Thursday, 27 March 2014

Values:

Resilience  Respect  Honesty  Responsibility  Learning

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

Please Note: Next term school assembly will be held on a Friday at 2:50pm

MARCH
Friday  28th  Grade 6 Interschool Sports
Friday  28th  Easter Raffle tickets and money must be returned on this day
Monday  31st  Easter Raffle drawn at morning assembly

APRIL
Wednesday  2nd  Celebration of Learning Open Day at Greenvale Primary School – 9:30am – 3:00pm
Thursday  3rd  Year 4 Brickworks Supreme In-School Activity
Thursday  3rd  Year 6 Roxburgh College Science Excursion
Friday  4th  School Canteen & Community Lunch Day BBQ - NO OTHER LUNCH ORDERS ON THIS DAY
Friday  4th  Last Day of School for Term 1 – ALL STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 2:30PM

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Angelika Ireland

“Celebration of Learning” – OPEN DAY, Wednesday April 2, 9:30-3:00pm

Come and join your children and have a look at the engaging programs that take place at Greenvale PS. We invite parents/guardians to visit their child/ren in their classroom to be part of the learning that is taking place. The OPEN DAY is also for grandparents and extended family. Classroom programs will run as regular so you will be involved in what your child is normally involved in. You may attend at any time during the day. There will be 2 school tours - one at 10am, the other at 1pm. Look forward to seeing you there!

Family Fun Night

What a fantastic community event this was!! It was well attended by many families and a great time was had by all. There was an array of activities and stalls to keep everyone engaged. In particular, was the sponge throwing stall where the student line was never-ending given the opportunity to throw a wet, soggy sponge at Mr Brett Mc Ginniskin and Mr Andrew Bouzikas. Thanks go to both teachers for being such good sports and entertaining the students to no end.

A special mention also needs to go to all of our Year 6 students who showed incredible leadership with their many roles including welcoming attendees, the Face Painting and Tattoo stall, and the Jumping Castle.

Thank you to the Community Events Committee for leading the organization of this great event – Mrs Sharon Matuautu, Mrs Jodie Howitt, Mrs Michelle Benfold, Mrs Ozge Mehmet and to our staff and many other parents who either organised or assisted with a stall/activity. A healthy $4851.95 was raised on the night, this going towards the covered way from the BER building.
Upcoming events are the Easter Raffle drawn on Monday 31st March at morning assembly a Mother’s Day Stall held on Friday 9th May and our ‘Athon in Term 2 (more information to follow). Can I encourage all families to please support these events.

**Harmony Week - Respect And Tolerance**

Last week, our school community recognised and celebrated Harmony Week, culminating in a day where we wore orange, which is the colour of Harmony Day, or students could wear their national costume. An inclusive school is one that understands, respects, welcomes, celebrates and honours the diversity of children, families and staff. Diversity comes in many different forms, for example culture, language, religion, lifestyle, family arrangements and circumstances, abilities and disabilities. Respecting diversity is important in creating a sense of belonging. The different backgrounds of the children, families and staff enrich a school’s character and identity. All children need to feel that their world is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out any problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging. A sense of belonging has been found to help protect children against a low self-esteem, mental health problems and improve their learning. Children who feel that they belong are happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than others. They are also more motivated and more successful learners. This means that children today will form friendships, learn with and interact with people from many cultures different to their own. When children grow up to understand, appreciate and respect the cultural, racial and ethnic diversity around them, this builds a positive and accepting community. A community such as this supports children to develop skills and attitudes that will assist them in their relationships and contribute to their social and emotional wellbeing. Everybody needs to feel accepted, respected and included. Children learn from and with each other. They bring their parents’ opinions, prejudices, behaviours and words with them. It is important that, as adults and significant people in their lives, we are kind, caring, respectful and tolerant role models for our children. Let’s remember that ‘children learn what they live’.

**Skin Cancer Prevention**

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, so sun protection is an important issue for everyone, especially children and teenagers. Research shows that too much sun exposure in childhood increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

The Minister for Health and the Minister for Education have written to every primary and secondary school in Victoria this week to invite school councils to talk about how the school can improve sun protection measures.

Results of the 2011 National SunSmart Schools Program Survey highlighted some key successes in Victoria. For example, 99% of primary schools recommend SunSmart hats, significantly more than other states. Other ways are to improve our sunscreen use, shade provision and protective uniforms.

We ask that parents contribute to the sun protection message at home by ensuring their children have applied protective sunscreen prior to coming to school on days of high UV. Parents can also continue to reinforce good sun protective behaviours on the weekends and during school holidays between September to the end of April, when Victoria’s UV levels are typically at three and above (the level when sun protection is needed). Families can download the free SunSmart app at [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)

**School Council for 2014/2015**

In the March School Council meeting we welcomed our council members for 2014.

