Dear Members of the Glen Waverley Primary School Community,

Welcome Back
As usual, the holiday period has passed by very quickly and we have now started another new school year. I hope that all families have had a very happy Christmas break and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful weather and time together. It has been wonderful hearing and sharing holiday stories with families and the children over the past week or so. It is also terrific to see the children returned happy, refreshed and ready for lots of learning!

Our Foundation (Prep) students started on Monday and certainly demonstrated a sense of bubbly enthusiasm and feelings of true excitement as they experienced the first few days of their primary education. I firmly believe the beginning of the school year is most exciting as the children return to or begin school with a cheerful zest, spring in their feet and with a look of anticipation in their eyes! I am very confident that 2015 will be another stellar year for all of those associated with our wonderful school.

Welcome to our new students and their families
We have had quite a number of new students enrol this year which is extremely pleasing with our overall student enrolments being approximately 700. I would like to welcome all of the new children and their families and congratulate them on selecting our great school as their very important educational setting. We do have a wonderful school and I am sure the new students will thoroughly enjoy being part of the Glen Waverley Primary School Community and Family.

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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**February**
- 10th: After School Chinese Classes
- 12th: Chess Lesson 1
- 17th: After School Chinese Classes
- 19th: Chess Lesson 2
- 20th: Curriculum Day – No Students to attend School
- 24th: After School Chinese Classes
- 24th: RACV Incursion Yr 2
- 26th: Chess Lesson 3
- 26th: Royal Botanical Gardens Excursion Yr 4
- 27th: Summer Sports Round Robin Yr 6

**March**
- 2nd: Swimming Program Yrs 4 – 6
- 3rd: Swimming Program Yrs 4 – 6
- 3rd: After School Chinese Classes
- 4th: Swimming Program Yrs 4 – 6
- 5th: Athletics Day Yrs 3 – 6
- 6th: Whole School Photo Day
- 9th: LABOUR DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 10th: Swimming Program Yrs 3 – 6
- 10th: After School Chinese Classes
- 11th: Swimming Program Yrs 3 – 6
- 12th: Chess Lesson 4
- 16th: Swimming Program Yrs 3 – 6
- 17th: Swimming Program Yrs 3 – 6
- 17th: After School Chinese Classes
- 18th: Swimming Program Yrs 3 – 6
- 19th: Chess Lesson 5
- 20th: District Athletics Yr 6

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**SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS**

Lunch orders are available from our service provider Balance Living Catering five days a week. Ordering is done through an online service, details of which are available on our website or visit http://www.balancedlivingcatering.com.au/school-lunch-ordering.html

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Situated in the West Wing on the School Grounds
Open Monday between 3.00 – 4.30 pm
Closed Public Holidays and School Holidays
Please bring your own bag for purchases as we are an environmentally friendly school
Orders may be left with the office – these must be in an envelope marked with the child’s name and grade together with payment, correct monies are appreciated.

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**GLEN WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL PROJECT**

Help Us Reach Our Goal

$1,945
Welcome to our new members of staff

We also have a number of new staff members this year and look forward to making them feel valued and respected as a member of such a great school community. The new staff have already commented on the wonderful learning environment at Glen Waverley and are very pleased and proud of the students in each of their classes.

I would like to welcome the following staff to our school:
- Emily Laughlin, Harrys Tsigas and Samantha Matsoukas (Foundation - Prep)
- Melinda Tippet (Year 1)
- Manuela Pertile and Rebecca Young (Year 2)
- Greg Edwards and Mithuna Thiruvasagan (Year 3)
- Anna Meng (Year 4)
- Pippa Davis and Elisha Park (Year 5)
- Sam Laffy (Year 6)
- Lucy Pfeifer (Music) and
- Julie Milward (Business Manager)

I warmly welcome all of the new staff to the Glen Waverley Primary School family and wish them well!

