A view to the future

Gembrook Primary School is a welcoming and respectful community that provides modern, flexible learning spaces that support a personalised, engaging and challenging learning program so that students will achieve the social, emotional, academic and physical growth to succeed in a global society.

13 November 2013

Diary Dates

15 November  | Orienteering (Grades 3-6) $20
16 November  | PFA Trivia Night 7pm
18 November  | SRC Fundraiser for the Philippines
20 November  | School Council 7pm (B&G 6.15pm)
21-23 November | RACV Energy Breakthrough Maryborough Gilwell Park Leadership (5-6) $45
25 November  | Curriculum Day-no students at school
27 November  | St John’s First Aid in Schools Program (all grades)
28 November  | My Bus visit (Grade 6-no cost)
3 December   | Produce Market 2B (TBC)
4 December   | 5/6 Swimming ($100 per child)
5 December   | Enterprise Market
6 December   | 5/6 Swimming
9 December   | 5/6 Swimming
11 December  | 5/6 Swimming
12 December  | Christmas Concert
13 December  | 5/6 Swimming
16 December  | 5/6 Swimming
18 December  | Grade 6 Graduation
19 December  | Grade 6 Big Day Out
20 December  | LAST DAY OF TERM 4; 1PM FINISH

Notes that have gone home

- Trivia Night
- Gilwell Student Leadership (SLC)
- Orienteering (Gr 3-6)
- Craftpower Incursion (JLC)
- HPV Accommodation (SLC)

All notes that have gone home are available on the school website: www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au

Extra Curricular Activities for this week

- HPV Training (Gr 6)
- Kinder transition
- Forest Classroom
- Orienteering

No assembly at GPS this Friday, 15 November due to 3-6 Orienteering Excursion

Education Maintenance Allowance 2014

EMA application forms for 2014 are available at the school office for parents and guardians who are holders of a Health Care Card or Veterans Affairs Gold Card, and for temporary foster parents.

Applications must be returned to the school office no later than 28 February 2014
A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Kym’s Comment

Dear families and friends

Forest Classroom
What a fantastic time our senior students had at the Forest Classroom last week! Each student was provided with an ipad and had the opportunity to create movies and slide shows. The students explored the forest and discovered a number of animals including a blue tongue lizard, a lyrebird, an echidna and many other birds. They took numerous photos of the ferns and tall Mountain Ashes. The girls and boys climbed the thousand steps ...a number of times! On Friday they had a Remembrance ceremony beside the Kokoda Memorial. The days at the Forest Classroom have proved to be an exciting and rich learning experience for our girls and boys. Thank you to all the parents who were able to assist with driving to the classroom. Thank you to Tracy Russell who joined the students at the Forest Classroom. We will endeavour to get a booking for 2014.

Senior Girls Program
Tracy Russell has also been assisting with the senior girls program this year. This social skills program aims to strengthen the girls’ confidence and skills in various social situations. Last week the girls were treated to a fabulous Zumba session - thanks to Tash Gould. The girls had a fantastic time, learning that exercise can be fun and having a healthy body is important.

Science Specialists Program
Gembrook Primary School was successful in gaining funding through the Science Specialists in Schools Program. The funding is for two years and provides $10,000 worth of science equipment for the school and enables the school to introduce the new national science curriculum throughout the school. Jude Everett and Christian Fraser will be the teachers who will participate in the training for this exciting new program for Gembrook. Jude and Christian will be at training this week and in two weeks’ time. The outdoor learning centre will continue to be the centre for science activities.

Run Gembrook
What a great day! Thank you to our dedicated Run Gembrook team – Sam Alabaster, Mel Mullins, Jennifer Lynch, Karen Strachan and Alison Morton. Thank you also to Cal Osborne for being the MC and thank you to Tash Gould for the aerobic warm up before each of the events. It was great to see many of our families participating in the various events. The team had organised a challenging 10 km trail and great family 5km and 2.5 km trails around Gembrook. Many donated prizes were awarded. Thank you to the many sponsors of this event. A full list is on the school’s website. Thank you to the Mullins family and the team of cooks at the BBQ. Thank you to Mark Gerenscer for distributing the marshalling equipment. Well done to all the school students and their families who competed in the events! A great effort! It is anticipated that we raised approx.

GO November
November is the month to walk or ride to school. Each day the SRC students are tallying how many students at Gembrook are choosing an active way to get to school. There are great prizes to be won. Cardinia Shire has donated these prizes. Walking or riding to school is a great way of keeping fit and healthy.

Trivia Night and Silent Auction – Saturday November 16
Next Saturday night the PFA team have organised what promises to be a great night. There are some wonderful items for the silent auction including: wine, handbags, hampers, school uniform packs, lunar park passes, photography voucher, dinner vouchers and lots more. The night will begin at 7:00pm and there are still some tickets available from the school office. Please ask your friends to come along and join you at a table for a fun night.

