Principal's Report
We welcomed several new families to our school this week and it was lovely to hear their praise for our students, class programs and general environment. We can tend to take what we have for granted, however listening to their comments it’s obvious that the friendly, inclusive culture and excellent academic and wellbeing programs are not common in all schools. Our staff and parent community work very hard to provide the best for our students and it’s clearly evident to newcomers and much appreciated by our students.

There is a little over two weeks left until the end of term, and rather than winding down we are working hard to complete end of year tasks and prepare for 2017. The final touches are being made to reports as teachers are giving students every chance to meet or exceed expected outcomes. Ellen our Student Wellbeing Coordinator and Tracie-Lee our DET psychologist, are working with our Grade 6 students to help them prepare for the transition to secondary school. Our final Prep transition was last Friday and Laura and I are visiting the 2017 Preps at their kindergartens and speaking to kinder teachers to ensure their smooth transition to GPS. Our Graduation celebrations are well underway and we’re excitedly looking forward to this event next Thursday. Students in Grades Four and Five are preparing School Captain and House Captain speeches so we can finalise these positions and present our 2017 leaders to our community at assembly this year. Class teachers are meeting to give a thorough handover of student information to 2017 teachers and students will have a chance to meet their new classmates and teachers on Tuesday the 13th December. Margaret and I are in the midst of planning 2017 timetables, Magic Maths and Spelling Mastery groups and completing a host of other administration tasks so that we have an excellent start to 2017.

As Margaret and I read reports before they go home, we commend our teachers for the in depth knowledge they have about the children they teach. It’s evident that our teachers work hard to not only assist students to improve academic standards, but also to help them develop socially and emotionally. I’d like to thank staff for working so diligently to write student reports that accurately reflect students’ achievements and their areas for future learning.
We send our congratulations to Chris Blake and his wife Lara on the birth of their beautiful son Clifford, last week. This is an exciting time in their life and we wish them all the best with this latest addition to their family. While Chris is on Paternity Leave for three weeks, Lyn Novak will teach his grade. Lyn has been working in Grade 3/4A this term and planning with the Grade 3/4 team, so this will be a seamless transition with all class programs going ahead as usual.

Thank you Volunteers
As we reflect on the year’s achievements it is obvious we could not have achieved so much without the help of our terrific volunteers. It was lovely that so many could attend last week’s morning tea so we could show our appreciation. I’d like to thank our talented musicians, Stuart, Angus and Liam who played the guitar and did an excellent job entertaining us.

A special thanks to Wayne for his work on our new chicken coop. The children have been watching it’s progress with much anticipation and we are very happy that it will be finished before the end of the year and our new chickens will take up residence at the beginning of next year. In Wayne’s usual fashion it is extremely well designed and our hens will be comfortable in all weather conditions.

Class PE Equipment
Thank you to everyone for supporting our Walkathon - $921 was raised for class sports equipment! Next week we will collect the current PE storage units from the classrooms, audit and relabel the current stock and replenish class sets with the new equipment, ready for 2017. A container of balls and sports equipment will be kept in the foyer for students to use during recess breaks, for the remainder of the year. If any parents have time to help with the pumping up of balls and labelling equipment, please see myself or Margaret.

Home Readers
Lyn Morris, who has done an excellent job looking after our home reading books, has requested families return all books by Friday 2nd December. This will allow Lyn time to audit books and have them back on the shelves, ready to be distributed next year in our second full week of Term One.

End Of Year Picnic and Tea Billy Bush Band
I hope everyone has reserved Monday 12th December when we will have our end of year picnic at 5.30pm, followed by our bush dance at 6pm. A very big thank you to Parents and Friends who have sponsored the services of the Tea Billy Bush Band for our entertainment. Students from Pep – Grade 6 students will have Bush Dancing lessons with the Tea Billy Bush Band during the day and this will be followed by the evening’s festivities, where there will be bush dancing on the oval for families followed by Christmas Songs sung by grade areas. Families are welcome to bring a picnic or buy dinner from the Parents’ Club barbeque. This will be a great way for our community to end the year and we hope to see many families come along and join the fun.

Grade 1/2A performing “Uptown Funk” during Monday assembly.  

Angela Morritt 
Principal
2016 Swimming Program

We have had a highly successful swimming program with many skills and safety outcomes both from the activities at the pool and the walk to and from the pool.

Next Friday is our final session for swimming this year and, as was the case last year, we will be having a whole school Fun Day which will consist of three 45 minute rotations between the slide/water playground, inflatable and games. The three sessions at the pool will run from 10.45 until 1.00pm.

At 10.00 students will put their swimming bags outside their classroom door and will have a 15 minute break until 10.15 where they can have a morning snack and toilet break.

At 10.15 students will collect their swimming bags. We will all be walking to the pool via the route the Grade 3-6s usually take.

Grade 3/4A will team up with 1/2A and lead the way.

3/4B will go with 1/2B and follow on immediately.

The Preps will be paired up with the Grade 5/6s.