The 2015 Staff Team at Glen Waverley Primary School is as follows:

Classroom Teachers:
Year Prep: Clare Baizanos (Leader), Olga Anagnostou, Emily Laughlin, Harrys Tsigas and Samantha Matsoukas
Year One: Penelope Kolovos (Leader), Marion Barnes/Helen Tomecek (sharing a class), Samantha Rich and Melinda Tippet
Year Two: Manuela Pertile (Leader), Peter Shen, Chloe Walsh and Rebecca Young
Year Three: Greg Edwards (Leader) Arezou Javidi, Debbie Jacobs/Elizabeth Kemp (sharing a class) and Mithuna Thiruvasagan
Year Four: Tania Smith (Leader), Sarah Donald, Anna Meng and Matthew Knott
Year Five: Pippa Davis (Leader), Elisha Park, Paul Austin and Simone Ryan
Year Six: Lindy Tran (Leader), Claire Gooch, Jennifer Tzimas and Sam Laffy

Specialist Program Teachers:
Music: Lucy Pfeiffer
Mandarin: Esther Wang (Prep to Year 4) and Di Xue (Years Five and Six)
Physical Education and Sport (Years 2 to 6): Shae Warren
Physical Education and Sport (Prep to Year Two) and Multimedia: Roland Lewis
Visual Arts: Aubrey Hudson
Reading Recovery and Junior School Support: Lyn Clugg
EAL: Lisa Gough (Prep to Year 2), Damien Kitch (Years 3 and 4) and Di Xue (Years 5 and 6)

Learning Assistants: Natalie Doyle, Kay Platt, Soula Lucas, Gurbinder Bhagat, Liz Steinke, Jo Holdsworth and Nicole Rowland

Student Wellbeing: Natasha Niemann

Office Administration: Julie Milward and Jenny Bednarz

Assistant Principals: Damien Kitch and Lisa Gough

Principal: Frank Catalano
Curriculum (Teaching and Learning) Update
It certainly has been a wonderful start to the 2015 school year with the Foundation children settling in very well and the remaining children completing what we refer to as the “Getting to Know You” program – please refer to Lisa Gough’s, our school’s Curriculum Leader’s piece within the newsletter.

It would be rather remiss of me not to mention how wonderful it is to see how settled, confident and ready the Foundation children are for school. This is a real credit to the outstanding kindergarten teachers, our Foundation Transition program and the tireless work of parents who have shared many wonderful stories about how much the children have been looking forward to school. Well done and thank you everyone for all of your efforts in ensuring the children are ready to commence school.
Facilities Update

Over the past few years we have worked extensively to improve our school’s facilities and these holidays were no different as they provide an opportune time to complete work throughout the school. During the recent holidays we continued to focus on improving our school’s facilities such as:

Refurbishing the Corridor of the Main Building: I am really pleased to report that we were able to complete this project over the summer break. The teachers are now able to store some of their resources in their new cupboards and it is wonderful to see the children have access to their very own bag box where they can store their school bag and other items. The top of the cupboards and bag boxes will also be used to display the wonderful learning completed by the children.

Extension of the Out of School Hours Care Building: Another project commenced was the extension of the OSHC building. Over the holidays the contractors laid a new concrete slab and we are now able to commence construction. When completed, this will be another wonderful asset for our school as it will double the current size of this facility.

New Classrooms for Years 5 and 6 – I am extremely pleased to report that our three the new portables arrived, were installed and, very importantly, were ready for the commencement of the school year. We are very fortunate to have received 2 brand new and one that is a mere 3 years old. Naturally they are the latest design which provides the staff and children with so much space when compared to older style buildings and portables. In the coming weeks we will need to install wireless access points, blinds and echo panel on the walls. We also have a few external tasks to complete such as landscaping and reinstalling the senior adventure playground and cricket nets. Hopefully these will be completed in the near future.

