PRINCIPAL’S NOTES:

STATE SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR ...

a celebration of the talent in state government schools

The Victorian State Schools Spectacular (VSSS) is one of the largest performing arts events in Australia. It is a professionally staged production performed annually to an audience of over 10,000 people.

The VSSS includes a cast of nearly 3,000 Victorian government school students (primary and secondary) who work and rehearse over several months in readiness for two performances to the public. Months of hard work come together in a three hour show that celebrates the performing arts in government schools - primarily choir, dance, vocal, drama and orchestra.

Last Saturday, at Hisense Arena, it was performance and celebration day. Glen Katherine was well represented with 25 singers and 22 dancers from grade 6, 47 students in all. Our students are to be congratulated on their amazing effort. Months ago, they put their hands up to ‘have a go’ at something that was both unknown and daunting. Most hadn’t sung or danced before but they were up for a new challenge and willing to give the VSSS a go. How hard they have worked and how proud we are of their effort. The experience they have had, for most of them, will be a once in a lifetime one.

What a pleasure it was to see our students joining together with almost 3,000 other state school students from across Victoria to entertain the public. You couldn’t help but be proud of state education and the talent that is out there in our schools. We certainly don’t have the funding base of private schools but there is no doubting we have performing arts talent to match the best performers in any school system.

Behind the scenes, we had four very hard working and supportive people who were there every step of the journey for our students. Leanne Tingwell did all of the administrative work including getting GK into the VSSS, liaising with the VSSS organisers, organising buses, timetables, notices etc. Lucy Dineen and Sharon Mackay did an amazing job of training the dancers, attending joint schools rehearsals and making and organising costumes. Nikki Ramsay trained the singers, ran weekly rehearsals and attended joint schools rehearsal days. A very BIG thank you to Leanne, Lucy, Shazz and Nikki!

PERFORMING ARTS ON SHOW AT GK

And there’s more! Next Monday and Tuesday, our students in grades 1, 2 and 5 will entertain the community with their performance of ‘GK NEWS.’ We’re all very excited and the students are looking forward to performing four times and entertaining several hundred people at the S Dyet Theatre, St Helena SC.

Jill Ramsay

Our values: RESPECT, Resilience, Excellence, Safety, Persistence, Encouragement, Creativity and Tolerance
Our Performers rocked HISENSE ARENA!

1500-voice choir
80-piece orchestra
1400 dancers
3 Hour show

23 lead and 14 backing vocalists
35 Circus artists
50 dancers
42 roller-skaters

AND GK was a big part of this!

State Schools Spectacular will be aired on TV on Sunday October 20th. A DVD is planned to come out for purchase after this—keep a look out on the SSS Facebook sight! So proud of you kids!
Please make sure you are using the most recent menu for the canteen starting July 2013. There are quite a few changes so if you don’t have the new menu, spares are available from the office or you can check it out on the web.

Oops, forgot I wasn’t here on Mondays! I hope no-one was looking out for Mid Term Milk & Cookies Afternoon Tea order, which actually was sent on Tuesday. The afternoon tea will be held on Thursday 15th August and is due back by 9am, Friday, 9th August. As it is afternoon tea, normal lunch orders will be available on that Thursday.

No late orders will be accepted so make sure you get it in on time with your name and grade AND choice of milk selected. (I will be giving Chocolate milk to those who forget to choose!) The cost of this afternoon tea will be $4.00. You can get an order form from the school website or there are some spares at the office.

I have an opening on the roster for the 2nd Friday of the month. As this is coming up soon, it would be great to fill the spot asap, especially as Fridays are the busiest day in the Canteen. I can be contacted 8.30am to 1.30pm Tuesday to Friday should you wish to find out more or put your name down.

Cheers, Suzi Cunningham

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### ST HELENA SECONDARY COLLEGE CARPARK

It has been noticed that some GK parents are using the **St Helena SC carpark** for drop-off or pick-up of GK students. Please don’t do this as the college doesn’t have enough parking space for their own staff and students who are 18+ years and who drive their cars to school. Throughout year 12, as students turn 18, more carpark spaces are needed by the college and if GK parents are using the carpark, this adds considerably to the shortage of parking space for college staff and students. So please … no parking allowed by GK families.

### REMINDERS:

- **2nd Instalment EMA forms due 2nd August**
- **Grade 3 & 4 Camp Deposit due Tuesday, 16th August**
**MS READATHON**

The MS Readathon is a national program, organized by Multiple Sclerosis Australia. For more than 30 years, it has been Australia’s principal reading fundraising program.

By participating in the MS Readathon, the money raised by students enables:

- Continuing research into the cause and cure for MS
- Services and facilities to help people living with MS maximize their quality of life
- Support and education programs for newly diagnosed people
- Information and advice for health professionals, family members and carers for people with MS

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease which damages nerves so that the brain cannot communicate properly with muscles and organs. It can happen to people even in their twenties and at the moment, there is no cure. There are over 21,000 Australians living with this disease.

What to do next?

With the approval of their parents, students are being invited to register for the Readathon online at [www.msreadathon.org.au](http://www.msreadathon.org.au).

They are then required to seek sponsorship for the books they read during the month of August 2013.

Students can include the books they are reading in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

It would be wonderful if you could consider your child’s involvement in this worthy cause while also encouraging them with their reading.