**Parent members are:**

Craig Geddes, Sharon Matuauto, Noel Scerri, Ali Yekenkurul, Daryl Cann, Jodie Howitt, Michelle Benfold and Sarah Hosking.

**DEECD members are:**

Jane Greig-Hancock, Joyce Hickling, Gwen Hutcheson and myself. At this first Council meeting office bearers were nominated.

I congratulate the following:-

- **President:** Craig Geddes
- **Secretary:** Gwen Hutcheson
- **Finance Committee Convenor:** Noel Scerri
- **Finance Committee Members:** Craig Geddes, Ali Yekenkurul, Angelika Ireland
- **Community Events Committee Convenor:** Sharon Matuauto
- **Community Events Committee Members:** Jodie Howitt, Michelle Benfold, Darryl Cann, Joyce Hickling
- **Building & Grounds Committee Convenor:** Ali Yekenkurul
- **Curriculum Committee Convenor:** Jane Greig-Hancock
- **Uniform Committee Convenor:** Sarah Hosking

**School Council Sub-committees**

You do not have to be on School Council to be on a Sub-committee! Nor do you have to possess particular skills eg. be an accountant to be on the Finance sub-committee. Just bring along your enthusiasm and your desire to be involved.

Sub-committees assist School Council with the work that needs to be done. They report regularly at School Council meetings, provide advice and make recommendations to School Council which has the final responsibility for decisions.

At Greenvale, we have four Sub-committees

1. **Finance** – monitors the school’s finances and approves expenditure
2. **Buildings and Grounds** – has responsibility for making recommendations about the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and the school buildings
3. **Education** - oversees the development and review of all school policies and presents them to School Council for ratification.
4. **Community Events** – drives community events and fundraising.
We particularly invite parents to join our Community Events Sub-Committee which is always appreciative of more support. If you are interested in being on a School Council Sub-committee please contact me.

Reminder…..

Easter Raffle
Can I please encourage all families to sell the raffle tickets that were sent home last week and return butts and money collected to school. We are also urgently requiring more donations for the Easter Baskets.

Food For Thought:
“Good friends help you find important things when you have lost them…….your smile, your hope and your courage

Assistant Principal’s Report
Jane Greig-Hancock

Everyday Counts. DEECD Attendance Guidelines 2014
The Importance of Full Time Attendance

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 – 17 years unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted.

Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don’t fall behind both socially and developmentally. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

School participation is important as it maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

In order to promote excellent attendance and keep up our high standards, as of next term, we will be awarding a trophy to the grade who has the best attendance for the week and the best punctuality at Friday afternoon assembly. The data used to provide this information will come directly from our CASES21 system.

School Council President’s Report
Craig Geddes – School Council President

Last Tuesday, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) prior to our regular School Council meeting. The Annual Report to the School Community was presented at this meeting. The Annual Report is an accountability document that all government schools in Victoria are mandated to publish and make available to all community members. The report outlines the achievements of our school in comparison to all other schools as well as comparing us to Similar Schools for the previous year (ie, 2012). Outcomes for Greenvale in English and Mathematics, NAPLAN, student attendance, student wellbeing and finances are included. Greenvale Primary School is making positive progress in all areas. If you were not able to attend the AGM, our Annual Report to the School Community will be available on our website next term.

At our March School Council meeting on Tuesday18th March, we welcomed our new member Mrs Michelle Benfold and welcomed back Mrs Sarah Hosking, Mrs Sharon Matuauto, Mr Noel Scerri and Miss Gwen Hutcheson all of whom were re-elected for another two year term.

Main issues discussed were:-

• The roles and Responsibilities of School Council and subcommittees. This document is available on our website for community members to access.
• The Annual Implementation Plan for 2014 was presented and ratified by School Council. This plan outlines the targets for student learning outcomes at Greenvale Primary School and the Key Improvement Strategies to achieve these goals for 2014.
• Concerns about Parking Zone restrictions around the school not being adhered to, there are specific parking requirements near the school site which have been put into place to ensure flow of traffic and access. The zones which are detailed as 2 minute parking are for parents to come and pick up their children and then move on so other families can do the same.
• Family Fun Night was a huge success. It was well attended by the community. The funds raised will be put towards the purchase of the covered ways.
Greenvale does Geography!!!!

During this week I have had the pleasure of attending planning days with most of the year level teaching teams. The planning days are extremely beneficial as they allow teachers time to enter into robust and rich discussions around what to teach and why teach it. Each year level team is required to plan a term overview in the areas of: 

**English:** Comprehension, Vocabulary, Phonics and advanced phonics, Fluency, Oral language 

**Mathematics:** Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

Next term all year levels are focusing on Geography.

