**PRINCIPAL’S NOTES:**

### PLANNING FOR 2014

Our forward planning process is well underway and one way parents can assist is by understanding the procedures involved. This includes deciding on a staffing structure, allocation of teachers, determining the number of grades, the placement of students into 2014 classes and so on. Overall, this is a very complex process in which we seek to accomplish a number of aims including providing a fair and balanced structure that caters for all students as well as accommodates staff experience and expertise.

The development of a suitable grade structure is a key step before placement of teachers and students is made. Thank you to those parents who recently had a go at developing a grade structure taking into account a set of guidelines that governed the number of classes we could have (according to student enrolment & associated funding) along with classroom entitlement (also dependent on enrolment).

Deciding a grade structure is never easy however, decisions have to be made. The 23 grades’ structure for 2014 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1A</th>
<th>1/2A</th>
<th>2B</th>
<th>3B</th>
<th>4B</th>
<th>5A</th>
<th>5/6A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>4A</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>6B</td>
<td>6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>6C</td>
<td>6D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher allocations to grades along with student placement is the next stage of what is a very complex process.

### INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

On Tuesday evening, many of the students who have a weekly music lesson with either Adam or Peter, performed in a concert for their families. About fifty people attended and the appreciative audience was entertained by students playing the instrument they have been learning (guitar, drums or piano) during the year. Whilst there was plenty of nervous energy, how proud we were of the individual and group efforts as each student demonstrated their capabilities with their instrument. They are all to be congratulated on their wonderful effort and achievement!

This presentation concert followed an earlier concert in term three during which many of the students who are taught by Nikki performed for their families too. In that concert, students sang or played the keyboard or flute.

Private music lessons are offered each year and this is a direct arrangement made between the sessional music teacher and parents. These sessions are in addition to the weekly fifty minute music sessions that all grades have in our music room.

### 2013 GK SCHOOL MAGAZINE

We’re still taking orders for the 2013 school magazine just in case you have overlooked ordering a copy. You can pick up an ordering form from the office and order a family copy for $12 per magazine.

### GK ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

As reported in last week’s Linkletter, over 100 GK students from Gr3-6 ‘scooped the pool’ when it came to awards at the recent state orienteering championships. The students are all to be congratulated for their fantastic effort and achievements winning each grade level category as well as taking out the overall school’s title. A brilliant effort!

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*Jill Ramsay*
The ‘DO RIGHT DETECTIVE’ is still on the look out for students showing great learning behaviours. Congratulations to the following students who received a ‘Do Right Detective’ Award at assembly this week:-

Tiarne S—6W  Erin R—3R  Lucas H—PS
Kobe B—6W  Hudson B—3F  Fletcher P—5/6L
Alex H—5R  Kristian F—2O
Lauren S—5V  Pablo B—2O
Kane F—5V  Laura M—1A
Cassy W—4L  Cameron B—1A
Olivia—3O  Imogen C—PT

Congratulations also to all students who have been noticed by the Do Right Detective for great learning behaviours. Well done and keep up the great effort!

The Salvation Army Christmas Food Appeal

The Salvation Army annual Christmas Food Appeal is beginning! There are so many families in our community who depend on extra help at Christmas time and without your help The Salvation Army would be limited in what they could do for them.

If you are able to donate any of the goods listed below, it would be greatly appreciated – every little bit helps! All donations can be delivered to the office and placed in the barrel provided. Our Junior School Council will be reminding us at assembly each week about bringing in goods and updating us with how the donations are growing.

The donations will begin to be distributed to needy families during the first few weeks of December. So get into the GK spirit and give what you can to a very worthwhile cause.

Thanks in advance for your kindness,
Leanne Tingwell

SALVATION ARMY RECOMMENDED DONATION LIST:

1. Food items - non perishable, with use by date at least January 2015 - suggestions would be pasta, pasta sauce, breakfast cereal, uht milk, plum pudding, uht custard, fruit mince pies, biscuits, canned foods - especially tomatoes and fruit, tuna, ham, corn, beetroot, vegetables, soup, beans, etc., coffee, tea, packets of gravy, sweets, anything you would appreciate receiving in your own Christmas hamper.

2. Toiletries are acceptable, however, perfumed items such as soap can taint the other items in the hampers, so probably best to stick to food if possible.

3. Food items are preferred, however, gifts are acceptable provided they are new. We do not distribute second hand toys or gifts. Also, we must check all items, so please do not gift wrap items.

4. We cannot distribute alcohol or tobacco products.
CANTEEN NEWS

ROSTER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY &amp; DATE</th>
<th>NAMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd December</td>
<td>M Butterworth; S Hasan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th December</td>
<td>M Trainor; T Forbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th December</td>
<td>G Enayati; L Wilson; L Tancredi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th December</td>
<td>Y Whiteman; A Miller; L Brandt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL: AVAILABLE UNTIL SOLD OUT: Erica Choc-Gingerbread Man 35g $1.20ea

The “Santa’s Sneaky Snack” afternoon tea flyer should have come home this week. Make sure you fill in your choice of either ‘Rudolph Red’ (apple raspberry) or ‘Grinch Green’ (lemon lime) for the Quench drink and a get it in by 9am Friday, 6th December. No late orders will be accepted and no refunds given.