Angela will stay at the crossing points of Grimshaw St and The Circuit.

Margaret will supervise the Main Rd / Grimshaw St crossing.

Once at the pool students will change into their bathers as usual, put their bags in the usual place and then, after this, we will assemble the Preps-2s in one area of the step seating, the Grades 3/4 next to them and then the Grade 5/6s.

The groups for activities will be:
- Group One: Preps / Grade One
- Group Two: Grades 2/3/4
- Group Three: Grades 5/6

We will get the Prep-2s out of the pool ten minutes before the older students (at 12.50) to ease the congestion in the changing rooms and will walk back together paired up in the same grade groups.

Last year this was a sensational day and everyone is eagerly looking forward to it again, so we hope it all goes smoothly. Any assistance with supervising the walk to and from the pool would be greatly appreciated.

Voluntary Contributions
As was explained in an earlier newsletter, changes in Education Department Guidelines have meant we can no longer list voluntary contributions on family statements. As a result, a separate letter of correspondence was sent home yesterday to each family regarding these contributions which are $20 each for ICT, Library, Student Welfare and Buildings and Grounds.

The Voluntary Contributions are an extremely valuable source of income for the school and in 2016 they paid for:

- **ICT** – New batteries for all the lap tops so students had extended periods on time to work on computers before they lost their charge
- **Library** - Subscription to the library software programs so new books could be processed and student borrowing could be recorded
- **Student Welfare** – Offset the salary costs associated with having a Student Welfare Coordinator at the school
Buildings and Grounds – Went towards a Handyman salary to keep paths clear of leaf litter and complete basic gardening projects around the school. These contributions are purely voluntary and you may choose to support all, one or none of them however, we can assure you that all funds contributed are put to good use for the immediate improvement of the school’s programs, resources and facilities.

Margaret Hirth
Assistant Principal

PATHS Reminder of the Week

Our favourite PATHS quote of the week:

Just remember, you are special to someone.

Chinese 中文

The Foundation and Year 1 & 2 students have been learning words on the topic of ‘Animals’. They have been taking part in activities that will help them read and remember the words. The Year 3 – 6 students have done a survey in Mandarin Chinese. They had to find out the age of everyone in their grade. These are the sentence patterns that they have been practising.

你不几岁？Nǐ jǐ suì (How old are you?) 我。。。岁。Wǒ …suì (I am …years old.)

Here is a link to the language games that they can play at home to help them learn the words: www.tinyurl.com/zvo4c2c.

Tanya Dulics
Chinese Language Teacher
Language Teacher

PATHS Staff Member of the Week

Last fortnight’s PATHS Staff Members were Les and Miss Plesa and they received lots of lovely compliments. Don’t forget to give Angela a compliment when you see her as she is our PATHS Staff Member for this week!

Maria Plesa
Grade 5/6 Teacher
From the Art room

Our students have been producing some wonderful work in the Art room this term. Here is a snapshot of just some of the results.

PREPS:
• Used geometric shapes to make pictures with a partner.
• Cut out natural shapes to make artwork in the style of Henri Matisse.
• Explored textures for a ‘Texture Turkey’.
• Took rubbings to show different textures on paper.

GRADE 1/2s:
• Recreated the look of swimmers and swimming pools as seen in David Hockney’s artwork.
• Observed and recorded detail and correct proportion whilst drawing one another skipping.

GRADE 3/4s:
• Finished sewing their cushion or bag.
• Made a collaborative collage based on Keith Haring’s ‘Dance’ series.
• Discovered radial symmetry (symmetry around a central axis).

GRADE 5/6s:
• Completed their woodwork project.
• Sketched the human figure to show movement.
• Examined the work of Brazilian artist, Romero Britto and created a piece in a similar style.

ART EXTENSION - TERM 4, 2016:
A group of Grade 6 students participated in the Art Extension program this term. This involved doing some research where students chose an artist and used their ICT skills to find out specific information. Next they created a representation of one of their artworks in 2D and 3D mediums. Experimentation with mixing colours, brush techniques and construction techniques for ‘pop-up’ features kept the students busy and engaged. Well done to Tannaz, Ethan, Khaled, Michael, Max H., Mikaela, Tara, Tyson, Turin, Paris N., Zac P.
Tannaz’s interpretation of “Starry Night” by Vincent Van Gogh

A NOTE ABOUT VISUAL DIARIES
The majority of student work in Art is completed in a visual diary, which is retained in the Art room. This book lasts for around 2 to 3 years and is an excellent way of acknowledging and keeping a record of each student’s work. Once their first visual diary is full, the student can bring it home and will be provided with another one. If you would like to see more of what your child has been doing in Art, you are most welcome to come to the Art room and view their Visual Diary. They are located in labelled tubs on the bench just inside the Art room door.

Janet Troy
Art Teacher

Parents and Friends

Food days
Our last food day will be a Bakers Delight day on Friday 9th of December. Forms come out this week, and are due back by next Monday. As always, additional forms can be found at the front office.

