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:

**The Project Television Show**
Thank you to the numerous families who approached me to discuss our school being on The Project recently. It certainly was terrific to see the children on national television and I’m sure something they will fondly remember for many years to come.

**Thank you to Nevin**
A sincere thank you to Nevin (Year 1) and his family for donating funds for our school library as your spirit of generosity is greatly appreciated! See below a photo of the fabulous books purchased – thank you Nevin, Champika and Ravi!

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**Important Dates For Your Diary**

**November**
- 24th: Hands On Science Incursion – Year 5
- 24th: Chess – Session 13
- 25th: Interschool Sport – Year 6
- 29th: SMART8 – Yrs 3-6
- 29th: GWPS Documentary Premier Night – Whole school

**December**
- 1st: Senior Choir Excursion – The Manor
- 1st: Chess – Session 14
- 2nd: 2016 Prep Prom – Preps
- 6th: 2017 New Families Information Evening – Year 6
- 6th: Year 7 Orientation Day – Year 6
- 8th: Graduation Day/Evening – Year 6
- 9th: Fun Day – Year 6
- 12th: Moving Day – Whole School
- 12th: 2017 Books available for Collection – Whole School
- 13th: Leadership Day – Year 5
- 13th: Junior Choir Excursion
- 14th: Community Links Day – Year 6
- 15th: 2017 Day
- 16th: Class Parties
- 19th: School Band Excursion – Blue Cross
- 20th: LAST DAY OF TERM 4 2016

**January**
- 23rd: Book Collection 9:00 – 3:30
- 24th: Book Collection 9:00 – 3:30
- 24th: Uniform Shop Open 10:00 – 2:00
- 25th: Book Collection 9:00 – 3:30
- 25th: Uniform Shop Open 10:00 – 2:00
- 31st: FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 - Years 1 - 6

**February**
- 1st: FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 – Year Prep

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**UNIFORM SHOP**
Situated in the West Wing on the School Grounds
Open Monday between 3.00 – 4.30 pm
And Wednesday between 8.15 – 9.30
Closed Public Holidays and School Holidays
Orders may be left with the office

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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
Facilities Update
Recently one of the external walls of Block A was converted to a blackboard in order to provide the children with an additional recreational task to complete during the recess and luncheon breaks. Attached are some photographs of the children enjoying this new facility.

Congratulation to the following children for their fabulous achievements outside of school

Saseni (Year 1) is an avid dancer who has been learning for approximately 4 years. On Sunday she participated in a concert where she danced to the song, Human Again, from the Lion King movie. Attached is a photograph of Saseni and her little sister Dilu.

Jash (Year 1) has been learning karate for approximately 2 years and currently has an orange belt. Last week he participated in the State Championships and finished runner’s up – well done, congratulations and keeps up the fabulous endeavour and skills Jash!

Arjun (Year 3) participated in the City to Sea 5KM Fun Run fundraising event on Sunday. His target was to beat last year’s result and also raise some funds for our school. I am very pleased to report that Arjun achieved this, he has raised approximately $45 for our school and he beat last year’s result by an enormous 14 minutes - 42.53 compared to 56.07 – well done and thank you Arjun!

Anuk (Year 4) is also an avid dancer. Last week he participated in a Jazz Ballet concert and was awarded 2 trophies – Honours with Distinction and Best New Talent. The Studio D Principal wrote the following:

**BEST NEW TALENT**
I am awarding this trophy to a natural born performer who always puts in his best effort. His dancing is very strong and sharp and he takes corrections well. He is very humble and modest with his achievements and is always polite and courteous. Congratulations to ANUK!

Congratulations and well done Anuk!
Interschool Music Program
Last week our school band and the Essex Heights Primary School band had the opportunity to showcase their amazing talents to one another. It was a sheer joy to see both schools partake in this initiative as it provided the children with the opportunity to perform in front of an audience, practice their skills and to meet other children. A sincere thank you to Ms Pfeifer for leading this initiative and to all of the children involved as you should all be very proud of yourselves – well done everyone!

