School News

16th February, 2017

Values:

Respect Excellence Co-operation Responsibility

School Mission - The community of Glenroy West Primary School works in partnership to inspire every child to do their best and encourages them to grow and achieve excellence.

School Vision - Inspire, Grow, Achieve

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

School Website: www.glenroywestps.vic.edu.au

Term 1
February
Friday 17th February - Family Picnic and Games
Thursday 23rd February - Parent Information night
Tuesday 28th February - Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

March
Monday 13th March - Labour day holiday
Tuesday 21st March - Harmony Day
Friday 31st March - Last day of Term with a 2.30pm dismissal

Principal’s Report Pamela Streete

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hope you have had an excellent week and enjoying the timely cooler weather. Possibly by the time you read this Newsletter the weather may be warmer.

Please Note:

It is illegal to double park in the front of a school crossing. Please obey the road rules for the safety of children and all concerned. This week it was raised with me that some parents were continuing to park illegally before and after school.

The Moreland Council has been contacted hence if you are parking illegally fines may be incurred.

Staff Administration Car Park/York Street

Please do not park in the front of Administration Car Park in York St. Do not use this parking as a drop off point for your children for the safety of your children.

Gates are to be locked for the safety of all.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this matter.
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GET TO KNOW PARENT/TEACHER MEET AND GREET
I hope you had an opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher last week. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have not booked a time as yet. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and share your goals for them in 2017.

FAMILY PICNIC & GAMES AFTERNOON - Friday 17th February, 2017
Come along to our community afternoon and games afternoon this Friday from 3.30-5pm. A BBQ will be provided however if you prefer you can bring along a picnic tea. The school canteen will be open for refreshments.
Hope to see you all there at 3.30pm-5.00pm

ATTENDANCE
IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY! Significant absence has a profound impact on your child’s learning.
Parent responsibility-
Parents/Carers are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child’s absence from school. The principal by law must meet the obligation to record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent.
We are currently reviewing our attendance process at GWPS and we will inform you of the changes in due course.
Please continue to make sure your child attends daily as well as being on time for the beginning of the school day at 8.50am.
Please refer to the DET guidelines below and attached on the school website.

SAFETY REMINDERS - USING THE SUPERVISED CROSSING
A reminder to cross the road at the school crossing at all times please.
We would like to remind parents the importance of modelling safe walking practices by using the school patrolled or pedestrian crossing. Parents and children darting across.

SUNSMART POLICY: Term 1, 2017
No Hat No Play!

NEWSLETTERS
Our weekly newsletters will continue to be uploaded to the school website www.glenroywestps.vic.edu.au.
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**Important Dates for 2017 Calendar:**

**FEBRUARY**
- Friday 17th February- Family Picnic and Games
- Thursday 23rd February- Parent Information night
- Tuesday 28th February- Shrove Tuesday-Pancake day

**MARCH**
- Monday 13th March- Labour day holiday
- Tuesday 21st March- Harmony day
- Friday 24th March- Indonesian Cultural Workshop- Bagas Kun Incursion Foundation- Yr 6
- Friday 31st March- Last day of Term 1 with a 2.30pm dismissal

**MEDICAL CONCERNS**
Please let the teacher know if your child suffers from allergies or any special medical condition. The most up to date information you can supply will enable us to take the best care of your child’s needs at school.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017**
What is a 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 state wide 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 school council?
For most schools, 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.
- A mandated elected DET employee category- members of this category may make no more than one third of the total membership of school council.
- An optional Community member category- members are opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

Generally the term of office for all members is two years.
Why is parent membership so important?

**ENROLMENTS PLACES FOR 2017**
The demand for places at Glenroy West Primary School and kindergarten is high. Enrolment forms are located on the school website or alternatively an enrolment form can be obtained from the school office.

School Tours are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.15am. If these days are not suitable we can arrange an alternate day and time for your convenience.

A personalised tour with the school principal Pam Streeter can be arranged at your request.