Baker’s Delight Christmas fundraiser
This year we are selling Christmas cakes and tarts from Baker’s Delight. We will be selling them for the same price as they are in store. Order forms were sent home last week, if you didn’t receive one there are more at the front office. A perfect little Christmas gift for someone! Order forms are due back Friday 9th, with delivery on Thursday 15th.
Christmas Raffle
We are finalising our prizes for this year’s Christmas Raffle. We have a range of prizes on offer this year. Tickets will go out next week for people to sell and are due back to school by Monday 12th. Tickets will also be available to buy on the night.

End of year BBQ – helpers needed
Monday 12th is our Christmas Party, and Parents and Friends will be putting on a BBQ. We will be needing volunteers to help set up, cook and serve plus assist with pack up. A form is at the end of this week’s newsletter for those interested to fill in and return. A roster will also be available at the front office if you would like to put your name down there. If the weather is nice we will also sell ice-creams.

Kim Hill
On behalf of Parents and Friends

Student Wellbeing News

Bounce Back
We have been talking about Worrying when we leave our Comfort Zone in Bounce Back, and the students have come up with some great ways we can help one another and ourselves when we are worried. We began with a meditation where the students imagined blowing away their worries like bubbles. Bubbles can be a great way to help kids to focus on their breathing, and can be very calming, and this can be easily extended at home.

The Preps learnt all about what happens if you worry and don’t tell someone, and were all ready to help their friends out if they were worried, and to tell Miss T, their parents or another trusted adult when they feel worried.

The Grade 1/2s talked about how sometimes we need to leave our comfort zone which can cause us to worry, but also talked about strategies to help us to be brave and to have courage when we leave our comfort zone – like deep breathing, cuddling a favourite soft toy, meditation, and telling ourselves that it will be ok.

Likewise, the Grade 3/4s identified that we often grow, learn new things, meet new people, and try new foods when we are brave and leave our comfort zone.
Friendship Tree
Our 2016 Wellbeing Leaders are on the home stretch, and will be out decorating the Tree with Christmas decorations next week.

We would love donations for the tree! If any families have any old Christmas decorations they no longer want, or anything festive for arts and crafts at the tree, we would greatly appreciate it.

We would also very much appreciate any donations for activities out at the tree for next year. We are on the look out for board games, chalk, quoits, loom bands, and anything else we would be able to utilise. Thank you in advance for any donations we receive! They can be left with Les or Christina at the Front Office.

Ellen
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Term 4 ~ Week 7  Week Ending November 18th 2016

Prep ~ William ~ For being such a kind classmate and always setting a good example.
Grade 1/2 A ~ Adrian ~ For always trying so hard in his learning. Well done on all your hard work and effort.
Grade 1/2 B ~ Roxana ~ For working so hard in Reading. Keep up the hard work!
Grade 3/4 A ~ Jasmine ~ You are a superb addition to our grade Jasmine. Welcome!
Grade 3/4 B ~ Christian ~ For your amazing writing styles. You always produce accurate and interesting pieces.
Grade 5/6 A ~ Phoebe ~ For always trying her best and being a great friend. Keep it up!
Grade 5/6 B ~ Scarlett ~ For her perceptive comments during our session on gender stereotypes.
Art ~ Bailey D ~ For a fantastic effort with his colourful Romero Britto artwork.
Chinese ~ Hannah W For her enthusiasm for learning a new language.
Library ~ Darcy ~ For working with excellent focus during our Dreamtime Stories work.
PE ~ Hudson & Max ~ For their effort, teamwork and support all week during the Bat Tennis lessons.
Science ~ Ezra ~ For his excellent explanation of the Water Cycle and the fantastic mural he made with his partner.
Term 4 ~ Week 8   Week Ending November 25th 2016

Prep ~ Amarni ~ For working so hard to learn her Magic Words. Well done!
Grade 1/2 A ~ Ella ~ For working so hard in class all year. What a star!
Grade 1/2 B ~ Milly ~ For trying your best in everything you do! You are a great role model Milly.
Grade 3/4 A ~ Olivia.H ~ For always putting 100% in all that she does. You are amazing!
Grade 3/4 B ~ Sam ~ For his wonderful effort and assistance with his classmates in all aspects of school.
Grade 5/6 A ~ Bailey ~ For working extremely hard during writing and reading.
Grade 5/6 B ~ Breannon L ~ For the care and effort she has put into her Identity Project.
Art ~ Monique ~ For consistently putting 100% effort with all Art projects.

PE ~ Olivia.H ~ For her wonderful sportsmanship and excellent effort in PE all year. Great Job!

---

Christmas Party – Monday 12th Dec

If you are able to assist with the BBQ at the Christmas party please return the slip below or add your name to the roster in the school office, thank you.

Name: ____________________ Phone Number: __________________
Child’s Name: ______________ Child’s Class: __________

I can assist with (please circle):

- BBQ
- Money
- Selling Drinks
- No Preference

Time: setup (4pm – 5pm) 5pm-6pm 6pm-7pm clean up (7pm-8pm)