Warm Weather
It is wonderful to see the weather warm up and the thermometer reach more than 30 degrees recently. However it is very important that the children 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 and interrupt learning time. If a child does not have a hat at school they will be required to play in the undercover areas.

Uniform Shop
As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, please be aware that our uniform shop will now be open twice a week:
- Monday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:30pm and
- Wednesday mornings from 8:15 to 9:30am

Also, a reminder that wide brim hats are available to be purchased from the Main Office at all times.
Park at the Mountain View Hotel
A sincere thank you to the families who are parking at the south east section of the Mountain View Hotel and not in front of the Bottleshop. As mentioned previously we are extremely fortunate to have access to this parking space however it is very important that we do not interrupt their business opportunities.

Crossing High Street Road
Parents are reminded to ensure that they cross High Street Road at the traffic lights as we have had a number of complaints from motorists and other parents. Naturally it is very dangerous to cross this busy arterial away from the traffic lights and such behaviour is not setting the best example for the children. In order to assist with this issue, the safety fence along High Street Road will be extended as soon as possible. In the name of safety for all members of our school community please ensure you cross High Street Road at the safest and most appropriate point – the traffic lights.

2017 Enrolments
I would like to remind families with children who will be beginning school in 2017 that we are taking enrolments now and that they are also 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, Kylie or Julie 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 commencing at 9:30 and also upon request. Please call the school on 9802 9938 to book a tour.

2017 School Accounts
As I’m sure the majority of families would be aware, as a Victorian Government school the Government provides for much of our school’s basic operational requirements with a financial grant that is paid to the school in quarterly instalments. This covers items such as cleaning, gas and electricity, water rates, facilities, telephone, furniture, some buildings and grounds maintenance, administration, some curriculum support and professional learning for the staff.

In order for us to provide educational programs of a standard and quality expected at Glen Waverley, we need funds in addition to those provided by the Government which is generated by family contributions. Recently the 2017 School Fees notice was distributed which outlined how school community funds were used this year and what we have planned for next year. I am extremely grateful as the vast majority of our families have settled their 2016 school account which has made a significant difference to our school.

You will note that School Council has differentiated between the Essential Student Stationery Supplies and Voluntary Financial Contributions as some families are eligible to claim the Essential Student Stationery Supplies when completing their annual tax return. We strongly advise you to keep a copy of the School Fees notice and receipt for such purposes. Naturally as with all school related financial issues, if a family requires making additional arrangements please do not hesitate to contact me.

Payments can be made through QKR or at the main office and a reminder that a $10 discount applies if you settle your account prior to the end of the 2016 school year.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A PRINCIPAL’S AWARD RECENTLY:

Prep CS:
- Senon for drawing an amazing picture for my office
- Zachary for being a great friend

Prep LT:
- Hesara and Sanuli for writing amazing and very descriptive recounts which used lots of connectives about their very exciting weekends
- Ahmed, Eva, Cardin and Sashane for writing amazing letters to next year’s prep children

Prep SM:
- Lehara and Ria for completing amazing and extra home learning tasks
- Thesan for being a fantastic reader and helper in the library

1DH:
- Arman for writing a fantastic story about the beach
- Saseni for being a great friend
- Saseni, Saren, Rhys, Laya, Rory, Anuki, Mia and Thehan for writing very descriptive information reports about water

1EP:
- Sasath, Gargi, Kaitlin, Shuchi, Parnika, Nivritti and Nancy for being a very responsible members of our school community
- Tejas, Krish, Parnika, Philip, Zen, Parin and Karthik for writing fabulous letters
- Sasath for being a very supportive friend
- Koyal and Nancy for writing amazing narratives
- Burhan and Karthik for being super scientists and working out that water will evaporate quicker in the sun rather than the shade

1OD:
- Oneja for completing the A1 standard in Kumon and the Turtle level in swimming
- Oneja, Mihika, Minuri, Samyukta, Jahzarah, Peyton and Madelyn for being really responsible members of our school community
- Zen and Shaurya for being amazing, responsible and helpful children

