PRINCIPAL’S NOTES:

WELCOME TO THE 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome everyone to the 2016 school year at GK! Hard to believe, but another school year is underway. It’s always great to know that our students, staff and families have returned safely from the holiday period. A very special welcome to the many new students, families and staff who join GK for the first time.

We had an extremely smooth and orderly start to the school year last Friday with all of our students in grades 1-6 returning with smiles on their faces and plenty of enthusiasm for the year ahead. Everyone has settled into their new class routines quickly and the scene is all set for a terrific year ahead.

Our Prep students began on Monday with smiles and nervous energy. The Prep classrooms were buzzing with chatter and our new Prep furniture, thanks to the efforts of our PFA, is inviting and vibrant. A great start for what I know will be a terrific 2016 year at GK.

HOAX PHONE CALLS TO VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

In light of the recent threatening hoax phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days, I would like to reassure you that our staff are remaining vigilant and prepared, should such a scenario occur.

Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise this it throughout the year.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority and we will inform you should our school move into an emergency situation.

Skoolbag - If you have not already subscribed to this app, I encourage you to do so. This is the forum for which up-to-date, relevant information is distributed to families in our GK community. Should we need to get in touch promptly with parents regarding an emergency situation, Skoolbag will be a primary source of communication. Information is provided later in our Linkletter to assist you in subscribing.

Our 2015 Grade 6 Graduates on their last day at GK last year. The handover has occurred with our new Preps beginning. We wish all our graduates a fabulous start in their Secondary Schools.
Prep to Year 6
OPEN CLASSROOMS AFTERNOON
Date: Tuesday 16th February
Time: 3:15 until 4:30pm

We would love to have you visit us at any time between 3:15—4:00pm on Tuesday. This is an informal time where students are encouraged to invite mum and/or dad to come along, visit classrooms and get to know different areas of the school. The Art room and our Science and Community Garden will be open as well. This is a great opportunity for your children to introduce you to their teachers for 2016. We hope you can make it!

PARENT MATHS
INFORMATION NIGHT
with Michael Ymer
Date: Thursday 11th February
Time: 6:30pm — 8:00pm

Please let us know if you can make it by returning the slip below:

YES! I would love to come to Michael Ymer’s Maths Info Night.

Name: _______________________________________________

Child’s Name: _______________________Class: _____________
### 2016 Classroom Teachers

**Preps**
- Angela Totino
- Libby Downey
- Hannah Longo
- Marisa Pace

**Grade 1**
- Luisa Rinaldi
- Jai Lincoln
- Vanessa Certoma

**Grade 1/2**
- Helen Cleary

**Grade 2**
- Bianca Perry
- Jess Szczepaniak
- Jessica Bailey

**Grade 3**
- Sandra Febbraro
- Anna Kapnoullas
- Madeline Rough

**Grade 3/4**
- Amy Murray

**Grade 4**
- Sally Armstrong
- Amy Johnston
- Jamie Whichello

**Grade 5**
- Mary Green
- Daniel Boulton
- Katya Gaiotto

**Grade 6**
- Sherryn Owen
- Leigh Fatchen
- Sarah Hill

### Specialists

- **Science**: Annemarie Webb
- **PE**: David Blackburn
- **Visual Arts**: Nadia Cosma
- **Lucy Miller**: Performing Arts
- **Melinda Djukic**: Performing Arts
- **Emma Hankinson**: Performing Arts
- **Sandra Portaro**: Performing Arts

### Support Team

- **BOOST**: Carla DiLizio
- **Di Bewley**: Extension
- **Julie Collins**: Welfare
- **Shannon Whelan**: Business Mgr
- **Jodee Jackson**: Reception
- **Jenny Bourke**: Accounts
- **Louise Ramsdell**: Accounts
- **Linda Bridgman**: Integration Aides
- **Sandra Embling**: Integration Aides
- **Sharyn Mackay**: Integration Aides
- **Karen ter Haar**: Assistant Prin
- **Leanne Tingwell**: Principal
GK Admin Information

A big welcome back to all our GK families, especially to our new families who have joined GK this year.

We have put together some general information about some tools we use here at GK to try and make the process of communication, payment of school charges and general interaction with our community more efficient and effective.

