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.

30 November 2016

Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>Enterprise Market</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>Working Bee 9—11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 December</td>
<td>Swimming SLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>Step Up Day (grade 6)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foundation 2017 Information Night 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 12 Dec</td>
<td>Swimming SLC (no SLC swimming on 6/12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Volunteer thank you morning tea. 11am in staff room.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>Christmas Concert 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>Big Day Out (Grade 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>Last day of term 4, 1.30pm pick up</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Final Working Bee for 2016
Saturday 3 December
9am-11am

There are several jobs that we would like to complete in readiness for end of year events.

Many hands make light work!

Please sign up for a job at the school office

Come join in the fun!

Morning tea provided at 11am

Payment for the Senior Learning Centre Swimming Program is due today
Wednesday 30 November
All payments must be received by this date
Dear Families and Friends,

I must say I was very impressed by the quality of the 2017 student leadership speeches that were presented in the multi last Friday. Our grade five leadership candidates spoke with pride and passion about their school and their desire to make a significant contribution during their final year of primary school next year.

Following lots of careful evaluation, consideration and discussion, we are excited to announce the following student leadership positions of next year.

**School Captains**
Emma A, Mitch M

**House Captains**
Tynong: Harvey Mc, Eva G

 Beenak: Jacob McL, Mackenzie B

 Kirth Kiln: Vanessa M, Taylor M

 Redwood: Jaimie M, Maddy B

Congratulations and well done to EVERY student who applied for a 2017 student leadership position. I have met with all applicants and we have discussed lots of exciting leadership opportunities for next year. We would like to have a student leadership ‘hand over’ at our final Friday assembly on 16th December. Please come along and wish our student leadership team all the best for 2017!

**Parent helpers and volunteers morning tea Tuesday 13th Dec**

We are blessed with parents and volunteers with big hearts who regularly give up their time to assist our school in so many ways. We would like to say ‘thank you’ and invite all mums, dads and volunteers who have assisted in any way throughout the year to a morning tea in the staff room on Tuesday 13th December at 11:00am. Please come along and join in the staffroom banter at 11:00am!

**Enterprise Market**

What a great day was had by all at today’s Enterprise Market organised and run superbly by our senior school students. It was brilliant seeing the energy and creativity that our budding entrepreneurs put into their chosen business ventures. Thanks also to mums and dads who assisted in making ‘Enterprise Market’ such a highlight of the SLC calendar. Watch out for the photo spread in next week’s newsletter.

**Oops!**

Last week we announced that graduate teacher Hayley Brown would be joining us for next year. Hayley has since secured a position closer to home and so we are now doubly excited to announce that Ellie O’Mara will be joining us and teaching in grade three for 2017. Ellie has completed placement here at Gembrook and has also volunteered in Mrs. A’s classroom during term four. We welcome Ellie to the team and wish her every success in her new role.

**Step Up Day Tuesday 6th December**

We are very excited to announce that ‘STEP UP DAY’ is taking place on Tuesday 6th December. On this day, students will spend a half day from 9:30am – 12:30pm in their 2017 grade with their teacher for next year. This is an important transition event, and is a great opportunity for your child to get to know other students in their grade and participate in some great team building and learning activities. Students will be advised of their 2017 grade and teacher at 9:00am on Step Up Day and our 2017 Prep parents already have this information. Our Step Up Day also coincides with Orientation Day where our Grade 6 students attend their 2017 secondary school. If you have any queries in relation to Step Up Day, please contact me.

Continued…….
Thank you
We are deeply appreciative to the Livio Drive Nursery for their generous gift of many wonderful plants for the school garden.

Working Bee Saturday 3rd December 9:00am – 11:00am
We are holding a final 2016 ‘Summer Cleaning’ working bee at school this coming Saturday 3rd December from 9:00am to 11:00am. There are several jobs that we would like to complete in readiness for end of year events including Step Up Day, Christmas Carols and Graduation. Pruning, weeding, sweeping, pressure cleaning and a general tidy up of school grounds will be the order of the day. A light morning tea will be provided at 11:00am. As the old saying goes: ‘Many hands make light work’, so please sign up for a job at the front office and come along and join in the fun!

