**PRINCIPAL’S NOTES:**

**OPEN MORNING**

We had a terrific response from the community and had approximately 180 visitors during Open Morning on Tuesday. Parents, grandparents and prospective parents took the opportunity to visit GK and see a normal working morning across the school. Thank you to those who were able to come along and see our students and staff at work. Our prep rooms were full of extra people and it was amazing how well the preppies were able to concentrate. They worked very hard at showing their adult visitors just how hard preppies work!

Thank you also to our school captains (Ethan L, Mitch R, Charis B, Chloe A, Mitch D, Emma W and Abby F) along with our House Captains (Abby R, Laura D, Hollie R, Zoe G, Bayley B, Daniel F, Andy M and Cooper J) for doing a super job at meeting and greeting visitors, supervising the sign in registers, providing assistance, taking visitors to classrooms or on a tour of the school. We were very proud of the way the captains worked together and shared the responsibility of helping out on Open Morning.

A big thank you and well done to all of our students (P-6) and staff for their terrific effort too. It’s not an easy task to go about your normal teaching and learning duties whilst being watched by others and having people coming in and out of classes over a two hour period. Everyone did a great job though and managed to stay on task.

Our thanks and appreciation also to PFA mums and Carol Kovacic, the convenor of our Welcome Committee, for putting on some much appreciated refreshments in the MPB. A number of our visitors took the opportunity to have a cuppa and chat during their visit, so we are grateful to Carol and other mums who helped out.

On Tuesday evening, Jenny Hopkin, our Prep team leader, conducted a very informative ‘School Readiness’ session for prospective 2014 prep parents. This evening was very well attended with close to 40 parents coming along. Many thanks to Jenny along with other prep teachers, A. Totino, L. Downey and J. Smith for lending their support and being on hand to assist and answer questions on the night. Once again, our PFA had an importance presence so a special thank you to Bridget Ramaekers, our PFA President, for coming along and providing a parent perspective along with a welcome refreshment too.

Throughout this week, we have also conducted school tours on Wed and Thur morning for parents who are looking to enrol a prep child in 2014. These tours, with the Principal or Assistant Principal, are being conducted each week and it’s pleasing to see the high level parental interest in visiting and finding out more about GK, our programs, our facilities and our approaches. It is gratifying to hear how many of our visitors say that they have come to GK because of the very positive recommendation by other GK parents. So yes, it has been a busy Education Week, just as every week always is!

*Jill Ramsay*
The grade 4 students are learning about the history of Australia. The Aborigines were the first people living in Australia. We think that the first Aboriginals arrived in Australia about 40,000 years ago. They may have come from Indonesia on rafts. We had a visit from an Aboriginal performer called Djarrin. His name means ‘fierce warrior’.

He told us lots of stories about the Dreamtime. The Dreamtime was a time many thousands of years ago when the world was created.

The Aboriginal people believe that in this time all the animals, mountains, rivers and stars were created. These stories are passed on from one generation to another and they are very, very old.

Djarrin also taught us some traditional Aboriginal symbols they use in their artwork. They made the paint from grinding up rocks and clay. This artwork tell stories of their life and beliefs and you can still see some on rocks and in caves that are thousands of years old.

He taught how to throw a boomerang. We didn’t know that there were lots of different boomerangs. There is one called, the 7 boomerang, that looks like the number 7 and is used to hunt emus. Boomerangs are also used to scare the birds so that they fly up into a tree and get caught in a net.

Djarrin also taught us some traditional dances like the ‘Shake a knee’ dance. These dances were often used in ceremonies. Many of these dances tell about the creation of the land and animals. These dances are also passed down through the generations.
Hope everyone who participated enjoyed the GK Biggest Morning Lunch. The GK student body will be donating $362 to the Cancer Council & I am hoping there will be a little bit extra once I collect the donation box from the staff room! Thank you to my regular mums & extra volunteers who supported me over these two days. I could not do these days without your valuable help.

SPECIALS until sold out:

- NEW Yo-Yo Cookies $1.00 each
- Pretzels 30g 50c each
- Recyclable Lunch Bags $2.00 each

Also looking for extra help on the following days:

- **Monday 27th May** – 1 HELPER NEEDED FOR EACH OF THESE DAYS
- **Tuesday 28th May** – 1 HELPER NEEDED FOR EACH OF THESE DAYS
- **Wednesday 29th May** – 1 HELPER NEEDED

If you are available on any of these days or for our emergency list, I would really appreciate hearing from you. It is just once a month, 9am to 11.45am.

Cheers, Suzi Cunningham

---

**REMININDERS:**

2ND INSTALMENT OF BULK BILLING DUE 30TH MAY.

CSIRO Grade 6 Excursion due

Grade 4—6 House Athletics due

---

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Catalogues for Issue 4 of Scholastic Book Club were distributed to students this 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 your reference, it is a good idea to take note of the receipt number.

Orders for this issue close on Friday 31st May 2013.

Astrid Bathen & Gail Elliott
These awards will be presented at assembly on Monday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Braden D</td>
<td>For always trying his best and giving everything a go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3O</td>
<td>Jessica B</td>
<td>For consistently demonstrating excellence in her work and challenging herself with tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Tayla B</td>
<td>For always striving for excellence and being very caring towards other classmates at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Katherine Z</td>
<td>For excellent application to school work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H</td>
<td>Elise M</td>
<td>For a creative and imaginative Dreamtime story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4L</td>
<td>Brooke K</td>
<td>For showing persistence with her maths problems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESPECT

PERSISTENCE

means that we KEEP ON TRYING and DON’T GIVE UP. When the going gets a bit tough, we get help if we need it but we keep on working to finish a task or sort out a problem.