Continued.....
Remembrance Day
On Monday the senior students walked up to Redwood Park to the cenotaph to mark 2013 Remembrance Day with members from the local RSL. I was very proud of our students at the ceremony. They spoke and read confidently and showed great respect for the occasion. Many students were keen to be part of the ceremony and the students were readers, flag monitors, PA technicians and flower bearers. Well done senior students.

Family Photos
Thank you to the PFA and Kym Griffiths for the recent family photo fundraising activity. Kym takes beautiful photos and many families took the opportunity to have photos. If you missed out and would like to organise some photos please contact Kym Griffiths.

Gembrook Market
Thank you to the Kee and Bourne families who organised our BBQs at the market this year. The money raised from the market and other fund raising activities this year will be used for playground upgrades. We are looking to surface the area between the multi and the art room and to install some new playground equipment.

Thank you Lara for staking many trees around the school that had fallen over due to the heavy winds that we have had at Gembrook in recent times.

Chaplain in Schools Program Survey
Gembrook Primary School continues to receive Federal funding for the Chaplaincy in Schools Program. Tim Dewar is the school’s chaplain. He is involved in many whole school activities and supports many students individually or in small groups. If you believe your child would benefit with some support from Tim, please contact the school office. Each year we are required to survey our community in regard to the chaplaincy program. Please complete the following survey and return to the school office.

Take care and have a great week.

Kym Peterson
Principal

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The School Chaplaincy Program:

Please comment on your child’s / families experience of the School Chaplain Program:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
GEMBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND P.E.A
PRESENTS
TRIVIA NIGHT
&
SILENT AUCTION
THIS SATURDAY NIGHT
18th NOVEMBER
6:00PM

URGENT!

TABLE NUMBERS ARE LOW!
DON'T MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BOOK OR JOIN A
TABLE TO SUPPORT THIS FANTASTIC FUN-RAISER
(FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS THE UPGRADE OF THE PLAYGROUND)

FAMILY FRIENDLY
GRADES 5/6 (under parental supervision)—ADULT

B.Y.O. FOOD AND DRINKS FOR YOUR TABLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE UNTIL FRIDAY
$10 PER PERSON

RAFFLE PRIZES
1st PRIZE
WII BUNDLE & GAMES
2nd PRIZE
1/2 DOZ WINE PACK, SLAB OF BEER AND
WINE/BEER BOOKS
3rd PRIZE
LADIES HANDBAG, PURSE HANNADE JEWELLERY
AND PERFUME

DOOR PRIZE
ENGRAVED BRACE FAMILY PRIZE

GAMES
COST TOSS
PAPER PLANE COMP.
POW POPS
AND MORE

AUCTION ITEMS

AND MORE

KIDS PACKS
CHRISTMAS HAMPER
HANDBAGS
DINNER VOUCHERS
FITNESS VOUCHERS
PURSES
PLANTS
BOOKS
SCHOOL UNIFORM PACKS
PHOTOGRAPHY VOUCHERS
Luna Park Passes
Run Gembrook

10km

5km

2.5km

Novelty Races

Three legged race

Sack Race

Egg & Spoon

Wife carry
SRC Fundraising for victims of Typhoon Haiyan
Monday 18 November

The SRC would like everyone’s help to raise money for all the people that have lost their homes in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan. 10,000 people have died and 9 million people have lost their homes after the most powerful tropical storm. On Monday 18th November we would like everyone to bring a silver or gold coin donation. Each class will make a money trail and the class with the longest trail will be rewarded with extra play time. The money will be given to World Vision who are helping by giving people in the Philippines food, shelter, water and health and hygiene supplies.

Thank you for your help!

The SRC

Gembrook Primary School has signed up for Vic Health’s Walk to School 2013, a month long activity that encourages children to come actively (walk, ride, scoot or skate) to and from school every day in November.

The SRC will be promoting the Walk to School program, which encourages children to make being active part of their daily routine to improve fitness, friendships, the environment and their confidence.

There are fantastic prizes up for grabs. Grades Prep to 6 are all participating in Walk to School.

Visit www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au and check the awesome prizes to be won.
## Star of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sebastien</td>
<td>Fantastic procedural writing! Keep up the good work!</td>
<td>Prep 1/B</td>
<td>Mr Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurent</td>
<td>You have been trying so hard to wait your turn during discussion time. Keep it up Laurent! Well done!</td>
<td>Prep 1/H</td>
<td>Miss Hutcheson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>For making good choices about Getting Along and working hard to complete all of your work. Well done Emily!</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Mrs O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>You worked diligently during aths Matthew. You are showing how much you know about time. What a star!</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Mrs Bigwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>You are an awesome friend Jacob! You always look out for your mates. Thank you for consistently being a positive role model and displaying excellent Getting Along skills both in and outside of the classroom.</td>
<td>3/4S</td>
<td>Miss Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>You are our computer expert, Annabelle! Thank you for assisting your classmates with the computer skills to complete their procedural texts.</td>
<td>3/4E</td>
<td>Mrs Everett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack B</td>
<td>For his fabulous Getting Along skills and commitment to all he does. Thank you Jack</td>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Mrs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layton</td>
<td>For being so organised this week and trying your best to get all tasks completed on time.</td>
<td>5/6F</td>
<td>Mrs A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lila (P/1H)</td>
<td>Lila you are working so well in Ecolearning. You are doing a great job on your environment mobile. Keep up the good work!</td>
<td>Ecolearning</td>
<td>Miss Kean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack (3/4S)</td>
<td>What a wonderful start to PE in a new school. Jack is already a great role model and shows excellent sportsmanship!</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Budin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Birthdays!!

