**Mission Statement**

*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

**Vision:** To provide every student with every opportunity to be the best they can be.

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### 11 February 2015

#### Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>School Assembly: Yr 6 Jacket &amp; Leadership Badge presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>The Circus Experiment: whole school incursion ($5) Scholastic Book Club Orders Due Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Grades 3-6 Cost: $15 PFA first meeting for 2015 in staffroom. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Feb</td>
<td>EDEC Swimming Carnival Produce Market 4/SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>School Council 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Student online safety grades 3-6 @ 2pm Parent online safety session 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Presentation Evening 6pm (All Learning Centres)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Junior Sports Afternoon 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Labour Day: Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Foundation students full time at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>School Captains Leadership Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>Family Movie Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Thomas the Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Produce Market 1/2L</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>EDEC Athletics Carnival Foundation Family Night 5:45 School Council 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>The Enchanted Faraway Tree Production @ ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Last day term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 / 29 March</td>
<td>Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Notes that have gone home

- Parent Volunteers Needed (whole school)
- Swimming Carnival Grades 3-6
- Book Club
- EDEC Swimming Carnival (aged 9 & over)
- 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](http://www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au)

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### 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

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### Scholastic Book Orders

*Scholastic Book Orders are due on Monday 16 Feb.*

*No late orders can be taken.*
Dear families & friends
Welcome to our Foundation students and their families. The girls and boys have made a fantastic start! We have 23 students starting school their first year of school.

Murrundindi Cultural Incursion
Wurundjeri Elder, Murrundindi, visited Gembrook Primary School this week. He talked about Wurundjeri culture and language. Throughout his presentation he talked about the importance of Respect. Our school value is Respect and he was able to speak to the students about how important it is to respect one another and the environment. Murrundindi conducted a ceremony to start the school year. Thank you to our parents who were able to be part of this experience. There was no cost for this incursion.

Presentation Assembly – Friday 14 February
I invite all families to come along to the assembly this Friday. Year 6 students will receive their jackets. Student leadership, eco warriors and SRC members will receive their badges.

Emergency Contacts
Please ensure that your up-to-date mobile number and email address are provided to the school office ASAP. The school aims to keep parents informed. Newsletters will be emailed each week. Information is posted on the school website. Notices sent home can be accessed from the school website. Please download the app Tiqbiz. School information is posted on Tiqbiz as another means of communication. (If you require more information about Tiqbiz please contact the school office.)

Learning Centre Newsletters and keeping up to date with the many school events and activities
Learning Centre newsletters have been emailed home this week and are posted on the website. Learning centre newsletters are sent home at the beginning of each term. Students present information from their learning centre at assembly each week. Student diaries also have important information about what is happening at school.

There will be a parent information session for all learning centres on Thursday 6 March at 6:00pm. There will be a Foundation (Prep) Family night on Wednesday 18 March at 5.45pm.
3 Way conferences
Thank you to the many parents who have come along to 3 way conferences this week. The conferences are a valuable means of communication between parent, teacher and child. You will hear what your child has to say about their leaning goals for the year and share information with the class teacher. If you have not made a time and would like to meet with the class teacher please contact the class teacher directly to arrange one at a mutually convenient time.

Swimming Carnival Wednesday 18 February
The school swimming carnival for students in grades 3-6 is on next Wednesday 18 Feb. It will be a fun day and there will be an opportunity for all students to participate in pool events. We will be at Belgrave pool from about 10:00am until about 1:00pm. Parents and families are invited to come along to cheer and join in the fun. Parent helpers are also needed to assist with the events. Please remember to pack the sunblock and school hats!

Gembrook Market School BBQ Sun 22 February
The school is fortunate to be able to have four BBQs at the Gembrook Market each year. The Kee and Bourne families organise the rosters and the purchasing. They do a FANTASTIC job and their contributions are appreciated. Cooks and assistants are needed.

Before School and After school (Outside School Hours Care- OSHC) programs
Gembrook Primary School offers a comprehensive range of fun after school programs including art, martial arts and cooking. There is before and after school care available every day of the school week. If you would like to enrol your children either on a casual or permanent basis please contact the school office. The Breakfast Club is currently operating every day of the school week. If you are interested in this program please contact the school office to make a booking. All OSHC programs are eligible for fee relief.

PFA – Parents and Friends meeting Wednesday 18 February @ 6:00pm
The PFA team is an important part of our school community. Last year the team raised nearly $5500. In the past money raised by PFA has contributed to various projects around the school including: the seating outside the library, the rock wall and the turf for the front of the school. Not only does the PFA team raise money for improving school facilities, they also provide support for the students and the learning program by promoting healthy eating events, such as smoothie day, and community events, such as Family and Friends Day. We are in need of new members for this team so please consider this invitation. Please come along to the staffroom for a wine & cheese meeting to discuss PFA 2015.

