**Borough Bulletin November 5th 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th November</td>
<td>Transition for 2016 Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th November</td>
<td>School Council meeting 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th November</td>
<td>Southern Cross recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th November</td>
<td>Sushi lunch. Transition for 2016 Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th November</td>
<td>Banyule dental health checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th November</td>
<td>Transition for 2016 Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd November</td>
<td>Cybersmart Evening School Council sub committee meetings week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th November</td>
<td>Baker’s Delight lunch Transition for 2016 Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st December</td>
<td>Skaters Christmas Party 3:45 to 6:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th December</td>
<td>School Council meeting 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th December</td>
<td>Subway Sounds Music Performance at Panton Hill 6PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th December</td>
<td>Instrumental concert Prep – Grade 4 2:30 to 3:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th December</td>
<td>Christmas concert and Tea Billy Bush Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>Last day of year 1:30 finish Merry Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th January 2016</td>
<td>First day of school for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

We had a very productive Curriculum Day on Monday with teachers working together to moderate student work samples to ensure consistency of their evaluations and assessments for report writing. Teachers analyse formal test results, students’ workbooks and also draw on their observations of what students say and do in class, to determine the achievement level of individual students. Part of this process is to also use this information to drive the teaching and learning programs for the remainder of the term and to give students feedback on their strengths and areas for improvement. Teachers will make changes to reports to show improvements in achievement right up to the final moment of printing. Our intervention and extension programs will continue until the final weeks of school so that our emphasis is on continual growth.

Wayne and Doug also achieved a great deal on Monday and have almost completed the replacement of the paling fence section on the corner of the circuit. The new wire fence and gate opens up our grounds and provides a terrific vista of our school environment. When we conduct school tours people are continually amazed by the size of the school and the terrific passive and active play areas we have, that aren’t visible from the street. School Council has long wanted to ‘open up’ our school’ to the community to showcase our terrific resources and we are very grateful...
for Wayne for his excellent coordination of this task and the immense amount of time and effort he has put into the many projects that enhance our school!

We are very excited about the progress of our new Science classroom in the heritage building. The floors have been stripped and sealed and Wayne (who else?) has cleverly combined previously unused trolleys to make excellent storage units which are now in place. Thanks to Parents and Friends purchasing new storage tubs, display and whiteboards, the room is really taking shape. Jane has begun auditing existing equipment and in the coming weeks she will attend a Professional Learning day run by Prime Connections and purchase new Science resources with funding from P & F. Stay tuned for further updates or feel free to pop in and see the progress!

**World Teachers’ Day**
This week we celebrated World Teachers’ Day and I’d like to thank Parents and Friends who provided a delicious morning tea for teachers and aides, and also to Lara C. for all her work organising this. We are very lucky at GPS to have such a cohesive staff who work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for our students. Each staff member works extremely hard and generously shares their special talents to help our children thrive. For those of us who have worked at several different schools and also from talking to colleagues, I can assure you this is not the case at every school. So thank you to our wonderful staff –we appreciate the extra efforts you make!

**The Joys Of Reading!**
It’s heartening to read in Jen Farley’s insert in this newsletter, the number of books that have been borrowed from the Library this year. Research shows that parents sharing a book with their child, not only promotes children's language, literacy and cognitive development, it also builds relationships and enhances their options for long term success. Along with our Magic Maths homework, reading is the other activity we ask children to complete and we strongly encourage all parents to read to or with their children. We are very fortunate to have a Librarian of Jen Farley’s calibre who inspires a love of good literature in our students.

**Prep Transition**
Tomorrow we welcome our 2016 Preps to the first of our four transition sessions. While Laura and Anne are running the transition session in the Prep classroom, this year’s Preps will work with Lyn Novak in the hall and the art room from 9-10.30 and then they will walk to the pool as they usually do. Information sessions for 2016 parents will be held in the Library.

**Cyber Safety – Social Media**
Increasingly young children are innocently and naively being engaged in interactions with strangers which can have significant and serious ramifications. On Monday 23rd November, 6.00 – 7.30pm, we are having a CyberSafety presentation from ACMA which organises the National CyberSafety Education Program. The students will have sessions during the day and an information session for parents and caregivers will be held in the evening. I urge all families to attend this presentation to receive up to date information that will help us to keep our children safe online. Please fill in the reply slip at the end of the newsletter to indicate your interest in attending this session and help us with our planning.

