PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Members of the Glen Waverley Primary School Community,

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

Facilities Update
Over the last few weeks the builders have been concentrating on the development of my new office which will be located next to the library. To date they have changed the carpet, installed echo panelling, painted and also installed a new window which faces out to the main corridor. Items remaining include the installation of blinds and the delivery of some new furniture.

I am very much looking forward to this project being completed as I can’t wait for my office to be in a more central and accessible position. Many of the children have commented that they look forward to saying hello as they walk through the school!

Curriculum Update - Science
There has certainly been a great deal of excitement across the school as the children complete their Term Four Science units. An overview of what is been studied is over the page…..
30th October, 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (Cont’d)

Foundation (Preps): “What do we need to stay alive?” the students are learning about the importance of basic needs, including water, food, space and air. They are exploring the difference between ‘needs’ and ‘wants’ and how this may affect their lives. They have had incubators in their classrooms and have eagerly watched as the eggs hatched and baby chicks appear!

Level 1 and 2: “School Yard Safari” the students have extended their knowledge of insects by exploring the very exciting world in which they live. The classrooms currently have stick insects, caterpillars and tadpoles – the caterpillars and tadpoles are undergoing some amazing transformations, once again, much to the delight of the children, parents and staff!

Level 3 and 4: “Our Material World” which has a Physical Science focus. This inquiry unit provides opportunities for the students to develop an understanding of the properties of materials and how they relate to use. Through hands-on learning tasks and investigations, the children are exploring how to test the properties of materials fairly and how to use this knowledge to choose materials wisely.

Level 5 and 6: “How do living things adapt to survive in the desert?” which guides students as they explore characteristics of a desert biome. The importance of adaptation for survival and the manner in which plants and animals live with limited water will be the basis of the children’s scientific research.

Once again, it is wonderful that our Science units are providing the children with the opportunity to investigate a variety of scientific concepts in a hands-on and inquiry oriented manner.

John Monash “Little Scientist, Big Science” program
Congratulations to Deetya (Year 5) who presented an amazing project at the John Monash “Little Scientist, Big Science” program Science Fare last Thursday evening. Deetya completed a project involving programming using the language of Blockey. As a result of her work in this area she developed an amazing game which is incredibly creative and was certainly a hit with the children at the fare. Congratulations and well done Deetya as you should be very, very proud of yourself as your family and I are of you!

Warm Weather
As everyone would be aware, the weather is beginning to warm up hence we strongly encourage all of the students to bring a drink bottle to school, some sunscreen and naturally their sun smart school hat. A water bottle on the desk will enable the children to have a quick drink and alleviate the need to leave the room. If a child does not have a hat at school they will be required to play in the shaded areas. Naturally hats are available from the uniform shop.
Crazy Hair Day/World’s Greatest Shave

Last Wednesday was certainly a very exciting day at our school as so many of the children arrived sporting “crazy hair” in order to support the Junior School Council’s Crazy Hair Day. This was organised on behalf of Hari (Year 5) who is participating in the World’s Greatest Shave fundraising program which raises money for research towards finding a cure for leukaemia. The day was made even more exciting as a number of the children and staff were provided with the opportunity to shave Hari’s hair. As a school we raised almost $400 which is just wonderful and really appreciated by Hari and his family. Below is a message from Hari, his sister Srinidhi and parents Mohan and Priya. An Article also appeared in the Waverley Leader this week – you can see it on the last page of this newsletter.

Hari:

Good afternoon everybody. First of all I would like to thank Mr. Catalano for agreeing to my fundraising event through the school.

Thank you Ms Javidi, Mr Hudson and the Junior School Council for arranging a Crazy Hair Day to support my fundraising event too and to all of the teachers, staff and fellow students for supporting me. And, finally my parents for allowing and encouraging me to participate in a fundraising event like this.

I have been participating in fundraising activities through the Australian Air League where I am a cadet. This is one of my major fundraising activities so far. I am hoping to be involved in even bigger fundraising projects in the future as opportunities arise.

Thank you.

Srinidhi:

Good afternoon everyone!
Thank you all for participating in today’s Crazy Hair Day event. I am proud of my brother for doing this fundraising activity. Thank you for supporting him.

Mohan and Priya:

Good Morning Frank,
Priya and I thank you again for all the arrangements you made for a successful fundraising event yesterday for Srihari at GWPS. Our personal thanks to everyone in the GWPS school community for their support.

