PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Members of the Glen Waverley Primary School Community,

Welcome to another very exciting and information packed newsletter! As usual there are so many marvellous things which have occurred at our wonderful school over the past fortnight such as:

Curriculum Day
Last Friday we held an outstanding Curriculum Day with Mathematics consultant and Melbourne University lecturer Ryan Dunn. The day was spent learning about the latest research in this area of the Curriculum which was very interesting and thought provoking. Please refer to Mrs Gough’s piece as she elaborates on what we as a staff learnt, the impact it will have in our classrooms and most importantly, the children’s learning.

Facilities Update
Our New Classrooms – throughout the last two weeks we have had a variety of tasks completed in and around the new Year 5/6 classrooms such as:
- The interactive projectors have arrived and should be installed shortly
- The reinstallation of the Year 5/6 adventure playground is almost complete
- The new blinds are expected to be installed on Thursday
- The football goal posts have been reconfigured to make best use of the oval and
- Additional fencing has been installed behind the goal posts.

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.

Important Dates For Your Diary

March
5th Athletics Day Yrs 3 – 6
6th Whole School Photo Day
9th LABOUR DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY Yrs 3 – 6
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
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
Out of School Hours Care extension – work with this project is progressing quite well. The external walls have been completed, windows and doors installed and by next week we should be in a position where the internal walls will be removed. The OSHC staff are really looking forward to this project being completed as it will provide them with so much additional space. At this stage we are expecting this project to be completed by the end of this term.

Both of these projects will be wonderful additions to our school facilities which have been made possible due to the vast majority of families settling their 2015 school accounts. Once again, thank you everyone as the children, staff, School Council and I really appreciate your wonderful support and contribution to our school.

I hope by our next newsletter, we are in a position to share some additional news and photographs of these developments. How exciting!

The Year 6 children have also been working industriously on designing the area outside their classrooms. In the next week or so we will commence the process of shortlisting the designs and then making a selection. I look forward to sharing the designs with the school community as I am sure the children’s creativity and lateral thinking will be quite amazing.

More Facilities News
$2 million election pledge - Recently I received a letter from the Department of Education and Training outlining that they are currently working closely with the new Government in order to honour the Labour Party’s pledge of providing our school community with $2 million. At this stage we have been informed that we are required to attend a meeting on March 17th and hopefully I will be in a position to inform the entire school community of further news shortly afterwards. Naturally this is very exciting news for our school community!

Additional Maintenance Grants – the other exciting facilities news is that our school has been provided with additional funds to address some of the maintenance issues throughout the school. The funds are to be used to refurbish the external components of the Main Building and also the portable adjacent to the car park. We have already commenced painting of the portable and look forward to completing these tasks as soon as possible.
Religious Instruction Classes
As you would be aware, Mrs Gough is in the process of organising religious instruction classes throughout our school. She is currently working with the Christianity, Islam and Buddhism organisations and we should be in a position to release the details of these programs within the next few weeks with the intention of commencing lessons in Term Two.

Getting to Know You Interviews - Parent Teacher Interviews
Thank you to the families who were able to attend the ‘Getting To Know You’ interviews over the past fortnight. The teachers and I are very appreciative of the time that parents have given to these meetings and truly believe that they have gained a great deal from the sessions. This type of meeting strengthens the partnerships that we develop each year. If you were unable to attend please contact your child’s teacher and make an alternative time to meet. I must congratulate our staff for their dedication and commitment to the students at GWPS, I am extremely proud of the staff and the time and effort they give to providing the very best learning environment for our children.

Cultural Diversity Week
Cultural Diversity Week is one of the most important weeks in the state calendar as Melbourne (and Australia) is very multicultural. As we are all aware, so is our school as we represent 35 different nationalities. This year we plan to celebrate our cultural diversity with a number of really exciting events which the Curriculum and Interculturalism Team will oversee. A detailed overview was sent home recently so please be aware of what has been planned throughout our wonderful school.

Prep Children and the Prep Family’s BBQ
This week our preps have attended school full time staying each day until 3.30pm. They have done a marvellous job and have certainly settled in very well. I would like to remind parents that as each week passes by the children will begin to feel more comfortable and truly connected to their new surroundings. However there may be days when all seems a little too much and the children may become teary or unsettled. Please be patient and always try to be positive and encouraging and remind them that you will be there at the end of every day to greet them!

The annual Prep Families BBQ was held last week and this too was another huge success with over 200 people in attendance. It was just wonderful to see the children, parents, grandparents and staff getting to know one another in a relaxed and informal manner. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Community Relations Committee in preparing and organising the BBQ and drinks and also our wonderful Prep teachers – Ms Baizanos, Ms Tsigas, Mrs Anagnostou, Ms Matsoukas and Ms Laughlin. Well done and congratulations everyone!