1SR:
- Thinuli for writing the fabulous story titled "Billy Bunny" which is featured in the kids Corner
- Sayu for being a very good friend and for helping out Thinuli
- Thinuli and Aditi for being great friends and writing a fabulous narrative titled, "The girl who didn’t like peas"
- Saveesha, Movindee, Sayu, Elena, Kenuli and Saloni for writing fabulous narratives

OLT: Sethumi and Krish for working so hard on learning about division (sharing)
2MP:
- **Angela** for working so hard on her English skills and for making amazing progress - her story is featured on the Kids Corner section of the newsletter
- Dulcie and Savreen for drawing amazing pictures
- The whole class for writing a fantastic anchor chart about persuasive texts
- Rithila and Akein for writing fabulous persuasive pieces with their Year 5 buddies Vinuka and Ranuga

2MT:
- Malachy and Elizabeth for learning about different sounds

2RY:
- Noah for writing an amazing and very descriptive recount about his day
- Vudu and Thevindu for being fabulous friends
- Noah, Alan, Kisara and Ann for learning about inertia and for making paper fans to demonstrate how wind is a form of energy
- Mavishka for writing an amazing and very descriptive information report about Cats

2RR:
- Suprit for writing a fabulous information report about India
- Kevin and **Charles** for being a great friend and for creating a wonderful birds eye view of a school including grid references
- Avani for writing a fabulous persuasive text about the importance of not watching TV for too long
- Sruthika for being an awesome friend

3AG:
- Tharusha for making excellent progress with his writing
- Sanchit for being a great friend
- Anvi and Simar for writing a heartfelt and beautiful card

3GE:
- Vinuki, Rosheen, Thathy and Akisa for creating a venn diagram informing others about publishing
- Brian W, Yannick and Akshay for creating a video informing others about publishing
- Vinuki, Diyana and Indusaree for writing a terrific letter

3JK:
- Rivith, Sanuka and Wilson for being really responsible members of our school community

4SD:
- Bilaaal for being a very empathetic and supportive member of our school community
- Ramike for being an outstanding friend

4AM:
- Sejal and Joelle for writing fabulous classroom norms

5PA:
- Sapna and Isha for being a fabulous school helper

6LD:
- Gurleen and Amritha for writing a fabulous rap about school
Happy Birthday to all students who celebrated their special day during the second half of November:

Prep EL: Hari
Prep LT: Hesara
Prep SM: Daniel, Kade and Akshara
1DH: Saseni, Amali and Rory
1OD: Aki
1SR: Yasiru
2RY: Noa
3GE: Brian
3JK: Yash and Sia
4AM: Sai and Manoge
4SD: Kuvam and Bree
4TS: Avani
5JC: Sana
5PA: Sapna
5PK: Denny
5SR: Matheesha and Dineth
5TS: Adi, Kavi and Gavindu
6ER: Simarn and Siddhi
6JM: Amanda
6LD: Bob, Tiffany and Angelina
6SL: Shadman, William, Aksaya and Thomas

Frank Catalano
Principal

The Kids Corner section of this fortnight’s newsletter has been written by the following fabulous children:

**Angela (Year 1) “The Box”**

One day a lady gets a box with holes. She opens the box and puts pet snake in it. She makes a lovely dinner for her old friend.

She gives the man a surprise present. The man opens the box and he is astonished by the snake.

The snake eats their lovely dinner.

The snake eats up all the food but is still hungry. The snake then chases after the man. I wonder what happened next?

**Thinuli and Sayu (Year 1) “Billy Bunny”**

Billy Bunny is a nice rabbit. One day she walked through the forest and ran into a house. The house looked scary. On the roof was a sign that read, “Haunted House”.

Billy looked scared, suddenly the door opened! Billy went inside and the first thing she saw was a bunny sized bed.

It looked like someone was expecting her, so Billy spent the night in the bunny sized bed.

When she woke up the door was open and she got out of the house and went home.

The End

Ps. The house wasn’t really haunted, it sign was just a joke ......... it certainly tricked Billy!
School holidays- balancing screen-time with family-time.

