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

18 February 2015

Diary Dates

- 23 Feb: EDEC Swimming Carnival
  Produce Market 4/5A
- 25 Feb: School Council 7pm
- 4 March: Student online safety grades 3-6 @ 2pm
  Parent online safety session 6pm
- 5th March: House Athletics Carnival Grades 3—6
- 6 March: Presentation Evening 6pm (All Learning Centres)
- 11 March: Junior Sports Afternoon 2pm
- 9 March: Labour Day: Public Holiday
- 11 March: Foundation students full time at school
- 12 March: School Captains Leadership Day
- 13 March: Family Movie Night
- 14 March: Thomas the Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser
- 15 March: Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser
- 16 March: Produce Market 1/2L
- 18 March: EDEC Athletics Carnival
  Foundation Family Night 5:45
  School Council 7pm
- 21 March: Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC
- 22 March: Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC
- 25 March: The Enchanted Faraway Tree Production @ ESC
- 27 March: Last day term 1
- 28 / 29 March: Thomas The Tank Engine Car Park: School Council Fundraiser TBC

Notes that have gone home
- Parent Volunteers Needed (whole school)
- Mother Goose Pre-school Program (all families)
- Measles alert
- School Production information

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

PFA Wine & Cheese Information Night and AGM
Wednesday 18th February 6.00pm
Gembrook Primary School staff room
TONIGHT

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.
Congratulations to all our fantastic swimmers in grades 3-6! We had a wonderful day at Belgrave Outdoor heated pool today. It was great to see everyone in the pool doing their best and having so much fun. The House Captains were great leaders on the day. Well done senior school students. Thank you to the many parents who were able to come along and cheer for our swimmers and a special thank you to the parents who were able to assist. Thank you to Tabitha O’Brien, our physical education teacher for the great organisation of our swimming carnival. This year we are sending a large team to the EDEC swimming trials on Monday February 23. We wish them all the very best!

Murrundindi, Wurundjeri Elder visit to Gembrook

Last week Gembrook Primary School was privileged to have Murrundindi, a local Wurundjeri elder visit our school. While he was at the school he spoke to the students about indigenous culture and language. While Murrundindi was at school he conducted a traditional ceremony to start the school year.

School Council Elections

The next School Council meeting is Wednesday February 25 at 7:00pm in the staffroom. At this stage there are one two year position and two one year positions available for parent nominations. A notice regarding nominating for School Council was distributed last week and more information is on the following page. Nominations close Monday February 23. Parents on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Please consider this opportunity.

Student Leadership

Students at all levels of schooling at Gembrook have an opportunity to be part of student leadership teams. It is through these teams that students are able to voice their opinions and ideas for the school and for the wider community. The School Captains-Ashlee and William have made a brilliant start at the leading the weekly assemblies. The SRC team have met and have already planned an event to raise money for Felistas, the school’s sponsored World Vision child. The Eco Warriors around the school are reminding everyone about the importance of looking after the environment through recycling, reducing and reusing. The House Captains were brilliant leaders at the swimming sports and they have a number of events in this first term that they are assisting with, including the junior sports afternoon. At last week’s assembly these student leaders received leadership badges. At the assembly all year 6 students also received their leadership jackets. I am sure each and every student leader this year will make the most of these leadership opportunities. I congratulate all these students and wish them well for the year. I would also like to thank Andrew from Gembrook IGA for presenting these leadership badges and jackets and for also generously supporting Gembrook Primary School.
**Free Fruit Friday – Gembrook IGA**
Thank you to Andrew from Gembrook IGA for kindly providing fruit for each student every Friday of the school year. Thank you Gembrook IGA!

**DEECD Reminder**
Parents/guardians please be aware that families of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

---

**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
What has been happening in Science this Week?

On Monday, Ben and Simon from the Westside Circus came to present their Circus Experiment Show to Grades 1-6.

They explained how push and pull forces happen in everyday life, and particularly when performing circus tricks.

Some students helped Ben and Simon with their demonstrations.

All students practised their juggling skills whilst investigating how the force of gravity combined with a push creates an arc.
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.

Patterns are now available at the school office for knitting and crochet.
REMEMBERING THE 32

EMERALD
ANZAC WALK
&
ANZAC PLACE
OPENING CEREMONY

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GALLIPOLI

Project to be officially opened by:

HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL THE HONOURABLE
SIR PETER COSGROVE AK MC (RETD)

11:30am Wednesday March 11th
Memorial Avenue, Emerald

WE NEED YOU!!
Come along in Period Costume
and be a part of a Unique Event

Register at the Post Office
or email
terry.goddes@hotmail.com
or ken@kenpurdham.com
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. www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/
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. E.g., 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.

Cybersmart is a national cybersafety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Australian Government’s commitment to cybersafety. The program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children, young people, parents and teachers.

4th March 2015
Student online safety session grades 3-6 @ 2pm

Parent online safety session 6pm

cyber(smart:)
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.

CASUAL BOOKINGS AVAILABLE ALL SESSIONS
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 & SMS. 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.
Aussie Hoops is Basketball Australia’s official junior game development program for children aged 5—10 years.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**WHEN:** From Sat. 21st February - Sat. 9th May (10 weeks excl. holidays)

**WHERE:**
- Cockatoo Reserve Stadium
  Mountain Road, Cockatoo
  Mel Ref 311 J3;
- and
- Monbulk College Stadium
  David Hill Road, Monbulk
  Mel Ref 311 J3

**TIME:** 10:00am until 11:00am

**COST:**
- $70 for new players
- $50 for returning players

**All Participants Receive:**
- 1 x Peak Aussie Hoops backpack
- 1 x Spalding size 5 Aussie Hoops basketball
- 1 x Peak Aussie Hoops reversible singlet.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Email: hoops@sherbrookebasketball.asn.au (Preferred)
Pam Ball Mob: 0401 996 046 (only after 6pm)

Detach and bring with cheque made payable to: Sherbrooke B.A., P.O. Box 1121, Upwey. 3158.

Name: ........................................................................ Age: .......................................................... Birthdate: ........................................ Gender: M/F

Address: ........................................................................................................................................

Postcode: ......................................... Phone number: .......................................................... What school do you attend?: ...................................................

Parents Names: ................................................................................................................................

Do you require any medication? Y / N If yes, for what condition?: ...................................................

Singlet size:  8  10  12  14  Email Address: ..................................................................................


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

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL CLUB
JUNIOR REGISTRATION DAY for Under 9s, 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s
DATE: Sunday 22-02-2015
LOCATION: Gembrook Sports Ground
TIME: 11am to 2pm
Jumpers for all players provided, and helmets provided for U9s and 10s
Any enquiries or if you wish to register but can’t make it call
Chris Bourne on 0417506690

GEMBROOK COCKATOO FOOTBALL CLUB
JUNIOR REGISTRATION DAY for Under 9s, 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s
DATE: Sunday 22-02-2015
LOCATION: Gembrook Sports Ground
TIME: 11am to 2pm
Jumpers for all players provided, and helmets provided for U9s and 10s
Any enquiries or if you wish to register but can’t make it call
Chris Bourne on 0417506690

Yarra Ranges Athletics presents:
Family Fun Night Fundraiser
Saturday 28th February 2015 6-9 p.m
Morrison Reserve Athletics Track,
Burdap Drive, Mt Evelyn
Heaps of activities for the whole family!
Free entry - ticket prices for some activities
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.