New Long and Triple Jump Pit – the other exciting addition to our school’s facilities was the creation of a Long/Triple Jump pit on our school oval – please refer to Mr Warren’s piece in this newsletter.
School Assemblies
A reminder that our whole school assemblies will take place outside the Early Learning Centre every Monday morning from 9:05 to approximately 9:45 am.
If the weather is too hot, too cold or wet, then the assembly will be held in the school hall. The Prep to Year 3’s from 9:05 to 9:30 and Year 4 to 6’s from 9:35 to 10 o’clock.
As with all school events, parents and family members are most welcome to attend.

School Crossings, Car Park and Turning Circle
Our school is fortunate to have Crossing Supervisors on Springvale Road and High Street Road. It is imperative that we ensure everyone utilises the school crossings correctly particularly adults as we need to set the correct example. Also a reminder that all surrounding streets are 40 km per hour from 8 – 9:30 and also 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
We are also fortunate to have a substantive car park which enables parents to park when taking students to school or picking up after school. However it is imperative that we all are extremely alert when using this facility and travel at 5 km/hr at all times. The turning circle was created to assist families when dropping off and collecting students, so please be patient and ask your child(ren) to wait at the turning circle in order to speed up this process. A reminder that the children are not allowed to play ball games or on the adventure play ground after school if they are waiting to be collected from the turning circle. This rule is in place in order to increase the efficiency of the above process.

Individual Book Supplies and School Accounts
I am extremely pleased to report that the vast majority of families have now settled their fees and have collected book supplies. Thank you to everyone for your support and for ensuring that we have had a very smooth start with the children being well resourced and ready to go! As mentioned previously, the family contributions are a vital component of the school’s ability to provide resources for us to implement the best possible education for all of the children. For instance, shortly we will purchase additional iPads, notebook computers and an interactive whiteboard for the new classrooms – to name just a few; once again, thank you everyone!

Please be aware that if you are yet to settle your school account and need some assistance, please do not hesitate to see me.

Extra-Curricular Programs
As everyone would be aware, at our school we have a magnitude of extra-curricular programs and activities in order to provide the children with additional learning opportunities. An overview of these and permission notices were distributed earlier in the week and if you have any queries regarding any of our extra-curricular programs please do not hesitate to contact the nominated person, Mrs Gough or myself.

Classroom Fruit Program (Brain Food)
As adults we acknowledge the importance of eating fresh fruit and vegetables on a daily basis and also the significant role they undertake in growing bodies – particularly when learning is occurring at the same time. As a result our school provides a small bowl of fruit to all classrooms on Monday morning however this is not sufficient for every child to have a piece every day. At 10 o’clock the children will stop and have a piece of fruit in order to replenish their vitamins and minerals and we would appreciate it if families could support this by ensuring their child brings a piece of fruit or cut-up vegetables such as carrot sticks, celery to school every day. If you have any questions about Brain Food please do not hesitate to see your child’s teacher, Mrs Gough, Mr Kitch or myself.

Before and After School Care
A reminder to all families that our school provides a Before and After School Care Program for those who require such a service. The Before School program operates from 7:15 to 8:45 and after school from 3:30 to 6:15. Prep children will commence when they are released at 1 p.m. however it is imperative that they are booked in. Our program is run by Camp Australia and all the relevant information is located on our school website at www.glenps.vic.edu.au

Family Contact Details
Over time some families alter their contact details such as address, mobile numbers, work numbers or emergency contact details. Naturally when this occurs it is extremely important that the school is made aware of the changes. If your family contact details have changed please send a brief note to the school office or email the school on: glen.waverley.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A PRINCIPAL’S AWARD RECENTLY:

4MK: Emma for writing a very descriptive and gruesome story which was enthralling and very captivating!

6JT: Duvin, Giles, Vincent and Justin for being wonderful helpers throughout our school

4SD: Sudhu for writing a fabulous prediction about the text "The pigeon wants a puppy" and Zayaan for being a great friend

ISR: Malachy for producing a brilliant "Malachy's Maths" poster and for being able to explain his learning and Max for being a responsible friend.