As I look at the calendar I cannot believe how close we are to the end of Term Four! As a learning community, we have achieved so much this year and I look forward to sharing these achievements with you in the final edition of our newsletters for 2016.

As we get closer to the Summer break, many of our students will be taking a break from the organised routines of study and classes, meaning that they find themselves with additional recreational time. As a parent in today’s busy world, we can sometimes see our children wanting to make up this recreational time with increased ‘screen time’ and we have all heard them request things such as “…just one movie please…I need to finish this game...etc...”

Without realising it, children can often find themselves exposed to increased ‘screen-time’ as they spend more and more hours indoors, without the routine of a school day to monitor what they are doing. As televisions, tablets, smart phones and other digital devices become more commonplace, so do the myriad and types of content available for children to access, if unsupervised over the holiday break and much of this content is inappropriate for primary school aged children.

The TV left on the latest hit crime drama while you’re cooking. The family computer or tablet unlocked with access to unmonitored content. The smartphone on which mum or dad have been spotted using Facebook. These are just some ways in which primary aged children might interact with content that is beyond their comprehension.

More than just putting parental locks and passwords on devices, experts say it is imperative that parents take a more firsthand approach in guiding their children through this maze of content. Lakshmi Singh is a freelance educational author who provides some very practical tips for parents, in a recent article at parentingideas.com.au

Fiction vs. reality: Although most kids between seven and eight years of age know the difference between fiction and reality, the ‘type’ of reality portrayed in reality TV shows may not be something that they easily grasp, says Lynne Jenkins, author and clinical psychologist. “If what they are watching is scripted to be more dramatic, then that is how it is for them, unless an adult lets them know otherwise,” she says. The strung-out tensions between contestant teams, fabricated cat-fights and prolonged focus on habits that annoy each other could all come across as normal, unless kids are told otherwise, she says. While children of this age may be exposed at school to some adult concepts like the dangers of smoking, they don’t necessarily understand in great detail the information presented in health programs, for example says Jenkins. “They will need a sensible adult to explain what they are seeing in a way that won’t cause them to take on too much information that they aren’t really ready for, or don’t really need to know about yet. For example, at seven or eight children don’t really need to know about drugs leading to death and disease. That can be something to be discussed at least in senior primary.” The same concept also applies to games and apps, she says. “Children believe what they see. Parents have to communicate that a movie or game is not real life,” she says. Even if exposure is inadvertent, the impact can be very obvious, she says. “If a child is constantly playing or watching violence their understanding in handling their own emotions can become aggressive...What a child sees repeatedly is what they learn. It becomes acceptable to be aggressive and they can become desensitised to violence.”
Limiting Exposure: Sometimes culture and religious beliefs mean parents limit or screen what their children can watch. Here, an honest explanation as to why parents believe their children shouldn’t be viewing or interacting with such programs may be in order, especially if there is a risk that they may go behind your back and source it, says Jenkins. “If [the reason given] is something like: ‘Just because’ or ‘Because I said so’ a child with a certain personality might go looking for it themselves to find out why they can’t watch it. If, however, a parent acknowledges that their child would like to watch the show and explains that the reasons have to do with their family values or culture for instance, it might be better received,” she says.

Regular exposure to content where the language might be peppered with profanities and disrespect may also impact an impressionable children’s speech, says Jenkins. “If they are exposed to expletives regularly, whether on a show or in their house, they will absorb them as ‘normal’. This ‘spongelike’ phenomenon applies more to younger children, but if a seven or eight-year-old has been exposed to such things for most of their life, they will become normal for them.”