I need an extra helper for tomorrow so if anyone can pop in for a bit to help out that would be great.

Please mark in your calendars that FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER will be the last day for lunch orders in the canteen. Counter Sales will continue the last week of school at lunch recess while I have stock to sell.

I am currently working to fill the roster for 2014. Helpers are only needed 9am to 11.45am once a month. I can be contacted 8.30am to 1.30pm Tuesday to Friday should you wish any more information, or you can complete the form with this Linkletter or on the website and send it in through the Grade lunch tub.

Cheers, Suzi Cunningham

DATES FOR YOUR 2014 DIARY

Tue Jan 28th - Teachers return, NO STUDENTS at school

Wed Jan 29th - CURRICULUM DAY, no students at school

Thur 30th Jan - Gr1 - 6 students start school; Prep interview day

PARENT HELPER MORNING TEA

All Parent, Guardians, Grandparents who have helped the school during the year (Canteen, Library, Classroom, Excursions, Camps, School Council & Sub-Committees, PFA, Fete, Uniform Shop, 2nd Hand Uniform) are invited to join the staff for a Thank You Morning Tea on Tuesday, 10th December in the Multi Purpose Building from 9.30—am—10.15 am

Please cut and return:

Yes, I _______________________

will be attending the morning tea on 10th December.
SANTA’S SNEAKY SNACK

Afternoon Tea

THURSDAY, 12th DECEMBER 2013

FULL NAME: …………………………………………………………………………….
GRADE: …………………………………………………………….

1 x Bag of Christmas Assorted Sweets
(eg 1 Cadbury Caramel Santa, 1 Tattoo Lolly Pop, 5 Jelly Lollies & 2 Marshmallow Candy Canes)

1 x 350ml Aqua-fruits Quench Spring Water with 10% Fruit Juice

Please tick your choice of Quench

☐ RUDOLPH RED OR ☐ GRINCH GREEN
(Apple Raspberry) (Lemon Lime)

$3.00
MUST BE RETURNED BY 9AM FRIDAY 6th December

No late orders accepted/No refunds given.
No paper bag required.

PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED FROM 12-1.30PM

NAME: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

Mobile/Phone: …………………………………………………………….

(If you supply a mobile no., I will sms to confirm, Suzi)
SPORTS NEWS

SUMMER SPORT FINALS
Summer sport finals will be held on Friday 6\textsuperscript{th} December. Finals venues are to be decided. There are a number of catch-up games that have to be played this Friday to finalise the finals.
This week's game will be GK Dark vs Lights

JUNIOR HOUSE SPORTS DAY
The Junior House Sports Carnival will be held at the school on Monday 9\textsuperscript{th} December for Grade Prep – 3 students. Students are to dress up in their house colours and will represent their House in the following events – shuttle run relay, sprint, vortex throw, hurdles and sack race.
The events will be held from 9.30 - 11.00am. Parental assistance is required on the day.

David Blackburn

THANKYOU to all families who were unable to attend the working bee but kindly donated money, it is much appreciated.

REMINDERS:
GK 2014 Grade 5/6 Camp
Payment 3 : $50.00 due Friday 13th December.

School charges due Monday 2nd December.
Book Character Day

On Wednesday the 13th of November the JSC held a ‘Dress up as your Favourite Book Character Day’.

Everyone dressed up as one of their favourite characters. Some of the winning characters from each grade were; the Cookie Monster, Little Bo Peep, Mr Strong and a Power Ranger.

Here are some of the winners from the ‘Book Character Day’

Thank you to everyone who got involved and donated! We raised a little over $500.

We were originally going to put this money towards a fitness playground for GK, however due to the recent Haiyan Typhoon, we are now going to be donating this money towards some ‘Aqua Boxes’ organised through Eltham Rotary. For more information visit; http://www.aquabox.com.au/

By Elizabeth D and Ben G (From the JSC)
GK Christmas Concert

When? Monday the 16th December from 5:45 pm
Where? GK Oval
What else? The wonderful members of the PFA will be sizzling sausages and selling soft drink on the night (a convenient way to sort out your dinner!)
What to bring? Picnic rugs/ camp chairs, dinner and singing voices!
This always proves to be a lovely event and is a great chance for families and our community to come together to watch some amazing performances from our talented GK students.
J Lucy Miller on behalf of the Arts Committee

PUT A SMILE ON YOUR CHILD’S FACE
.... And on ours’ as well!

One way to put a smile on your child’s face is to become one of our valued volunteers in the Canteen! The excitement is written all over their faces as they come up to see you helping us in such an important role. All we ask is for a small commitment of a few hours of your time (9am to 11.45am) once a month.

Being on our Emergency List is also a great way to assist us as quite often we know we will be short the day before and can give you early notice.

