Thursday, 22 May 2014

Values:

Purpose:
To develop confident and resilient students through the provision of a diverse range of learning experiences and challenges which encourage curiosity, excitement for learning, thirst for knowledge and connectedness to their community.

This is underpinned by a whole school community whose moral purpose is committed to promoting success for all students.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR
School Website: www.greenvaleps.vic.edu.au

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<th>MAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23rd</td>
<td>Walk to School Day – Students can meet at Coles Supermarket car park at 8:45am to walk to as a group</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28th</td>
<td>Bully Busters Free Parent Information Session – 7:00-8:30pm in the BER Building</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th</td>
<td>Bully Busters In-School Activity</td>
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<td>Friday 30th</td>
<td>Bully Busters In-School Activity</td>
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<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd</td>
<td>Bully Busters In-School Activity</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3rd</td>
<td>2015 Prep Enrolment Session – 1:00 – 2:30pm in the school Library</td>
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From The Principal’s Desk
Angelika Ireland
Year 4 Happy Campers!

Our Year 4 students set off on Monday this week for their exciting 3 day camping experience at Ace-Hi Ranch, Cape Schanck, returning Wednesday 21st May. Mrs Jane Greig-Hancock and I joined the campers on Tuesday and had a fabulous day being part of the camp activities. Students were able to participate in a number of challenging adventure activities provided and were encouraged to participate at their level of confidence.

Some of the outdoor adventure activities included the Flying Fox, a giant swing, a rock climbing wall, archery and horse riding.

The rock climbing wall was so high I’m not sure I could have made it to the top, however the students were all eager and ready to have a couple of goes at it. A number were recognised for their tenacity in reaching the top, one being Vicki from 4EW (pictured with Jane Greig-Hancock, Tyler from 4ML and myself). You can see two of our students starting their climb on the wall behind us.

I was amazed at the length of the flying fox and have never seen one so long before at any camp I have been to. It looked like so much fun! Another highlight was the horse riding, for many of our students a first time. The students were shown how to guide their horse using the reigns and had a go at trotting. Pictured are Mitchell 4ML and Ryan 4EW getting saddled up. Students also went for a long night walk and enjoyed a camp fire.
The activities our students were involved in enhance skills such as teamwork, trust and responsibility and reinforce what is taught at school. They provide opportunities to build confidence and most importantly give every participant a fun and challenging experience they won’t forget.

This is the first time we have used Ace-Hi Ranch for one of our camps and I was very impressed with the venue. A big thank you goes to Mr Andrew Bouzikas for the precise organisation of the camp, to the teachers who attended (Mrs Emily Wilkes, Ms Peta Law, Mrs Natalie Mizzi) and the parents (Mr Noel Scerri, Mr Warren Pereara, Mr Daniel Galea, Mrs Louise Mifsud and Ms Danielle Mayne) who were so great in assisting with the camp. Also a special mention to Ms Sharna Hemsley who is a pre-service teacher currently working in Ms Peta Law’s classroom. Sharna first came to this camp as a student herself, this being her first school camp in a teaching capacity.

Student Attendance Policy
The Department of Education and Early Childhood (DDECD) released new guidelines in regard to student attendance last term. The DEECD policy outlines concerns for students who have more than five Unapproved Absences in one calendar year. Parents are expected to notify their child’s school giving an explanation of why their child was absent and notify the school prior of any absences their child will take that they are aware of. For Absences in regard to extended family holidays to be approved parents must notify their child’s school prior to the holiday and get from their child’s teacher a Student Absence Learning Plan which their child must complete while they are away. In line with this, we have revised our Student Attendance Policy and Protocols at Greenvale. Please find following some extracts from the policy which was ratified at our last School Council meeting. You may also view the Student Attendance Policy on our website.