**QKR**

We introduced Qkr about 18 months ago and it’s been a great success. It is an app that allows parents to pay for all school charges including Canteen, Uniform and OHSC fees whenever they want in a quick and secure way. Please download the app. For those without access to a smart phone, a web-based version of Qkr is available at: [https://qkr.mastercard.com/store/#/home](https://qkr.mastercard.com/store/#/home)

Please see download instruction sheet in the following pages.

**Skoolbag**

For those new families to GK, Skoolbag is the ultimate school to parent communication tool.

This School Mobile App provides schools with an easy way to tell parents and carers everything they need to know about school news, newsletters, events calendar, cancellations, school notices, school information, parent sick note forms, school documents and much more. It also allows us to contact parents immediately in emergency situations via text notifications so it is a valuable communication tool.

We would like all our GK families to subscribe to Skoolbag so we can use this great communication tool to stay in touch with our GK community.

Skoolbag is a Mobile App that can be used on IPhones and Android devices. Please find instructions on how to download the app in the next page

**CSEF — Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund**

The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students and $225 for eligible secondary students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.

The CSEF payments will commence from March onwards. We can accept parent application forms until 3 June 2016.

Application forms are available from the office and we also need a copy of your concession card with the completed form.

**Parents Sign In & Sign Out Book**

We have a new process for all Parent helpers at GK. If you are assisting at the school in any capacity, be it in the classroom, canteen, uniform shop etc all parent visitors must now come to the office and sign in & out so we are aware of who is in the school at all times especially in emergency situations.

The staff in our office are an integral part of GK being a great place to be and they are always here to help with any query you might have. In situations were parents need to discuss issues like the welfare of their child, concerns in the classroom or financial pressures, our staff are here to assist:

Leanne Tingwell   Principal
Karen ter Haar   Assistant Principal
Shannon Whelan   Welfare& Wellbeing
Jodee Jackson   Business Manager
For quicker, hassle-free canteen and school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced ‘quicker’) by MasterCard: the easy-to-use phone app that gives you the flexibility to place orders at a time and place that suits you. Qkr!

- Saves you time by letting you order and pay for school items directly from your phone;
- Reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school;
- Reduces the time school staff spend on administrative tasks.

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app.

Step 2 Register

Select your country of residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register.

Step 3 Find our school

Scan the QR code or type in the text label provided. Our school will also appear in "Locations Nearby" if you are within 4Kms of the school.

Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing your school menu, you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school orders on their behalf.

Scan QR code provided by your school

If within 4Kms of the school, you can select from "Locations Nearby".

Or type text label provided by your school

GLENKATHFRINEPS

Now you're ready to order and pay for meals and other items...
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

**How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone**

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “Install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to ”iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “Install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 
Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
Canteen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY &amp; DATE</th>
<th>NAMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 9th Feb</td>
<td>P Hill; G Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th Feb</td>
<td>C McFarlane; M Trainor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 11th Feb</td>
<td>N Campbell-Kerr; W Kilcullen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12th Feb</td>
<td>T Forbes; J Nicholson; S Long</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome back to school everyone and I am happy to say the canteen is up and running almost on full steam. We have already had lunches through on QKR – this is a very quick & easy way to order.

Hopefully everyone has received a copy of the new canteen menu – there are a couple of price increases but not too many. Flavoured Milk has had to be increased to $1.70 and our Mrs Mac range of good eating pies etc have also had to increase slightly.

Rosters have been sent home to those who have been lovely enough to volunteer their time & I am always happy to have more! There is a spot on the 1st Tuesday or the 3rd Friday for anyone who would like to join my crew.

I have also touched base with families who may have a child or children with allergy concerns. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding the canteen.

Suzi Cunningham

Sports News

Preparation for PE Lessons

Some reminders to help your child be prepared for their PE lessons.

- Drink bottle (already filled with water)
- School hat
- Medication (asthmatics)
- Runners - lace up or Velcro runners

A note from home if they can’t participate in PE due to injury or illness.

State Representation in Tennis

Congratulations to grade 6 student Harry L who represented Victoria at the National tennis championships. Harry competed in the 10 years section and performed exceptionally. Well done on a terrific achievement, Harry.

Sport Trials

Summer Sport trials will be held on Friday 5th February for grade 5-6 students. They will have the opportunity to represent the school in one of the following sports throughout term one and four - bat tennis, basketball, cricket, volleyball or rounders. The first round of summer sport will commence on Friday 12th February. Please read the Sport / PE guidelines and fixture on the PE blog or school website for further info.