With the upcoming school holidays it could be time to apply some of the tips below:

1. Set boundaries from early on in children’s lives. Instil the message that we only watch G or PG material in our family.
2. Watch news programs when kids have gone to bed. This is especially important if a child (of any age) is anxious or has a predisposition to anxiety or worry. If they do come across tragic events, reassure them that even though these events have happened in real life, the child, their family and friends are safe.
3. Be prepared to keep pace with children as they grow older. Assess whether an M-rated show might be appropriate for a particular child’s personality, intelligence and maturity by watching it first. Be available for explanations and fast forward any questionable parts.
4. Always encourage open discussion about content your children interact with, allowing them the confidence to ask questions when confused.
5. Don’t allow TVs and other devices in kids’ bedrooms.
6. Use parental locks and passwords but try to invest more in gaining their trust.
7. Above all, enjoy the holidays as a much valued time to spend together as a family.
“People who work in specialized fields seem to have their own language. Practitioners develop a shorthand to communicate among themselves. The jargon can almost sound like a foreign language.”

- Barry Ritholtz

EXPLAINING THE JARGON

Educators are often quick to utilize “buzzwords”, acronyms or key phrases that we assume have obvious meaning. Just like any profession, we may know what we mean, but clients or community members may not. With this in mind, I am taking the opportunity today to examine in more detail 5 items often used by teachers, to clarify what it is that we are actually talking about!

**Risk-Taking**

What a lot of people hear – Doing something crazy or dangerous with kids!

What we mean; – Being a brave learner – not allowing a fear of making mistakes hold you back from striving and shifting understanding from something “known”, to an “unknown”. A pursuit of challenge and an opportunity to maximise learning while building learner resilience.

**Change**

What a lot of people hear – “You are doing it wrong. We need to fix something that you are doing, or sometimes, even you.”

What we mean – Focusing on growth and our own development. Seeking opportunities instead of obstacles. One of my favourite quotes on growth: “If we create a culture where (everyone) believes they need to improve, not because they are not good enough but because they can be even better, there is no limit to what we can achieve.” —Dylan Wiliam

**Innovation**

What a lot of people hear – Doing cool things with technology in the classroom

What we mean – From the book, “The Innovator's Mindset”; “… innovation as a way of thinking that creates something new and better. Innovation can come from either “invention” (something totally new) or “iteration” (a change of something that already exists).”

**Collaboration**

What a lot of people hear – Talking, working, learning, and creating something together, face-to-face.

What we mean – Talking, working, learning, and creating something together, in different spaces, offline, online, synchronously, and asynchronously.

**21st Century Learning**

What a lot of people hear – “aren’t we doing that already…we are already 16 years in!”

What we mean – That with huge access to information and one another, we have to really think about what learning can look like for our students, compared to what we experienced. Yes, we are 16 years in, but we have 84 years to go. It is important that we are constantly looking at the times we live in, and ensuring our school is not only keeping up, but hopefully leading the way in many areas.

Kindest Regards,
Lisa Gough - Assistant Principal (Curriculum)
Water Works – 1DH

During Term Four, the Level One students have been learning about water, including why it is important, where it comes from and how to preserve it. They were fortunate enough to attend an incursion facilitated by CERES where they learnt a great deal of information about water and the water cycle. Below are some pictures showing 1DH taking part in the incursion and some facts they have learnt about water throughout this fantastic inquiry.

The water you bathe in was around in the time of the dinosaurs. Rhys

In Australia we are very lucky to have water but we still need to save water.

Some countries don’t have much water. Africa has the least amount of water. U.S.A. has the most. Australia has the second largest amount. Thehan

Water can be a liquid, solid or gas. It is important for human beings, plants and animals. If you see wasted water, turn the tap off. Manula

My life depends on water. Mia

70% of our body is made up of water. Saseni

If it is zero degrees celsius, water is ice like a solid. When it evaporates it turns into gas or water vapour. If you don’t drink you will be DEHYDRATED! Anuki

We all know that the water cycle is made up of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. 1DH

Our lungs are made up of nearly 90% water. Jash

Most of the water on earth is salty and we can’t drink it! Rory
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.

**Waverley Valley Aged Care Christmas Mini-Fete**
29-33 Chesterville Rd, Glen Waverley
Saturday, December 3
10am - 3pm
Main Car Park

Come along for a fun filled day including games, face painting and a photo booth!
Stay for a sausage sizzle and be blown away by our very talented Christmas Choir.
Visit our Christmas stalls selling Christmas gifts, books, plants, baked goods, pre-loved items and so much more!
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