PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

I’d like to start this newsletter off by acknowledging all the parents who greet teachers, students and myself with daily smiles and genuine support for our school.

Improved school attendance is an ongoing focus for Green Valley Public School. Our school has established attendance class awards that get handed out at each Monday morning assembly. A class from K-2 and 3-6 are awarded and the class with the most certificates at the end of the year wins a class prize. School attendance is very important. We don’t want students to miss out on any of their learning, so we encourage all children to be at school on time.

Next Friday 18th March marks the sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This annual day is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools, and encourages all students to take a stand together against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond. In the lead up to The sixth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, students and teachers will be engaging in a range of lessons and activities designed to build awareness and help deliver the powerful message that bullying and violence is never okay.

A reminder to parents that there is a P&C meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday 8th March at 6pm in the school’s staffroom. All parents are welcome. Please take note of key calendar dates, as there are many activities scheduled for the remainder of this term.

Mrs E Harris
Relieving Principal

SCHOOL INFORMATION

MAKE ONLINE PAYMENTS

From the 18th March 2016 it will be possible to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $Make a payment$.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, excursions, sales to students.

When you access the $Make a payment$ you must enter:
- the student name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the Office.
A new section will be added to all permission notes for parents to fill in once the online payment has been completed.

CAN YOU HELP?
We need Parent volunteers to help with our Multilit Program. This involves reading with students for 30 minutes a day. The program runs Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Please see Miss Thanarayen if you can help on any day.

BECOME AN ETHICS TEACHER AT G.V.P.S.
Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public primary school students who don’t attend scripture classes (SRE) to participate in philosophical ethics classes.

We currently have a few vacancies for volunteers to teach Years K-6 ethics classes. The classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgement, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives.

Volunteer Ethics Teachers are trained to deliver our age-appropriate curriculum every week and to use the accompanying learning and teaching materials.

For more information, please contact the school’s Ethics Coordinator, Nathan Hagarty on 0407228761 or email primaryethicsgvps@gmail.com

CLASSROOM PACKAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS K-6
The classroom package includes: School Book Covers, Mathletics Registration & paper levy. The total cost of the package is $15.00 per child and is payable at the school office in the mornings only.

LIBRARY NEWS
Library borrowing has started and lots of students are using our new library system OLIVER to find books, make reserves and even write reviews. Parents, this is something that you and your child can also use at home by logging on to the student portal. You can check what has been borrowed, see what’s new in the library and link to good resources for school projects. Don’t forget to pack your child’s library bag on their library day (years K-4) so they don’t miss out on taking their books home.

K-2 Parents, please call into the library any afternoon at home time to borrow a bed time bag. Each bag contains 7 story-books—a week’s worth of bedtime stories to share with your child.

Our 2016 second-hand book sale is on this week. Books are just 10c each and will be on sale outside the library at lunchtime and at home time, tomorrow and Wednesday, while stocks last!

HIGH SCHOOL 2017
The Expression of Interest for placement in Year 7 2017 in a NSW Government School forms have been sent home today with Year 6 students. Please fill in and return to the school office on or before Friday 18th March 2016.
PASSPORT TO LEADERSHIP

This year, we are implementing a new initiative called the Passport to Leadership Program for students in Years 2-5. Students will be receiving a ‘log book’, which is a record of their involvement in school leadership activities, community service, extracurricular activities, sports programs, environmental service and the performing arts. Those students seeking roles in Leadership areas across the school, such as SRC, Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects or Sports Captains must present their Passport to Leadership at the time to be considered. This initiative will endeavour to develop the leadership capabilities of all students from Years 2-6.

Mrs Reardon—Librarian.

LOST PROPERTY

To prevent your child losing their property, use a permanent laundry marker to label clothes, hats and shoes, or sew or iron on personalised labels. Remember to go through your child’s bag with them each night. If something doesn’t come home, check the lost property located on the library verandah.