David Blackburn
(PE Teacher)
POLICY STATEMENT – SCHOOL UNIFORM

PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS
Wearing School Uniform fosters pride in the school and unifies the students from various social backgrounds into a cohesive school unit.

GUIDELINES
1. The wearing of school uniform is compulsory for all students except where exemption is given by School Council.
2. The acceptable school uniform should consist of a combination of items from the designated uniform list. Any modifications to school uniform other than adjustment for proper fit are unacceptable.
3. Students participating in interschool sport and excursions will wear the appropriate uniform.
4. All Grade 5 and 6 Sporting Teams will be expected at lunch to change back into their school uniform prior to the start of session 4.
5. The majority of school uniform items should be available for purchase from the volunteer-operated Uniform Shop.
6. Second Hand Uniform Shop
   a. A second hand uniform shop should operate to enable parents to sell or buy good quality used items of school uniform.
   b. The second hand uniform shop should be operated by the PFA and the commission earned on the sale of garments should contribute to the fundraising of the PFA.
7. Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via State Schools Relief for families experiencing economic hardship.
8. A special jacket for the Grade 6 students will be available for purchase each year.
9. Guidelines relating to out of uniform days will be published in the Linkletter prior to the event.
10. Hats
    a. Wearing a hat (as prescribed in the uniform list) for all outdoor activities is compulsory from September to April each year unless the activity is conducted in a shaded area.
    b. Hats are not to be worn inside.
11. Hair
    a. Hair should be neat and well groomed at all times.
    b. Hair which is shoulder length or longer should be tied back at all times in line with our Head Lice Management Policy.
    c. Extreme hair colors and styles are not acceptable at any time including special out of uniform days.
12. Accessories
    All hair accessories should conform to the colour scheme prescribed in the uniform list. (navy blue, royal blue, pale blue and white)
13. Scarves should conform to the colour scheme prescribed in the uniform list.
14. Fashion jewellery (including plastic wrist bands) is a health hazard during any physical activity and should not be worn to school. Stud earrings in pierced ears are an exception.
15. Make up and coloured nail polish are not to be worn except for approved school activities.
16. All shoes should be selected to conform to the description in the uniform list and all shoe laces should match shoe colours.
17. Teachers will hand out a Student Uniform Infringement Notice when incorrect school uniform is worn. If the issue is ongoing then teachers need to speak to the Principal/Assistant Principal for follow up.
18. Parents are recommended to purchase school back packs that are endorsed by the Australian Physiotherapy Association in order to minimise the risk of back injury to students. School back packs with our school logo which meet these guidelines are available from the uniform shop.
19. The School Uniform list will be published in the newsletter at the start of each year and be available in both the Parent Section of the school website and from the office.
20. Monitoring of Policy
    a. The monitoring of the School Uniform Policy should be the responsibility of the Uniform Sub-Committee with the day-by-day decisions to be at the discretion of the Principal.
    b. In the event of conflict the School Council should be the arbiter.
    c. The Uniform Sub-Committee should be accountable to the School Council.
21. Enforcement of the Uniform School Policy is the responsibility of the principal and supported by staff.
UNIFORM REMINDERS for 2016:

SUNHATS -
Students must have their GK sunsmart hat ready to begin the school year in 2015. The ‘NO HAT, NO PLAY’ rule operates from September through to April so please make sure those hats are in school bags and ready to be worn on the first day of school. Also, hats should be in good condition please without frayed edges and graffiti free.

NAME EVERYTHING PLEASE -
Personal items of clothing, hats, school bags, lunch bottles, water bottles, books etc. all need to be clearly named. We had a huge amount of lost property late last year due to items not being labelled.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

- Open Mondays 8.30-9.00am the Community Room
- Cash only. Holds available
- On selling of second hand uniforms for the GK community
- Donations are always welcomed
- Items MUST be in good clean condition. No tears or stains.
- Drop items for sale in on a Monday or through the school office. Please provide your name & contact number
- Only Glen Katherine uniforms please
- Items will be sold at approximately half the new uniform price (or less in some cases)
- The PFA deducts a commission from the sell price (approx.30%) and the balance is returned to the seller
- Items unsold after 12 months may be reduced in price
- Items unsold after two years may be removed from sale and either passed onto the sick bay, donated to charity or disposed of appropriately
- If you would like any unsold items returned after two years please note this with your details when you send the item/s in

Our fantastic NEW Second Hand Uniform Shop is up and running.