Friends and family donated money yesterday for his fundraising, his final tally stands over $500 now which is terrific and a real reflection of the wonderful school community we have at GWPS.

Thank you everyone – we really appreciate it!

Well done and congratulations Hari for having the courage to “make a difference” by participating in this event and thank you to the entire school community for supporting our school’s Crazy Hair Day! We all should also be very proud that are contributing to a very worthwhile cause and, hopefully, a cure for Leukaemia is not too far away.
Year 1 and 2 Late Night at School
The Year 1 and 2 children certainly had a terrific and very exciting end to their week as they celebrated their annual “late night at school”. The children had a scrumptious afternoon snack consisting of a variety of fruit and cheese, then participated in a magnitude of sporting activities on the oval which was then followed by pizza for dinner. After dinner they changed into their pyjamas and watched a movie. All in all the evening was an enormous success thanks to the tireless efforts of the Year 1 and 2 teachers (Mrs Barnes, Miss Kemp, Mrs Gilbert, Ms Kolovos, Miss Rich, Ms Dale, Ms Walsh, Mr Shen, student teacher Alice and Mr Kitch). Also a huge thank you to the numerous parents who assisted by cutting up the fruit for the afternoon tea. Well done and thank you everyone!

Enrolments
I would like to remind families with children who will be beginning school in 2015 that enrolments are closing rapidly with only a very small number of positions available as places are filling fast. Hence I strongly encourage you to ensure you return your child’s enrolment form to Jenny or Pam as soon as possible.

We also ask that members of our school community assist us by informing any of their neighbours of the enrolment procedures and direct them to the office to collect an enrolment form or our school website – www.glenps.vic.edu.au. School tours are available every Tuesday morning at 9:30 and also upon request. Please call the school on 9802 9938 to book a tour.

During Term Four we are preparing for the 2015 school year and would really like your assistance in providing us with as much information as possible regarding your intentions for next year. **If you believe you will not be returning to Glen Waverley Primary School in 2015 could you please write me a short note indicating so.** As I am sure you would understand, we need to commence the process of selecting staff and allocating students to classes – your cooperation with this issue is greatly appreciated.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A PRINCIPAL’S AWARD RECENTLY:

1KG: Heshan for being a wonderful friend and a terrific helper in our school and Alfred, Heshan, Elaine and Stephanie for being extremely responsible by cleaning our school grounds
1MB: Jayda for wonderful writing which is very creative and descriptive (featured in the Kids Corner) and Sayuri, Sayuni and Nethaya for working so hard to learn a song and singing it for Mr Kitch and I
1PK: Kavinthi for fabulous writing, Daphne for being a wonderful friend and Harley for being a terrific helper in our school

2CW: Kenul for being a terrific helper in our school
2ND: Ameen for being a great friend and Radith for being a terrific helper in our school
2PS: Hossein for synthesising his thinking and knowledge of dinosaurs

3KC: Isha for being a wonderful friend
34S: Valerie for being very brave and Serandi and Erin for being wonderful friends
4KB: Anujah for completing outstanding home learning and Darshi for being a wonderful friend

5SR: Amasha and Sriprada for being wonderful helpers across our school
6SY: Kin, Muhammed, Praveen, Thepuli, Bhavya, Joseph, Nandita and Sarah for being outstanding musicians

2ND: Devesh for creating a wonderful portfolio about his holiday

1MB: Tatiyanna for terrific progress with her maths
Sayuni for fabulous graphing
Buwanaji and Tatiyanna for a fabulous presentation about their science unit at their level assembly

Prep LT: Archit for coming first in a recent karate tournament and for an outstanding basketball season
56L: Deetya for an outstanding basketball season and for also winning the premiership

3KC: Karthik for completing outstanding home learning

2PS: Branna for making excellent progress with his English skills
BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their special day during the second half of October:

Prep CB: Jordan, Elizabeth and Olivia
Prep MT: Matthew and Senuth
1MB: Ardhi and Tatiyanna
1PK: Akshay
1SR: Sumitha
2CW: Joelle
2PS: Shivam, Jasmine and Ondrea
3AJ: Madison
3DJ: Sulynne
34S: Ava
4MK: Akshaniya and Rahal
4KB: Sethmi
4SD: Nifty and Shakya
5JT: Sehansa
5PA: Eujin, Tianlong and Neha
5SR: Amasha and Manuja
6CG: Alex and Destiny
6LT: Jerry
6SY: Supreena and Lavidu

