the program can be made on their school website www.unihigh.vic.edu.au. The closing date for applications is May 1st 2015 and the entry test will be held Saturday May 9th. More information is available on their school’s website. Their school's open day will be held on April 30th.

Holiday Tennis Programs
State & National Award Winning Program
at St. Mary’s TC

Holiday Tennis Programs
Monday to Thurs each week of the holidays
Full Day and Half Day available
Hot Shot Clinics, Hot Shot Tournaments
Ages 5 to 18

Hot Shot Leagues – Fri & Sun
Fun Competition Tennis for ages 7 to 12
Controlled environment - the kids will love it.

For information or bookings:
The Tennis Guru
0488 722 538
info@thetennisguru.com.au