**OSCH PROGRAM - BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
Hours: School Council approved
- Before school care: 7am- 8.45am
- After school care: 3.15pm- 6.00pm

Please phone OSCH Coordinator Nicole Jackson for any bookings on her Mobile 0423 308 293 or phone the school office on 9306-8955.

You may also continue to contact the office for bookings on 9306-8955.
**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARENTS**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The camps, sports and excursions fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the education state and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

**CAMS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125.00 for primary school students
- $225.00 for secondary students


A new application must be submitted each year. 2017 application online or at the school office.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS- ATTENDANCE**

At Glenroy West Primary School we are committed to providing your child with an excellent education. The building blocks of an excellent education begins with all students coming to school each and every day.

Regular school attendance is vital and missing school days can have a big impact on a child’s future. Missing one day a fortnight will equate to missing four full weeks by the end of the year. Each day a student misses school puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes.

Some of the reasons for student absence at GWPS:

- Staying home to celebrate a birthday
- Going shopping
- Looking after a sibling
- Spending time with a relative
- Extended weekends
- Overseas travel
- Dental and medical appointment
- Illness

If for any reason your child must be absent from school, parents or guardians are required to provide written notification, stating the reason for their child’s absence. His information will be retained by the teacher and archived by the school. This is a DET requirement.

**Please be aware from March 1st 2014, new federal government laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.** If you are having attendance issues with your child, please inform your child’s teacher so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Kind regards and enjoy your week,

Pamela Streete
Principal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student of the Week</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Streete Principal</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For demonstrating excellent technical expertise when ringing the bell. Well Done. Tolerance- For demonstrating Tolerance towards her peers when playing a game outside. Well done. Liam Anabella D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Emma Fuller Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For sharing so much knowledge about volcanos to the grade. Tolerance- For always being tolerant of people working around him in maths activities. Amaan 56A Lincoln 34A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation A-Ms Eyigun</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For sharing his knowledge with the class. Tolerance- For showing tolerance to her friends in the class. Luke Sahar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation B-Ms Bryers</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For demonstrating his knowledge of words and sounds in his writing. Tolerance- For being tolerant of others in and outside the classroom. Ziyad Praneet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2A-Ms Wheeler</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For bringing great ideas to our class discussions. Tolerance- For always being sensitive to others needs and feelings in our class-tolerance Emily Sarobar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2B-Mr Hoatson</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For sharing his excellent work in class. Tolerance- For his patience, and listening to the ideas of others around him. Chloe Usama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2C-Ms Luke</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For sharing her knowledge about being safe on the road. Tolerance- For treating people with respect. Shahista Marwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4A-Ms Kowalski/Mr Allen</td>
<td>Knowledgeable-For sharing his knowledge about circuits. Tolerance- For their confidence as SRC. Jack J Omer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4B- Ms Tchung</td>
<td>Knowledgeable -For using prior knowledge about persuasive text to convince Ms Tchung why he deserved to be a Technology Helper in the classroom. Tolerance-For always using his manners and respecting other people’s opinions. C J Hamza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4C- Mrs Mendham</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For demonstrating his knowledge during the St John’s Ambulance. Tolerance-For her ability to work with all her classmates cheerfully. Andrew PravalliKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A- Mr Clarke</td>
<td>Knowledgeable-For showing great prior knowledge in our reading lessons. Tolerance- For being able to still focus on her goals even when being distracted by others. Amaan Krishna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6B-Ms Edwards</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For always sharing his thoughts and ideas with the class. Tolerance- For showing tolerance through her investigation into the different religions of the world in her inquiry. Eray Aarmish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE –Ms Webster</td>
<td>Knowledgeable –For showing correct technique when throwing and catching. Tolerance –For showing tolerance towards peers when completing PMP activities. Adnan 1/2B Riley 00A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts- Mrs Silveira</td>
<td>Knowledgeable-By thinking about his preparations of a Face. Tolerance- By encouraging her class mates and being positive about others portraits Tassi Haania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian-Ms Ooi</td>
<td>Knowledgeable- For remembering Indonesian vocabulary he learnt from previous lesson. Tolerance- For being a caring member of the classroom. Foster George</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- **It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.**

- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:


Department of Education and Training
Victorian Attendance Legislation
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers

Why are there new rules about attendance?
In March 2014, new legislation related to enrolment and attendance came into effect. For more information on the relevant legislation, see: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/attendance.aspx

Evidence shows that daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don’t fall behind both socially and developmentally. Young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives.

