Thursday, 27 February 2014

Values:

Resilience Respect Honesty Responsibility Learning

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

FEBRUARY

Friday 28th Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Clean Up Australia Day

MARCH

Tuesday 4th Grade IRA, ITF & IHS Museum Excursion
Wednesday 5th Grade 1JH & 1VB Museum Excursion
Friday 7th Grade 5 Excursion to La Trobe University
Monday 10th LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 11th STAFF CURRICULUM DAY – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ON THIS DAY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Angelika Ireland

Student Attendance – “Every Day Counts”

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – 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. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Research has found that student success is dependent upon good attendance at school. Students need to attend school regularly in order to participate fully and gain maximum benefit from their schooling. Regular attendance enables students to access a full education, allowing them to reach their full potential. Students with poor patterns in primary school usually have poor patterns in secondary school and often disengage from school. There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life. Poor attendance also makes it difficult for children to form positive relationships with their peers.

Unacceptable reasons for allowing children to stay home from school include; fulfilling adult duties such as child-minding and interpreting, keeping an adult company, visiting friends and relatives, shopping trips, birthdays and ‘mental health days’. Where possible try and avoid taking holidays in school time. If you are taking a holiday in school time please inform your child’s class teacher well in advance. If your child is absent please immediately notify the school. When your child returns to school please send a note to the classroom teacher that clearly outlines the reason for your child’s absence.


Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are steps you can take to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
• Develop an absence learning plan with your school and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, Every Day Counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your child’s classroom teacher as early as possible.

Please find on page 7 of this Newsletter, a brochure with more information about why attendance is important and include some tips on what you can do to ensure your child attends school each day.
**Insurance**

**Personal Accident**
Just a reminder to all families that the Department of Education and Early Childhood does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students whilst at school, including the cost of ambulance attendance / transport and any other transport costs. Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers.

**Personal Property**
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

**School Council Elections 2014**
Nominations for the four Parent Members for School Council and one DEECD Member closed on Friday, 14 February. As the number of Nominations were equal to the number of positions, a ballot was not required.

I am delighted to congratulate the following parent School Council members on their successful nomination – Michelle Benfold, Sarah Hosking, Sharon Matuaauto and Noel Scerri. Michelle is a new School Council member whilst the other three successful candidates are returning members. Congratulations also to our DEECD School Council member, Gwen Hutcheson, who has been renominated and will be returning as a School Councillor.

The **Annual General Meeting of School Council** will be held on Tuesday 18th March from 6.30pm until 7.00pm in the Staff Room. At this meeting the Annual Report to the School Community, which outlines the progress of our school, will be presented. Parents are invited to attend this. Please notify the office if you intend to attend.

**Year 4 Family Maths Fun Night**
What a great event this was! Last Wednesday evening, the Year 4 Family Maths Fun Night was held and attended by many families. This was an opportunity for parents and their children to participate in numerous engaging Maths activities and learn how Maths is part of everyday activities that involve number and problem solving. Well done to the Year 4 team led by Marge Lang on the organisation of the night. We recognise that you have the first and most significant influence on your child’s learning and that your continued participation in their education is important if they are to achieve the best possible learning outcomes. It is well known that students with interested and involved parents do better at school. While you may be involved in your child’s learning at home, you can also contribute by participating in the school council, joining in with the various parent forums, or getting involved in less formal school activities.

**Reminders…..**

**Buildings & Grounds Contribution**
May I remind all families to forward their Building & Grounds contribution to the office. Our school relies on these contributions for ground and facilities improvements. It is proposed that the 2014 Buildings and Grounds funds are put towards walkways to connect the BER building and the portables with the main building so providing our students with a covered walkway when weather is inclement.

**Student School Banking**
Banking day is every Tuesday. Students siblings can bank at Greenvale Primary as well. Bank account must be opened up at the Commonwealth Bank first.