PSSA BEST AND FAIREST Round 2

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COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

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STAGE 3 CAMP for Years 5 & 6

WHEN: Wednesday 1st June—Friday 3rd June.
WHERE: The Great Aussie Camp, Kincumber.
COST: $295 payable in 6 instalments. A non-refundable deposit of $50 is required to secure your child’s place.
TRANSPORT: Coach.
Permission notes have been sent home and must be returned with the $50 deposit by 11/3/16.

Financial Assistance may be available to families in need upon application at the school office.

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Financial Assistance may be available to families in need upon application at the school office.
The students in 3/4W have been enjoying learning about ‘Products and Services’ in Science. They have started to investigate how products are designed and created.
What is bullying?
Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group mistreating one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying. However, these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved.

Behaviours that do not constitute bullying include:
- Mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance)
- Not liking someone or a single act of social rejection
- One-off acts of meanness or spite
- Isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

Online bullying (sometimes referred to as cyberbullying) is bullying carried out through the internet or mobile devices. Not all online issues are bullying.

Types of Bullying:
Bullying is an aspect of interpersonal relationships. All relationships can be complex and changing. Students may take on different roles in different circumstances. A student who is being bullied in one context may do the bullying in another, or a student who is a bystander to bullying in one context may be bullied in another.

The range of roles students take in bullying may be:
- As the target/victim of bullying
- As the person engaging in bullying behaviour
- As a bystander – someone who sees or knows about someone being bullied.

Bystanders can play a number of roles:
- Students who assist the students who are bullying and actively join in.
- Students who encourage and give silent approval to the students who are bullying.
- Students who watch the bullying (or hear about it) but are passive and do nothing.
- Students who defend or support the student who is being bullied by intervening, getting teacher support or comforting them.

The actions of a supportive bystander can stop or diminish a specific bullying incident or help another student to recover from it.

Why does bullying occur?
A person can engage in bullying behaviour because they:
- Don’t like the person being bullied
- Find bullying fun
- Like to feel tough and strong, in control
- Think it will make them popular.

(Source: Australian Council Bullying Study Executive Summary (PDF, 214KB), p.21, May 2009, Edith Cowan University).

Bullying behaviour can arise from distrust, fear, misunderstanding, lack of knowledge or jealousy - all factors that schools can address in positive and proactive ways.

Bullying can also happen because the student gets a reaction they like. This is where teaching students ways to effectively respond to bullying behaviour is helpful.

The following profiles of students who are more likely to be bullied and those more likely to bully others are based on patterns found in Australian research; the profiles do not mean all students with these characteristics will be involved in bullying.

Students who are more likely to be bullied are also more likely to:
- Feel disconnected from school and not like school
- Lack quality friendships at school
- Display high levels of emotionality that indicate vulnerability and low levels of resilience
- Be less well accepted by peers, avoid conflict and be socially withdrawn
- Have low self-esteem
- Be relatively non-assertive
- Be different in some way.

Students who are more likely to bully others are more likely to:
- Feel disconnected from school and dislike school
- Demonstrate good verbal skills and ability to talk themselves out of trouble
- Believe that the use of aggression is an acceptable way to achieve their own goals
- Be preoccupied with their own goals and not concerned about the rights of others
- Show more emotional instability, as do those students who support them
- Be reasonably popular but more disliked than non-bullying peers
- Be less anxious than peers
- Have high self-esteem and an inflated view of themselves, especially about their social behaviour and influence
- Have lower levels of empathy than other students
- Have poor impulse control and poor anger management skills
- Be less likely to consider the negative consequences of their actions on others or their own relationships over time.

Did you know?
- Approximately one in four Year 4 to Year 9 Australian students (27%) report being bullied every few weeks or more often (considered to be frequent) during the last term at school.
- Frequent school bullying was highest among Year 5 (32%) and Year 8 (29%) students.
- 83% of students who bully others online, also bully others offline.
- 84% of students who were bullied online were also bullied offline.
- Peers are present as onlookers in 87% of bullying interactions, and play a central role in the bullying process.
- Hurtful teasing was the most prevalent of all bullying behaviours experienced by students, followed by having hurtful things said about them.
- Online bullying appears to be related to age (or access to technology), with older students more likely to engage in cyber bullying than younger students.

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