Wishing everyone a safe and happy fortnight

Frank Catalano
Principal

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.
Building Deep Relationships With Children

As parents we understand, and are often told, about the importance of building deep and meaningful relationships with our children. This can have a profound effect on their emotional resilience, their daily interactions with others, how they communicate with others and the general feelings of satisfaction in their lives. As parents we play a huge part in forming and shaping who our children may one day become. Through focussing on building deep and meaningful relationships we can help to assure that our children are happier and more confident with whom they are. As research on learning tells us, happy children have a greater potential for learning.

If we are honest with ourselves, every parent wants a great relationship with their children but how do we achieve this when times are tough and children change with each generation?

Michael Grose provides some practical ideas for us through the website parentingideas.com.au

✓ An effective way of promoting such relationships is through establishing family traditions, which can help to build close families. For example, most strong families are underpinned by a strong focus on sharing meal times together. In these families, every child, no matter what their age, is expected to come to the meal table.

✓ Individual parent–child relationships need to go deep. Deep relationships provide leverage. They also survive the potential storms of adolescence, during which relationships can become stormy and intense. Certainly some ages are more amenable to positive relationship building than others. Developmentally, it’s easiest to build deep relationships in the formative years: five through to ten years of age.

✓ The easiest way to build a deep relationship between yourself and each of your kids is to spend regular one-on-one time together.
  o Go somewhere for a whole day with a child.
  o Go away for a weekend with just one child. Do things you enjoy.
  o If possible, go camping.

✓ Share an interest with a child. Having something in common, whether it’s a shared love of sport, books or a hobby, creates an individual bond that goes deep. A shared interest also creates ‘natural’ opportunities for one-on-one time. Make it happen
  o One-on-one time needs to be organised.
  o It generally won’t happen by accident.
  o It takes time. It takes energy. It takes a support mechanism to make it happen.
  o But one-on-one time is so worth the effort.
  o One-on-one time is the coat hook upon which each of your children will hang their memories of you.
Term 4 is yet another exciting term as the Year 2 students will be investigating about forces around us. We will be learning about Gravity, Inertia, Floating and Sinking and Magnetic Force. Here are some of the things that 2PS knew and things that we want to find out during this term...

We are always fighting gravity when we are on the monkey bars!

However, gravity helps us going down the slide.

We know that magnets will stick to metals and not carpet. But we want to know why. We also want to know...

I think this will sink because it is heavy.

I think this will float because it is light.

Most of us think that heavy things will sink and light things will float. What do you think?
The activity that I enjoyed most this year was the Science Fair. My favourite part was when we went to the other classrooms to see amazing things like electrical windmills. Vincent

I liked the Science Fair because I got to see lots of projects that were cool! Raina

I had fun in chess. I won a bronze medal. Shin Ji

I enjoyed the sleepover, the best part was the Whistle Chase. Leonard

I liked going to the Monash Library where the librarian read us a story. Thenuka

I liked performing plays, my favourite was Chicken Licken. Aditi

I really enjoyed the sleepover. I liked finding the Zingers with my torch. Kashish

I enjoyed the sleepover, the best thing was the Whistle Chase. Soobin

Sleepover! The best thing was playing Whistle Chase because I got to find all of the teachers in the dark. Lily
The Kids Corner section of this fortnight’s newsletter has been written by many of our wonderful students which demonstrate the wonderful writing skills throughout our school, such as:

**The Garden** - by Jayda 1MB

Once in a garden of sunshine, flowers and butterflies I saw a bogie boy, her name was Flowers. She is very naughty because it bit me!

“Trap the bogie boy” said the butterfly.

“I don’t know how, I said, “please help me Snowflakes”

“All right, I will help you, said Snowflakes, “I am going to put a spell on Flowers so we can trap it!”

“Um hello, said Flowers, no you can’t do that!” in a very angry voice.

All of a sudden…. Sprinkle, sprinkle and a potion fell on Flowers and she wasn’t mean anymore. They all lived happily ever after.

The end.

**Wishing Upon a Star** – by Binadie 3KC

I ran inside throwing my bag to the corner of the bedroom. Soaking wet I jumped on my bed. I saw dad leading Bessy, our dear old horse out of the storm. The wandering tom cat that we named Tiger let out a horrible meow. That gave me a shiver down my spine.