**SunSmart – No Hat, No Play**
A reminder to parents that we have school sunsmart hats on sale in the office for $10. Recently there have been many children who do not have a sun smart school hat to wear during recess breaks and consequently they have to spend their time in designated shaded play areas. We don’t want children to miss out playing with their friends, so we do have a small collection of spare hats to cater for the odd occasion children leave their hats at home. Unfortunately the demand outstrips supply so we urge parents to help their children locate their hats at home or purchase a replacement.
Swimming
Last week I attended swimming with the Preps and Grade 1/2B and was impressed with the students’ behaviour as they walked safely to the pool and also while they were there. We overlapped with the Grade 3/4s and 1/2A and it was terrific to see so many parents present and supporting the program. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

Facebook Coordinator/s Needed!
Our current parent volunteers who coordinate Facebook for us are stepping down due to their increased workloads and family commitments, and we are very keen to hear from any parents who are able to assist with this role. The main tasks are scheduling term planner dates on Facebook and monitoring / responding to comments and messages. Please have a think about helping with this task, as it is able to be done from home, it’s very important for GPS to have a presence on social media and families tell us they value the reminders for school events. Please contact the office if you can assist and or are prepared to share the role. I’d like to thank Marita and Tina for all their valuable work as the current Facebook coordinators.

Congratulations!
It was a lovely surprise for Emily and Tannaz last week to discover their film “Privacy Is Important” had been chosen to be played for the audience at Banyule Council and Yarra Plenty Regional Library’s Film Festival “Children’s rights are human rights”. We commend all the Grade 5/6 students who worked cooperatively in groups to write and film their entries and congratulate Emily and Tannaz for having their work showcased with entries from other schools. Thank you also to Gemma and Maria for liaising with Banyule Council on this innovative project.

2016 Grades
Next Wednesday students will be asked to name five friends they would like to have in their grade next year. This greatly assists us when we come to forming classes, as there are many factors that are considered when placing students in grades and ensuring students have at least one nominated friend is important to us. Thank you to parents who have come to see me with requests for next year, if there are any additional requests please drop in and see myself or Margaret or leave a note at the office.

Remembrance Day
Family members are invited to join us on Wednesday 11th November when Grades Prep-Six will gather on the netball court at 11am to observe one minute’s silence to remember the men and women who have served Australia in all wars and armed conflicts. Our School Vice-Captains, Callista and Nic, will read the Ode of Remembrance and place a wreath at the base of our flag pole. After this ceremony, the Junior School Councillors will accompany Ms. Plesa to War Memorial Park to lay the wreath. Also on this day our School Captains Molly and James, will represent our school at a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Watsonia RSL. This very moving service will consist of speeches by veterans followed by our students laying a wreath with other community groups. We congratulate Molly and James who are the worthy recipients of scholarships for Year 7, provided by the Watsonia RSL. The scholarships are awarded to students who have displayed excellent leadership skills and have been role models for their peers. We are very proud of Molly and James and know they will be excellent ambassadors for our school.
Southern Cross Recycling - November 11th
A reminder that our last Southern Cross Recycling Day for 2015 is next Tuesday 10th November, to fit in with National Recycling Week. So if you have a free moment before then, you might like to ‘spring clean’ your cupboards and send along toys, manchester items, books, etc to raise funds for Grade 6 Graduation. Prior to collection, if any families spy a ‘treasure’ in the recycled goods they would like to take home, just contact the office to make a donation. As we are paid by weight, a gold or silver coin donation would be sufficient.

Walk to School Breakfast – Tomorrow!
As part of our Health Integrated Studies unit this term we are celebrating ‘Walk To School Month’ and having breakfast on the netball court before school tomorrow Friday November 6th, 8.30 am. We hope many students and their families will be able to join us by walking to school or if families live too far away, perhaps parking a little further away and walking the remaining distance.

New Out of Hours School Care Provider
Representatives from OHS Club came to After School Care last Wednesday afternoon and answered parents’ questions and explained the new processes for bookings, etc. Feedback from parents has been very positive and we look forward to OHS Club coming to Cuppa Club next Monday 9th November and also to one of our Prep Transition sessions to provide information and answer parent queries. Interested parents and caregivers are invited to attend.

Angela Morritt
Principal

Banyule Community Health Dental Service will be visiting our school on November 17th to conduct oral health screenings with children in Grades Prep – Six. Please return your consent form (sent home with the newsletter) to your classroom teacher by Friday 13th November, if you would like your child to receive an oral health screening. Be sure to “drink well, eat well and clean well!”

