Thursday March 21, 2013

This will be our final newsletter for Term 1, as we are coming to the end of a very busy and productive term. Congratulations to our prep students for completing a successful first term of their school life. They started the year attending 4 days a week and now they are at school full time and thriving on the learning opportunities their teachers are providing them. Your child’s teacher worked closely with the class to establish classroom expectations and routines. They discussed behaviour and work expectations to set the tone for the year, which enabled all students to settle in quickly and be aware of their responsibilities as a learner at Gladstone Views Primary School.

We also had our first Parent-Teacher meeting for the year. These meetings gave parents and teachers the opportunity to share information in order to work together and support our students to achieve their full potential.

This term Mrs Hurst ran our Parent Helpers course and we had approximately 15 parents attend. We are looking forward to them working in our classrooms to support the students with their learning.

We also elected our School Captains, House Captains and Junior School Councillor representatives.

Our Grade 5/6 students will be attending Camp at Portsea in the last week of the term. We have over 80 students and parent helpers. A big thank you to all those parents and teachers who will be attending.

Our Science & Discovery Centre was launched this year and Mr Jasenia has been working with each grade on their number facts and automatic responses in mathematics. Our senior grades have also been involved in Interschool sport.

The above items are just a snapshot of the programs that our staff have organised for our students to ensure that we are catering for all their individual needs and learning styles.

I look forward to continuing this next term.

Term 1 finishes at 2.30pm on Thursday 28th March. I hope you and your families have a safe and relaxing break, while you get the opportunity to recharge your batteries ready for term 2 which begins on Monday 15th April at 9.00am.

Over the next couple of months I will include articles on Bullying that I hope will assist parents to understand about bullying, how to deal with it, how schools deal with it and how students deal with it. These articles have been compiled by the department and I believe they will be invaluable for all the school community.

Types of bullying behaviour
There are some specific types of bullying behaviour:

- Verbal or written abuse – such as targeted name-calling or jokes, or displaying offensive posters
- Violence – including threats of violence
- Sexual harassment – unwelcome or unreciprocated conduct of a sexual nature, which could reasonably be expected to cause offence, humiliation or
Parents can:

- Encourage friendships outside school.
- Model having a range of friends and how to meet new people.
- Increase social activities for the family with a range of people.
- Keep in touch with extended family members.
- Encourage the idea of being friends with an array of people rather than just being close to a few people.
- Consider going through a list of your child’s classmates with them and identifying the different types of friends. If someone is rejecting or ostracising them, you can explain that there is no point trying to push friendship upon people who are rejecting it. Tell your child that sometimes you need to take a break – when you back off from people, they can move towards you. Sometimes children are traumatised and find it hard to link up with new friends. They feel so emotional their thinking gets stuck. To change their actions, they need help from parents and teachers. This may include identifying who is good to play what with, how to diversify friendships and help to depersonalise rejections.
- Some children want to cling to the idea of having a ‘special’ or ‘best’ friend and while this can seem a lovely outcome, it can be a problem too. By narrowing friendships down to a select group of special people they often won’t develop a range of friends or learn how to relate with different types of people. It their ‘special friend’ leaves that area, they will be devastated.

What is not bullying?

There are also some behaviours, which although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

- Mutual conflict – which involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.
- Single-episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people, is not bullying
- Social rejection or dislike is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Being Left Out

Being rejected and ostracised can hurt. Developing friendship skills at school may help young people to navigate relationships throughout their lives. Developing friendship skills.

The shift from home, where they are valued and loved, to school, where not everyone gets along, is a challenge all children face. Learning friendship skills is the basis of emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is highly predictive of success in work and relationships in adult life. Ideally children use school as a way to broaden their relationships and this sets them up for being able to work with and relate to a variety of people during their adult years. It is a strong human desire to belong. Belonging protects us and lessens anxiety. Understandably some children think that ‘it can just replicate that close caring relationship I have with Mum or Dad with one or two close special friends at school, all will be fine.’ However, becoming reliant on only a few friends has its dangers. Most people connect and reconnect with friends as they move through their lives.