**Food For Thought:**
A Child is like a butterfly
In the wind
Some can fly higher than others.
But each one flies
the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?
Each one is different.
Each one is special.
Each one is beautiful.
Assistant Principal’s Report
Jane Greig-Hancock
Curriculum Day Tuesday 11th March – Student Free Day
We have a very exciting day planned for our next Student Free Day on Tuesday 11th March. The focus will be on eLearning, this day will be facilitated by Georgina Pazzi a specialist consultant who is passionate in the area of ICT, experimental learning and inquiry. Georgina has a wealth of experience working with teachers, students, parents across most educational sectors. Georgina is very impressed with our schools journey to date and her aim will be to inspire staff to go to the next level and think outside the square when using digital devices as part of a 21st century classroom.

This professional learning day is very timely as this week we have accepted delivery of 15 Interactive Televisions. This means that every classroom will now have either an interactive whiteboard or an interactive television, thanks to Joyce Hickling. The staff who are getting one of the interactive television are super excited because they can also be folded down to use as an interactive table with a group of children. I had a play with one yesterday and I was most impressed with the way that they converted to a table, this function will allow for groups of children to work on tasks collaboratively.

School Council President’s Report
Craig Geddes
My name is Craig Geddes and I have been the President of Greenvale School Council for the last 5 years. School Council had their first meeting for 2014 on Tuesday, 18th February.

Main issues discussed were:-
- The draft Annual Implementation Plan for 2014 - this plan outlines the targets for student learning outcomes at Greenvale Primary School and the Key Improvement Strategies to achieve these goals. The Key Improvement Strategies are focused on student learning, student wellbeing and engagement and student transitions to, within and from the school. The final Annual Implementation Plan will be presented and ratified at the School Council meeting in March.
- Community members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of School Council which will be held prior to the March meeting. At the AGM our Annual Report to the School Community will be tabled and discussed.
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) have released new Guidelines for Student Attendance. These come in force on 1 March. Our families will receive further information through our Newsletter and notices to homes.
- 3 Strikes policy which has been put in place to combat student lateness at Greenvale. It is important that all students are at school at the start of each day.
- Financial reports were tabled and approved. This is a role of all School Councils.
- Building and Grounds improvements rely on parents paying a Building and Grounds contribution. Our first major project is the installation of covered ways linking the BER to the main building. Concerns that families have not paid this contribution to support this project.
- Our Fundraising Committee which has been planning our Family Fun Night outlined the many great activities that will be in place on the night. Can I encourage you and your family to support this evening. Volunteers to help run the activities will also be required on the night. If you have an hour you can contribute, please contact the office.
- The Uniform Report was tabled.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE ARRIVAL DATA
Rosemary Agnew - Strategic Leader - Data
One of our school Annual Implementation Plan goals for 2014 is to improve our attendance and late arrival data. This year we introduced our ‘Strike 3 Late Arrival Policy’ and we are working together with all families to encourage regular attendance and prompt arrival at school each day.

In 2013 there was an average of 14 days absence per student. We also had over 1200 late arrivals recorded for the year. **Our goals for 2014 are to reduce absences to an average of 11 days per student and also reduce the number of late arrivals to 800 for the year.** Throughout this year I shall provide the school community with information about how we are travelling in regards to meeting these goals.

After 5 weeks at school we have recorded 155 late arrivals. If we continue at this rate we will have over 1400 late arrivals for the year. Unfortunately, this is well above our target and we urge all families to strive to arrive at school on time each day. However, it is very pleasing to note that if our absences continue at the current rate, we shall substantially reduce our absences to an average of 8.0 days per student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late Arrivals Recorded so far this year</th>
<th>Projected Late Arrivals for 2014</th>
<th>Absences Recorded so far this year</th>
<th>Projected Absences per students in 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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We held the first of our Family Maths Nights on Wednesday February 19th with the Grade 4 students and parents and it was a great success. It was fantastic to see everyone working together to solve a variety of maths problems. Activities included “Guess the Number of Lollies in the Jar”, “Visitor Line – Up” and “Human Reaction Time”.