We are desperately seeking volunteers to assist run this service on a Monday & or Friday. Can you assist from 8.30-9.00am weekly, fortnightly or monthly? The shop is currently closed on a Friday due to lack of volunteers! Please contact Bridget Ramaekers 0407 243 024 or glenkpf@gmail.com
All students attend a Library session each week with their class teacher. During this time, students in Prep to Grade 3 have the opportunity of borrowing up to 3 books to take home. Loan duration is 2 weeks but these can be returned or renewed at anytime.
Students in Grades 4 to 6 may borrow 3 personal choice books and 1 class literature or topic book set by their Teacher. Loan duration is 4 weeks.

Some titles may be in high demand so the loan period may only be one week.

Please ensure your child, if in Prep to Grade 4 inclusive, has a library bag, preferably a waterproof one and labelled with their name. A recycled strong plastic shopping bag is quite suitable.

Due to a large number of damaged library books, mainly caused from spilt drinks in school bags, we will be enforcing the rule that a bag is required if borrowing.

Occasionally accidents happen and books are damaged. If damage does occur, please do not repair it. Specific materials are used for specific mending. Please advise Library staff or class Teacher of the damage so that appropriate repairs can be made. Students will not be growled at for accidental damage.
If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair, the school's expectation is for payment be made to replace such items.

We have a small Parent Reference section dealing with topics related to Sex Education, Raising children, Death of family and pets which parents are welcome to borrow from.

The Library is open before school at 8.30am and after school till 3.15 pm for students to borrow.
I welcome parents to visit the Library with their children during these times.

Thank you for your support and happy reading!

GLEN KATHERINE MEGA FETE - 2017

In order to have a Fete in 2017 volunteers are required NOW to Co ordinate this event.
A Mega Fete committee needs to be formed this month to commence preparations for next year’s fete. Date’s need to be set, rides ordered and planning started to ensure this great day for our children can occur. It is not only a fantastic way to raise a substantial amount of fundraising dollars for GK but is also a wonderful day to show case our school and bring families and the community together.

The core committee general consists of the following positions/roles: Convener, Finance, Operations, Sponsorship/Donations

CAN YOU HELP?
ARE YOU INTERESTED?
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A FETE?

Contract Bridgete Ramaekers 0407 243 024 or email glenkpf@gmail.com for any further information.

Please complete the form below and return to the school office

I am interested in assisting with the 2017 GK MEGA FETE
Name: ____________________________
Mobile: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Eldest Child: ______________________ Grade: ___
GK Parents & Friends Association

*** NEW MEMBERS REQUIRED ***

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 8th March 2016

7.00pm

GK STAFFROOM, Supper & refreshments provided!

THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

New members, fresh ideas & people power are needed!

At our monthly meetings you can: grab a cuppa, chat about new PFA initiatives & fundraising ideas, catch up on school news with Leanne Tingwell & staff and enjoy supper.

Meetings also provide an opportunity to voice ideas, suggestions and give feedback.

You are NOT expected to take on any major role; there are lots of little tasks that pop up throughout the year. Put your hand up if and when you are confident. **We work as a team!**

**WHAT IS THE PFA?**

PFA: Parents and Friends Association

The PFA is not just about fundraising, did you know we also:

Provide a link between the community and the school council.

Assist with the Prep Transition Program, including Cheers & Tears morning tea for the parents on their first day.

Contact and welcome new families to the school.

Arrange social & family events, e.g.: Fetes, Movie nights, GK disco, Trivia Nights.

Provide Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls for students to purchase gifts.

On-sell second-hand uniforms

Organise and coordinate Grade Communicators

Provide refreshments and assist with tours for Education week.

Organise guest speakers to provide important information to parents about issues relevant to our children.

I would love to see you at the meeting, please consider coming along to find out what it's all about. If you have any queries please contact me, Bridget Ramaekers (Current President) 0407 243 024 or

* JOIN OUR PFA EMAILING LIST

If you are not able to attend regular meetings but would like to be included on our PFA emailing list please sends your details to: **glenkpfia@gmail.com**. We will keep you informed of upcoming events or tasks that require volunteers via this link so that you can get involved in activities that suit you.