3GE: Randiv and Yenula for both writing wonderful recounts of their joint family holiday to Tasmania which are featured in the Kids’ Corner section of this newsletter

3MT: Akshala, Karina and Jasmine for thinking and writing 100 words using the letters from the word COOPERATION
BIRTHDAYS
A child’s birthday is a very special occasion and every fortnight I will share this celebration by including a photograph of the birthday children.

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their special day during January:

0CB: Hishan, Aarav, Minuli and Harman
0EL: Dinara and Afsheen
0HT: Chanithu, Saveesha, Kerrie and Tenu
1MT: Reyhan
1SR: Christina and Dennika
2MP: Hrishith, Alkan, Akisa and Yannik
2PS: Vihaan
2RY: Alexander and Sanna
3AJ: Saisha, Imashi, Ameen and Eric
3JK: Ramike
3GE: Sophia, Sonal and Esther
4AM: Mohammed, Nathan and Thenuka
4MK: Amy and Sofea
4SD: Cao-Tri and Nika
4TS: Dini, Ranuga, Umaiza, William, Umar, Dineth and Aryan
5EP: Thisen
5PD: Varun
6CG: Sandewni
6JT: Nicholas
6LT: Deetya
6SL: Govind, Sabah, Jeremy, Richard and Aaron

Wishing everyone a safe and happy fortnight,

Frank Catalano
Principal
2015 GLEN WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPTAINS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
AMASHA
DUVIN

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS
AKSHATA
RAGHAV

HOUSE CAPTAINS
FAWKNER
Amrta and Prakhar

LATROBE
Riya and Jason

HUME
Sam and Kovid

MITCHELL
Elizabeth and Alex

CAPTAINS
ENVIRONMENT
Anja and Vincent

ICT
Fahad and David

ART
Elnas and Neha

MUSIC
Lihansa and Mahad

SCIENCE
Deetya and Darren

LANGUAGES
Kritika and Isum

LIBRARY
Sehansa and Nitish

PEER MEDIATION
Ye Ji and Megan
Helping Your Children Set and Achieve Learning Goals for 2015

Welcome to 2015 and the Glen Waverley Primary School community! At our school we are family orientated with a focus upon academic rigour and meeting the individual needs of our students. As we begin 2015, we welcome many new students and their families to our school and it has been great to see everyone has had a wonderful start to their learning!

In the upcoming weeks there will be information sent home regarding “Getting to Know You Interviews”, which are a great chance for you to speak with your child’s classroom teacher about teaching and learning for your child and for setting “learning goals”. Knowing what you would like to mention to your child’s teacher can help you to get the most out of this meeting and will also assist the teacher in further individualising your child’s learning.

Throughout my newsletter articles this year I will often make reference to a great resource for parents, which is www.parentingideas.com.au and is facilitated by world renowned “Parenting Educator” Michael Grose. This website provides some useful tips for parents as their children begin another exciting year of learning and I encourage all families to make the most of this valuable resource by visiting the website.

How to Help Your Child Make a Positive Start to their Learning in 2015

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve. Get to know your child’s teachers and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive. If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & learning tasks at home. Teachers at various year levels and in different subject areas will have different requirements for home-based learning. One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send your child to school ready to learn and on time. Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time as every minute learning in the classroom counts!

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes. Life is not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends can move away. Illnesses can happen. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so the teacher can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others. Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties. Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities. There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve their learning then take a greater interest in their learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience. Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to help your child.

10. “Talk up” what happens at school. Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure your child hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by “talking up” your school.

This type of ten-point plan is easy to read but can sometimes be challenging in reality, particularly when you or your child have busy schedules. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on during the first few weeks of school and help your child to become even more confident in achieving their learning goals.