Feel free to pop in and chat to us Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9.30am and 1.30pm to find out all about how the canteen works and how you can help.

NB: Unfortunately, no younger children are allowed to come with parents who work in our Canteen as it is a Health and Safety issue. Also government regulations require all persons working and volunteering with children to have a Working With Children card. This is free to Volunteers (there is a small fee if you don’t have a current passport size photo) and more information is available at your local Post Office.

Thanks for your time,
Suzi Cunningham (Canteen Manager)

CANTEEN ROSTER 2014

| NAME: ___________________________ | PHONE NO.: ________ |
| CHILD'S NAME: ____________________ | GRADE: __________ |

Once a month (please circle your preferred day)

| TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |

Would you be prepared to go on our emergency list? (please circle) YES NO
PFA CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Please help the PFA in their final fundraiser for the year by donating items to our Christmas Hamper raffle! Donations can be dropped into the GK office foyer in the donations box by Friday 13th December.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Please help support the PFA fundraising by selling raffle tickets for this year’s Christmas Raffle. They are $1 per ticket and each family gets to sell 5 tickets. There are 5 hampers to be won, drawn on the night of the Christmas Concert Monday 16th December. Please return ticket stubs & money or unsold tickets to the office by Thursday 13th December. Thank you PFA.

PFA CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Dear PFA Member & Friends

The PFA Committee would like to invite you to our Christmas “Wrap Up “ Meeting & Dinner.
Tuesday 3rd December 2013
Diamond Creek Hotel
6.45pm for 7.00pm Meeting

Please join in our KK by bringing along a $10 gift.
RSVP Tracey Russell 0412 581 887
By Thursday 28th November
Social Gatherings
Thank you to everybody for their patience & consideration with our re-scheduled Skaterz Family Night. This was the first time such an evening had been held and we were very excited to see so many families participate. We even had many Mum’s & Dad’s giving the Speed Skate and real go!!! Special thanks to Kate Arnot & Michelle Garner for coordinating the night.

Xmas Concert
So you have saved the date for this year’s Xmas Concert!!!! Well don’t worry about seeing the family this night because the PFA will again be running a Sausage Sizzle / Drink stand. So all you need to bring is your blanket, chairs & camera and we will fill your tummy’s! We will be needing volunteers to man this stall so PLEASE volunteer half an hour of your time – you won’t miss a thing as our tent is in view of the Stage! Please let Bridget Raemakers know if you, your partner or even older sibling can help.

Fundraising Calendars
This year we added merchandise to our Calendar Artwork Fundraiser. With organising conducted by Natalie King many families/friends will be enjoying Calendars, Mouse Mats, Diaries & iPhone cases this Xmas. The Children created some amazing pieces of Artwork. Orders will be distributed shortly.

Thank you Natalie King for your swift organising.

Xmas Raffle
At the Xmas Concert we will be drawing our Xmas Raffle. The prizes again this year will be several overflowing hampers filled with food, beverages & toys! Keep an eye out for Raffle Tickets which are being sent home to the eldest child. Additional tickets can be obtained and tickets will be on sale on the night. DONATIONS towards these Hampers are required. So if you can donate NEW Toys, Non Perishable Food, Bon Bons, Serviettes, Beverages etc please leave at the box in the office. Any queries please see Natalie King or Nastase Gadois.

Want to know more??
This year our PFA has welcomed many NEW Parents to our Committee. We have enjoyed and welcomed your ‘Fresh Ideas’ enthusiasm and good humour.

Why not consider joining our PFA in 2014? Being a part of the PFA doesn’t mean being an Elected Committee person. You could help sort Lost Property, be a Grade Communicator, help with Secondhand or NEW Uniform Shop, co-ordinate a fundraising activity, just volunteer to help at our Disco, or join the Fete Committee – the areas of need are endless but enjoyable!

If you would like to help or know more, contact the coordinators listed above or Email glinkpfs@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

PFA XMAS DINNER / MEETING
Our final Meeting for 2013 will be held on Tues 3rd December. This will be a Meeting/Dinner to celebrate hardwork, new friendships and to thank everybody that has contributed to our Wonderful School Community. We invite our Parents, Teachers & Staff to attend Diamond Creek Hotel (6.45pm for 7pm Meeting). If you would like to participate in our HK please bring a $10 gift to exchange. RSVP to Tracey Russell 0412 581 887 by 28th November.
ELTHAM COMMUNITY CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKET
SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST.
8.30AM - 1.00PM
PANTHER PLACE, ELTHAM

Players needed!

The St Helena Saints Basketball Club is currently putting together teams for the next basketball season and has places available in the U8, U10 and U12 age categories. Girl players in particular are required. Beginner players are OK, all skill levels and experience can be accommodated.

If interested please contact one of the Registration Secretaries as soon as possible;

Boys Registration – Scott Chandler; boysregistration@sthelenasaints.com.au
Girls Registration-
Narelle Sinclair; girlsregistration@sthelenasaints.com.au