Gembrook Primary School

Mission Statement
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

4 February 2015

Notes that have gone home
- Anaphylaxis (SLC)
- 3 Way Conference Bookings (whole school)
- Wonthaggi HPV expression of interest (SLC)
- Grade 6 transition to ESC term 1
- Science Incursion-Circus Experiment (Grade 1-6)
- Mother Goose Pre-school Program (all families)

All notices are available on the school website: www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au

Subject contributions are due by 13 February
For families paying by instalments, the first instalment is due on 15 February.
Fees can be paid by Cash, EFPOS, BPay, Qkr Mastercard App, Direct Debit payment plan or Centrepay

MEDICAL INFO!
- Please inform the school office if your child suffers from a medical condition.
- If medicine is required at school please ensure it is supplied to the school office with clear instructions. Eg Asthma puffer, Panadol, antihistamine etc.
- A medication authority plan (available from the school office) must also be filled in.
- All asthma plans must be updated every year. If your child is due for an updated plan please contact your doctor for a new assessment and give a copy to the school office.
Dear families & friends

Welcome back to the school year at Gembrook! I hope that you enjoyed the summer months and had a restful and enjoyable time with your family.

It has been a fantastic start to the school year! Our teaching team have prepared an exciting and challenging learning program for the year. All the Learning Centres have settled well and have made a brilliant start. Everyone looks great in their school uniform. It has been very pleasing to see everyone arriving at school before 9:00am, ensuring students are part of the start of the day, are more settled, and don’t miss out on important daily organisational information. Thank you to all parents for your support in preparing for a great start to school.

Gembrook Primary School community warmly welcomes new students and their families to our school. Welcome to new students - Sonia, Tobias and Eva. Our school community also welcomes our foundation students as they start their school years.

Teaching and learning Programs
The classroom teaching and learning programs are well underway. 3 way conferences (parent, teacher and student) will be held next week. A notice regarding this has been sent home. Please check the school website for online booking.

Literacy and Numeracy intervention programs are beginning. Students involved in these programs have been notified by letter. If you have any questions regarding any of these programs do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Chaplaincy Program
The school was successful in gaining funding for a chaplain. This program will now be funded through the state government with different requirements. The school is in the process of securing a chaplain through this new process.

Tim Dewar has decided to continue his teaching career and will not be returning to our school as a chaplain. Tim was a valuable member of our school team and we wish him all the very best with his teaching.

Production - The Enchanted Faraway Tree
The term 1 performance for the whole school will be a production of ‘The Enchanted Faraway Tree’. Auditions have been held for the main characters and all grades will be part of this very special event. The whole school performance will be on Wednesday March 25th at Emerald Secondary College in the Performing Arts Centre.

Classroom Helpers
All parents / carers are warmly invited to assist in the classrooms. Please speak to the classroom teachers and arrange a time that suits you to be part of the class activities. Alternatively you are invited to join School Council or the PFA. School council meets once a month and is involved in school governance. Many previous members of the PFA team have moved on to secondary school leaving our school community in great need of about 4-6 parents for this team. Please come along to the first PFA meeting of the year in the staffroom on Wednesday 18 February at 6:00pm.

Parents / carers assisting in the classrooms are required to have a Working With Children Check. The forms can be downloaded from the internet: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au. Please provide a copy to the school office for our records. If you are able to assist in the classrooms, please remember to sign in at the front office. We appreciate your support.

Gembrook is a SunSmart school and all students are required to wear a hat when outside.

At school we encourage students to drink water throughout the day. Please send along a named water bottle for use in the classroom.
This year students throughout the school will use diaries to record home reading and school events. We will also use them to communicate between home and school. Students are expected to practice the skills they are learning at school by reading on most days and recording this in their diary. Please help your child pack and bring their diaries to school every day. Thank you for supporting your child in making this a regular part of the school day.

Children are our most vulnerable road users and to address this road safety issue, school speed zones with lower speed limits are used around all schools. Motorists should be aware that children in traffic are not like adults. They can be unpredictable and because they are small, they can be hard to see. So take extra care and slow down when you drive past our school.

You Can Do It Program
The four You Can Do It keys of Organisation, Persistence, Getting Along and Confidence are an integral part of the social skills program at Gembrook Primary School. RESPECT is the value that is promoted in all grades, in all learning centres, in the playground and in all areas of the school community.

Canteen Café 91
This year Café 91 will be providing the canteen lunch orders on a Friday. A menu is included in the newsletter and is available on the school website. Please write your lunch order on a brown paper bag. Lunch orders will start this Friday.