The new laws set out a process where students with poor attendance can be identified and interventions implemented. The rules are not in place to punish time away from school which was unavoidable or reasonable. Instead, the new laws are an effort to promote and improve school attendance across Victoria.

What is compulsory school age?
All children aged 6-17 years are required to either be enrolled at a registered school, or registered for home schooling.

In some circumstances a parent can apply to the Regional Director to exempt a child from enrolment at school. For more information see: School Policy and Advisory Guide: Exemptions.

Whose responsibility is it to ensure my child goes to school?
School attendance is mandated under the Education Training and Reform Act 2006. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure their child regularly attends school.

How is attendance recorded by schools?
Schools must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and in every class in secondary schools.

My child attends a non-government school. Do these requirements still apply to me and my child?
The new rules apply to parents of compulsory school-aged children, and all Victorian Government, Independent and Catholic Schools.

Processes for following up attendance
What is considered as ‘poor attendance’ for the purpose of the new legislation?
Under the new legislation, if a student reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence within a school year then further action can be taken, at the discretion of the principal.

What are unexplained or unapproved absences?
A principal has the discretion to approve or not approve any absence, either based on an individual school policy or on a case-by-case basis.

Unexplained Absence:
A principal will record an absence as ‘unexplained’ if no explanation about the absence given to the school by the parent or carer of the student.
If you do not contact the school to provide an explanation on the day of the student absence, the school must attempt to contact you either by phone or in writing within three days to seek a reason for the absence.

If no contact can be made with you or other carers of the child within 10 days, the absence will be recorded as an unexplained absence and also be noted in your child’s file. You can contact the principal at any time after the record has been made to provide an explanation.

**Unapproved Absence:**
In general, a principal would record an absence as ‘unapproved’ when no reasonable excuse has been given for the student’s absence. If a reason you give for an absence is not approved by the principal of your child’s school you will be notified in writing.

**What action will be taken if my child reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence?**

If your child reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence then the school and principal will work with you to implement appropriate supports or interventions to assist you get your child to school every day.

If these interventions do not improve your child’s attendance, the principal may decide to make a referral to the School Attendance Officer. For more information on the School Attendance Officer, see: [School Attendance Officers](#).

**What happens when the referral is made to the School Attendance Officer?**

The School Attendance Officer will investigate the absences and may take one or all of the following steps depending on the circumstances.
- Issue a School Attendance Notice
- Issue an Official Warning
- Issue an Infringement Notice.

**I have been issued a School Attendance Notice – what does this mean?**

The School Attendance Notice is not a fine but rather an opportunity for your family to explain the absences and work with your child’s school to improve attendance in the future.

The School Attendance Officer will assess your family’s response to a School Attendance Notice. For more information, including how a School Attendance Officer assesses your family’s response, see: [School Attendance Notices](#).

**I have received a School Attendance notice - but my child was not with me on the date listed, what can I do?**

The School Attendance Notice gives you the opportunity to state the parent who the child was living with on the dates of absence. You should complete this part of the notice and return to the School Attendance Officer by the due date outlined on the Notice.

**I have been issued with an Official Warning. What does this mean?**

A School Attendance Officer may decide to issue an Official Warning prior to, or instead of issuing an Infringement Notice.

For more information see: [When to Issue an Official Warning](#).

**Under what circumstances can I be issued with an Infringement?**

Under the new legislation an Infringement Notice will only be used as a last resort, after other strategies to improve attendance have been implemented and failed.

For more information see: [Infringement Notices](#).