PARENTS & FRIENDS
So far this year we have raised over $13,500 for the school! The money raised will be going towards helping set up the new Science program for next year, the Library outdoor extension, Magic Maths resources, new brochures for the school, contributing towards the weekly Fruit Friday as well as providing entertainment for the Christmas party. It is a fantastic effort to be able to raise so much money for the school, where all the students will benefit. Thank you to all the families who have supported P&F throughout the year with the various fundraisers.

Food Days
On Friday 13th of November we will be having a Sushi food day. Thank you to Juishi Sushi for their continued support of our food days. Order forms will be coming out this week and due back by next Monday (9th of November).

Kim Hill
On behalf of Parents and Friends
Our school Butterfly Garden
The Grade 1/2 Art Extension group have spent an hour of the first three Thursday mornings of this term with Jim Mead, Banyule Council’s Environmental Sustainability Education Officer. The first week was a planting session in Kalparrin Gardens; the second week involved learning about the life cycle of the butterfly, in particular the Eltham Copper Butterfly. Lastly, the students planted a special garden in the school grounds with butterfly-attracting plants supplied by Banyule Council. For the remainder of the Art Extension Program, students will be creating their own special artwork on the theme of “Little Creatures”.
Thanks to Emma B, Will D, Petar, Amihan, Violet, Ana, Leo, Naomi, Zayne, James & Amelia for their wonderful input into this project.

Janet Troy,
Visual Arts Teacher

Walkathon 2015 and Crazy Hat Day

The Walk-a-thon held last Thursday was a wonderful success and we would like to say a big thankyou to all the students, parents and teachers who made it such an exciting and successful event! There were an array of crazy hats and it was particularly hard to select a winner from each house, however, in the end the craziest hat wearers on the day were:
- Banksia House – Jake (Prep)
- Grevillia House – Adrian (Prep)
- Acacia House – Starr (Prep)
- Eucalyptus House – Emmet (Grade 4)
If your child collected donations for walking we would kindly ask that these be returned to the school by Friday 13th November, so that we can begin purchasing new sports equipment for the students as soon as possible.

Regards,
Sam Molyneaux
Library News

Book Borrowing
Recently when writing reports I printed off the borrowing data for the year until the end of October. The children have borrowed approximately **5000 books** during this time. Obviously this does not mean that they are reading them all but I think that it is fantastic that we have so many children selecting books to take home. It is lovely to see children coming in to ask for something specific, or reserving a book that a friend or staff member has read and recommended to them. Popular books or series have been Andy Griffiths’ Treehouse series, Stuff Happens – a fantastic new series aimed at boys in middle to upper years, Tashi books, Rainbow Magic books, Roald Dahl a perennial favourite, Two Wolves by Tristan Bancks, Percy Jackson and many more. Guinness World Record books continue to walk off the shelves as do books about Star Wars or Lego.

As I have said before – Reading is alive and well at Greensborough Primary School!

Extension Literacy Group
On Thursday mornings I am very privileged to run an extension literacy group with 7 children from Grades 5 and 6. Privileged in that these children can just sit and talk about a book, the characters, their motives, the plot and so on. They can make text to self-connections, to other texts and the wider world. Discussions about dystopian societies, cults, stereotypes and much more make up our sessions. Recently they wrote letters to Tristan Bancks, author of ‘Two Wolves’. I thought you might like to read a small extract of some of what they wrote.

‘The description was unbelievable and I could picture every page in my mind as if I was in the book.’

‘It straight away intrigued us and captured our imagination by drawing a strong picture in our mind.’

‘I would like to congratulate you on your recently acquired awards, they are well earned and you should be very proud of your achievements.’

‘It was a real page turner, usually I don’t read that type of book but I gave it a try and I loved it. It was PHENOMENAL!’

‘I have seen the rush of popularity of your book and when I read your book I knew that was what it deserved.’

‘I hope that you write more books in the future, for this was the best book that I’ve read in a long time[excluding rereads of Harry Potter, no offence] and I’m proud that we have an amazing Aussie writer for this genre and age group.’

‘Thank you for writing this incredible book and I hope that you consider writing a sequel as I think many of your fans enjoyed Two Wolves.’

Book Club
This year we trialled changing our Book Club supplier to Lamont Book Club for 2015. We had recently made the decision to return to Scholastic Book Club as the transition has not been very successful in that Lamont was not offering material that was as popular as previously and sales were very low. I was then informed that Lamont Book Club would not be offering the service for 2016. So we are now back on board with Scholastic and we look forward to families receiving the Wombat, Lucky, Star and Arrow publications next year.