Vale Tony Borg
It is with great sadness that I inform our school community of the recent death of Tony Borg, the past president of the Gembrook RSL. Tony was a wonderful supporter of the school and attended many assemblies and ceremonies.
# Gembrook Primary School Canteen Menu
(from Café 91, Gembrook)
**Available on Fridays only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sandwiches – Wholemeal Bread</th>
<th>Wraps – Half - $3.00 or Full - $5.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegemite - $2.00</td>
<td>Chicken, Cheese or Ham with Salad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese - $2.00</td>
<td>Salad only – $2.50 or $4.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egg &amp; Lettuce - $3.00</td>
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<td>Ham - $3.00</td>
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<td>Salad - $2.50</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken, Tuna or Ham with Salad - $3.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Salads**

- Salad only - $2-50 – lettuce, tomato, carrot, celery & cucumber
- Salad with boiled egg - $3.00
- Salad with Mushroom $3.00
- Salad with Feta Cheese $3.00

**Savoury Foods**

- Quiche - $1.00 each or 3 for $2.50
- Warm Baked Beans or Spaghetti - $2.00
- Muffins – $1.50 each or 3 for $4.00 (tomato, feta cheese, spinach, egg & gluten free flour)
- Bolognaise Bake - $4.50
- Scallopated Potatoes - $4.00
- Boiled Eggs - $0.80 each
- Stuffed Mushrooms – 2 for $5.00 (choice of cheese, tomato, capsicum & ham)

**Snacks**

- Carrot sticks - $1.00
- Celery sticks - $1.00
- Carrot & celery - $1.00
- Cheese Sticks $1.00 each
- Carrot & Celery with Hommus dip - $1.50
- Cheese cubes, carrot & celery sticks - $1.75

**Sweet Muffins - Chocolate or Blueberry - $1.00**

**Drinks**

- Soy Milk or Milk - $1.00
- Gluten Free Flavoured Milk $1.50 - Chocolate or Strawberry
- Sunraysia Organic Fruit Juices - $2.00 - Apple, Apple & Blackcurrant or Tropical

Please write your Name/Grade & Order on a Paper Bag and enclose Correct Money.

10c will be charged to orders that do not have a Paper bag.

All Foodstuffs are made on the premises wherever possible and are generally

Gluten & Dairy free.

Queries contact Cafe 91 on 59681289
Children with Nut Product Allergies
A most important issue for us is the growing number of children who suffer from a variety of allergies. Most serious are those allergic to nuts and nut products, and their severe reaction is known as anaphylaxis. At Gembrook, we have a number of children who are in this category.

The teaching staff have a number of procedures in place to ensure that appropriate precautions are in place. Parents are requested to be very conscious of the danger that nuts and nut products (e.g. peanut butter, nutella chocolate spread) pose for these children.

We ask you to support the health of these children by not sending peanut products to school in your children’s lunches. Peanut butter for breakfast and dinner but not for lunch! If you are sending food for sharing, perhaps a birthday, we ask that we are informed prior to the time, so that the parents of these children are given the opportunity to provide a special treat for them on the day.

Conveyance Allowance 2015
Applications are now available for conveyance allowance for Term 1.
This allowance is available to Gembrook Primary School students who use a private car to travel to school and who live 4.8k or more by the shortest practicable route from the school or the last stop on the school bus route and attend the nearest appropriate school at which admission is possible.
Your application is valid for the entire school year if your circumstances do not change.

Application Forms are available at the school office and should be submitted to the school by Friday 27th February. More information about the Conveyance Allowance Program is available at [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/conveyance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/conveyance.aspx)

School Banking for Students
Will be processed on Thursdays. Drop bank books at the office or put in the class room tub.

Accident Insurance & Ambulance Cover
This is a reminder for school families that the Department does not provide accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. The cost of any medical attention or ambulance for a student will be borne by the parent/guardian. Parents are liable for all medical expenses incurred because of student injury, including transport costs such as ambulance or air ambulance costs.

Contact Details
If you have updated your contact details, please let the office know. It is important the school is able to easily contact you in case of an emergency.

Working with Children Check
All parent volunteers need a working with children check. Forms are available online from the Victorian Department of Justice. [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/)
We have a school app

We are now using an app to send instant messages, newsletters, and notices. The tiqbiz app will help our school keep parents fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news, and events. It’s easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

The first step is to download tiqbiz to your phone, tablet, computer... or all of them.

Find and tick our school

1. Log-in
   Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.

2. Find our school
   Click the ‘Find’ icon and type our school name into the search bar. You will now see all of our school boxes.

3. Tick
   Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other boxes that apply to you.

4. Inbox
   Click on the inbox icon. This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters, notices and calendar events.

If there is a bushfire, flood, severe storm or other major emergency near you, the emergency services may choose to warn you by text to your mobile or a voice message to your home phone.

Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning system. It uses the address where your phone is registered and the actual location of your mobile to reach you:

- when your home or school is near an emergency
- when you are travelling with your mobile near an emergency

When the emergency services use the telephone warning system:

- a home phone within the warning area may receive a recorded voice message that begins with “Emergency, Emergency”, and/or
- a mobile phone that is switched on and in an area of mobile coverage may receive a text message.

The service is free and you do not need to register.

The warning message will tell you:

- which emergency service sent the message e.g. CFA
- about the emergency and where it is
- what you should do to stay safe
- where you can get more information.

All telephone warnings come from the official number:
+61 444 444 444

EMERGENCY ALERT. BE WARNED. BE INFORMED.

Example Text Alert

From: +61 444 444 444

EMERGENCY WARNING FROM CFA
Fire in Pohlner’s Road area. Visitors to Grampians National Park should leave now. Check local radio or visit emergency.vic.gov.au

Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert system.
If they receive a warning message on the home phone or a warning text on their personal mobile, encourage them to stay calm and show or repeat the message to a responsible adult they know, such as a relative or teacher.

If adults are not around, encourage them to follow the action given in the alert.

For more information about the system, visit emergencyalert.gov.au and watch the video (it’s in 30 languages).

In an emergency, do not rely just on your telephone for a warning.

- Stay aware of your surroundings
- Listen to local radio
- Visit emergency.vic.gov.au
- Download the FireReady app
- Go to facebook.com/cfavic
- Follow @CFA_Updates on Twitter
Qkr update for 2015
The Qkr payment app has been updated to reflect your child’s new home group for 2015. If you had already joined Qkr in 2014 you will be prompted to update your child’s records. This process only occurs once a year and will ensure you are able to see all payments relevant to your child’s new year level and grade in 2015.

For quicker, hassle-free 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.
Manage your children’s details

- Add your child’s details and photo
- Tap to add another child
- Tap the student card to edit details on that child
- Tap to show Manage Children option

Purchase school items

Add multiple payment cards

Pay with any scheme credit, debit or pre-paid card accepted by the school. At checkout, you can select from any of your registered cards.

Safe and Secure MasterCard Technology

We want your feedback!

Please send your comments or suggestions on how the Qkr service could be improved to the school office.
Science

In 2014, Gembrook Primary School was chosen to be a part of the Science in Schools Program, a government initiative to ensure our children are engaged and interested Science learners in Primary School and better prepared to undertake Scientific study in the future.

In 2015 we will continue to teach Science for two hours a week, and all staff will be mentored by our two Science Specialists, Jude Everett and Christian Fraser.

Our Foundation students will be exploring how things move in their “On the Move” unit. They will explore the push and pull forces they can use to move objects in various ways such as sliding, bouncing and spinning.

The Grades 1 and 2 unit “Push, Pull” will also see students observe and gather evidence about how these forces act in air and water and on the ground.

Smooth Moves” is the title of the Grades 3 and 4 unit and it provides students with the opportunity to explore forces and motion.

The SLC/Grade 6’s will be studying how energy is used to make changes in the world, including energy from the sun, water and wind, in their unit, “Essential Energy”.

A Science Incursion has been planned for Monday 16 February for students in Grades 1-6. More information at a later date.
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Dear Parents,

Next year, as we continue our Science Program at Gembrook Primary School, we need your help! To support our science activities we would love you to collect items at home and send them along at the start of 2015.

We require:
- glass jars (especially Dolmio)
- yoghurt containers
- icecream containers
- plastic bottle lids
- clean tin cans
- metal patty pans (eg. mince pie containers)
- styrofoam meat trays
- postage tubes
- bubble wrap
- unwanted metal bolts and screws
- electrical wire (especially copper wire)
- 500ml water bottles
- 1.25 plastic soft drink bottles
- unwanted fish tanks (preferably smaller ones)
- unwanted balls - eg. rubber bouncy balls, marbles
tennis balls
- cardboard rolls from paper towel and glad wrap (no toilet rolls)
- shoe boxes
- margarine containers
- strawberry containers
- small white buckets with lids
- large vitamin containers

Any other donations of science based educational items would be greatly appreciated.

Thank-you
Christian Fraser and Jude Everett
Science Coordinators
Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online

Students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior. We put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students – one that promotes tolerance and is inclusive, harmonious and free from bullying.

We can work towards this goal through education in the classroom, intervention in the playground and a focus on promoting positive behavior.

However, with the rise of social media, bullying now occurs online, as well as in person. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

Cyberbullying is an increasing issue in the wider community – and the best way to tackle it is for schools, students and parents to work in partnership.

Gembrook Primary School is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice Netiquette. Available from 10 February, students in years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school.

These resources, called Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers - visit the site to find out more.