Learning to cope with the ebb and flow of human relationships while remaining true to yourself gives people confidence and courage. At times, we all need to have the confidence to endure setbacks in friendships and the courage to be ourselves.

How parents can help children develop friendship skills

Parents can:

- Encourage friendships outside school.
- Model having a range of friends and how to meet new people.
- Increase social activities for the family with a range of people.
- Keep in touch with extended family members.
- Encourage the idea of being friends with an array of people rather than just being close to a few people.

Help your child realise that it’s a fact of life that not everyone will want to be friends. Talk about times when you wanted to be friends with someone but they didn’t want to be your friend. Repeat the importance of having a range of friends in different settings. Sometimes it is helpful to say, ‘there are 8 billion people on this planet, don’t let one of them ruin your day.’
PREP ROLL OF HONOUR

STAND TALL AWARDS
Week ending 8th March

Prep A  Cayden C.  For being a responsible class member and making valuable contributions to class discussions.
Prep B  Ethan B.  For quickly becoming a great class member.
Prep C  Janelle K.  For always listening well when people are speaking.
1/2A  Kira Lee T.  For showing stamina with her writing and giving thoughtful feedback to others.
1/2B  Tyler H.  For a wonderful recount and journal he kept about his amazing holiday to New Zealand.
1/2C  Tyson T.  For always providing thoughtful and constructive feedback to his peers during read to someone.
3/4A  Jetzia N.  For the interest and enthusiasm she demonstrates in everything she does.
3/4B  Ben S.  For his positive attitude and the enthusiasm he shows for everything he does.
3/4C  Calum H.  For his excellent use of interesting words in his writing and during brainstorming activities.
5/6A  Olivia H.  For your outstanding work with renaming decimal numbers and for always upholding the school values! It doesn’t go unnoticed!
5/6B  Freddy N.  For displaying curiosity towards his learning and taking it upon himself to learn new and interesting things.
5/6C  Ebony R.  For becoming an active contributor to classroom discussion and always trying her best.
Science  Brandon K. Andrew W. Ben S.  For working co-operatively as an awesome team in Science.

STAND TALL AWARDS
Week ending 15th March

Prep A  Iris H.  For the wonderful effort she is making every day to remember and use our Reading strategies.
Prep B  Dane P.  For being an amazing artist!
Prep C  Jaelyn K.  For drawing detailed and colourful pictures to match her writing.
1/2A  Trent P.  For writing his narrative using the framework provided and finishing in the time given.
1/2B  Jordan B.  For organising his ideas clearly and putting lots of detail into a narrative. Well done!
1/2C  Isabella E.  For always showing respect to her teacher and peers.
3/4A  Saja R.  For the extra work she completes at home to better her understandings of work completed in class.
3/4B  Deniz K.  For his outstanding work in both Maths and Writing this week.

SPORT NEWS

Interschool Sport

The results for Rounds 4 and 5 of Summer Interschool Sport were:

ROUND 4  Westmeadows v GVPS
Basketball (girls)  Westmeadows (23) d GVPS (3)
Basketball (open)  GVPS (20) d Westmeadows (12)
Softball (girls)  GVPS (15) d Westmeadows (15)
Softball (open)  GVPS (7) d Westmeadows (7)
Volleyball (girls)  GVPS (2 sets) d Westmeadows (1 sets)
Volleyball (open)  Westmeadows (2 sets) d GVPS (0 sets)
Kanga Cricket  Westmeadows (267) d GVPS (78)

ROUND 5  GVPS v Isik College
Basketball (girls)  GVPS (40) d Isik College (4)
Basketball (open)  GVPS (30) d Isik College (0)
Softball (girls)  GVPS (9) d Isik College (3)
Softball (open)  GVPS (7) d Isik College (2)
Volleyball (girls)  Isik College (2 sets) d GVPS (0 sets)
Volleyball (open)  Isik College (2 sets) d GVPS (0 sets)
Kanga Cricket  Isik College (110) d GVPS (106)

This Friday March 22nd (Round 6) our teams will be playing away against Aitken College.