Our year level teaching teams also plan for lessons in the Learning Resource Centre, Year Level Sport and Bounce Back. Each team has unpacked the new Geography units in the Australian Curriculum and it is huge. Teams have spent considerable time unpacking the key inquiry questions. As every year level is looking at Geography there may be a common thread of discussion around the dinner table. Mrs Robyn Johnson has been the key driver in assisting teams to understand what they are required to teach, so a big thank you to Robyn and for her work in this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Levels</th>
<th>Geography Questions for Term 2.</th>
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| Foundation  (Prep) | What are places like?  
What makes a place special?  
How can we look after the places we live in? |
| Year 1 | What are the different features of places?  
How can we care for places?  
How can spaces within a place be rearranged to suit different purposes? |
| Year 2 | What is a place?  
How are people connected to their place and other places?  
What factors affect my connections to places? |
| Year 3 | How and why are places similar or different?  
What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?  
How do people’s feelings about places influence their views about the protection of places? |
| Year 4 | How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?  
How do different views about the environment influence approaches to sustainably?  
How can people use places and environments sustainably? |
| Year 5 | How do people and environments influence one another?  
How do people influence the human characteristics of places and the management of spaces within?  
How can the impact of bushfires or floods on people and places be reduced? |
| Year 6 | How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?  
What are Australia’s global connections between people and places?  
How do people’s connections to places affect their perception of them? |

**Year 7 Transition Information**

Robyn Johnson - Year 6/7 Transition Coordinator

Alicia Gray the Year 7 Transition Coordinator from Roxburgh College attended our school on Friday 14th March and spoke to our Year 6 students regarding the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. During this time, Alicia encouraged the students to voice their concerns and ask questions. It was interesting to hear the types of questions or concerns our students have. They included:

- How much homework is there?
- How do you find your way around a big school?
- What happens if I get lost?
- How many different classes do I have to attend?
- How will I know which bus to catch?

Alicia enthusiastically answered all questions and spoke from previous experiences. Without a doubt, these visits from our neighbouring Secondary Colleges are fundamental to the smooth transition from primary to secondary education.

**Up and Coming Events – Mark Your Diaries**

On Friday 28th March our Year 6 students will be visited by Mr Michael Keenan the Assistant Principal of Gladstone Park Secondary College and the Italian Immersion Coordinator. Their aim is to address our Year 6 students outlining details of the Italian Immersion Program. They will be accompanied by two guest speakers who attended Greenvale Primary School in 2013. We are currently in discussions to organise a date for our Year 5 students whereby they too can attain information pertaining to the Italian Immersion Program.
Our Year 6 students have received their permission notes to participate in a Science Show at Roxburgh College on Thursday 3rd April from 11:30am to 1:30pm. This is a free activity where Roxburgh College provide the buses and showcase musical items, a science show and transition information for our students. We encourage all Year 6 students to attend.

On Tuesday 6th May both Year 5 and 6 students have been invited to attend an Open Day of Learning at Rosehill Secondary College. Notes will be sent home shortly. Again, this activity is completely free and all expenses paid by the Secondary College.

**Open Days / Nights at Secondary Schools**

**Essendon Keilor College Junior Campus** Tours – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:20am by appointment.
Telephone: 9375 8400

**Gladstone Park Secondary College** Information Evening – Wednesday 30th April from 6:00pm – 7:00pm.
Open Day Wednesday 7th May – bookings essential. Telephone: 9933 0500

**Hume Central Secondary College** Open Night is on Wednesday 30th April from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Guided Tours will take place from 6:45 – 7:00pm.

**Pascoe Vale Girls College** – Information Sessions are on Tuesday 29th April and Thursday 2nd May from 11:00am. An evening session is available commencing at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 30th April.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding transition please do not hesitate to email me on johnson.robyn.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

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**Grade 1 Family Maths Night**

Elicia Briggs – Maths Co-ordinator Assistant

Our Grade 1 family maths night was a huge success! It was wonderful seeing so many families sharing their maths skills and having fun. We had activities that required counting, pattern making, chance and data and shape.

We compared teddies to find the biggest teddies and wouldn’t you know it, Dith and Adith, gorgeous Grade 1 twins had twin teddies who were both the biggest. The smallest teddy competition was won by a rascally squirrel owned by Mischa.

Abigail won our ‘Guess the lollies’ competition, with the closest guess to the actual number.

We tried to see if we had enough teddies to stretch from one end of the BER to the other but we were short by about half! Hopefully next time we host the Grade 1 Family Maths night there’ll be enough teddies to stretch all the way! Congratulations to everyone who came and made our night a HUGE fun filled success.

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**OSHClub News**

Greenvale OSHClub – Coordinator - 0423 782 000

**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 are planning on using the tins for grass head people on Thursday 20/3, any tins received before this date will be much appreciated. 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 and Nicole will be helping out. We would like to assure you that every 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.
Community Advertising Section

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