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006, the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 and the Education and Training Reform (School Attendance) Regulations 2013 require children of school age (six to sixteen years) resident in Victoria are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-government school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Regional Director

• All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.
• Illness is reasonable grounds for an absence - shopping excursions or birthday parties are not.
• Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if ill or if absolutely necessary.
• Parents have a further responsibility to provide a written note or return a completed absence form to the school explaining why an absence has occurred
• If a student returns to school after an absence which is unexplained, the teacher will send home a Student Absence Reminder Form.
• The principal will ensure parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences and late arrivals are contacted, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences.
• For students going on an extended (more than one week) family holiday, a Student Absence Learning Plan will be developed, with the expectation that the student completes the work while they are away.
• In general, it would be expected that the Principal would excuse absences for
  - Medical and dental appointments, where an out of hours appointment is not possible
  - Bereavement or attendance at a funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
  - School refusal, if a plan is in place with the parents to address causes
  - Cultural observances, if the parent notifies the school in advance
  - Family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, parent and student.
• In general, the Principal would not be expected to excuse absences where
  - Approval had not been sought in advance
  - The student was absent due to participating in leisure or social activities without approval
  - The conditions of approval have not been met (e.g. Student Absence Learning Plan for a family holiday not completed).
  - The parent has provided no explanation of the absence

Students and classes with high attendance rates and least late arrivals will also be recognised at assemblies and in our Newsletter. You may find more information on the DEECD Student Attendance Guidelines at http://www.education.vic.gov.au
Congratulations to all our Year 3 and Year 5 students who took part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May. The National Assessment Program is the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes. Schools will be given the results of these NAPLAN tests later this year.

Hume Conference
Mrs Jane Greig-Hancock and I will be attending the Hume Principal Network Conference to be held at Creswick on 2nd and 3rd June. The conference will begin with an address by our North Western Victoria Regional Director, Jeanette Nagorcka. The conference has a focus on ICT and technologies and how schools can use these to enhance student learning. Guest speakers include Steve Sammartino, Andrew Del Mastro, Monika Gruss and Wayne Craig who was the former Regional Director of the Northern Metropolitan Region prior to the restructure of the educational regions in Victoria. In our absence, Gwen Hutcheson will be in charge.

Food For Thought:
“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” Aristotle

Assistant Principal’s Report
Jane Greig-Hancock
Skip-A-Thon
Just a reminder that our Skip-A-Thon is fast approaching and I have been absolutely delighted with the number of children who are practising their skipping skills during recess and lunchtime. The weather over the last 2 weeks has definitely been conducive to lots of outdoor fitness. Many children have been practicing their Double Unders, Awesome Annies and partner skipping. On the day of the Skip-A-Thon please make sure that your child returns the Sponsors Form for the teacher to sign, you can also make a donation on the day. The money raised from the Skip-A-Thon will go towards a covered area outside the BER building extending from the existing cover ways.

Victorian Principals Association One Day Forum
Angelika Ireland and myself will be attending the 2014 Victorian Principals Association State-wide Forum this Friday, Minister Dixon has been invited to open the forum. The speakers on the day include:
- Adam Voigt on Transforming Culture and School Performance
- David Parkin OAM on Motivation, Leadership and Teamwork
- Tony Ross, Stephen Fraser and school principals discussing School Reviews DEECD Legal Division - Social Media policy and legal implications

We look forward to listening to an impressive range of speakers and networking with our colleagues.

Assembly Attendance Awards
The new DEECD campaign for student attendance is Every Day Counts. Attending school every day is vital for students of all ages to fully achieve. We want our students at Greenvale to get a great education, and coming to school every day on time builds towards success. A student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

In the next couple of weeks we will be having an attendance segment in the Friday afternoon assembly time. The year level with the best attendance and the year level with the best punctuality for the week will be presented with an attendance trophy each week. We are keen to highlight the importance of coming to school every day through the weekly awards.