Year 4 – 6 Swimming Program
This week we commenced the Year 4 – 6 swimming program and once again it has been a wonderful success. A sincere thank you to all of our families for your support with this very important program – it is never easy to coordinate and organise swimming attire, towels, goggles, school uniform, snacks for recess, fruit for fruit time and also lunch all at the same time, your efforts are really appreciated!
Also thank you to the teachers for their flexibility as these programs do impact on a teacher’s program and to Mr Warren for his outstanding organisation – thank you everyone!

Athletics Sports
There is certainly a great deal of excitement and anticipation in the air at the moment as the children and staff from Year 3 – 6 prepare for our annual Athletics Carnival which is being held today (Thursday) at Central Reserve (corner of Springvale and Waverley Roads Glen Waverley). We expect to commence at 10 o’clock and should be completed by 2:30. It promises to be a very exciting day and we would love to have as many parents as possible there to assist and support the staff and children.

Uniform
It has been absolutely wonderful to see every student in full school uniform so far this year and a sincere thank you to all parents for ensuring this occurs. As everyone would be aware, a uniform provides a sense of belonging and pride in our school; from a parents point of view, it certainly makes selecting what to wear a great deal easier. A reminder that all students are required to wear their sun-smart school hat at all times this term and also until the end of April.
School Photos
School Photo Days are notoriously very hectic as the photographers will have to take literally hundreds of photographs throughout the day. In order to make sure the day progresses as smooth as possible, please ensure your child returns their photo day envelope tomorrow.

Thank you for supporting this annual event which obviously makes outstanding mementos that will be cherished for many years to come. We are looking forward to receiving the photographs early in Term Two.

Car Park
I have had the pleasure of working in a number of schools which have been located in various areas of Melbourne and in a variety of locations ranging from very quiet suburban streets to major roads such as our school. Regardless where a school is located, the 3:30 pm “pick up” is always hectic hence we all need to ensure that we work together and provide each other with a safe environment where the well-being of the children (and adults) is always paramount and at the forefront of our minds. If we all follow a few simple rules such as:

- Do not leave your car unattended or parked in the drive way sections
- Do not park in the disabled parking bays
- Reverse into car spaces (making it safer to exit)
- Travel at 5 km/hr and
- When possible park your car at The Glen or Mountain View Hotel and walk over.

At our school we are very fortunate to have car parking available for parents which is not the case in the vast majority of schools. However we do not have sufficient space for approximately 550 families and 54 staff hence we also need to make the most of the alternatives on offer such as using the turning circle or parking elsewhere and walking to school.

The above and common courtesy should enable us to clear the car park by 3:45 and, most importantly, ensure EVERYONE remains safe.

Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding with this very important issue.

School Council Update
As you would be aware this year our school has had to undertake a ballot (election) process in order to determine School Council membership. As ballot papers are due by 4pm tomorrow I encourage all members of our school community to cast their vote.

The votes will be counted tomorrow afternoon and I look forward to sharing the outcome in our next newsletter and also place the result on the School Council notice board.

Long Weekend
A reminder that next Monday (9th March) is the Labour Day public holiday. I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend and has the opportunity to visit the Moomba celebrations or spend additional time with family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A PRINCIPAL’S AWARD RECENTLY:

5EP: Binuki for being really responsible members and a wonderful assistant in our school community
5PD: Mithuli also for being really responsible members and a wonderful assistant in our school community
5SR: Jia Rui also for being really responsible members and a wonderful assistant in our school community
4MK: Aly, Jazselle and Shreya for being really responsible members of our school community
4SD: Ryan for making wonderful progress with his reading and Sana for being a great friend
4TS: Kavi, Umar, Idha, Anvita, Dulina, Ranuga and Victoria for being wonderful helpers and Isara and Tharindu for completing outstanding home learning
3AJ: Eric for making wonderful progress with his English skills, Geena, Imashi, Daniel, Dinil and Javi for creating a wonderful bar graph which depicts the country of origin of the children in 3AJ and Yonal for being very responsible by cleaning the library
3GE: Anuk for being really responsible members and a wonderful assistant in our school community

2CW: Victoria for being a great friend
2MP: Oliver for being a wonderful assistant in our school and Uthum for being really responsible members and a wonderful assistant in our school community
2RY: Gayodha for being a great friend

2PS: Vinuki for receiving a trophy and ribbon from the Sherbrooke Little Athletics Club for running