I look forward to sharing with you a great year of teaching and learning in 2015!
Believe it or not, teachers are incredibly excited to commence a new school year. Many are more excited that the most eager students I have encountered as they collect their books, prepare their uniforms first day nerves jangle!

As we settle students in to their new classes and commence a fresh year, there is a subtle change in the way the teaching team here at Glen Waverley Primary School present our Curriculum. During the first two weeks of school, our core work is deeply focussed on creating a cohesive team of connected and respectful learners within each classroom. Subject areas such as English and Humanities are utilised to support learning tasks that explore personal and inter-personal learning. If you are returning to school, you will be familiar with the five keys to success as outlined in our Whole School “You Can Do It” student wellbeing program;

1. Confidence  
   - I can do it  
   - Being independent  
   - Taking Risks  
   - Accepting Myself  
2. Persistence  
   - Working Tough  
   - Giving Effort  
3. Organisation  
   - Planning my time  
   - Setting goals  
4. Getting Along  
   - Social responsibility  
   - Playing by the rules  
   - Thinking first  
   - Being tolerant of others  
5. Resilience  

Each year level explores these keys, utilising the common language they provide to explore deeper meaning and implications. We often use the term “Scaffolding” in Education to describe learning tasks that rely upon concepts that have previously been taught. In this way, these keys are introduced in Prep (laying the foundation) and built upon each year (building breadth and depth) so that by Year 6 concepts are consolidated and intrinsic, supporting students as they move into Secondary College and beyond.

Mrs Lisa Gough  
Acting Assistant Principal - Curriculum
Important Dates For Your Diary

February
10th After School Chinese Classes
12th Chess Lesson 1
17th After School Chinese Classes
19th Chess Lesson 2
20th **Curriculum Day – No Students to attend School**
24th After School Chinese Classes
24th RACV Incursion
26th Chess Lesson 3
26th Royal Botanical Gardens Excursion
27th Summer Sports Round Robin

March
2nd Swimming Program
3rd Swimming Program
3rd After School Chinese Classes
4th Swimming Program
5th Athletics Day
6th Whole School Photo Day
9th **LABOUR DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
10th Swimming Program
10th After School Chinese Classes
11th Swimming Program
12th Chess Lesson 4
16th Swimming Program
17th Swimming Program
17th After School Chinese Classes
18th Swimming Program
19th Chess Lesson 5
20th District Athletics
23rd – 27th **Cultural Diversity Week**
24th Harmony Day
24th After School Chinese Classes
25th Twilight Sports
26th Chess Lesson 6

27th **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**
**ASSEMBLY 2.00 PM**
**DISMISSAL 2.30 PM**
WELCOME TO 1PK

As part of our learning at Glen Waverley Primary School, 1PK has been getting to know each other and setting up classroom routines.

We have learnt about:

- reading behaviours that help us to read independently
- how to select just right books by completing the 5 finger test
- adding numbers together using hands on material
- 1PK’s favourite numbers, what month our birthday’s are in and its season
- how we can be successful at our learning by having a go, being persistent and helping each other out.
The “Kids’ Corner” section of our school newsletter provides the opportunity for the children to showcase their talents or communicate something special.

The first Kids Corner for the year has been written by **Sudhu (4SD)** who would like to share his “prediction” about the text "The pigeon wants a puppy" and **Yenula and Randiv (both in 3GE)** who have written a recount of their joint family holiday to Tasmania:

**Sudhu (4SD)**

I think the pigeon is going to pour a lot of water on the puppy and then the puppy gets so angry that he bites the pigeon. The pigeon then yells, “I don’t want a puppy, I don’t want a puppy! I think I will have a Poppy instead of a puppy!”

**My Trip to Tasmania (Yenula and Randiv)**

On the 2nd January me, my family and my friends went to Tasmania. We all went on a cruise ship, “The Spirit of Tasmania”. We all were very excited as it was our first ever trip in a cruiser. We left Melbourne on Friday night and it was beautiful to see the illuminated city far out from the sea.

