PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

A very warm welcome to everyone for the start of 2016! I’d especially like to welcome those new to Greensborough Primary: our Preps, thirteen new students enrolling in Grades 1-6 and their families, and new staff member Rebecca Gauci. I’m sure you will all greatly enjoy being part of our terrific community at Greensborough Primary. I hope everyone has had a very restful break and come back full of energy and enthusiasm for a productive and engaging year ahead.

The holiday period always reminds us of the importance of regular maintenance and offers us a chance to complete some major tasks. This holiday was no different as new interactive whiteboards were installed in the Prep and Grade 1/2 A classrooms, adding to those installed in Grades 3/4A & 5/6B last year. Carpets were cleaned and vinyl areas stripped and sealed. Wayne has almost completed the refurbishment of the back store room of the library and the installation of windows has transformed this space into a new learning area for intervention /extension programs, Kids Hope Mentors or office space for our Department psychologists and speech therapists. We are indebted to Wayne for his ongoing support and sharing of expertise as he also completed important maintenance tasks, such as replacing skirting board in the Prep room and rehanging fire extinguishers.

The school has been very busy over the last two weeks as teachers came in to plan together and set up classrooms in preparation for the year ahead. Yesterday was a very productive day as staff worked through the list of all students enrolled at the school to ensure there is understanding and consistency with important medical, behavioural and academic information. Timetables and student groupings for Corrective Reading, Spelling Mastery and Magic Maths were presented by Margaret and timetables for education support staff, specialists and yard duty were tabled. Additional areas of responsibility for staff were agreed on and assessment schedules reviewed, as well as Anaphylaxis training updated. We also participated in three hours of professional learning for the CASEA PATHS which promotes alternative thinking strategies that develop emotional and social competence in students. Whew! It has been a busy fortnight however it is excellent to start the year with all systems ready to go!
The additional enrolments in the last few weeks, has prompted some changes to our staffing and timetables. We are providing an additional teacher to team teach in the Prep classroom and Anne Loney and Lyn Morris will work in the Grade 1/2 Literacy block, so there will be three teachers for Reading and Writing lessons in Grade Two. We also have smaller group sizes in Numeracy, with Margaret, Jayne and myself all teaching in Magic Maths. Jen Farley will continue Literacy Extension in the Grade 5/6 area and we are hoping to extend this to Grade 3/4. Janet Troy is busy planning the Art Show in Term Two, so Visual Arts Extension will begin in Semester Two. This is all based on the information we have to date and will be finalised when we receive our confirmed budget at the end of February. We are very pleased we are able to offer such valuable intervention and extension programs, alongside our usual curriculum programs.

Our new Science specialist program will also begin next week and staff and students are equally excited about its launch. Jane has been busy setting up the room with funds from Parents and Friends and a Telstra grant and Families will be invited to a ‘Grand Opening’ in the near future!

**Introducing the 2016 Team**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Grade 1/2</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Tillotson, Sam Molyneaux, Anne Loney</td>
<td>Erin Donaldson, Anne Loney, Lyn Morris</td>
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<td>Grade 1/2</td>
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<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Rebecca Gauci, Anne Loney, Lyn Morris</td>
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<td>P-2 Literacy Coordinator</td>
<td>Anne Loney</td>
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<td>Grade 3/4</td>
<td>Chris Blake</td>
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<td>Grade 3/4</td>
<td>Claire Storey / Alison Gibson</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Gemma Pearce</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Maria Plesa</td>
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<td>Specialists</td>
<td>Jen Farley  Library + Gr 5/6 Literacy extension</td>
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<td>Janet Troy Visual Arts + Visual Arts Extension</td>
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<td>Jane Byrne  Physical Education, Science, Magic Maths</td>
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<td>LOTE: To Be Confirmed</td>
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<td>Education Support Staff</td>
<td>Bev O’Brien</td>
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<td>Irene Cotton</td>
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<td>Emilia Sacchetta</td>
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<td>OHS Club</td>
<td>Jacqui Baker</td>
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<td>Tina Coleman</td>
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<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Christina Matthews</td>
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<td>Office Administration</td>
<td>Les Ismail</td>
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<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Margaret Hirth</td>
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<td>Principal</td>
<td>Angela Morritt</td>
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As is our customary practice, the first two weeks of school (this week and next week) will see all grades 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. We are very pleased that Emma Bevan will be coming back to run four sessions on Fridays, focussing on our School Values with students during and beyond the Start Up program. Due to her expanding practice as a Child Psychologist, Emma withdrew from a regular weekly role at GPS, however we are very pleased that Emma is able to continue her excellent work for special projects and also to help mentor a new Wellbeing Coordinator.