AT ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK, the following students were congratulated on being noticed for doing the right thing and showing PERSISTENCE last week:-

Tom M (Prep S), Alexandra (1A), Charlie (2A), Sophie N (3O), Deakin (4H), Dylan O (5R) and Jack J (6W).

Lots of nominations were in the DO THE RIGHT THING box. Wow!!!! How proud are we of everyone’s effort! Keep up the great work!
SPORTS NEWS

INTERSCHOOL SPORT
GK DARKS vs HURSTBRIDGE (AWAY)
GK LIGHTS vs APOLLO A (HOME)

HOUSE ATHLETICS
The House Athletics will be held on Wednesday 5th June at Meadow Glen Athletics Track for Gr 4 – 6 students. The students will participate in high jump, long jump, discus, shotput, 100m, 800m and hurdles throughout the day.

Parental Assistance is required on the day. This may take the form of timing, measuring distances or assisting at an event. Please contact David Blackburn if you can help out.

David Blackburn
(PE & Sports Coordinator)

GR 6 GRADUATION—CAN YOU HELP??
The Grade 6 children are looking ahead to their graduation. A special part of this event is the Graduation Book, a recollection of their time at GK. We are asking for your help. Do you have any materials for scrapbooking these precious memories? Items may include special paper, lettering sheets, stamps, ribbons etc as well as decorative cutting scissors or paper punches. If you have any of these, please send them to the Grade 6 teachers. Thanks for your support.

Grade 6 Team

Drop off zone reminders:-
During the last school holidays, all of the lines in the carpark / drop off zone were repainted, making it clearer and safer for all users. Please note the following:-

- Cars should now STOP at the painted white line, back from the pedestrian crossing, which enables clearer vision for the crossing supervisor. When cars stop too close to the crossing, it is difficult to see cars until you step well into the crossing.

- In future weeks, we will be installing new signs including a 10km speed limit zone so hopefully this will make things a lot clearer for all users.

- To assist with traffic flow, the zone is for 2 minute drop-offs only. Children should be able to get out of the car with their bags, coats etc and not need parent assistance. If assistance is required and more time is needed, then it’s advisable to use street parking please. Saying goodbyes at home, before getting into the car, also helps.
5 Star Sustainable Classrooms at Glen Katherine.

GK is working toward becoming a 5 Star Sustainable School… but are you……???

Over the next few months the Green Team is going to be putting some environmental initiatives in place to help our classrooms attain their five stars. If you would like to join us on the journey at home – then please do – we’d love to have a 5 Star Sustainable School Community!

**Water Star:** Drink bottle challenge. Did you know we have some of the best tap water in the world? It doesn’t require filtering or treatment and can be drunk straight from the tap! Rather than buying bottled water and contributing to the plastic problem, reuse drink bottles from home. Stay tuned for an exciting development in this area…..but in the meantime, look out for our Water Patrol who will awarding classrooms ith 100% bottle usage (teachers included).

**Waste Star:** Do you put your waste in the right place? At school we have 4 bins to choose from:
- **Yellow** – recycleables including plastic bottles, yoghurt containers, cardboard, jars etc.
- **Blue** – paper and cardboard items
- **Compost** – food scraps for decomposing then returning to garden beds
- **Rubbish** – landfill, waste that can be recycled or decomposed.

Now obviously we don’t want to be filling up our land with rubbish so putting waste in the right place can make a big difference! Our Waste Warriors will be checking classroom bins to award stars to those putting their waste in the right place!

**Food Star:** Food waste can be a BIG problem both at school and home. Only pack as much as you need and pack NUDE FOOD – that’s food with NO wrapping. That way we don’t have to be paying for rubbish to be collected and taken into landfill tips. Use containers for chips etc – although the best nude food is fruit and vegies so the scraps can be composted. Our Worm Farmers will be inspecting lunchboxes to see which classrooms have NUDE FOOD!

**Energy Star:** Do you switch off (at the wall) when energy is not needed? Are appliances on standby at your place – this alone takes a lot of electricity and money. Our Energy Savers will be monitoring usage in classrooms, finding ways to save energy and awarding stars to classrooms demonstrating energy saving behaviours – such as turning off classroom lights when no one is in there, not turning up gas heater too high (when a jumper is more efficient).

**Biodiversity Star:** What plants do you have? Do you use local indigenous plants to encourage local birds and insects into the garden? Improvements can also be made by ensuring rubbish is not left on the ground to be washed into local waterways when it rains. This star is the hardest to achieve because classrooms need to show how they have improved the local biodiversity around the classroom by:
- Keeping it clean
- Making it look good (can pot plants be introduced or the dust swept away?)
- Educating others about the importance of improving our local environment (posters, videos etc)

It may seem like a lot, but our challenge is to make these daily behaviours automatic – things that we do without thinking……eventually! Everyone can make a difference – so please join us on our journey to 5 Star Sustainability!
Casual canteen assistant required at St. Helena Secondary College Canteen. Experience in retail/food industry a must. 2/3 days a week, within school hours, school terms only.

Enquiries to Helen, mobile 0418538501

**PIANO/keyboard lessons**

Teacher and composer

Mooroolbark/Chirnside Park

Positions are available for any child or adult who would like to learn keyboard or piano.

Please contact Peter Raymakers (B. mus. A, mus.A, Dip. Lib. Arts) on 9726 6176 or 0431 817 470.

Email: rayfam5@lizzy.com.au