The next day we reached Devonport. Then we had our breakfast at McDonald’s and drove to Launceston. In Launceston we went to see a place called “Cataract Gorge Reserve”. It was a beautiful place with natural and manmade swimming pools surrounded by a stream, trees, walking paths and chairlifts going over it.

Then we drove to Bridgeport to stay at Platypus Country Resort. At night we all played Uno and we watched the Big Bash cricket.

We left Bridgeport on Sunday morning. On our way to Hobart we came to a lavender farm. This was the favourite place for my mum and aunts. We had a photo shoot at the farm. Then we went for a scenic drive and it was on a river bank. That was the beautiful Tamar River. We reached Hobart around 6:00 pm. My friends and I played Monopoly and Uno.

Our first tour in Hobart was to Mt Wellington. It was 30 minutes away from Hobart. When we got to the top of the mountain you could see the view of the beautiful Hobart City. Unfortunately we couldn’t see it properly because of the mist. Then we went to see two waterfalls. The first one was called Russel Falls and the second Lady Barren. We all enjoyed them and took lots of photos.

We also went to an old town called Richmond. There were lots of ducks and eels in a little pond. After that we went to the Royal Botanical Garden and had lunch. Then we went to another park near the sea and played cricket under a massive tree. My friend hit a sixer and I caught it with one hand! For dinner we all went to Hobart’s Waterfront and had Fish and Chips.

We also went to Port Arthur. On the way we stopped at Eaglehawk Neck, the lookouts were very beautiful. On the way we also stopped at a wildlife reserve called Unzoo. We had the chance to see Tasmanian Devils, Eastern Qual and Green Rosellas. Then we went to Port Arthur, it is an old city with lots of ruins. On the way back home we went to Seven Mile beach. The beach was the place I liked the most. We had two running races and I won. In the night we had a little concert. My friends and I sang three songs. Everyone enjoyed the concert.

We left our Hobart apartment early in the morning to go to Devonport to board the cruiser. In the evening we came back to Melbourne.

**My Trip to Tasmania (Randiv)**

On the 2nd January my friends and I went on a cruise to Tasmania. It took 9 hours to get there. Tasmania is a beautiful heart shaped island that has some very good places like rugged mountain ranges, dense rainforests, wild rivers etc.

We went to lots of spectacular places and we enjoyed them all. First we all went to a wonderful city called Launceston where we went to a gorge and rocky waterfall.

Next we went to Bridestowe Lavender Estate, the world’s finest lavender is grown there and it is surrounded by breathtaking scenery. On our way to Hobart we stopped at Mt Field National Park and we walked to Russell Falls then to Lady Baron Falls. After that we went to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. In the garden there were lots of plant collections, grant trees, in a pond there were ducks and even a mini (3 meter tall) waterfall.

Later on we went to my favourite place, the Tasmanian Devil Unzoo. I saw some creatures that can only be found in Tasmania such as the Tasmanian Devils, Eastern Qual and Green Rosella.

My favourite part was that I saw three animals that only live in Tasmania.
An important part of our school culture, is the provision of a vast range of Extracurricular Activities. Hopefully every family received a notice earlier this week, outlining what is available for free at school, as well as a list of opportunities (with contact details) for those that involve additional cost.

You may well ask, “Why do we give such priority to making these activities available to our students?”

Naturally, we respond to the needs of our community; and it has taken some time to build such a vast array of opportunities for our students, but this is not the only reason. If you Google “importance of extracurricular activities”, you will find quite a list of benefits that these activities actually bring with them. “Allowing your child to get involved in extracurricular activities at school is a wise choice, and it can be very important in helping them to develop many working skills, people skills, and more.” states Joy Burgess in her article Extracurricular School Activities and the Benefits.

**Benefit 1 – Learning Time Management and Prioritising.** eg. Making time for violin practice, or getting home learning complete even though sport practice is held on a Thursday night.