Have a great week everyone and all the best!

Brendan
Principal

Notes that have gone home
- Student Leadership Program (grade 5)

All notices can be accessed from the school website: www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au

Helpers Wanted for Free Fruit Friday 2017

The PFA is looking for any new helpers that can assist by collecting fruit from the IGA on Friday mornings and/ or helping to cut up the fruit into grade lots.

This is a commitment of approximately half an hour to 40 minutes on a Friday morning prior to recess. You would be welcome to join the team doing this task for the remainder of this year so that you are shown the process.

Please leave your name at the office or visit the team on Friday morning from 9:00- 9:30 in the staff room.
Tickets will be on sale and drawn at the Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 14 December from 6pm in the Circle of Harmony

Ticket prices: $2 each or 3 for $5

Sausages ($3), drinks ($1), chips, fruit and zooper doopers ($.50 cents) will be available

Donations are needed for the Christmas Raffle Hamper
All donations can be left at the school office.
Bike Ed Week for the MLC

Family Bike Ride
State Schools’ Relief

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
2017 Year 7 Uniform Pack

Fact sheet for parents

Introduction to State Schools’ Relief
State Schools’ Relief works closely with all government schools across Victoria. Each year State Schools’ Relief provide assistance to families who are experiencing financial disadvantage with school clothing, shoes and other essential items.

Introduction to the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
The Victorian Government has a commitment to being the Education State, aiming to break the link between disadvantage and achievement. Through government funding the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) was established to provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sport’s days and excursions. To find out more about CSEF or to apply for assistance go to www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

State Schools’ Relief has received extra government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance and ensure no one is left behind. This extra funding is being used by State Schools’ Relief to assist students who receive CSEF assistance.

2017 Year 7 Uniform Pack for CSEF recipients
In 2017 every Year 7 government school student who is a recipient of CSEF automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools’ Relief.

If your child receives CSEF assistance and is in Year 6 in 2016 you can ask for a uniform pack to be provided by State Schools’ Relief through the secondary school your child is enrolled to attend in 2017.

Parents who have already purchased their child’s uniform for 2017 and then become a CSEF recipient can still apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack in 2017.

What is in the CSEF 2017 Year 7 uniform pack?
The uniform pack includes basic uniform items needed to start secondary school.

For Year 6 students commencing Year 7 in 2017 State Schools’ Relief will provide one item from each row of the table provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th></th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black leather shoes – Lace up / Skate</td>
<td>Black leather shoes – Lace up / T-Bar / Skate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper / Jacket / Bomber / Rugby Top</td>
<td>Jumper / Jacket / Bomber / Rugby Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts / Trousers</td>
<td>Summer Dress / Winter Skirt + Shirt / Trousers + Shirt / Shorts + Shirt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Sleeve / Short Sleeve Shirt</td>
<td>If above is NOT a Summer Dress then select either: Long Sleeve Shirt / Short Sleeve Shirt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students will also receive one free pair shoes supplied directly from SSR.

What does the CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack cost me as a parent?
Where State Schools’ Relief cannot supply uniform items directly to parents you will receive a voucher that subsidises the cost of uniform items. The voucher(s) can be redeemed at your child’s school uniform shop or an independent uniform retailer which will be listed on the voucher. Parents receiving vouchers may need to make a contribution towards the cost of individual uniform items. The amount a parent has to pay will depend on the retail purchase price and the State Schools’ Relief subsidy.

The vouchers provided by State Schools’ Relief list every approved item for the student and the maximum purchase value that State Schools’ Relief will subsidise for each item. Parents who receive vouchers can work out how much extra they may need to pay towards uniform items using the school’s uniform price list.
State Schools’ Relief
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
2017 Year 7 Uniform Pack

Fact sheet for parents

How can I apply for CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack assistance?
If your child was a CSEF recipient in 2016 you can apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting the secondary school where your child is enrolled. The secondary school will make an application on your behalf using the order form provided.
Please do not contact State Schools’ Relief directly as staff cannot accept applications from parents. If you have any questions, or want to apply for assistance, please speak to your child’s 2017 secondary school.