All school speed zone limits across the state are clearly signposted. Look out for the speed signs near schools and slow down to improve safety for our children.
From September to April, use a combination of these five sun protection measures to keep your skin well protected. Particular care should be taken between 10am–2pm (11am–3pm daylight saving time) when UV Index levels reach their peak.
February

2  Jayda
4  Tayla H
    Mackenzie B
7  Hollie K
    Jacob B
10 Nathan K
    Jeremy M
11 James L

Leawood Eucalypt Honey
For sale from school office
School Council Fundraiser
Delicious honey
$6 per 500g tub

Independent reading in 1T
Gembrook Primary
Outside Hours School Care
2015

Term 1
Gembrook Kids Before School Care
Every day 7.30-8.45am
Cereal & toast served
Fun activities to start the day!
$10 per session
Sessions begin Friday 30 January 2015

Term 1
Gembrook Kids Art
After school Monday 3:30-5:00pm
A great opportunity for kids to develop their creativity
$160 per child for 8 weeks of activities
Commencing Monday 2 February 2015
Casual bookings available $20/session

Term 1
Gembrook Kids Tues & Thurs
After School Care
After school Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:30-6:00pm
Fun activities and snacks with Caitlin Carter
$192 for 8 weeks (Tues)
$192 for 8 weeks (Thurs)
Sessions begin Tuesday 3 February
Casual bookings available for $26 per session

Term 1
Gembrook Kids Cooking
After school Friday 3:30-5:00pm
A great opportunity for kids to have fun & develop confidence in the kitchen!
$180 per child for 9 weeks of activities
Commencing Friday 30 January 2015
Casual bookings available $20/session

NB: Please ensure you have registered through Centrelink for the Childcare Rebate & Childcare Benefit to enable you to claim a 50% rebate.
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DEECD Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days’ notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, email & phone. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan — on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility’s grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.gembrookps.vic.gov.au and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 867.
**T20 BLAST COMES TO GEMBROOK**

T20 Blast is an exciting, innovative way for boys and girls between the ages of 7-9 to get into cricket.

We are very excited that T20 Blast is coming to Gembrook Sports Ground this Monday 9 February between 5.00PM and 6.30PM.

It's free, it's fun and anyone can come – even if you have never played cricket before.

Canteen will be open, lots of kids will be there and the program will be run by Cricket Victoria representatives.

For further details contact Cris Deacon on 0408 324398, or just come on down.
Gembrook Netball Club
are holding their
2015 Winter Comp Registration

When: Thursday 12 February 2015
Where: Gembrook Primary School
Time: 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Cost: $50 deposit on the day.
Club fees payable on the day also or by week 4.
Payable by cash EPTPOS, Chq, Direct Deposit

Ages: 7 & up
   Netta 7-10
   U 11’s, U13’s, U15’s, U17’s

Contact details are on the rego form
**Community Page**

**TRAVELMANAGERS**

Mark Devers  
Personal Travel Manager  
T: 1300 365 901  
M: 0425 970 322  
E: mark.devers@travelmanagers.com.au  
my.travelmanager.com.au/MarkDevers  
ATN: 305 13 205 238 Member of AAT, APA, Com  

**Need help with EOFY Books?**  
Call Tracy 03 5968 1297  
Certificate III Financial Services  
(Accounts Clerical)  
Certificate IV Financial Services  
(Bookkeeping)  
Experience with MYOB  
Hourly rate negotiable

**Gembrook Primary School**  
Warmly thanks Andrew & Gembrook IGA for their continued support of the school with their generous donation of fruit for Free Fruit Fridays.

**MALONEY’S PIZZA**

**Pakenham & Warragul**

**Pakenham Mechanical**

**Shields Painting**  
Domestic and Commercial Work  
Matthew Shields  
Quality Finish Guaranteed  
P.O Box 164  
Gembrook 3785  
Mob: 0492397777  
Home/Fax: 03 5968 1585  
shieldspainting@bigpond.com

**Reach gymnastics**

Enrolments are now open for Reach Gymnastics. Based at Emerald Secondary College, classes will be run from the beginning of Term 1, 2015 on Friday evenings. Our classes are based on the 4’s, fun, fitness, fundamentals and friends. Classes will be run by qualified and registered coaches and incorporate gymnastics for boys and girls. Enquire with Rebecca Tilley on 0402 723 320 or reachgymnastics@gmail.com for enrolment information. Limited places available so enquire quickly!

**Kruse TUTORING**

Small Group Tutoring Sessions  
Taught by a Qualified Primary School Teacher  
Competitive Prices  
Current Australian Tutoring Association member  

For Further Details Contact:  
Susan 0473 172 965  
Email: kruse.tutoring@gmail.com  
facebook.com/krustutoring