**Benefit 2 – Getting involved in diverse interests.** eg. Trying something new. Challenging your child with a team sport if they usually prefer to play alone.

**Benefit 3 – Learning about long term commitments.** eg. Not giving up after a few lessons, persisting to complete the Term or reach a given point of mastery.

**Benefit 4 – Making a Contribution.** eg. Thinking about how their actions affect other individuals or the group as a whole. eg team sports or a music group.

**Benefit 5 – Raises Self Esteem.** eg. Finding something you are really good at and building upon learning strengths.

**Benefit 6 – Building Solid Relationship Skills.** eg. Responding in group situations, in a greater range of learning environments, while still being supervised.

**Benefit 7 – Building Breadth of Experience.** eg. Participating in a wide range of activities in preparation for further learning and different school environments (eg. Secondary College).

Ms Burgess also writes “Of course, while a few activities is a great idea, there is a point where you need to draw a line. . . too many activities can end up having a negative effect” If you are really not sure whether your child would benefit from additional programs, ask your child’s teacher who should give you a good idea of what may or may not be suitable. For the most part, parents are usually very accurate when judging how tired their child gets of an evening, and whether they are ready for additional commitments.
During the year, the Syndal District (our local District) holds various sports trials which are open to elite junior sportspeople to attend as the beginning pathway towards representing our state. The trials are designed for students competing at an under 12 age group, and therefore, most suitable to students in either Year 5 or 6.

I must reinforce, that these trials are only appropriate for those students already performing at an elite level. So how do you know if your child would be classified as elite? Some examples could include: they play for a club outside of school and they are the best player at their club in their age group, they have previously been selected in representative sides, or they might have been recommended to attend by their coach. IF this criteria fits your child then they MAY be eligible to attend a District Sports trial.

Before nominating a student to attend a District Sports trial, I will most likely have them partake in a mini-trial at school first to ensure that they are up to the very high standard expected to attend. If you would like your child to attend one of these trials, please come and speak to me at school (Mr Warren). Some of the 2015 trial dates are still to be confirmed, but here is a guideline for the trial sports:

**Swimming – 11th February (notices already handed out)**

**Cricket – nominations close 20th February**

**Tennis – Feb/March (TBC)**

**AFL – April/May (TBC)**

**Basketball – April/May (TBC)**

**Soccer - April/May (TBC)**

**Netball - April/May (TBC)**

Shae Warren – Physical Education
Dear Parents and students,

Welcome to the Year of the Goat (sometimes called the year of Ram and sheep). Chinese New Year’s day is on Thursday, 19th February, 2015.

This year, Melbourne will once again kick off its Chinese New Year celebrations with a number of Chinese New Year celebration at various venues. Each venue offers its own unique festival theme, performances and food. Visitors will experience Chinese Lion Dance, Firecrackers, Traditional Folk Music, Dancers, Martial Artists and etc.

Please check out the programme of events here.

Chinese New Year Melbourne Parade 2015

CHINA TOWN, 22nd February

Time: 10am – 10pm

FREE Chinese Museum Entry

Celebration at various places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glen Waverley</td>
<td>King's Way</td>
<td>1 March 2015</td>
<td>12pm - 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation Square</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>1 March 2015</td>
<td>12pm - 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Hopkins St</td>
<td>8 February 2015</td>
<td>10am – 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Hill</td>
<td>Market St and Whitehorse Rd</td>
<td>14 February 2015</td>
<td>1pm – 1am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springvale</td>
<td>Buckingham Avenue</td>
<td>15 February 2015</td>
<td>9am – 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Park</td>
<td>Noble Park Racecourse</td>
<td>21-22 February 2015</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. **Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.**

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. Glen Waverley Primary School will not be receiving any additional funding.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage. The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms. The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to Mr. Catalano.

