2017—Some changes are on their way

With the beginning of the school year, we will be introducing some new programs to GK.

**SENTRAL EDUCATION**

Sentral Education is a school and student management software that we know will allow us (staff/parents) to communicate with each other far more efficiently and effectively in the future. Sentral will allow staff to store all information about students in one spot, as opposed to the many IT platforms we currently use. Assessment, attendance, communication to parents, wellbeing, learning information and schedules will be just some of the areas available to us. Parents will also have a portal where they will be able to access key information about their child at a click of a button. Our Administration area will also be connected to this which will enable a well rounded communication hub to be developed. We will be SLOWLY implementing this in 2017 so keep a look out for further information.

**EntrySign**

Thanks to our PFA, we have been able to purchase a digital visitor management system which will be in the office area to start 2017. This touch screen monitor will feature may capabilities; visitor and contractor management, staff/student sign in and out, pupil attendance and events coordination. From computers within the administration area we can at a click bring up who is in the school at any one time so this will assist our safety and care processes considerably.

**SeeSaw**

Student driven digital portfolios have been rolled out in Prep this week and will continue to be throughout next year. SeeSaw will eventually replace our paper portfolios and provide ‘live’ feed about what your child is doing at school at any given time. You will be able to hear, see and watch your child throughout a term, learn, socialise and participate in a range of activities that will be collated during their time at GK and available for download when they exit GK in Grade 6. You literally have the opportunity to watch and capture your children growing over the years.

**GK KIDS KITCHEN and LOTE P-6**

We are excited about the development of a kitchen program in 2017 as well as offering all of our children Italian and cultural education P-6. The current community room is going to be transformed into a functioning kitchen classroom and will be run by Shaz Mackay. Shaz will be cooking with the all students once every three weeks with the classroom teacher assisting. Alongside this, Sandra Portaro and Melinda Djukic will be teaching Italian and multicultural education to all students every three weeks, using this time to come together to celebrate diversity, richness of culture and EAT! Shaz will be seeking community assistance to help get this up and running so any help that’s requested will be greatly appreciated. See next page for some requests.

**2017 Classes have been finalised**

Staff have been working diligently over the past few weeks to create the best possible learning environments for our students in 2017. Staffing and classes are a well considered jigsaw that takes into consideration the social, emotional and academic needs of our students. While this is a time consuming task, it is critical in setting up success opportunities for all. Students will first find out who their 2017 class is on Monday 6th December with a revisit on Friday 9th December.
Shaz is in need of being in contact with anyone who is directly connected to (own business) or knows someone to help source the following:

⇒ FLOORING SERVICES (in particular laying linoleum)
⇒ OVENS (After a 90cm stove and range hood)

If you can help, Shaz is keen to talk to you. She can be contacted directly on 0414 996 361. Please keep an eye out for this space. The idea behind the kitchen, apart from the students cooking, is to create a community hub where we can all pitch in together through donations, sourcing items, donating time or simply meeting for a cuppa when it is up and running.

We appreciate your help in advance. Leanne

Josh and Owen from 6F proudly presenting their ‘cosmetics’ they made in our Science class. Some mum’s are going to get a lovely gift this week!

2017 SNAPSHOT so far....

We have 24 classes next year, mirroring the number this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep 4</td>
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</table>

Staffing update:

Vanessa Certoma, currently Year 1, will be leaving to join Mernda Central in 2017. We wish Vanessa all the very best in her new school.

With the departure of Leigh Fatchen, Daniel Boulton and Vanessa Certoma as well as the continued or beginning of leave in 2017 for Anna Kapnoullas and Amy Johnston, recruitment of new staff has occurred and is still underway.

We welcome Tara Newton, Rosemary Piazza and Brayden Van Der Pol to GK. We are excited to have them on board. Currently we are in the process of appointing two other positions, with the successful teachers being shared with you shortly.

As soon as this recruitment process is near completion, I will be sharing our classes and teachers with you.

UNIFORM UPDATE

Thank you to those parents who took time to complete the uniform survey over the past few weeks. The collated information was taken to our last School Council meeting where discussion was had regarding some changes for 2017. The Uniform Policy is currently under review and based on parent feedback, School Council have made a decision to make some changes. Some of this involves the inclusion of black tights, black solid socks (no emblem/logo) and to remove colour restrictions from runners, instead stipulating safe, supportive shoes. A ratified Uniform Policy will be shared with you before the end of the year.
STUDENT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

Coming soon!