Further details are on the MS website as listed above.

Gail Elliott

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**Education Maintenance Allowance**  The second instalment of EMA is to be claimed by 2nd August, 2013.

**Contact:** School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 2nd August, 2013.

If you have already lodged and received EMA Instalment 1, you do not need to resubmit a form. This will be done automatically for you.

**Eligibility:**

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at **29 January 2013** (Instalment One) and **15 July 2013** (Instalment Two).
NEXT PFA MEETING DATE
HAS BEEN CHANGED!
NOW – TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST 7.30PM
(STAFFROOM)
All Parents are welcomed to
attend!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Catalogues for Issue 5 of Scholastic Book Club were distributed to students last week. If wishing to place an order, please complete the order form and enclose with payment in an envelope which is clearly labelled “BOOKCLUB” and includes the student’s name and grade. [Your purchase may be a “surprise” gift. If this is the case, please contact the Library direct].

For credit card payments, please refer to the Scholastic catalogue. If ordering from more than one catalogue, you can tally them and just make one credit card payment to Scholastic. Please ensure you record the receipt number on the order form and return to school. For you reference, it is a good idea to take note of the receipt number. Orders for this issue close on Friday 2nd August 2013.

Astrid Batthen, Gail Elliott

RESILIENCE
means that when things go wrong or don’t work out, we deal with it, sort things out and then we move on. Like a ball, we bounce back!

AT ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK, the following students were congratulated on being noticed for doing the right thing by our Do Right Detectives:- Ella K (1G), Oskar B (2D), Jacob E (3R), Jade O (4C), Noah Z (5V), Ben S (6M). Well done!

3 WAY CONFERENCES—WED. 14TH AUGUST
Information regarding the 3 Way Conferences will be sent home tomorrow with the eldest child of each family. This information also includes log in details to book the appointment times on-line. The on-line booking system will be available from Wednesday, 31st July. If you have any queries, please call the office on 9431-1599.

This week & next
‘DO RIGHT DETECTIVE’ is looking for:
SAFETY

which means DOING THINGS THAT KEEP OURSELVES AND OTHERS SAFE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL SO THAT ALSO MEANS WE DON'T BULLY OR MAKE OTHERS FEEL UNSAFE
Your family is invited to come along for a great social night out.

**Date:** Saturday 17th August  
**Time:** 6 – 9pm  
**Venue:** Skaterz - 27 Susan St, Eltham  
**Cost:** $12 per skater (includes skate hire)  
**Non-skaters** - free (max 2 per family)  
*Children must be accompanied by an adult*  
**BYO:** Basket supper/dinner, snacks and drinks (no alcohol)

* The Skaterz kiosk will be open for hot drinks, ice-creams, lollies and crisps only.

This event has limited capacity for skaters and non skaters, so get in quick to ensure you don’t miss out! This social night is strictly for GK families only. Wristbands will be provided at the door, and no tickets will be sold on the night. Credit card payments are welcome at the office, or complete the form and return to school. Any queries please contact Kate on 0409528776.

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**SPORT THIS WEEK**

GK DARKS vs Greenhills (Home)  
GK LIGHTS vs Laurimer B (Away)

**DIVISION FINAL**  
The GK DARKS will play in the Division football final this Friday at Anthony Beale Reserve. The game will commence at 9.30 am.

David Blackburn  
(Sport Coordinator)

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**VALUE AWARDS**

There will be no presentation of Value Awards on Monday, 5th August, due to the production. Grade 3 & 4 Value Awards will be presented at assembly on 12th August, 2013.
Choose Tap at GK!

Glen Katherine has been lucky enough to receive a new Choose Tap aquabubbler from Yarra Valley Water that will be placed next to the water taps near the Prep Playground. This aquabubbler lets you drink from it AND also fill up your bottles! We have some of the best drinking water in the world, so there is no need to BUY water in plastic bottles when you can just reuse bottles with water from the tap.

If you think you need a new drink bottle then Mrs Page in the office will be selling them for $5 each. They are very user-friendly and popular because they:

* are BPA free
* are made in Australia
* have a Clearview® strip with measurements to let you see where the water is
* are dishwasher and freezer safe
* have a straw inside
* are worth about $15 each

fit in the aquaBubbler that will be in our school grounds.

So please bring drink bottles to school and drink lots of water through the day. You will feel much healthier and will actually be doing something good for the environment because you won’t be buying plastic water bottles from the shops!

Thanks, Mrs Webb and the Green Team.

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Well done to the following classrooms that have been inspected by our Green Team monitors and received badges for our 5 Star Sustainable Classrooms initiative:

**Prep S, Prep T and Prep D** for receiving their NUDE FOOD badges.

**1/2B and 1G** for getting their WATER badges

Inspections take place every week so make sure you’re doing your best to help your class get their badges!
Eltham Netball club is now taking registrations for the 2013 Spring season. We cater for all ages from 9/u to open and all abilities from beginner to experienced. We train on Tuesdays and Thursday nights and games are on a Saturday commencing 31st August. The season is a mini season of 10 weeks, so if you have always wanted to try netball its the perfect time to as its only a short season. If you would like any information please contact:

Julie on info@elthamnetballclub.com.au or look on our website at www.elthamnetballclub.com.au Players are welcome to come to training for a "come and try" session.

"Want to play netball in 2013"