Bella and Ella ‘our rabbits’ munched fast on their carrots. Our dog Spike strolled in and gave a bark of happiness and wagged his tail constantly. I let out a sigh. Spike had jumped in muddy puddles after his nap.

Now there was muddy paw prints all the carpet. I wonder what mum would say if she saw this. Spike was going to be in big trouble. I looked up and saw a picture I’d drawn when I was in year Three. It was a phoenix.

I looked outside through my window and saw a twinkling star sparkling in the light. Spike gave me a sloppy lick and headed out the door. As he left I paid my attention to the star again. I stared at it for a long time. I was making a wish. To go to a land where phoenix’s and other mythical creatures rule the lands. sea air and ground.

Then suddenly I felt a tingle on the tip of my finger it got bigger and bigger. I laughed it tickled. I felt my-self being pulled into the shining star. It felt like sinking it the bottom of an ocean. I closed my eyes tight. I could feel myself traveling between time and space. Just willing around like a spiral.

*Nb. The above are the first two chapters of Binadie’s story. Look out for the next two in our school’s next newsletter!*
**If Only I Could**  — By Vinuka 3KC

Smart Industries are the best in tech in the world. Inventor James Smart owns Smart Industries. He is a billionaire. His best friend Steve is very adventurous and curious. He is a bit like Indiana Jones.

The story
One normal day, James was typing on his super computer blog. He was about to type what he did for this week. Suddenly, his super computer screamed “BREAKING NEWS, REPORTS OF ULTIMATE GEMS” James quickly clicked it. The page opened up. James looked at the company who reported it. It was the company “Get It”.

Get It is the company that sends important news around the world. James knew that Zongo would see this. Zongo is James’ brother. His actual name was Daniel. Daniel used to be a good boy. Then, one day he fell into a volcano and he changed.

James called Steve and he came over in ten minutes. When he came he asked what the ultimate gem was. James said it was the only thing in the universe that could heal everything and it costs 25 trillion dollars.

They went into the scan-o-matic, a special machine that scans anything found. It said that the ultimate gem was right under them. James and Steve knew what to do. They both grabbed a huge drill and started drilling.

Since the drill was turning so slowly, they both put it on full power but the drill went crazy. Both of them drilled at the speed of light until, Steve’s drill hit something. It was a piece of coal but there was something different about this piece of coal - it was glowing. James came to Steve’s side and he told Steve to lift the piece of coal.

When they lifted it they saw the ultimate gem. Then, both of them heard another drilling noise. It was Zongo. He asked fiercely for the ultimate gem.

James said, “No!”

Zongo brought out a sword. James didn’t want to fight. Neither did Steve. So Steve handed the gem over and said, “I wish Zongo was good again.”

When Zongo touched the gem, it flashed and then it exploded. BOOM! After the explosion, James and Steve heard Zongo’s voice. It wasn’t quite Zongo’s voice. It was Daniel’s voice.

Just then James screamed, “Of course, the ultimate gem healed Zongo’s badness when you said I wish Zongo would be good again”.

Then Steve saw that the ultimate gem was gone. James said that explosion was caused by the ultimate gem, but Steve and James were very happy because Daniel was back again.

The End
2014 Mathematics

Students from Glen Waverley Primary School achieved outstanding results when they participated in the ICAS Mathematics assessment last semester. Those students whose achievements were outstanding were awarded Certificates of Merit, Credit, Distinction and High Distinction.

Our average score compared with the whole of Australia was very pleasing;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In Year 3</th>
<th>In Year 4</th>
<th>In Year 5</th>
<th>In Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GWPS</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following children were presented with a Certificate of High Distinction or Distinction at our assembly on Monday 20th October.

**High Distinction**

- **Year 3**
  - Pranav
  - Tanay
  - Vincent

- **Year 4**
  - Dhruv
  - Rose

- **Year 5**
  - Tony
  - Leo

**Distinction**

- **Year 3**
  - Tharindu
  - Deshitha
  - Kenuli
  - Dinuli

- **Year 4**
  - Pulindu
  - Richard
  - Thisen
  - Sethmi

- **Year 5**
  - Deetya
  - Isuru
  - Raghav
  - Aleksandr
  - Darren
  - Yasmin
  - Prakhar
  - Srihari
  - Chathuni
  - Vidura
  - Vignesha
  - Aadith

- **Year 6**
  - Channa
  - Alex
  - Paarnicka
  - Dilmi
  - Rish
Last week marked the end of the free three week soccer clinics that we organised for all of our Grade 5 students. The students had a wonderful time as they developed their current soccer skills as well as picking up a few new tricks. We thank the Grade 5 teachers for allowing us to spend this extra time extending the students physical education skills. We must also thank the SEDA soccer students who ran the clinics and provided all of the equipment.