How do I get the uniform items?
All vouchers and free items provided directly by SSR will be received by your child’s 2017 secondary school. The school will get in touch with you to arrange handover of uniforms and vouchers.
The voucher can be used at your child’s 2017 secondary school uniform shop or uniform retailer.
The voucher will list the uniform items, with details of the maximum amount that State Schools’ Relief will subsidise from the retail purchase price. If a uniform item costs more than the maximum subsidised amount State Schools’ Relief will not pay for any extra cost. If a uniform item costs less than the maximum subsidised amount the difference cannot be redeemed or transferred to a different uniform item.
The vouchers are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash; they cannot be used to purchase extra items and State Schools’ Relief does not make cash payments to schools or parents.

Can parents who are ineligible for CSEF or who have children in other year levels receive assistance from SSR?
Yes. Applications for parents requiring financial assistance for uniforms or work boots for children who are undertaking VET In School subjects are encouraged to apply for assistance through the school where their child is enrolled.
You can talk to the school principal or wellbeing officer about your situation. The school staff will assess your family’s eligibility and prepare an application your behalf to State Schools’ Relief as required.

Terms and conditions
- Only Year 2017 students who receive CSEF are automatically entitled to an uniform pack.
- Each student is eligible for only one uniform pack.
- All vouchers have an expiry date which is included on the voucher.
- Expired vouchers cannot be redeemed. Parents will have to reapply through their school for assistance.
- If uniform items cost less than the stated subsidised amount on the voucher any unused subsidy cannot:
  - be transferred to a different uniform item
  - be used to purchase an extra item; or
  - provided as cash to the school or the parent.

State Schools’ Relief
Telephone: 03 8769 8400   Email: contact@ssr.net.au   Website: www.ssr.net.au
Stop & Drop today
- at a zone close to your school

Get active, save on fuel and ease traffic congestion!
Walk, ride, scoot or skateboard to and from school!

Your closest Stop & Drop Zone is located at:

GEMBROOK
Car park, Gembrook Community Centre, Gembrook Road, Gembrook.

It is suggested that students leave the zone by 8.30am to ensure they get to school on time.

For more information contact Council’s Healthy Children’s Facilitator on 1300 787 624
Gembrook Fire Brigade

CFA in the Park
Invites you to an information evening and sausage sizzle.

Find out more about:
- Understanding and reducing your Bushfire risk
- Preparing your Home and Property
- Making an Effective Fire Plan
- How to access information and stay in touch
- Understanding Fire Danger Ratings
- Warning and Advice information
- Your Bushfire Survival Options

Where - Jac Russell Park Main Street Gembrook
When - December 7th from 5.30 pm
Free Sausage Sizzle all welcome!

Ask about Junior Fire Brigade membership and Gembrook CFA Recruitment

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/GembrookCFA
School Chaplain

The Chaplaincy Service at Gembrook Primary School aims to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

Pastoral care means looking after the personal needs of students, not just their academic needs, by providing general spiritual and personal support.

If you would like me to support your child / children through any issues they may be experiencing, please fill out a permission form at the school office.

Kind Regards,
John Chambers, Chaplain
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.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 240 667.
Many thanks to Livio Nursery for their very generous donation of plants to Gembrook Primary School.
Newsletter Advertising

- $10 per business card per term (businesses belonging to school families only)
- $25 quarter page for 2 weeks (for businesses outside school community)
- $25 quarter page per term (school families only)

Please contact the school office if you would like to place an add in the school newsletter.

Non-Perishable Food Drive

We're proud to be working alongside local community groups & helping out local families in need this Christmas!
If you'd like to contribute, please drop off any non-perishable food items to the Barry Plant Emerald office.
We will be collecting through to 13th December.

Cockatoo Country Market
First Saturday of Every Month (except January)
8.30am - 1.00pm
Pakenham Road, Cockatoo