1PK: Janessa and Needra for writing beautiful letters to one another, Cheniru for creating a beautiful poster for my office, Dulcie for being a great friend and Dulcie and Savreen for writing wonderful pieces about their family

1SR: Malachy, Vyshi, Max and Rithila for completing wonderful maths work and Malachy for sharing a wonderful photo of his great grandparents as part of his class unit of work

1BT: Mayon for being a great friend and Senula for creating a wonderful poster for Harmony Day
0EL: Dinara for making wonderful progress with her reading and for being very persistent and the entire class for wonderful writing about the Prep Family BBQ

0OA: Jahzarah for being very, very honest and Amali for being a good friend

0HT: the whole class for wonderful writing about the Prep Family BBQ
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.
Sri Lanka Memoir

Finally I arrived at Sri Lanka's biggest dam. Its name is the Victoria dam. We went into the massive house, so we could see the whole dam. I was very excited about the dam, it was one of the largest dams that I have ever seen in my life.

First we went to see the small-sized dam scheme (plan). After that we went to see a mechanism that makes the dam work for electricity and for water resources. Even my dad didn't understand it.

After we saw that we went to the viewing place. We saw a big water lake at a side of the dam. But at the other side of the dam was the tiniest bit of water, you have ever seen.

Then we saw hundreds of military. They were there to guard the dam because if the dam broke. Sri Lanka would be helpless without electricity and lots of people will die. This place produces electricity with power plants. We have so many, I cannot even count them! Then we saw photos of Queen Elizabeth and the creator of the dam opening the dam.

Then we went to the cafeteria. I ate lots of chips and a hamburger. It was delicious. My brother was very greedy. My dad laughed.

Then it was time to go home. But maybe I might come back again.

By Tharindu

The Sleepover!

"Five more minutes” I begged. My name is Kenuli and my friend Vithara was about to leave after an extreme fun play day at my house. I didn't want her to leave as we were having too much fun. So we asked our mums if she could have a sleepover.

We actually knew they would say no. But anyway...
"Mum can Vithara have a sleepover at my house. Please!” I begged.

Our mums took one long glance at each other and made a sly look, started a discussion about it and said "YES!"

"Cool, let's get started, no time to waste." I said very excitedly.

First we made a funny song on iMovie. We also played a game where you had to make a fake smoothie. You start by: writing 7 nice things to put in a smoothie e.g. Ice cream and chocolate followed by 7 disgusting items e.g. tomato sauce, garlic etc. Fold it up and put it in a bag... Then lucky dip.

After a few more games mum said it was time to go to bed. When we were in our PJ's. I had a better idea...

We crept into the kitchen and rustled through all the snacks and finally found some delicious sour cream to munch. YUM YUM!

In the morning her dad picked her up.

The End
By Kenuli
Morning Routines- Preparing for an Effective Day of Learning

Summer is over and we have officially entered Autumn in Melbourne, and soon we will feel the colder months approaching. With the cold Melbourne mornings, many of us can find it harder to get out of bed and get organised. With wet mornings, the traffic is often worse, the mornings can be darker and sometimes even our children can find these mornings challenging. These are just some environmental factors as to why it is important for our children to have a strong morning routine which includes a healthy breakfast, making sure school bags are packed and a regular school-drop-off routine. By doing things with consistency and predictability we are helping our children to be prepared, which means they are ready to bounce into school with an enthusiasm for learning.

At school-drop-off time, especially as the term progresses, some children are passive resisters on a deliberate go-slow. Others can even more actively resist their parents’ efforts to get them to school with tears, tantrums or tiredness.

As parenting expert Micheal Grose points out, “Children’s tears at drop-off time can play at the heart strings of compassionate parents, particularly those who feel guilty about leaving their child. Tantrums are another way children keep parents busy and their complaints about being too tired indicate that perhaps an earlier bedtime is in order”.

Your aim as a parent is to establish a regular, predictable pattern of behaviour for your child in the morning, particularly as you approach the school gate or classroom door. Here are a few ideas that may help:

1. Go through the morning and drop-off routine with your children. Make sure everyone knows what’s expected. Work out your jobs and those that the kids need to do then stick to this arrangement. For instance, it may be your job to make school lunches but it’s up to the kids to put them in their bags.

2. Drop kids off, turn around and go: We are extremely fortunate at our school to have a very supportive parent community, who work together with the teachers to ensure a smooth, free-flowing drop-off zone. Most kids settle down at school within five minutes of being dropped off. Teachers are experienced at helping kids settle into the school routine, so allow them to take over.