After successfully gaining an AFL Victoria grant which paid for half of the cost, our school has now received delivery of our new AFL jumpers.

Replacing the old and mismatched designs which were used earlier in the year, our students can now run out onto the field with pride as the AFL team competes in round robin and interschool sports competitions in future years. The new jumpers feature the GWPS logo and are made of a light, breathable material. We look forward to many screamers being taken and goals being kicked in them in the future!
Week 2 of this Term saw our first celebration of Health & PE Week at Glen Waverley Primary School. And what a wonderful and action-packed week it turned out to be.

Events included a full week of swimming lessons for the Prep to Grade 2 students, a soccer clinic for the Grade 5 students, the launch of the T20 Blast cricket program for Grade 5 students, lunchtime sports for all year levels across the week, free gymnastics and dance sessions in the Hall which were run by Kelly Sports and finally a staff versus students soccer match on the oval. The week served to highlight what an active and sporting school that we are developing into, providing quality programs and a variety of options to meet the needs and interests of all students.

Outnumbered by about 50 students, the teachers did well to hold onto a nil all draw in their soccer match against the students. While the have- a-go gymnastics and dance sessions proved to be extremely popular with the Prep to Grade 4 students as they filled the Hall and got a taste of some new programs we hope to have running in 2015.

With the success of this year’s Health & PE Week at GWPS, we will no doubt look to hold another exciting celebration next year.

Our Syndal District Interschool Sports Competition began again last week with the sports of cricket, rounders, Danish rounders, softball and tee ball being played in summer. Due to the size of our school, the teams are limited to Grade 6 students participating.

The emphasis is placed on teamwork, skill development and having fun. Naturally, teams try to win but this is not our sole focus.

Our first round of matches was played against Burwood East Primary School and we managed to come away with a win in every sport. Unfortunately they didn’t have a cricket team so the boys got their win by forfeit. However, our other four teams played well to record the following victories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>GWPS Score</th>
<th>BEPS Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tee Ball</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Rounders</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rounders</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Prep – Grade 2 Swimming Program was run over the first two weeks of the Term at Just Swimming in Syndal and the feedback so far about the program has been excellent.

We have worked hard to lock-in times for our swimming programs where the weather is more suitable to avoid colds being caught as students leave the centre. Although many students attend swimming lessons after school and in the holidays, these extra lessons still proved to be very helpful and the progress made was very pleasing.

Ultimately, we would like to see all students in the school attending our swimming program. As the school continues to expand, changes will need to be made to ensure that we can cater for everyone who is interested in attending. Next year, we will be looking at holding the Grade 4-6 Swimming Program in Term 1 and the Prep-Grade 3 Swimming Program in Term 4.

Well done to the students who attended and thank you to Mr Lewis and the Prep-Grade 2 teachers who assisted with helping the students to attend and be organised.
Multimedia

A very big thank you to the Basnayake family for their support and help gaining the Telstra Schools Grant. The money Telstra provided was used to purchase a new iMac for the multimedia room. This powerful learning tool will allow students to produce and edit both music and movies. It’s extra power means that we will be able to produce and publish much higher quality media as a part of the school’s multimedia program.

The new resource is already being used extensively as students are eager to try out the new technology.

Mr Chad Basnayake with Mrs Prabha Basnayake, Daham (2ND), Dasuni (2CW), Mr Catalano and Mr Lewis. Chad helped organise a grant for the purchase of our brand new iMac.

Stuart, a photographer from the Waverley Leader takes photos of Sreya, Neey, Ishane, Rehan and Karen Owens (from Telstra) for an article on how Telstra’s Schools Grant is helping us develop the wonderful resource that is the multimedia room.
GWPS’s Crazy Hair Day was very exciting with a number of children and staff given the opportunity to shave Hari’s hair.

As a school we raised almost $400 which is just wonderful and really appreciated by Hari and his family.

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.