Thanks to everyone who attended and a huge thankyou to the Grade 4 teachers – Emily Wilkes, Peta Law and Natalie Mizzi and Maths Leaders – Elicia Briggs and Brett McGinniskin for their help in making the night such a success. We are all looking forward to the next one.

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Transition from Primary School to Secondary College can be daunting for some students and parents; it is important to be well informed and proactive when choosing a secondary school. When your child enters the mid to senior levels of Primary School it is imperative that you begin doing your homework as to what secondary schools are in our community, both public and private and which school would best suit your child. This means you should consider attending as many Open Days as possible, as well as organised Guided Tours and have a healthy conversation with your child about their goals and aspirations for Secondary School.

As in previous years, we are fortunate to have excellent schools in our community that offer a variety of transition experiences for our senior students. Mrs McLaren and I have been contacted by Rosehill Secondary College inviting both Year 5 and 6 students to an ‘Open Day’ where our students will participate in a variety of classes run by the Secondary School Teachers. In previous years, this day has been extremely successful; our students have participated in science, physical education, performing arts and visual art classes. Student feedback indicates that if assisted students feel far more confident about their transition to secondary school. The day is also extremely beneficial in helping our students socialise with students from other primary schools located in the City of Hume and also realise that secondary schools are organised differently but are not as scary as they imagine them to be! Rosehill Secondary College supply transportation and work incredibly hard to deliver a high quality Secondary School experience, free of charge. This day has been booked for Tuesday the 6th May.

Roxburgh College have also contacted us and our Year 6 students have been invited to a ‘Morning of Science’ on Thursday 3rd April. Again all transportation and costs will be funded by Roxburgh College.

In previous years, Gladstone Park Secondary College have invited our Year 6 students to participate in science classes as well as viewing their yearly drama/play performance; again all at no cost to our students.

Our goal in Year 5 and 6 is to prepare our students for a smooth, trouble free and comfortable transition to Year 7. It is very important all students attend these transition activities even if you have already decided which secondary your child will attend.

Permission notes for these events will be sent home closer to the dates.

A Year 5 Transition Noticeboard is located in the hallway near the Learning Resource Centre and a Year 6 Transition Noticeboard is outside the Year 6 classrooms. All relevant information will be displayed. The following is a rundown of the Open Days currently being advertised:

**Rosehill Secondary College Open Evening Thursday 8th May**
Guided Tours began on Tuesday 18th February at 9:30am Tours will continue at this time until Tuesday 20th May

**Gladstone Park Secondary College Open Day and Information Evening Wednesday 1st May**
[gladstone.park.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:gladstone.park.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Choosing where your child will continue their education is not something you should take lightly. We cannot stress the importance of you being proactive and researching a range of schools to see what they have to offer your child.

Updates will be made throughout the year via the School Newsletter and the Transition Notice Boards. Please feel free to seek out Mrs McLaren or myself, if you have any concerns or questions.
Hume City Council
Recycling Contamination Notice for Greenvale Primary School
“Hume City Council officers inspected the school recycling bin today. The school recycling bin contained items that should not be placed in this bin. Council officers have placed a contamination sticker on this recycling bin to let you know.

Council officers will continue to conduct recycling bin inspections. If the school recycling bin is found to contain the wrong items in the future, your recycling service may be cancelled and an infringement notice (fine) issued.

Please ensure that you place only the following items in the school recycling bin:
• Glass bottles and jars
• Milk and juice cartons
• Steel and aluminium cans / foil trays
• Plastic bottles and containers (no plastic bags)
• Newspapers, magazines and advertising materials
• Cardboard boxes (flattened)
• Paper, letters, envelopes and telephone books

Please place recyclables loosely in your recycling bin – do not place them in plastic bags. Contamination causes health and safety risks at the recycling facility and can cause entire truck loads to be sent to landfill.”