**Can I appeal if I think an Infringement Notice has been issued unfairly?**

If you have received an Infringement Notice and you think it has been issued unfairly, you can apply for an internal agency review. For more information on the grounds for review and the process for lodging a review request, visit: [Infringement Notices](#) (see ‘Appeals’).

**How much is the fine?**

Should an Infringement Notice (fine) be issued, it will be half a penalty unit. The monetary value of a penalty unit is calculated by the Treasurer and changes each financial year. Generally, an infringement notice will be approximately $70.

**Types of absence**

**My child misses lots of school because they are sick, does this mean I will get a fine?**

A genuine illness is considered a reasonable excuse.
While your child is absent, you should continue to update the school on the scenario and work with the school to develop a Student Absence Learning Plan to ensure that the student’s educational needs are supported and they do not fall behind in their schoolwork.

You may also wish to discuss other, more flexible, options for accessing an education if it is predicted your child will be absent for long periods of time due to their ill health. Your principal will be able to advise if such arrangements, including Distance Education, are appropriate.

**My child attends remedial tutoring or classes outside school, but during school hours. Will this contribute to absences that lead to me receiving a fine?**

An individual principal has the discretion to decide whether absence caused by attending remedial class or tutoring will be approved or unapproved. In general, it is expected that the family and the school work together to identify the educational needs of the child, and address within the school setting and school hours.

I want to take my child for an extended holiday during the school term. Is this ok? What can I do to ensure that they are supported to learn? Will I be fined?

If you are planning an extended holiday, discuss this with your school principal well in advance of finalising any plans. The principal has the discretion to decide whether or not to approve the absence.

If the principal decides not to approve the absence, you should work with the school to decide on a reasonable length of absence or more mutually convenient time for the holiday.

If you decide to go ahead with a holiday during school term despite it being an ‘unapproved’ absence and the duration of the absence is over five days, the principal may choose to refer the case to the School Attendance Officer for further action, which may result in an infringement Notice being issued.

If the principal approves the absence, work with your child’s school so you support your child’s education during their holiday.

**Attendance Guidelines - Resources** (see: Student Absence Learning Plan)

**My child attends part time due to a disability. Will I receive a fine?**

Full time attendance is compulsory for all students aged 6-17. However, in some circumstances, it may be appropriate for students with a disability to attend school for reduced hours. This arrangement should only be entered into on a short-term basis and only if it is agreed by all parties (school, family, practitioners, regions) that the reduced attendance is in the best interest of the child.

If your child is attending school for reduced hours as part of a plan that both outlines the return to full-time schooling and has been developed in consultation with your child’s school, this will be considered an approved absence and will not be referred to a School Attendance Officer.

For more information contact the Disability Coordinator at your closest departmental Regional Office for further advice. See: **Regions**.

**Without my knowledge, my child skipped school. Will I get a fine?**

Truancy is defined under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 as absence due to the child’s disobedience and not due to any fault of the parent. It is therefore deemed a reasonable excuse and will not count towards the total of unapproved or unexplained absences.

If truancy is a continuing issue for your child you should work with the school to develop plans or strategies to support their continuing engagement in school and to prevent further truancy. For more information on strategies and supports available see: **Strategies to Improve a Student’s Attendance**.

**My child is refusing to go to school. Will I receive a fine? And what can I do to get them back to school?**

School refusal is considered a reasonable excuse for absence and if supports and interventions are being sought, should not count towards unexplained or unapproved absence. It is important in these circumstances that you
clearly communicate your situation and concerns with your child’s school.

You should work with your child’s school to find the best way to improve attendance in those situations. Schools have the flexibility to modify the school experience for students so that it better caters to their needs, goals and strengths. For more information on the supports and interventions to support your child see: Strategies to Improve a Student’s Attendance and: My Child Has Anxiety About Going to School

My child is employed in the entertainment industry and is missing school regularly. Will I get a fine?