School Council Elections
It is time to call for nominations for Gembrook Primary School Council. Gembrook Primary School Council meets twice a term. The Council consists of teachers and parents. School Council oversees all aspects of the management of the school including finances, policies and facilities. Gembrook Primary School has parent vacancies for one year and two year terms. More information about the business of school council is included in the newsletter. If you are interested please contact me, Jodie Cunliffe, School Council President or other school councillors.

Enjoy your week.

Kym
Principal
What is school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category—more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category—members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category—members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- Standing for election as a member of the school council
- Encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received that there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember:
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Kym Peterson for further information
Help your kids manage their asthma

Checklist for Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?</td>
<td>The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated &amp; signed by the doctor on an annual basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?</td>
<td>Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?</td>
<td>Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you listen to what your child says?</td>
<td>They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?</td>
<td>Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria. FREECALL 1800 278 462. asthma.org.au
PFA Wine & Cheese Information Night and AGM
Wednesday 18th February 6.00pm
Gembrook Primary School staff room

Are you looking for new easy fun ways to join the school community? Do you have a few hours free once or twice a term? This year the Parents & Friends Association (PFA) warmly welcomes new members to help plan special events and fundraise for exciting facilities for our children.

Come along to our first wine and cheese night for 2015 on Wednesday 18th Feb at 6.00pm in the Gembrook Primary school staff room. We are a great bunch of mums with children in a variety of year levels and we enjoy a good chat. We hope to see you there.

SCHOOL APPS

The school uses two apps to help with the communication flow (tiqbiz) and to enable quicker, hassle free school payments. (qkr). Both apps are easy to download to your phone, computer, tablet. If you need assistance or further information, please contact the school office.

Gembrook RSL-5000 Poppies

To commemorate the ANZAC centenary, people from all around Australia are knitting or crocheting poppies—to be displayed in Federation Square on ANZAC day this year. If you knit or crotchet and would like to be involved in this project please contact the Gembrook RSL or the school office.

Google 5000 Poppies for patterns
Dear Gembrook Primary School Parents,

Junior Rockers would like to wish all in the Gembrook Primary School community a very Happy and Safe Holiday period.

Farewell to our Grade 6 students. We wish you all the best at High School.

For all our other students, we look forward to seeing you back in 2015.

To anyone who is not involved with Junior Rockers, we currently offer lessons in guitar, singing, keyboard/piano, and drums. The lessons are run weekly around the specialist timetable.

For more information or to apply for lessons go to:
www.juniorrockers.com/apply
or contact us on 1300 46 7625.

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

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.
February
15 Laiken

Book Club Orders for Issue 1 2015 are due back by Monday 16 February

Scholastic have changed their catalogues to make the ordering process easier! One catalogue for each age level means only one order form to fill out, easier for students and a better age appropriate selection. EXTRA! Is still in the back of each catalogue.

LOOP (Linked Online Ordering Payment System for Parents) is now available. Go online to order and pay for your child’s books. Books will still be distributed to your child at school.

Don’t forget, for every purchase you make, our school receives reward points to purchase new books.

Happy Ordering!

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.

Foundation H
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 & newsletter. 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.
ZUCCHINI RELISH
(from the kitchen of Stuart Watson, our favourite gardener)

1.5 kg zucchinis
0.75 kg brown onions
½ cup salt
Water to cover the vegies
4 cups malt vinegar (brown)
1 kg raw sugar

DRY INGREDIENTS:
2 teaspoons turmeric
2 teaspoons dry mustard powder
2 teaspoons curry powder
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
1 cup plain flour

Dice zucchinis and onions and place in a large saucepan and cover with water.
Add salt and leave overnight.
Drain the vegies and rinse well.
While vegies are draining place 3 cups of vinegar and the sugar into the same saucepan and bring to the boil.
Once boiling add the vegies back into the saucepan with the vinegar and sugar.
Boil for a few minutes. Test the zucchini as we don't want the zucchini too soft.
In a separate bowl mix the dry ingredients with the remaining cup of vinegar.
Take pot off heat, cool a little then add the dry ingredient mix to the saucepan. MIX WELL.
Put saucepan back on medium heat and stir until it thickens.
Reduce heat and simmer for 5-10min.
Take off stove, cool and spoon into sterilized jars.

CHEF’S TIPS:
Dice the vegies finer for a less chunky relish.
If slack when dicing, wand the brew before spooning into jars.
This can make about 8-10 jars of various sizes.
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

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

Is a career working with children for you?
Study local, qualify National at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.
Learn in a supported, small class with exceptional trainers. We will help get you qualified.
ONLY 4 PLACES LEFT – ACT NOW
Phone 03 5944 3484

CHC30213 (Teachers Aide)
CERTIFICATE III IN
EDUCATION SUPPORT
Begins Friday 20th Feb
Classes: Friday 9.30 to 2.30

CHC50113
DIPLOMA OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION & CARE
Begins Monday 16th Feb
Classes: Monday and Tuesday
6.30 to 9.30pm

CHC30113
CERTIFICATE III IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION & CARE
Begins Monday 16th Feb
Classes: Monday and Tuesday
6.30 to 9.30pm
Training Provider is Merinda Park ECD 3195
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.