It is really disappointing that Greenvale Primary School got this notice. Please respect our recycle bins! Monitors and teachers will be checking more carefully. This has been our first notice let’s not get another one. Thanks Mrs Debbie Tilley.

Uniform Shop News
Dianne Barresi
Our school is very fortunate to be able to offer our Uniform Shop onsite, and have wonderful Parent Volunteers that give up their time to assist with this service. Please show our Staff, Volunteers and other customers respect when purchasing from the Uniform shop.

Uniform Shop Days and Hours
The Uniform shop is open every Tuesday during Term 1 between the hours of 8:45am and 11:30am.

Class Room Orders
• Classroom orders are only processed on Tuesdays
• Uniform orders can be sent any day using the classroom order system
• Classroom orders will be filled and returned to your child's classroom
• Ensure that you have the current order form and correct payment
• Incorrect order forms and payment will delay the process of your order

Items for sale.
Black scrunchies available for purchase $2.00 each
Fabric Paint available for purchase. $3.00 each

Sale
Boys Streetwear Pants
Girls Bootleg Pants
Sizes 14 and 16 - Reduced to $10.00 each

News From OSHClub – Before and After School Care
OSHClub Team
Hello and welcome to all new and returning families for 2014. Due to recent fire activity, we have been advised at times to restrict the time we spend outside as there has been smoke in the air. We have done this for the continued health and safety of the children at the program. We hope that this has now passed and we can go back to having fun outside. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

We would like to issue the following reminders:
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.

Sun Smart - As we are in term 1, OSHClub's sun smart policy is in effect. This means that children and staff are required to wear hats and sunscreen when outside, no hat means no play.
Staffing:
We welcome Matt to the program from St Anne's in Sunbury. Matt has been helping out with another program for the last few weeks and is now back with us. Matt has been with OSHClub since 2009 at various programs. We also farewell Kim and Fiona who have gone on to pursue other opportunities. Fiona may still work here from time to time on a casual basis. Meanwhile, Bernadetta has returned to the program until further notice to ensure a smooth transition going forwards.

Cultural Diversity Week:
We are proud to promote Cultural Diversity Week from March 15 - 23, during this time we would love to be able to do some cooking activities that reflect the backgrounds of the families at the program. If you have a recipe that we might be able to use, please pass it along. We would also love to have parents come in to help us cook with the children, if anyone is interested, please let us know.

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.

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BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST
FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to another school year. With term one approaching it is time to get your children ready for their return to school or attendance at a children's service. While their asthma is just one of the many things to get ready, this checklist will hopefully make the process easier.

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or 'spikes', in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children and adolescents in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these 'spikes' usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school or preschool. A significant 'spike' in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital, of children and adolescents experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February. For this reason, we have compiled a quick checklist for parents and carers to go through to prepare their child for the school year.

Is your child ready for new school year?

☐ My child has had an annual asthma management review with their doctor and has had their Asthma Action Plan reviewed

☐ My child has up to date ambulance membership

☐ My child knows how to recognise early symptoms of asthma and knows when to seek help from staff if they experience asthma symptoms

☐ My child understands the importance of taking reliever medication when necessary and knows how to use their puffer and spacer, either independently or with assistance

☐ An updated Asthma Action Plan has been provided to my child's school/children's service. Even if their Asthma Action Plan has not changed from last year it is important that a letter is provided to the school/children's service informing staff of this. It is vital that staff know what to do for your child in an asthma emergency

☐ A reliever puffer and spacer (and mask for children under 5 years old) has been provided to the school/children's service for my child. With the change in infection control guidelines, spacers can no longer be shared between children and it is vital that each child has their own equipment

☐ I have read and understood the school/children's service's asthma policy

For more information, resources or assistance completing this checklist please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Every day counts
Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school — each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates — every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.
- Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.
- If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Victoria as a learning community
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development