If the child is due to be employed in the entertainment industry at length a School Exemption may be an option. The process for applying for these exemptions is outlined in the School Policy and Advisory Guide. Non-government schools are also advised to follow these procedures. For more information, see: Attendance – Exemption Application Process.

I have been issued a School Enrolment Notice. What does this mean?

All children of compulsory school age (6-17) must be enrolled in school or registered for homeschooling.

If you have been issued with a School Enrolment Notice this means that the School Attendance Officer has become aware that there is no record that your child or children are enrolled in school or registered for home schooling.

The School Enrolment Notice is not a fine. Instead, it is an opportunity for your family to work with the School Attendance Officer to ensure your child is enrolled at school or properly registered for home schooling.

For more information see: Enrolling Your Child in School or Registering for Home Schooling.
Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Glenroy West Primary School we expect your child to attend every day. Each day your child is away from school they miss the next step in their learning and the important grounding for future academic achievement and success.

We are proud of how our teachers create relationships with your children and make their learning journey enjoyable and exciting. To ensure that you, and your children, experience the very best our school has to offer we would appreciate your support with their attendance, using the following as a guide:

- **HOLIDAYS** - If you are planning to take your child on a holiday, no matter how long or short, you will need to arrange to meet with the Principal, Mrs Streete. There is also a department requirement to complete a form which the staff in the office will give to you. Please remember that removing your child for a long-term holiday will result in them missing key stages of their learning and the curriculum.

- **START TIME** - The school day starts promptly at 8:50 am. It is important that your children are here by 8:50 am in order for the reading lesson to commence on time. Students are expected to be at school by 8:45 am ready to learn at 8:50 am.

- **CONTACT THE SCHOOL** - Absences due to illness or other legitimate reasons need to be reported to the office by email or telephone. The number is 93068955. It is appreciated if you call us in the morning, otherwise valuable time is spent contacting you later in the day, which takes us away from the children. All unexplained absences require a reason. Please ensure you return all unexplained absence forms to myself or the Principal, Mrs Streete, at any time.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Kind Regards,

Emma Fuller
Assistant Principal

Pam Streete
Principal
The Learning Partnership at Glenroy West Primary School

The education of the students at GWPS is a partnership between the school and parents and carers of our students. This partnership is highly valued and is one of the most significant factors in the success of our students. Below are some suggestions for your contribution towards this partnership.

Be involved
Children love sharing their daily school lives with their parents. Listen to them at the end of the school day. Ask them about their learning – not just “What did you do today?” Ask them, “What did you learn today?” Before or after school get them to introduce their friends to you. Students whose parents are even a little bit involved have a much better chance at being successful in school because they see that we are on the same team with them and for them.

Be organised
Children thrive on routine and a structured morning routine will set your child up for the day (this should always include a big, nutritious breakfast.) If your usual routine includes television, just be aware that children who watch TV in the morning are not in the right frame of mind for school. Instead, give your child responsibilities to increase their independence, such as making their beds or packing their own bags.

Be on time
School begins at 8:50am – try to have your child at school before this so that they have time to socialise with their friends. Arriving in class late can be quite stressful and embarrassing for your child and it can take them a while to settle down and focus on the lesson that has already started.

Know your child’s timetable
We know how busy parents are but so is your child. Your child will feel more comfortable about school if you are on top of their routine. If possible have a weekly calendar with everything that is on at school, such as library day, sports day, art day and the day homework is due.

Homework
Homework is the consolidation of the week’s lessons. You and your child’s teacher should use it as a method of monitoring your child’s progress. If your child struggles, or finds the homework too easy, let the teacher know, because homework can be modified. Homework Club is a great opportunity for your child to receive extra assistance with their school work.