3. Reaffirm their efforts later: If your child begins to go off without tears or tantrums after a long period of difficult departures then make a bit of fuss when you see them later in the day. Don’t go overboard with tangible rewards or bribes. Parental recognition, genuinely given is a huge motivator for most kids.

4. Promote independence: If your normal habit is to drop your child off at the classroom door each morning, try saying goodbye at the school gate every now and then. The aim is to make your child less, rather than more reliant on you.

Many of the above tips relate directly to our school’s social-emotional wellbeing program. The You Can Do It focus areas of “Organisation” and “Confidence” are expressly taught by teachers and help our students to become successful lifelong learners.
Our second Curriculum Day was held on Friday the 20th February, and teachers spent the day with specialist consultant Mr Ryan Dunn. Mr Dunn works in the area of educational research and application in the Mathematics field. He has recently returned from working overseas to take up a posting as a lecturer at Melbourne University.

During student free days, teachers work collaboratively to benefit teaching and learning across the school, exploring new research and pedagogy with rigour. Mr Dunn is fully aware of our school philosophy and student centred approach to teaching and learning, and with his guidance we unpacked a range of research. We examined evidence supporting the shift away from process mathematics, to deeper procedural understanding, and the effect this has on student outcomes.

“The ASK of the TASK” is just as important (or more important) than the task itself. In other words, what underlying skills, concepts and understandings need to be understood so that students can decide how to go about solving a problem. Students need to be able to articulate what mathematical knowledge is needed as part of building conceptual understandings. “The thinking and doing of Mathematics is how the students interact with the content”.

Prior to returning to the AusVELS Curriculum guidelines, we compared and contrasted Behaviourism and Constructivism approaches to how students learn Maths, and the possible implications when we examine the structure of these guidelines.

**YOU CAN DO IT**

An important element that came out of the research we examined, is the value of perseverance. In our You Can Do It program we call it Persistence. The way we teach students to persist when they are solving a mathematical problem is as important as the solution. Dunn highlighted the importance of perseverance in Problem Solving “What strategies are we (parents and teachers) teaching students to persist with solving a problem; all students need experience with building rigour and cognitive demand before moving along the continuum”. Furthermore, Dunn posed the question “What if the key to success is experiencing some failure along the way?” Parents and teachers should be looking for a “productive struggle”, so that children are building a sense of grit; in You Can Do It language, we call it Working Tough. “It is imperative to remember that it is not about how quickly you get there (solving a problem); we want kids to struggle through problems.”

What is something you struggled to learn or do, but you are now good at?

Can you identify a sense of achievement?

This is something Dunn advocates as a quality we need to foster as parents with our children, and as teachers with our students.

We look forward to working again with Mr Ryan Dunn after school on the 4th May, to further investigate current research and its implications.

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Lisa Gough
Acting Assistant Principal (Curriculum)
5EP AND 2RY LOVED GETTING TO KNOW THEIR NEW BUDDIES!
Glen Waverley Primary School is a forward thinking and proactive school that has been recognised by the Council of International Schools (CIS) as an educational institution of high academic talents. Hence we are very pleased to be able to provide Advanced Art Classes across all year levels.

The Advanced Art classes aim to reward, challenge and extend the artistic skills and knowledge of our students, whilst also acting to increase the profile of visual art.

This term 18 students in Years 3 and 4 have been busily manipulating wire and displaying a high level of resilience and persistence to produce complex wire penguin sculptures. They have now begun their second creation, an echidna made of Styrofoam, with wire acting as their spikes. Once they have given their echidnas a full body of spikes, they will use fabric to complete the echidna’s face and nose.

Pictured above are our Level 3 and 4 Advanced Art students, complete with safety goggles, producing their masterworks, and the finished product of the Term 4 Prep Advanced Art murals.

Our very talented Year 3 and 4 Advanced Art students for Term 1 are as follows:

3JK: Vicky, Harani, Lulu, Darlene
3AJ: Sai
3GE: Sofia, Emily, Vanessa
3MT: Chathuka
4MK: Shroya, Alysandra
4SD: Sapna, Bella
4TS: Umaiza, Dini, Anvita
4AM: Julian, Travin

If you would like to observe the penguin sculptures, they are currently on display outside the Art Room.

Mr. Aubrey Hudson
Visual Arts Teacher and Learning Leader
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.

BOYS & GIRLS - WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL?
VACANCIES FOR UNDER 8, UNDER 10 and UNDER 12

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER SEASON (Term 2 and 3 2015) IS NOW OPEN

TO REGISTER LOGON ON TO www.waverleyraiders.org
AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE

Look us up on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/WaverleyRaiders