In Week Three all grades will commence their usual class time-tables, which will include all grades, including the Preps, commencing the Home Reading program. Corrective Reading, Spelling Mastery, Magic Maths and homework will also commence in this week. Details of all programs will be communicated in class newsletters.
Inter School Sport and Swimming Carnival Trials

Inter school sport for students in Grades 4-6 begins next Friday 5th February. A fixture for Summer Sport and venues will be sent home tomorrow. Students in Grade Three will remain with Ms Gibson and continue with their class programs and also spend time practising for ISS in 2017. The Watsonia District Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 17th 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 to select the students who will represent Greensborough PS at the District Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 9th February 9.30 – 11.00. Notes will be sent home tomorrow 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. If any parents can assist us it would be greatly appreciated!

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 transport means prior to each excursion. Please sign the form and return it to school by Thursday 4th 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.

Twilight Sports

Our annual Twilight Sports Night will be held on the oval on Tuesday 1st 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.

Camp Information Night

On Thursday February 11th 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 Wombat Corner, Emerald on March 9th – 11th. This night will run for 20-30 minutes and Gemma will answer any parent queries. Medical forms for Camp will be sent home on Monday 1st 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.

Class Newsletters

As is our usual practice, each grade level will have class newsletters which set out programs and planning for the next term. The Prep grades will begin the year with a fortnightly newsletter and then move to one per term as families become more familiar with school routines. Grades 1-6 have one newsletter per term which will be sent home in the second week of each term. Class newsletters outline most class and school administrative procedures, and 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.

Advance Notice of Pupil Free Days

Each year, schools are allocated four days they can set aside as ‘pupil free’ days to allow for professional learning opportunities for staff, curriculum development or similar. Yesterday was the first of these four days and the second will be on Monday 29th February, when all staff will be participating in a professional development program which will build staff capacity to achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan. The third day will be Friday 13th May and the fourth Monday 31st October- both these days will focus on teacher moderation of student work samples for report writing. Students will not attend school on these days and if numbers permit, OHS Club will provide care for students on these days – please contact them for more information.
Have you registered for MY Skoolbag App yet??
Don’t miss out on a reminder from the school via your mobile phone. Register today and tick for notifications for the ‘whole school’ and for the year levels of your children. Download the My Skoolbag App from iTunes or Google Play. Please contact the office if you would like further information or assistance to download the app.

Financial Assistance For Parents - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
The Victorian Government is providing funding assistance for camps, sports and excursions for students, if parents have a valid means-tested concession card. More information is included on a flyer at the end of the newsletter, along with the application form. Completed application forms should be returned to the office for payment in Term Two.

Student Leadership
There are many opportunities for students to develop leadership skills at Greensborough Primary. In the junior grades this may take the form of office monitors or an area of responsibility within the classroom or Junior School Councillors. The development of students’ leadership skills continues at each grade level and culminates in Grade 6 when students write a speech and present to a staff panel for School Captain. Senior students also present to their peers and younger students for House Captain positions. Students also submit a written application for a Student Wellbeing Leaders position. As part of the TEAM program, classes discuss what makes a good leader and the importance of voting on merit rather than friendship groups. In Week Three, beginning February 8th, senior students will apply for leadership positions which will then be announced at assembly on February 15th.

OHS Club
Coordination of Vacation Care and Before & After School Care transferred to OHS Club in January and I am very pleased with the smooth transition. Our regular staff Jacqui and Tina were joined by experienced OHS Club staff from other venues and reported how much they enjoyed collaborating and sharing ideas. As I popped in regularly, it was evident the students who attended were engaged, enjoyed the new equipment and built great relationships with new staff members. Jacqui has been a terrific resource for parents in helping them to navigate the new procedures and protocols and has given very positive feedback on the program.

As you read this, we will have finished our first day of the school year and it has been lovely to see how well our students have settled into their new grades and how welcoming they have been to new students. I think every grade was almost as excited as the Preps to begin the new school year and we look forward to a year full of engaging learning with rigorous academic growth.

Angela Morritt
Principal
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

The Education State
# CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

**School Name**

**School REF ID**

## Parent/legal guardian details

**Surname**

**First name**

**Address**

**Town/suburb**

**State**

**Postcode**

**Contact number**

- **Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)**
  - [ ] - [ ] - [ ] - [ ] - [ ]
  - OR

- [ ] Foster parent* OR [ ] Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

## Student details

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<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

  - this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

  - I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

  - if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

  - Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools' Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

  You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

**Signature of applicant**

**Date**

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**VICTORIA State Government**