Attendance
Attendance is a critical component of student success. Ensuring that your child is here on time each day will allow them to learn and grow in multiple areas: academic, behavioural, and social/emotional. When possible, please try to schedule appointments outside of the school day.
Glenroy West Primary School
Curriculum Information Evening
Thursday 23rd February 2017

Where: Prep-2 Main Building Years 3-6 BER Building

Years Prep-2: 3.30 – 4.30pm Years 3-6: 4.30 – 5.30pm

Dear Parents/carers,

All parents are cordially invited to attend the Prep to Grade 6 Curriculum information evening. This will be an excellent opportunity to:

- gain greater knowledge of what is being taught in the classroom
- gain a clear understanding of classroom expectations
- ask questions about aspects of the school’s curriculum
- gain a clear understanding of Specialist teacher programs and expectations
- gain a better understanding of important school policies, programs and procedures
- gain an understanding of the role of the PYP (Primary Years Program) and the IB
- gain an understanding of how your child is assessed

To assist with organisation, please indicate if attending and return to your child’s teacher by Tuesday 21st February.

Please note: This evening is not a Parent/Teacher interview regarding your child’s progress.
It is a general information session for parents. If you have any concerns that you wish to discuss with your child’s teacher, you will be required to make an alternative appointment time.

We look forward to your attendance.

Kind regards

Pamela Streete
PRINCIPAL

GLENROY WEST PS- CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENING
THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2017

Child’s name ........................................ Room ............
Child’s name ........................................ Room ............
Child’s name ........................................ Room ............
Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2017

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?

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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD 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. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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.
St John Ambulance- First Aid in Schools Program

St John Ambulance visited our school on Tuesday the 14th to deliver free First Aid in Schools training to our students. Through the First Aid in Schools program, trained St John presenters lead students from Prep to Year 6 through tailored sessions on the importance of First Aid and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Our junior students learned about how to identify when there is an emergency, keeping themselves safe, and how to call for an ambulance. Senior students learn about delivering CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the things they can do to assist in an emergency. Ask your children what they learned on the day. Some day they could use it to help themselves and others.

Participating students were given a special piece of homework for parents to complete. We hope that “did your homework” and went online (www.stjohnvic.com.au/quiz) to see how much you knew about First Aid. Are you First Aid READY?

More information about the St John First Aid in Schools program can be found at:
Who we are

This inquiry unit 5/6 B is working on “We are all the same fundamentally we are different”. Which means “although we are all humans we don’t always act, feel, see or think the same things”. Each individual student got to choose a topic they wanted to learn about, some people chose: religion, equality, treatment, physical/mental body, history, technology, etc.

We are now beginning to research our topic, through the Finding Out stage of our inquiry. We are excited about what things we will discover and where our research will take us!

By Savia and Jasmine.
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our rapidly changing world, it is becoming more and more important for our children to develop strong skills as they progress through their education. While our curriculum-based assessments test a student’s ability to recall what they have learned in a variety of subject areas, we think it’s important to do more than that, particularly in the foundation years of schooling.

Therefore, Glenroy West Primary School will be implementing ICAS, a comprehensive skills-based program that assesses higher order thinking and problem-solving skills. We believe ICAS will give us deep insight into our students’ true capabilities and help us plan more effectively for their future years at school.

HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:
1. ICAS can tell us whether students really understand what they are being taught.
2. ICAS can help us discover student talents and student weaknesses that don’t always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to a student’s study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can’t study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS’s diagnostic reports will give all of us (teachers and parents) far more insight into your child’s strengths and weaknesses. At school, we can act on that by tailoring our teaching and learning programs; at home, you will know where to direct more encouragement.
5. ICAS will also give us an external benchmark we can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards—ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE
If you would like your child to participate, please complete the permission slip and return it, with payment to the school no later than 24th March 2017 PLEASE NOTE LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards

Anne Kyriacou
Curriculum Coach
2017 ICAS Permission Form

Please return this form with your payment, to your school no later than 24 March 2017

I give permission for my child, _______________ of _______________

Child’s name Class

to participate in the following 2017 ICAS assessments.