Year 5 & 6 OCTOBER SOTM Champions

STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 2016
**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CURRICULUM DAY</td>
<td>MELBOURNE CUP DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td></td>
<td>PFA Meeting 7.30pm</td>
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<td>NOV</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>PREP Information Night School Council 7.30pm</td>
<td>Grade 1 Happy Campers Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Swimming Monday-Friday</td>
<td>PREP KINDER VISITS 11.00-12.10pm</td>
<td>PREP KINDER VISITS 11.00-12.10pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PREP VISITS 11.00-12.10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>Grade 3/4 Swimming Monday-Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2017 Bookpack payments due</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>Years 1-6 2017 Students Class Transition Day 1 9am-11am</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day PFA Dinner</td>
<td>School Council 7.30pm</td>
<td>2017 Prep Orientation Day 9.15-10.30am</td>
<td>Years 1-6 2017 Students Class Transition Day 2 9am-11am</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>Special Retirement Assembly Moving Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>GRADUATION 2017 Bookpack Collection Day</td>
<td>Christmas Concert Afternoon 1.30pm</td>
<td>Canteen Closed</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>Grade 6 MSAC Excursion</td>
<td>FINAL ASSEMBLY 1.10pm</td>
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<td>LAST DAY</td>
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</table>

**IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2017**

- Friday 27th January—Office & Uniform Shop Open
- Monday 30th-31st Staff PD days
- Wednesday 1st February Year 1—6 Students First Day. Prep ‘Getting To Know You Meetings’
- Thursday 2nd-3rd Prep Assessment Interviews Begin
- Monday 6th February 1st Day For PREPS 9.15am
This week, our new digital portfolio app ‘Seesaw’ went live to our Prep families! Seesaw is a safe and secure online portfolio that only the child, parent and teacher can access. We are so excited by what this app has to offer as it allows for real time feedback to parents about what your children are doing in the classroom. Seesaw not only allows children to document their learning, but also allows you as their parent to interact with them on their learning journey, by liking their posts and commenting on their progress. Over the next few years we will be rolling out Seesaw across the school, and it will eventually replace our paper portfolios at all year levels.

**This Week in Your School: Nov 18 - Nov 24**

- **375** New Items
- **108** New Comments
- **411** New Likes
- **68** Parent Visits

**What our parents are saying about Seesaw:**

- Wow just went through it all I think it's fan-
- Fantastic to see the great work going on in Prep!
- Love seeing what all the preps are getting up to at school
- So great to see all of the learning happening in Prep!
- Looks like you are all learning a lot and having so much
- I love this idea!
- Loving this app! Brilliant!
- What a great way to see what prep have been up to. Love it.
- What a fantastic way to see all the wonderful things the preps have been do-
Congratulations to all of our Premier’s Reading Challenge participants this year! What a great effort, we are so impressed by the way you took on this challenge in your own time. Well done and keep reading!

Ms Certoma and Ms ter Haar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owen E</th>
<th>Zoe F</th>
<th>Emily M</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caden A</td>
<td>Hannah S</td>
<td>Sophia N</td>
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<td>Jack D</td>
<td>Asvin K</td>
<td>Erin P</td>
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<td>Daniel P</td>
<td>Angus S</td>
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<td>Matthew S</td>
<td>Nieve T</td>
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<td>Ashton T</td>
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<td>Jessica O</td>
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<td>Rebecca B</td>
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<td>Jeyda M</td>
<td>Zach E</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bonnie W</td>
<td>Lauren G</td>
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<td>Makayla F</td>
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<td>Vanessa S</td>
<td>Sophia L</td>
<td>Aaron L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella T</td>
<td>Louis C</td>
<td>Kaitlyn L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachlan E</td>
<td>Thomas P</td>
<td>Emily R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADMIN UPDATE—IMPORTANT DATES

- Individual named Sports tops for 2017 Grade 5 & 6 need to be ordered by end of tomorrow (Fri 25/11)
- Grade 6 Jackets need to be sized & ordered by Mon 28th November
- Payments for 2017 Bookpacks need to be made by Dec 2nd (next Friday) to ensure your student’s collection of bookpacks on Dec 14th. Please contact Jodee Jackson our Business Manager to discuss payment plans if you are unable to make payment by Dec 2nd.
- Bookpack collection days:
  - 2017 Preps Thu Dec 8th
  - 2017 Gr 1-6 new students Fri Dec 9th
  - Current GK students—Wed Dec 14th
- Last day for Canteen orders is Wed Dec 14th.
- Last day of school Tue Dec 20th
- First Day of School 2017
  - Friday 27th January—Office & Uniform Shop will be open
  - Mon 30th & Tue 31st—staff return, PD days
  - Wed 1st Feb—Gr 1-6 students start & Prep Getting to Know you Meetings
  - Thu 2nd & Fri 3rd Feb Prep Assessment Interviews
  - Mon 6th Feb—1st day for Preps 9.15am

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CANTEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY &amp; DATE</th>
<th>NAMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 29th Nov</td>
<td>C Robertson; S Mifsud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30th Nov</td>
<td>K Frittitta; C Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 1st Dec</td>
<td>K Gersh; S Diaz (Swap)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd Dec</td>
<td>F Davies; B Lowe; W Kilcullen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIMITED LUNCH ‘MEAL DEAL’ SPECIAL

VEGETABLE LASAGNE, MUFFIN & CHOICE OF JUICE (or water) - $5.00

EXTRA SPECIAL – POTATO BAKE (Gluten Free) $2.50 until sold out

*** LAST DAY FOR CANTEEN LUNCH ORDERS WILL BE WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER ***

Some items may become unavailable due to stock being run down for over the holidays.