Happy Reading

Thanks
Jen Farley
Librarian
Hi everyone, while we continue in Bounce Back with our work on ‘Gratitude’, I thought I might share with you this article on anxiety by Dr. Jenny Brockis who contributes to parentingideas.com. Her idea about having ‘quiet time’ is a great one and I regularly encourage parents to try it.

Raising Calm Kids
Let me share the stories of two very different kids who shared a common challenge. The first is Isobel. From her first day of child care, Isobel would cry incessantly when her mum tried to leave. In primary school she made a number of friends but lacked self-confidence. By the time she was in secondary school, she was known as a bit of a loner. In Year 10, Isobel started missing school. The second child is Jamie, who was always a bundle of energy. He had continuous ‘ants in his pants’. His hyperactivity led him to be assessed for attention deficit disorder, though this was ruled out. His teachers found his classroom antics difficult; he would constantly distract the other kids and muck about. Jamie ended up being suspended from school. As you can see, Isobel and Jamie were two very different kids. But the challenge they faced was eventually recognised as being the same: anxiety. While not always as severe as that suffered by Isobel and Jamie, anxiety – especially in those under 25 – is increasing at an alarming rate. It’s thought that the constant busyness of modern life, with little or no down time, is part of this problem. New technology allows our kids to connect with each other constantly, but paradoxically this has led in some instances to a huge sense of disconnect – and to anxiety.

Our brains were not designed to be constantly stimulated. All brains need some time out. In a constantly connected world what we need is more balance. So what can we do to help our kids restore this balance? One of the most effective ways is to help children to know how they can proactively quieten down their mind, especially if it’s making them feel mad or sad.

You can teach your kids how to enjoy quiet time. Here’s a technique that works well.

**Tips for Quiet Time:**

1. Choose a time that suits you and your child. Morning or evening, just whatever works best for you as a family.
2. Schedule in ten to fifteen minutes for the practice. You may need to start with just two to four minutes at first.
3. Find a place that allows your child to stay quiet. This could be their bedroom or any other room in the house that they like being in and in which they can feel relaxed.
4. They can choose to sit or to lie down on a blanket or rug on the floor. Try to avoid their bed as they may fall asleep, which isn’t the purpose of the exercise. Get them to gently close their eyes or look down towards the ground. Now it’s time for them to take a slow deep breath in through the nose, hold it for one to two seconds and then breathe out. Get them to do this two more times.
5. After the third breath, ask them to continue breathing in the same way, now noticing the air as it passes in and out through their nostrils. After the next ten breaths, direct their focus to the rising and falling of their chest or tummy.
6. The next sequence requires them to notice any tension or muscle tightness in their shoulders, tummy or elsewhere and then, on each breath out, to let all that tension just float away, enjoying the sensation as they allow their muscles to become more relaxed.
7. Continue with the breathing exercise until you reach the end of your allotted time. When it’s time to stop, your child can just open their eyes, wriggle their toes and fingers and after a moment or two get up to resume the rest of their day.

Practicing regular quiet time should start to produce some positive differences quite quickly. Once they have mastered the technique, it will always be available to them any time they feel over anxious or stressed. Just three deep breaths may be all they need.

**Emma Bevan**

Student Welfare Co Ordinator
Parents Support Group
Thursday mornings at Greensborough Primary School, a support group for parents of children with special needs are meeting. Come along, exchange notes on therapists, how you survive school mornings and is coffee really the solution to everything?

Canteen News
Thank you for supporting our recent Chicken Burger Day but please note this was a once only deal and is no longer a menu item. We hope you enjoyed your meal on that day.
Please note that due to unforeseen commitments, canteen will not be available on Friday 6th November. Normal over the counter sales will be available at lunchtime on this day. We apologise for any inconvenience.
Why not try a frozen yoghurt on a hot day. Great value at $1:50 and so refreshing.

Joy and Linda
Canteen Ladies

Nude Food Day
We are excited to announce that we will be having one Nude Food day day per term.
‘Nude food’ is food that comes to school without disposable packaging – extra plastic bags, paper bags, wrappings, disposable plastic water bottles or cling wraps. We will be celebrating innovative ideas and healthy lunches with the students in all classes as well as comparing our waste on Nude Food days compared with regular school days.
As well as helping our environment by creating less rubbish, families will also be helping to reduce their shopping bills due to the added cost of packaging small portions of food. For some ideas and further details visit http://downtoearthmother.com/2014/01/20/join-nude-food-revolution/
Our next Nude Food day will be on Tuesday 27th October.

