PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Athletics
Monday our Grade 3 to Grade 6 students ventured to Meadow Glen Athletics Reserve for a fun, energy filled day. David Blackburn coordinated the day with many staff and parents supporting our students by attending and facilitating events. The day provides an opportunity for our students to participate in a range of athletics activities on the day as well as support their houses in our house competition. Feedback from staff is the students were all very well behaved and had a great day. The sunshine also made the day most enjoyable at this time of year.

Parenting Ideas with Michael Gross
Included in today’s Linkletter is an article called ‘Developing your child’s social media scripts’. The article focuses on the importance of developing strong communication with children about social media and how to respond to the challenges it creates when parents are not around. Michael Grose is one of Australia’s most well known parenting experts and is the author of eight popular books for parents. Throughout upcoming Linkletters I will be including a range of articles that I feel will be of interest to our school community. Keep a look out for the explicit and valuable insight Michael provides for us all.

Science Communal Day
Tuesday 7th June we are coming together as a community to explore Bio-diversity through our Science Communal Day. Twenty-nine cross-age groups of children from P-6 will be participating from 12pm-1.30pm in finding out what living things are found within our school grounds. Annemarie Webb has included information later in our Linkletter about this session. Our communal groups not only provide an explicit focus in us learning together but also allows staff and students from across our school to get to know each other and support each other in growing knowledge. I love communal days and look forward to seeing the picnic rugs, magnifying glasses and binoculars in action on Tuesday.

Choir Debut
Monday our Year 3-Year 6 choir are making their debut singing the national anthem and another surprise song on Monday morning. I have been advertising that assembly outside will cease during cold weather but due to the choir bursting to perform we will brave the weather on Monday. Let’s hope it is not too chilly like this week’s mornings. A reminder to encourage your child to wear a jumper for this cold outside weather so we can try and keep illness at bay.

Have a great week everyone.

Leanne Tingwell Principal
Dear Parents,

I write to you to inform you of a most important matter concerning the health and wellbeing of Charli Rose Lee in our Prep group.

Charli is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment at Royal Children's Hospital; this treatment affects the immune system, placing her at risk from all common childhood illnesses. Even exposure to the common cold/flu or gastro can put her health at risk and has done so in recent weeks.

We ask that you please notify the school, if your child has any lingering symptoms of illness so that the parents can assess the risk to Charli and decide whether or not school is a real option for Charli that day or not.

Charli's treatment is progressing extremely well, however she is still at great risk in relation to measles, chicken pox, shingles and other infections.

It is very important therefore, that you let the school know immediately if your child or a family member develops chicken pox or measles, so that Charli can receive protective injections at the earliest opportunity. This protection lasts for a few weeks only, and must be repeated every time she comes into contact with these illnesses.

Your child is at no risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of one of his/her classmates does depend on your help and cooperation.

Thank you

Admin Information

Grade 5&6 Sporting Program
The final instalment for the sporting program is due on the last day of term 24th June, please make sure all payments are made by this date.

Bulk Billing
The second instalment of Bulk Billing was actually due last week on 27th May. If you are unsure on how much you still owe please contact the office to get a copy of your current statement. There are a few activities coming up in Term 3 and payment needs to be received to ensure your child's participation.

Grade 5&6 Camp to Sovereign Hill
Please make sure that payments for the Grade 5&6 camp continue. Payment needs to be finalised by Friday 15th July. Also, if you haven't returned the camp medical forms please do so as soon as possible,

Payment 2 Due $60 and Payment Slip Friday 17th June
Payment 3 Due $60 and Payment Slip Friday 15th July

Cadbury Chocolate Boxes
All money now due. We still have a few boxes if you would like to sell more. Thanks for your support.
Congratulations to our Year 3 & 4 students. Your certificates will be presented to you on Monday. Our Year 5-6 students will be announced in the next Linkletter.
GK HOUSE ATHLETICS

The GK House Athletics were at Meadow Glenn track held on Monday in bright sunshine. Students from gr 3-6 competed in 6 out of the 8 events and scored points for their house according to the standards. The students are to be commended on their behaviour and application on the day. Thank-you to the teachers who did a terrific job supervising the various events. Thank-you to the many parents who assisted with the events throughout the day, without your help these days would not run anywhere near as smoothly.

A squad of students will be selected from these results to prepare for the District Athletics in term 3.

FINAL RESULTS
1st – Correa 718
2nd – Acacia 689
3rd – Eucalypt 674
4th – Grevillea 665

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY – Bundoora Park
The District Cross Country has been re-scheduled to Friday 3rd June. Events will commence at 9.45am.

WINTER SPORT
This weeks winter sport has been cancelled due to the District Cross Country. The round will be re-scheduled in term 3.

David Blackburn
(Sport Coordinator)
GK BioBlitz – Tuesday 7th June

Next Tuesday 7th June, students and teachers will be getting into multi-aged groups and conducting a CITIZEN SCIENCE activity around the school by auditing biodiversity found in our school grounds and surrounds.

Citizen science is the “new catchphrase” in science education but it has actually been around for hundreds of years, where the observations and data collection of ordinary non-scientific citizens are used to make findings about ecology, biodiversity and more broadly the world around us.