**Note: Email details will only be used for PFA related matters.**
Calling for volunteers – we need your help!

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help.

The program requires 2-3 additional volunteers in 2016 to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week (with enough volunteers this may be fortnightly or less) and the Commonwealth Bank provide support in how to manage the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising. **Without additional volunteers the program will not be able to continue throughout 2016.**

Please remember to send your children’s banking deposit books every Tuesday starting 8th February 2016. Books will be returned on a Wednesday each week.

If you can volunteer your time to help with this fantastic initiative please contact Melissa Houston, School Banking Coordinator on 0409932565.

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**GUITAR AND DRUM LESSONS FOR 2015**

Adam is now taking bookings for this year’s guitar and drum lessons.

If you are interested please give him a call on 0412 816 564 or email

adroach1@hotmail.com

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**Keyboard Lessons**

2016

Places are available for any child who would like to learn keyboard Term 1 - 2016

Please contact Peter Raymakers  (B. mus., A.mus.A, Dip. Lib. Arts)
on:- 0431 817 470
email:- rayfam64@gmail.com
COMMUNITY NEWS

GLEN KATHERINE P S

TEennis Lessons

Location: Glen Katherine Primary School Tennis Courts

WE SPECIALISE IN LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

BOUNCE INTO OUR TERM 1 SUMMER SPECIAL
FOR FIRST 10 NEW STUDENTS
Enrol Now & RECEIVE 30% OFF
YOUR FEES
and also receive a FREE HEAD Tennis Racquet Pack valued at $80

Enrol NOW for
TERM 1 2016 LESSONS

For more information please call Topline Tennis on 9432 - 3706
Web: www.toplinetennis.com Email: info@toplinetennis.com

Play football
in 2016

ELTHAM REDBACKS FC ARE SEEKING PLAYERS FOR 2016

Play at a family friendly club with the best football facilities in the district.

Saturday skills program for U5 – U7
Small Sided games for U8 – U11
Boys and Girls teams U12 – U18
Senior football for all ability levels
Squadings program for 5 & 4 year olds

Information Days
Saturday 6th and 20th Feb
Eltham North Reserve, Eltham North

Enquiries to:
www.elthamredbacksfc.org.au
secretary@elthamredbacksfc.org.au

REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 14th February 2016
8.30am to 12.30pm
At Central Clubrooms
Panther Place
Eltham

8.30 – 10am U9 & U10 Boys & Girls
10 – 11am U11,12 & 13 Boys & Girls
11 – 12pm U14 & 15 Boys & Girls
12 – 12.30pm U16,17 & 18 Boys & Girls

Online Registrations now open

New players most welcome and must provide a copy of their Birth Certificate

Merchandise & Mouth Guard purchases available on the day

Any enquires please contact:
Roslyn McCormick 0419 305 814 or dav.ros@bigpond.com
COMMUNITY NEWS

Girls learn best together
See how your daughter can thrive in an all-girls learning environment at our Catholic Ladies' College. Girls flourish here.

Twilight Tour
Thursday, 18 February
5:00 to 7:00pm
Year 7 Enrolment Information 7:15pm

Register at www.clc.vic.edu.au/tours
Dedicated buses run daily to CLC

COMMUNITY NEWS

GET IN THE SWIM!

Are you aged 8+

* Waiting to expand past your swimming lessons.
* 25m Pool (Indoor & Outdoor).
* Squad Sessions Available: Development, Junior & Smiles.
* Train for Fitness or for Competition

Enjoy 2 FREE Sessions (incl. Level Assessment)

BOOK your assessment TODAY!

Twilight Tour
Thursday, 18 February
5:00 to 7:00pm
Year 7 Enrolment Information 7:15pm

Catholic Ladies' College
Girls flourish here
Attract to Catholic Ladies College

Diamond Creek Swimming Club
Elizabeth Street
Diamond Creek VIC

www.hokinzhockey.org.au

CLUB: Northern District Hockey League

CONTACT NAME: Erika Newbegin CONTACT NUMBER: 0419 888 050

LOCATION: Greensborough Hockey Club, Plenty Park, Memorial Drive, Plenty, VIC, 3090

START DATE: Monday, 15th February 2016 TIME: 6:00pm

EMAIL: juniors@greensboroughhockeyclub.com WEB: www.greensboroughhockeyclub.com.au

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: excludes 14th March (Labour Day Holiday)