Richard Jasenja
Phys Ed Coordinator

Registration forms available at the school office for families who are unable to register online. Ask your child to bring one home. A great way for the family to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days. You don’t have to be active every day, just as long as you do a total of 30 days between March 4th and April 14th.

ROYAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL APPEAL

Families wishing to donate using the envelopes provided with this week’s newsletter should return them to the office by:
Friday 22nd March
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Recently an election process was conducted for School Council membership. At the close of the nomination process on 28th February 2013, two parent nominations were received for four vacancies and two teacher nominations were received for the two DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) vacancies. As a consequence, a ballot was not required.

The two duly elected parent members of School Council are Michael O’Kearney and Sonia Wright together with the following continuing parent members Samantha Hills and Marcela D’Agostino. The two duly elected DEECD members are Noeline Muir and Menyle Steel. Sandra Hurst and Jane Donaldson are continuing DEECD members. As the Principal, I continue in the role of Executive Officer. I would like to thank our retiring members Robyn Cartwright and Emily Georgeopoulos for their valuable contribution to the school.

The following office bearers were elected at the School Council meeting held on March 12th, 2013

President: Samantha Hills
Vice President: Marcela D’Agostino
Secretary: Jane Donaldson
Treasurer: Michael O’Kearney

The announcement of the 2013 School Council election results is made public in today’s newsletter and technically, the new School Council is in business as from this announcement.

Announcing Up-Coming events for Term 2

We kick off with Education Week running from Monday 20th to Friday 24th of May. Apart from all the great activities planned for the week, we will be running our fantastic raffle once more with overflowing great prizes to be won.

As part of our Fundraising we will be offering 2 fantastic events.

On Thursday 18th April we will be offering Hoyts Movie Vouchers. We have 3 blockbuster packages on offer and can be redeemed in time to use for either Term 2 or Term 3 school holidays. They will be on offer until Friday 24th May and are valid for 6 months.

And don’t forget our Cadbury Chocolate Drive “it’s back” and on offer from the 6th June.

Remember these dates so you don’t miss out. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Fundraising Committee

Can you Help Out The School?

During Education Week our school will be running a raffle. The prizes will be three different sized hampers full of goods that have an Educational flavour.

We are sending out a request to parents calling for donations of suitable goods to go into these hampers. Ideas include pencils, books, board games, stationery, CD’s, electronic equipment etc.

If you would like to donate new items for the raffle would you please leave the item(s) at the office.

So whether you are able to donate a packet of pencils or a flat screen TV – in anticipation of your support we say thank you.

Calisthenics encourages physical development, co-ordination and self confidence.

Ratcliffe Hall, Airport West

Enquiries
Sue - 0411 060 970
Kim - 0418 208 025
Email - westaire@hotmail.com

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Announcing Up-Coming events for Term 2
News from the Junior School Council…

The Starlight Children’s Foundation is an organization that strives to lift the spirits of sick and hospitalized children and their families throughout Australia. To raise money for this foundation, the Junior School Council has decided to run a ‘Game Day’ on Tuesday 16th April in the first week of Term 2. On this day students from Prep to 6 will participate in a range of fun activities and games. To participate in these events students are encouraged to bring a gold coin donation on the day.

Policy Development – Community Consultation:
The policies below are currently under review. If you have any recommendations, please put them in writing and return to the office as soon as possible.

CAMERA USAGE
March 2013
PURPOSE: The Victorian privacy law, the Information Privacy Act 2000, provides for the protection of personal information of staff and students. The privacy laws do not replace any existing obligations the school has under other laws. Essentially this policy will apply when other laws do not regulate the use of cameras.

DEFINITIONS:
Camera means a device that is able to record an image of an individual whose identity is apparent. This includes all digital and film cameras, phone and video cameras and other devices.

Parent means a step parent, an adoptive parent, a foster parent, guardian, or a person who has custody or daily care and control of the child.

Parent Helpers in this policy includes parents under the direct supervision of a staff member.

Staff in this policy is defined as someone who carries out a duty on behalf of the school, paid or unpaid, or who is contracted to, or directly employed by the school or the DEECD. Information provided to a school through job applications is also considered staff information.