If you would like to help out in the canteen, please just contact me on 9431-1599, Tues to Fri 8.30am to 1.30pm or email cunningham.suzanne.s@edumail.vic.gov.au or sms 0408 172 778. We’d love to hear from you if you would like to do canteen in 2017 (see form attached).

Cheers, Suzi
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 Occupational 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 forms can be downloaded & lodged at your local Post Office.

Thanks for your time,

Suzi Cunningham (Canteen Manager)

CANTEEN ROSTER 2017

| NAME: ____________________________ | PHONE NO.: _________ |
| CHILD’S NAME: ____________________ | GRADE (in 2017): ________ |

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
Grade 1 Happy Campers Day 2016

We had fun working on team building activities, making a monster with wood, a minibeast enclosure, a barbecue and a fantastic Grade 1's Got Talent Show.

Thanks to the wonderful mums for their help with our barbecue.

Unfortunately one of our staff members cars was damaged yesterday; it was parked on Calendonia Drive near the roundabout and somebody has hit and damaged the car but not left a note or made any contact. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please contact the office.
Please join us in celebrating the

GK Christmas Concert

Thursday 15th December
1.30 pm in the Courtyard

It will be an afternoon full of music, singing, performance, fun, laughter and a wonderful finale to conclude the school year.

On Monday 12th December,
GK’s Performing Arts Club will be performing at the morning assembly.
Come and watch them shine!
HELPING KIDS FOCUS IN THE AGE OF DISTRACTION

By Sarah Wayland

Finding ways to turn your kids from flitters to focusers – how teaching your children to ‘stick with it’ can have lifelong benefits.

As a society we often debate about the ‘right’ amount of screen time, and with the introduction of personal screens over the last decade, to add to TV, laptops and desktops, the focus on a single task has slowly ebbed away. The British Psychological Society found that too much screen time (more than their recommendations of no more than 2 hours per day) could unintentionally cause permanent damage to a child’s still-developing brains. Impacting the capacity to focus, to concentrate and to give attention to tasks.

Neuroscientists tell us that the more a young person can practice keeping focus and resist distraction, the stronger and more richly connected this child becomes. By the same token, the more distracted, the less so. Rebecca finds that the evidence is clear in our own homes and in classrooms ‘we now have young people who are experts at ‘flitting’ from one device to another’ and she refuses to take a defeatist approach because without refocusing those ‘flitters’ to ‘focusers’ who risk the next generations creative or scientific masterminds we risk losing children who are able to ‘sit still and agonise over a task long enough to see it through to its marvellous end’.

Tips for helping kids maintain focus and attention

1. Build your child’s focus

As with all tasks the aim is to start small and build your child’s capacity to master the concept of ‘sticking with it’. Cath, a school counsellor, finds that she can use the same strategies with the teens she works with and her primary school aged children when she gets home: ‘it’s all about breaks and rewards. Set a timer between breaks and then on a break they need to do something active like a push-up. Then there is a little reward for staying on task for a particular amount of time.

2. Remember it’s all about the journey

Parents and researchers agree that understanding what can be gained from being focused is the key to engaging your ‘flitting’ child. Our solution driven society is often focused on what we receive at the end rather than the process to get there. Teaching your children to tolerate the unexpected can have wonderful benefits, as can sitting with something that may have previously been viewed as unachievable.

3. Keep calm and focus

Use calm methods to engage children who become distracted: ‘breathe, relax and high five each other’ when working alongside your child or when with a group of children. Talk about what might be achieved at the end and make it a fun process.

Screens, for all their negatives and benefits, are here to stay. Many argue that they provide complexity and new experiences to our children’s world by identifying exciting technologies but they also provide avenues to ‘opt out’ of the hard yards.

Reaching what you thought was unattainable by engaging in a single focus and ‘sticking with it’, can provide lifelong lessons.
COMMUNITY NEWS

ST HELENA SAINTS BASKETBALL CLUB INC
www.sthelenaaints.com.au

ST HELENA SAINTS BASKETBALL CLUB REGISTRATION DAY

Join us this coming Sunday for the St Helena Saints Basketball Club registration day, Autumn 2017 season.

Where: Eltham Lower Park
When: Sunday November 27th from 11am onwards
Sausage Sizzle provided and presentations for current season players will also take place.

Like our facebook page for a chance to win a ticket in our raffle
www.facebook.com/sthelenaaintsbasketball/

All new players receive a 33% discount when purchasing a new basketball uniform.

Further information can be found on our facebook page or at www.sthelenaaints.com.au
REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 5th February 2017
NEW PLAYERS WANTED
BOYS & GIRLS AGED 7-17
Eltham Central, Panther Place, Eltham, 9am - 1pm
For enquiries, please contact the club on
0434 506 270 or email rego@elthamjfc.com.au
*New players, please bring a copy of your birth certificate*
AWARDED NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
JUNIOR CLUB OF THE YEAR 2016

FREE GIRLS SKILLS SESSION
TO FOLLOW REGISTRATION DAY
Come along and be trained by specialist coaches & meet AFL players
Sunday 5th February, 2pm - 4pm
Eltham Central, Panther Place, Eltham