Please select the subjects you would like your child to participate in:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Participation Fee (incl. GST)</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Yr 3-10</td>
<td>23 May 2017 - Tue</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Yr 2-12</td>
<td>30 May 2017 - Tue</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Yr 3-12</td>
<td>12–16 June 2017**</td>
<td>$19.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Yr 2-7</td>
<td>14 June 2017 – Wed</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Yr 2-12</td>
<td>1 August 2017 - Tue</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Yr 2-12</td>
<td>15 August 2017 - Tue</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL

Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals.

Please find _______________ enclosed for payment of the total fee.

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian ____________________________ Date ______________

Signature of Parent/Guardian ____________________________
INSPIRE GROW ACHIEVE

Dear Parent/Carers in the community,

Are you interested in enrolling your child at Glenroy West Primary School?

There are still vacancies for 2018 available. We wish to inform you about our International Baccalaureate programme in support of quality education for all students, and invite you to ring for a tour to see what else we can offer.

Kind Regards
Pam Streefe
Principal

Phone 9306 8955 Fax 9300 1028
Email: glenroywest.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Webpage: www.glenroywestps.vic.edu.au

What we can offer you

Our school is a place of structured inquiry, learning and purpose, with a caring ethos developed in a child safe, happy and supportive environment. This contributes towards the development of independent, confident and resilient learners.

We aim to prepare students to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society, where they will have the skills, values, understandings and courage to undertake a positive, productive and rewarding role in that world. We also encourage our students to develop optimism and enjoy a sense of humour. To help us achieve our aims, the Primary Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate (IB) underpins much of what we say, what we do and who we are. The diverse curriculum provides students with numerous opportunities to shine and experience success in many ways.

Underlying Philosophy

Our school embraces international mindedness. All children at Glenroy West Primary School, progress along a continuum, from simple to more complex material, at their own rates, making continuous progress.

- Our classes lend themselves to developing appropriate curriculum to support and enhance each individual child’s whole learning needs, recognising that children learn at different rates.
- Our classes help develop social skills between students, building on values such as tolerance and respect.
- In our composite classes, the older students in the group become role models for the younger ones whilst gaining and building on leadership skills.
- Students learn from each other in an environment conducive to interactive learning and collaboration.
- Our classes support the idea of children being active learners, taking responsibility for their own learning.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2018 STILL BEING TAKEN
Dear Families,

Welcome back for the new school year. It has been a lovely first few weeks seeing the children all together again after the holidays. They have all grown and matured so well.

Within the BASC program, we have spent the first few weeks settling in by having several conversations about holidays, the change in classrooms and teachers and new friends that the children are making. They seem to be very happy and exited about the new year and are always telling me stories about their day.

We have started lots of new activities where the children can build relationships and work collaboratively with each other as we have new students within the school and the BASC program.

Some new games and activities include a whole class game of Battleships where the children use balls to sink other teams ships. The children have to work in teams to attack and defend ships.

Another game they have enjoyed is called the human spider web, made of string using chairs, where the children race to beat their own time, to work their way from one end of the spider web to the other. Children encourage each other and experience the feeling of success.

Children have been really getting involved in the art activities and especially painting. All children are showing interest in creating meaningful paintings to display in our soon to be presented, new art wall.

As always, children are just enjoying spending time in a friendly and relaxed environment where they can play with a huge variety of resources at their own leisure. The children are still so fond of the old wooden train set, lego blocks, Babies and barbies. These activities allow them to explore their imagination, and open their thought processes up to new learning opportunities as they are genuinely interested in the experiences.

It has been lovely seeing all the children and families and I look forward to another year ahead.

See you soon.

From Nicki
14th February, 2017

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We URGENTLY REQUIRE PARENT VOLUNTEERS to assist in the school canteen. If you are available on one or more days per week please consider helping out.

Currently the canteen is open three days per week.

Just complete the form below and hand it into the office so we can organize a roster for the remainder of the term.

Working with Children Check is required.
Thank you

I am available to volunteer in the canteen on the following day(s) (please circle)

Wednesday Thursday Friday

Name: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

RETURN TO THE GENERAL OFFICE
Glenroy West Primary School

RESPECT – EXCELLENCE – RESPONSIBILITY – CO-OPERATION