School Council President’s Report - May
Craig Geddes - President
School Council met on Tuesday, 20th May at 7:00pm

Main issues discussed were:-
- Curriculum Day on Friday 6th June. Students will not be required at school on this day.
- Fundraising –
  - Sausage Sizzle end of term 1 raised $657
  - Easter Raffle raised $1571
  - Mother’s Day Stall raised $2178
School Council has agreed that all fundraising proceeds will go towards the covered way to connect the BER. Thank you to all the families who support the school fundraisers.

- OSHClub Term 1 Report – During Term 1, the OSHClub went through an Assessment and Rating Review. The Greenvale Primary School OSHClub received an overall Exceeding Rating. Currently an average of 22 students attend After School Care and 14 students attend Before School Care.

- The following Greenvale policies were presented, discussed and ratified
  - Student Attendance Policy (this will be available on the school website for families to view).
  - Staff Leave Policy

- School Council agreed that the construction of the covered ways would take place during the next holiday break. Tailor Made Steel Buildings were the successful company selected from quotes from three companies. The covered ways will cost the school just on $40,000. Can I encourage families who have not contributed their Building and Grounds payment with their child’s fees to do so please to assist with these costs.

Greenvale Oshclub’s contact number is 04 23 782 000

We would like to issue the following reminders:

**Enrolment Forms** - There will be some information on previous enrolment forms that is now out of date. We ask that you please take the time to check your enrolment over and make sure that all medical conditions/court orders are current and all emergency contacts and phone numbers are current as well. It is a good idea to have at least one emergency contact who is within easy driving distance of the program - just in case something happens and you can't get here on time.

**Bookings and Cancellations** - Bookings are open until midnight the night before. All bookings received by midnight will be processed through the system as per normal. Any emergency bookings after this time must be texted/phoned through to the program directly and will incur an additional $3 late fee. The program phone number is 0423782000. Cancellations given with a minimum of 24 hours’ notice prior to the session start time will not be charged. Any cancellations after this time will be charged as per normal.

**Preps**: The preps that started with us last term are now walking themselves to and from OSHClub. We are very proud of the sensible and safe way that they do this. We will continue to collect/drop off new preps as required.

**Sustainability**: This year, we have a focus on sustainable practices. We began this last year and would like to continue with it. One activity that we are particularly keen to do is some gardening. For this, we need tins. If you have any tins at home, we would appreciate any and all donations. We would also appreciate any other recycled materials that we could use for art and craft or construction, boxes, bottles with lids etc.

**QIP/Reflection Book / Children’s’ Portfolios**: We have implemented a weekly reflection book where we look back on the activities we have been doing, you are welcome to come and look and leave your comments. On the wall, you may have noticed a colourful new display, this is our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) and it is all about the ways that we are trying to make our service better for our children and families. Did you know that your child has a portfolio? This portfolio is about them and what they create at the program. We encourage children to put things in these portfolios regularly. You are welcome to look at your child's and even take it home to comment on.

**Staffing**: Bernadetta is away at the moment, assisting other programs with their licensing visits. While she is gone, Matt will be stepping into the co-ordinator's role and Fiona, Vivian and Nicole will be helping out. We would like to assure you that very effort is being made to keep staffing as consistent as possible to ensure the smooth running of the program. We thank you for your patience throughout this process.
Next **Principals Tour at the Glenroy Campus - Wednesday June 4**th

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**Westmeadows Tennis Club**

**OPEN DAY**

**31st May 12:30 - 2:30**

- Serve Speed Radar Gun
- Ball Machine Accuracy Test
- Free Hot Shots Round Robin
- Match Play Games For all Ages
- Free BBQ
- Prizes to be won!

Come Watch Our Cardio Tennis & Hot Shots Demonstrations

317 Mickleham Road (Willowbrook Reserve)

Behind the Football Oval

Try Tennis For Free!

Anthony 0438358945 Or Facebook.com/westmeadowstc
Self-development through drama!
Boost your child’s creativity, confidence and communication skills.

Enrolling Now – Ages 5 to 17
Contact the Principal
Joanna Melo Howard - 90168928