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

Value: Respect.

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 succeed in a global society.

15 December 2016

Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>Last day of term 4, 1.30pm pick up</td>
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2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>School office reopens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb 2017</td>
<td>First student day of Term 1 2017: Grades 1-6 Preps will have a staggered entry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last lunch order for the term will be Monday 19 December

Thank you Gembrook Primary School for your support this year. We wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.
Tracy and April

Friday lunch special: $1 pasta bolognaise

Many thanks to the following sponsors who donated items for the Christmas Raffle

Harvey Norman, Fountain Gate
Gumbya Park
Livio Drive Nursery
School Families

We appreciate your support
Dear Families and Friends,

Well, the past semester has absolutely flown by, and here we are at the end of the school year (and our final newsletter for 2016!). I cannot even begin to convey to you just how much I’ve loved coming to Gembrook Primary School and having the privilege of working with you all. I have discovered that Gembrook Primary School is full to the brim with wonderful kids, staff, parents and friends. As I reflect on this fantastic and somewhat busy semester, I am grateful for all the support and encouragement the entire school community have given me. I must also make special mention of our wonderful teachers and staff, who have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that students and in particular, student achievement, engagement and wellbeing is the primary focus at Gembrook. Thank you also to our School Council and Parent and Friends Association members who work so hard for our school. As I’ve said before, Gembrook Primary School is such a great TEAM!

Finally, I’d like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy, safe and restful holiday. I hope you get to spend lots of time with loved ones, family and friends and I can’t wait to see you all in 2017 for another fantastic year of learning at Gembrook Primary School!

Parent helpers and volunteers morning tea

It was great to see the staffroom full of parent helpers and volunteers on Tuesday at recess to enjoy a delicious morning tea. It was really just a small gesture of appreciation for everything that our wider school community does to help us in many varied ways. It was fantastic hearing lots of lively banter over a ‘cuppa and cake’ and it reminded me of the outstanding community ‘spirit’ that exists at Gembrook.

Farewell to families:

As we come to the end of the 2016 school year, it is time to say farewell (triginin!) to families who are leaving Gembrook Primary School.

Thank you to the McCoey, Madden, Williams, Shields, Orbitani and White families for the great contribution you have made to Gembrook Primary School over the years. We will miss you and we wish you all the very best for the future.

Farewell to staff:

On Tuesday we say farewell and thank you to Kerry Saunders for the significant contribution made over many years at Gembrook PS, both as a parent and as a much loved and valued Education Support Staff member. We wish you all the very best Kerry, we’ll miss you!

Farewell also to Barry Callister who has headed up our Junior Rockers music program superbly for several years. Barry is taking a much deserved break from teaching, but will still remain a proud dad at Gembrook Primary School.

We’re also saying goodbye to Cassie Smith who has been our very able speech therapy assistant for the past six months. We really appreciate her wonderful contribution.

Christmas Carols in The Circle!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our ‘Carols in The Circle’ on Wednesday evening. It really was a wonderful family event and our kids were definitely in fine voice! Once again the weather was on our side and the circle of harmony was packed with families and students creating a lovely community feel. Thank you to everyone who helped make the night so successful including our hard working PFA members Sylvia, Tracey, Sarah, Fiona, Mel, Dana and Tanya. The sausages were SENSATIONAL! A special thanks also to the Gembrook CFA who provided colour coordinated transport for SANTA!

Academic Excellence Awards

Just a reminder that we have a great whole school assembly coming up this Friday morning at 9:00am where the school’s Academic Excellence Awards will be presented, along with the presentation of badges to our school captains and house captains for 2017. Please come along and join in acknowledging our fantastic award recipients.

Grade 6 Graduation:

As I write this, our grade six students are having a fantastic ‘Big Day Out’ at Luna Park with Miss Hutcheson and Mr Hawes. They’ve just sent me this photo and they look very excited.

Our grade six graduation dinner and ceremony takes place next Monday evening. We acknowledge the Class of 2016 for their contribution to Gembrook Primary School and we wish them all the very best as they join together to celebrate their primary school years.

2017 Already!

Just a reminder that school starts next year on Wednesday 1st February (Preps on Thursday 2nd February).

Merry Christmas and HAPPY HOLIDAYS! See you in 2017!

Brendan
Principal
Christmas at Gembrook

Merry Christmas
### December
- 18 Abbie S
- 28 Cooper G-K
- 29 Emma A
- 30 Rushiya
- 28 Onyx C

### January
- 3 Jessie A
- 7 Tom McC
- 8 Belle G
- 10 Milla
- 19 Sonia D
- 21 Phoebe
- 22 Jet P
- 23 Will G
- 25 Holly W
- 25 Patrick
- 25 Charlee T
- 27 Matilda L
- 27 Isabella W
- 30 Zach S
Sing is an animated musical. The famed Moon theatre is falling apart under the management of koala bear Buster Moon, whose last best idea to get back on top is to host a singing competition for the whole town. Everyone does indeed come by to audition, but mostly because flyers mistakenly advertise a $100,000 prize.
OSHC

Come and have fun with us and learn new skills in our Outside School Hours Care Program (OSHC). All students are welcome—come along and enjoy the activities and spend time making new friends. Before school care begins at 7.30 (earlier start available on request). After school care ends at 6pm. Collect an OSHC enrolment pack from the school office or download an enrolment form from the school website: www.gembrookps.vic.gov.au

Register with Centrelink for a 50% child-care rebate. You can do this by logging into your Centrelink online account through the myGov site. Select the Approved child care service to reduce your fees option and it will be set up for you. For more details on Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate call the Department of Human Services on 13 61 50.
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 & text. 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.gemboorups.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 240 667.
# XMAS 2016 & NEW YEAR 2017 HOLIDAYS TRADING HOURS

## DECEMBER 2016

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## JANUARY 2017

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**Beleza Pakenham**