Chris Blake
Coordinator

Skaters Christmas Party
Back by popular demand GPS has another skate night coming up in December. Skaters Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday December 1st from 3:45 to 6:30 PM. Don’t forget to put the date in your diary.
- It’s a dress up party (Best costume wins a prize)
- Special prize if you can get your teacher to come.
- There will be other prizes on the night (Best skater, most improved skater, best attitude)
- Cost is $5 per skater (Includes skates and protective gear)
- Bring your water bottle.
- No self catering please.
This night is for all GPS students, family and friends, so invite everyone you know. Can’t wait to see you there!

We’re on the way to becoming eSmart
Earlier we advised that our school had registered with eSmart – a comprehensive approach for managing cybersecurity and dealing with bullying and cyberbullying in school communities.
We’re pleased to let you know that we have completed the first phase of our eSmart journey.
We have planned many activities in line with the eSmart Schools Framework, and are now progressing with implementation.

Expect to hear a lot more in the coming months about our efforts to promote the smart, safe and responsible use of digital technology.
We hope you will also take part in some of the opportunities to learn more about being eSmart.
For more information visit www.esmart.org.au
**Term Four – Week 3  Week Ending October 23rd 2015**

Prep ~ Lolita ~ For settling back into school beautifully after her holiday. We missed you!

Grade 1/2 A ~ Will D~ For putting in a fantastic effort throughout our narrative unit. Keep up the great work.

Grade 1/2 B ~ Ryan ~ For trying his best in all areas of learning this week. Well done!

Grade 3/4 A ~ Akeem ~ For a fantastic effort in Big Write. Keep showing great enthusiasm.

Grade 3/4 B ~ Anika ~ For being so engaged and productive in Maths this week, Keep it up!

Grade 5/6 A ~ Isaac H ~ For always asking clarifying questions to better his understanding of the text or topic.

Grade 5/6 B ~ Grace ~ For always completing every task to the best of her ability.

Art~ Zoe ~ For drawing lots of different textures in her “Owl” artwork.

Student Wellbeing ~ Grace D ~ For all the care and effort she put in her gratitude letter.

Library ~ Adrian T ~ For doing a fantastic job with his classwork about the book “I can move”

OSHC ~ Kate M ~ For always using her manners. Well done Kate!

**Eltham Festival**

Eltham Rotary Club are holding Eltham Festival on Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd of November. There will be a Pet’s Parade on the Sunday at 10:30AM in Alistair Knox Park. Prizes are awarded for various categories of pet displays. Call Eltham Pet Practice for further details.

At this festival there will also be a competition for the best decorated bike with a superheroes theme. This will be held on the Saturday starting at 12:30Pm at the same venue.

**1st Greenhills Scout Group and Greenhills Playgroup**

**Christmas Twilight Market**  **Friday 4th December**

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? A beautiful tree?

Come and join us at the Twilight Market, a joint fundraiser for 1st Greenhills Scout Group and Greenhills Playgroup.

**Where:** Scout Hall, Community Drive Greensborough

**When:** Friday 4th December, from 4-9pm

BBQ, cake stall, Christmas tree sales & plenty of gift ideas!

For enquires and stall bookings ring John 0431 030 202
ST. MARY’S TENNIS CLUB - are looking for players to play in the Autumn season commencing February, 2016 for the following competitions:-
Juniors - Friday night and Saturday morning
Seniors - Tuesday Midweek ladies and Night Tennis for men, women & mixed.
For further information email stmarystennis56@gmail.com or phone Helen 9438-3559 before Friday 13th November.

Diamond Hills Preschool still has vacancies for 3 and 4 year olds for 2016. If you would like to arrange a tour of the facilities call 9435 8694.

Cybersmart Information Evening
Monday 23rd November 6-7.30pm
This session will be run by an ACMA’s Cybersmart Outreach Trainer and will complement sessions held with Gr3 – 6 students and also staff.

Please fill out the form below as an expression of interest if you would like to attend this session. This will assist us to plan for this event.

Cybersmart Parent Information Evening
I/We are interested in attending the Cybersmart Information Evening on Monday 23rd November.
Name: ___________________ No. of adults attending______