November
- 8 Callum B
- 9 Harley & Sage D
- 10 Tyler D
- 11 Sam K
- 16 Harrison A
- 20 Bianca M

**SUMMER IS COMING!!**

Summer time means bushfire fire time!

Gembrook Primary School’s Senior Learning Centre has created a new ‘Pet Carrier Library’ program. If you’re in need of a carrier during an emergency there is one here for you @ Gembrook Primary School.

So borrow one today!

Jazmin 5/6F
Family Maths

Work as a family to solve the weekly maths puzzle and you could be rewarded with a Computer Pass to be used in your classroom. Put your entry in the box in the foyer near the office.

Have fun! MATHS IS MAvELLOUS!!

A teacher bought five flags of different countries, to use in a class activity. She added them to the flags she already had in the classroom. She borrowed four more flags, but two of these weren’t used. In the end ten flags were used in the activity. How many flags were there in the classroom already?

GOvember

Walk, ride, scoot or skate to school in November

- Walk to School is free, it’s fun and there are fantastic prizes up for grabs. Register now at www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au to get involved.

- Walking encourages fitness and helps children get the physical activity they need each day to be healthy.

- The proportion of Victorian children walking to school has declined dramatically in recent decades and obesity levels are on the rise. We all have a part to play to turn these trends around.

- Children require 60 minutes of vigorous activity every day and no more than 2 hours of TV time.

- The health benefits of children regularly walking to school reach beyond physical health. Children open up and tell you things when they are walking, they learn how to deal with situations, make decisions, explore and have fun.

- Walking also has the added benefit of reducing traffic congestion and is better for the environment.

Walk to School is a VicHealth initiative www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au

For more information contact Council’s Active Children’s Officer, Kate Beveridge on 1300787624.
The enrolment forms are available on the school website www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au. Places for each after school activity are limited so enrol early to avoid disappointment.

Please return to your child’s teacher on their return to school.

**ABSENCE NOTE**

Date/s of Absence ____________________________________________

Students Name ________________________________________________ Grade _____

Reason for absence _____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature ________________________________ Date __________
It’s not okay to be away … nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country, but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday, being absent because they stayed up too late watching television, going shopping for clothes, an extended long weekend, and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 85% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10:00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting…

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit.”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
**Fitness Class for Parents**

**When:** Wednesday morning 9.30-10.30

**NB:** There will be no class on Thursday afternoon for T4

**Where:** Gembrook Primary School multi purpose room

**Cost:** $8 per session

**What does it involve:** A mixture of fat burning cardio work, strength and toning work, core strength as well as stretching and strengthening to enhance healthy posture.

**Qualified instructor:** Certified in many fields of fitness including advanced resistance training, personal training, group fitness, cycle and zumba. (And 1st aid, of course)

**Experience:** 20 years gym, aerobics, group fitness, personal training and 15 years fitness club owner / operator.

**How fit do you need to be:** Come as you are. I encourage everyone to work at a safe level for themselves and I will guide you all the way.

**What to bring:** A drink of water, wear runners, bring a bath sized towel and.... yourself!

**Further enquiries:** Natasha, phone: 0412183329

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**Food and Blanket Bank**

If you or someone you know need help managing a challenging life event and could do with a meal, regardless of the reason, call either Tim Dewar or Pippa Goodie and we will arrange delivery of the meal to the family who needs it. We can all contribute meals to the bank or access meals when the need arises for us or someone else in our Gembrook community.

St Luke’s Anglican Church in Cockatoo is happy to support us in this effort as part of their community program. If you want to know more, help, give or collect, please call either Pippa (0408 541 658) or Tim (0400994975).

Thanks to everyone who has been able to donate their time and food.

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**New selling New Balance runners and footwear products**

New Balance Junior and Senior Black school runners 15% below RRP – correctly fitted by our Podiatrists

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Please note runners are generally ordered indirectly from our warehouse. Please allow 5 days for delivery.

Comprehensive running style assessments now also available—avoid injury, learn about the do’s and don’ts of your running technique.

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Call to book: 5968 5232  Book online at: www.msepodiatry.com.au

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**Healthy Together Victoria**
Modern Celebrations from the Heart
Carol Tokley
Registered Marriage Celebrant
Please phone for a no obligation chat
03 59682910 or 0427 682910

Contact Details
Please notify the school office if there are any changes to your contact details: email, mobile phone numbers, landlines, address, emergency contacts.
It is essential for parents/carers to be easily contacted in case of illness / emergencies.