GUIDELINES:
To meet the duty of care the school has towards its students it is necessary to ensure that:

1. A permission form is signed by the parent allowing their child to be photographed for educational purposes by staff, parent helpers or other students.
2. The permission form is signed by the parent before a photograph is taken.
3. Students are only permitted to bring cameras of their own to school if they are to be used for special situations, for example, camps and excursions. The equipment list for such activities will list cameras as permitted items.

These Guidelines need to be read in conjunction with the Privacy Policy.

MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE
PURPOSE:
The use of mobile phones and in-phone cameras at school can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and present the possibility of breeches of the privacy act.

Whilst students are in attendance at school, communications between students and outside parties will be expected to go through the school office.

GUIDELINES:
1. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing a mobile phone to school.
2. Any student who brings a mobile phone to school must have a written permission note from their parents/guardian. The phone must be switched off and handed in to the office at the start of the school day. It may be collected when they leave school.
3. Any mobile phone brought to school is done so at the owner’s risk. The school does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school by students and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property.
4. In-phone cameras are not to be used under any circumstances.
5. Student’s found using a mobile phone whilst in the school grounds will have the phone confiscated.
6. A confiscated phone can only be retrieved from the front office by a parent/guardian of the child.
7. This policy applies to students during school camps, school excursions and extra-curricular activities.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS
March 2013
PURPOSE:
From time to time, students bring personal items to school either to show their class mates or play with out in the school grounds. Because of the sentimentality attached to these items and/or the cost of replacing them, students and their parents can become upset and angry when a personal item has been damaged, misplaced or stolen at school.

GUIDELINES:
1. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing personal items to school particularly if they are expensive to replace, easy to break, likely to be stolen or have a strong sentimental value attached to them.
2. Electronic hand-held games are prohibited at all times.
3. If personal items are brought to school, the responsibility for these items remains with the child and the parents who have allowed their child to bring them along to school.
4. Parents will be reminded via the Newsletter about the need for students to leave their personal possessions at home.
5. Where a personal possession is brought to school and is either lost, damaged or stolen, an initial investigation process will be undertaken. Such an investigation however, will not be at the expense of valuable teaching and learning time. Teaching and learning will take priority over finding out what has happened to an item that should not have been brought to school in the first place.
6. Whilst an initial effort will be made to try and resolve an issue over a personal possession, the school will not accept responsibility or blame for an item that clearly should not have been brought to school. The school does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property.
7. At times, when a special item needs to be brought to school, (eg for a project or show and tell), the parent is advised to organise this with the child’s teacher so that maximum care can be taken.

Westmeadows Football Club
Want to play footy this year.
Westmeadows Tigers are looking for players for under 10’s & under 12’s
Cone down to training
On Wednesday & Fridays 4.30 – 5.30pm at Westmeadows Football Club
Mickleham Road
Hope to see you there
Dogs Make Great Pets

Hi I’m an extreme animal expert who works for the peaceful R.S.P.C.A animal rescue and I’m a passionate animal lover and I believe strongly and powerfully that there are many amazing, loyal pets out in the countries and states of the world but I seriously and truly believe that the fun, loyal, amazing dog stands out and is definitely the excellent one to choose!!!

Well, firstly the exciting dog is good for hard jobs such as a powerful police dog, the kelpie farm dog, the Labrador for the blind, German Shepherd guard dog, the Saint Bernard rescue dog, loyal retrievers for hunting and many other amazing things!

Secondly, all the amazing tricks! Your loyal buddy will fetch the newspaper, beg, shake paws, roll over, catch a flying frisbee and I could think of so many more eye popping tricks!

Last but not least, how loyal this amazing animal is, it doesn’t care how you look, who you are, if you’re sad or messy! These kind animals will give you T.L.C. if you give it too!!!

So you can tell why this playful, fun amazing and loyal dog in man’s best friend!

DOGS RULE!!!

By: Lani M. 3/4C

ANZAC DAY APPEAL

Thursday 25th April, 2013

A variety of badges are available for sale at the office

$1 & $2 badges
$3 wrist bands
$4 bag tags

We would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Easter and holiday period.

Hope all our Grade 5 & 6 students enjoy Portsea Camp next week.