At the end of 2014 the Glen Waverley Primary School Community donated items to the BestChance Wishing Tree Project. Our donation was greatly appreciated and we received a letter of thanks from BestChance.

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Natalie Doyle
Glen Waverley Primary School
774 High Street Road
Glen Waverley 3150

14 January 2015

Dear Natalie,

At the end of last year with your help, we were able to again successfully deliver our Wishing Tree project. Eighty-two families participated and each family received a generous hamper of food and a gift for each child. For many parents, Christmas is a stressful time as they struggle to provide their children with gifts and special treats. The contribution from Glen Waverley Primary School played a significant role in alleviating this stress for our families.

BestChance greatly appreciates your support and we look forward to your continued association with this program. Together we can make a difference in lives of vulnerable families who depend on support from their community.

On behalf of BestChance, I wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous 2015

Warm regards

Geraldine Ryan
Team Manager
Parent and Community Support Program
The advertisements in this newsletter are in good faith but no responsibility as to the quality of the products or services offered is accepted by the school.
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Do you want to work with Children in 2015?
Our class times are flexible to suit busy Mums

Certificate III in Education Support
Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
(9.30 to 3pm, two days a week)
*If eligible for government funding course fees are $350
bestchance Training
583 Ferntree Gully Road,
Glen Waverley Victoria 3150
Call bestchance training today on 03 8562 5173!

PLAYERS & VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR

2015 RUGBY LEAGUE SEASON

The Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club provides the opportunity for Boys & Girls to play Rugby League from 5 – 18 years and League Tag for Girls 12 – 18 years.

The Club invites all interested players to come and have a TRY at one of our upcoming events!
Sunday 15th February 12-3pm – Early Bird Registration Day with Melbourne Storm Players in attendance.
Join in a game of League Tag, meet the coaches, players, volunteers & have some FUN!
Sunday 12th March 12 – 3pm - Registration Day & League Tag Games
Wednesday 8th April 10-12pm – FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC (bookings required)

FREE training is also available for Volunteers in Coaching or First Aid Trainer so get on board now!
The Club is located at Colchester Reserve, Colchester Road Boronia
For further information or to make a booking: please call Rebecca Mamock on 0421 154 776
www.easternraptors.com.au or visit us at www.facebook.com/easternraptorsRLC
The advertisements in this newsletter are in good faith but no responsibility as to the quality of the products or services offered is accepted by the school.

Kerrie Neighbourhood House offers a great range of after-school activities for children aged 6-14yrs

Creative Painting and Drawing: This class encourages originality and creativity, enabling children to explore various mediums and techniques and to develop painting and drawing skills.

Japanese Language Class: In this class, beginner level students enjoy the challenge of learning a new language. Our highly experienced tutor speaks Japanese as her first language.

Magic & Illusion Performing Arts Class: These classes teach students what magic is as a performance art. Students explore many areas of magic from self-working magic, magic with everyday objects and close up magic to illusions and story-telling. Students are encouraged to be curious and creative!

Yoga and Creative Dance: In this class, children exercise in a healthy and holistic way. The practices of deep relaxation and meditation give children the tools to deal with the pressure and stresses of everyday life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Painting &amp; Drawing</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4.00-5.00pm</td>
<td>$75.00 (7 week course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Language</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4.00-5.00pm</td>
<td>$70.00 (7 week course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic &amp; Illusion Performing</td>
<td>Thursday (2</td>
<td>4.00-5.00pm or</td>
<td>$70.00 (7 week course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>classes)</td>
<td>5.00-6.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga and Creative Dance</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10.30-11.30am</td>
<td>$80.00 (8 week course)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kerrie Neighbourhood House
36 Kincumber Drive, Glen Waverley VIC 3150
Ph: 9887 6226 Email: info@knh.org.au
Website: www.knh.org.au

Don’t let your child become another tragic statistic.

Present this ad to receive two FREE swimming lessons for your child.

ENQUIRE NOW 9560 4433