What is biodiversity? ‘Bio’ – living. ‘Diversity’ – differences: so biodiversity means ‘the variety of living things.’ Why do we want a diverse range of living things in our environment? Well not only does it make our communities nicer to be in, but it is also intrinsic to our health and survival. Without biodiversity in the ecosystems in which we all live, we will be left with less species of plants and animals. Encouraging and sustaining endangered living things ensures not only their survival, but our own.

This activity will be taking place between 12pm and 1.30pm and we encourage students to bring:

- Magnifying glasses
- Binoculars
- Picnic rugs

Fingers crossed for a sunny day!
Cheers, Mrs Webb

Grade 1/2 Performing Arts

This term the students in Grades One and Two have developed their drama skills through the use of Hand Puppets. Throughout the term the children have explored emotions, puppet manipulations, prop manipulations, percussion instrumental sound effects and voice to create character, mood and atmosphere. Over the past 2 weeks students planned and presented a puppet show in small groups to the rest of their class. The students were extremely proud of their puppet shows and are loving their chance to shine up on stage.
PFA CADBURY CHOCOLATE DRIVE – 2016

ALL MONEY NOW DUE BACK.

Our Cadbury Chocolate Drive Fundraiser is now underway for our major PFA Fundraiser this year. Each family at GK has been provided with a carry box of fundraising chocolates.

Inside you will find:
- 50 assorted Freddo Cadbury chocolates priced at $1.00 each ($50.00 per carry box).
- A collection envelope in which all money raised is to be placed.

Please make sure your name is on the envelope and that it is sealed securely.

Payment Options: Cash, Cheque or QKR.

Please send in your envelope with QKR marked as payment so you can go into the Prize Draw.

We ask that each family assist with the fundraising by selling the chocolates to family members, colleagues in the work place, friends or neighbours. It is recommended that children are supervised by an adult if selling chocolates.

Remember to store the Cadbury chocolates in a cool place, taking care to avoid areas of direct sunlight.

If you have sold and returned money for a complete carry box of chocolates and could sell another please contact us or the school office. The family that sells the most boxes of chocolates will win a $100 Myers Voucher.

Sell a complete box of Chocolates and return full payment to go into a prize draws at the conclusion of the chocolate drive of 1st Prize- $200 Myers Voucher & 2nd Prize $100 Myers Voucher.

Through fundraising activities such as this we are able to provide additional facilities and resources at GK for our children. Please note that if each family sells one box of chocolates the school will profit approx $10,000.

Happy selling & thank you for your support.

Bridget (0407 243 024), Zoe, Catherine & Melissa.
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Developing your child’s social media scripts

It’s important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around.

“If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.”

This mantra always pops into mind whenever I’m about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I over prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster mending my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroom mess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach child important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they’ll be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. “Is this worth posting?”

The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2. “Have you taken a big breath?”

A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.
... Developing your child’s social media scripts ...

The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

3 “Do you want the principal to see this?”
An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

4 “How does this post make you feel?”
We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they’ve calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people’s minds when they haphazardly post a message.

5 “How will you fix this?”
Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it’s fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It’s reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with Gailt Breen author of Kindness Wins who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
English spelling is complete but not chaotic, it goes beyond surface level alphabetic representation.

English spelling is based on patterns, not rules.

Gaining word knowledge is developmental and conceptual, based on detecting similarities and differences in words.

Instruction that takes advantage of the brain’s pattern-seeking ability is most likely to support the development of word knowledge. The brain seeks patterns, basic cognitive learning processes of comparing and contrasting, discovering similarities and differences, generalise beyond isolated words.

Because word knowledge is gained developmentally, Vygotsky’s theories about the social construction of learning indicate collaborative activities will be beneficial.

Learning is best achieved when it is interesting and engaging.

Word sorting requires students to focus on the specifics of words and to learn how to examine words.

The purpose is to gain word knowledge, not to memorise specific words.

Based on the strong correlations between reading and spelling, word study should facilitate both areas of learning.

The goal is the transfer of knowledge to facilitate becoming a more proficient reader.
COMMUNITY NEWS

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keryn@leapaheadlearning.com.au

Classes start 15th May
Think ELLHAM offers young people from across Melbourne in Grade 4, 5 and 6 through to Year 7 and 8 the opportunity to come to ELLHAM College to learn a new skill. They will be taught by one of our ELLHAM College students from Years 7-12. A great variety of fun and interesting sessions will run between 10.00am-3.30pm.

Saturday 4 June 2016

Students can experience a short introduction to a topic of their interest, this may be something they’ve always wanted to learn about, or something they never knew existed. Visit our website for more information and to book your session.

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Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre

**July 2016**

**Floating Inflatable Fun**
Ivanhoe Aquatic & Fitness Centre
Monday, Tuesday & Friday
1–3pm

**Learn to Swim Intensives**
5day intensive
Monday 27th June—Friday 1st July
Monday 4th July—Friday 8th July
Cost $74.25
Concession $66.85
Includes pool entry
Bookings essential on 9490 7111

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<th>Children's activities</th>
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<td>Prep to grade 6</td>
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Cost $17.00 (bookings essential)
Activities subject to change or cancellation with 24 hours notice.

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<th>Monday 27/6/16</th>
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<td>Karate</td>
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<td>Here fun, gain confidence, and be introduced to the fundamentals of Karate while learning simple, self-defence behaviors.</td>
<td>Easy, quick and inexpensive cooking activities the kids can try at home</td>
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