To The School Community

Connectedness to each other as a school community is an important element in the success of our school, particularly for the students. On Monday I was able to witness how connected our students can be during their participation in the BluEarth activity day led by our BluEarth leaders. Younger and older students supported each other and further developed their relationships through physical activity during games of Jurassic Park, partner balances, Capture the Flag and many other games. Seeing the students enjoying each other’s company as well as teachers getting involved in the whole school game in the afternoon, was a highlight. I would like to congratulate Alicia, Corey, Kobi, Yu-Shin, Mikayla, Aidan and Bronte on a job well done! I hope we can participate in an activity like this again in the near future. Most importantly our support of the day has contributed $218.65 to the Haemophilia Foundation.

Developing the look and feel of the school grounds is an ongoing task that takes significant time and resources to maintain. Thankfully we have generous community members who are always there to chip in. Last Sunday at a Working Bee we were able to complete many tasks including moving 7.5m of topping in front of the Year 2 portables, preparing vegie patches, sweeping up, re-sealing the deck near the 3/4 rooms and painting many external doors around the school. I would like to thank the Tippett, Nichols, McLean, Cicero, Lee, Francis, Dalitz and Quick families.

A huge thankyou goes out to Ms Carr and the team of student leaders who made the P-2 athletics day such a success. Many parents have commented about the exemplary organisation and positive attitude shown by our older students supporting our younger students throughout the day. It was a pleasure seeing the students wearing their house colours and trying their best at each event. My thanks also goes out to the parents who were able to attend the day and support our community event.

School Review – Our Review panel day will be held this coming Monday. This means it will be an extremely busy day with both Mrs Duan and I being unavailable to meet with students and parents. I am looking forward to the day and will post a summary of the discussions shortly after.

Grounds Master Plan – Tuesday 28th is an exciting day for our school that marks the beginning of the development of a grounds master plan that will assist us in meeting the needs of our community taking into consideration play, moving around the school, look and feel of the environment and community access to our grounds. The process begins with community consultation – particularly with our students to assist Jeavons Landscape Architecture in creating our plan before the end of the school year.

Enjoy the rest of the week, see you at Assembly

Daniel Vella

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal.
Grade 6/5 News

North Geelong Secondary College have invited the grade 5 and 6 students to attend a Multi-cultural Festival on Friday, October 24th from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. At the Festival there will be music, activities, entertainment and market stalls. There is reptile bus in attendance, a petting zoo and street art. This excursion is free as bus transport is provided. However students can choose to buy items from the market stalls. A permission note was sent home on Tuesday. School uniform must be worn and a hat taken.

The Festival runs until 5pm so families may wish to go later in the day to enjoy the stalls, entertainment and activities.

SCHOOL NEWS

Twilight Netball
As the newsletter wasn’t available until today, netballers were given diary notes on Tuesday with their playing times. We still have places for players in netta (beginning players from grade 1 to 3) and the grade 3 / 4 teams. If your child is interested, please see Mrs Davidson (room 2) or send a diary note.

Times - October 23rd
4.15 Da A Team, Diamonds, Sherbets, Ralphies (netta), Bobcats (netta)
5.00 Dirty Devils, Stars (netta)
101’s have a bye but as both rounds need players, 101 players willing to play have been allocated to teams
Remember your $3 game fee and sports bottle of water.

To assist with organisation, players may pay their game fee at school and be marked off.

Writing by 2M

Athletics day;
What was the best thing about athletics day?
I enjoyed doing the 3 legged race with Alyssa because we tried not to fall over – Ella D
I liked the 80 m sprint because I liked running – Liam D
I enjoyed the mini hurdles because I like running and jumping – Alyssa
I liked the vortex throw because I am really good at throwing the vortex – Tyler-Jay
I liked the mini hurdles because I was racing people and I came first – Skye
I like the mini hurdles because my brother joined in with me – Tahlia
I liked the long jump because when we were running it was testing my skills of running and jumping – Ella W
I liked the long jumped because it was really funny when I landed on my bottom – Kianah
My favourite event was the 80 meter race and the long jump because I did really well in both. I was really tired at the end but it was fun – Danielle

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School Canteen
The school canteen will be available for lunch orders Wednesday & Fridays. Over counter sales will be available these days as well. Menu’s are available either on the School Web page or at the office. Next special lunch day will be November 17th.

**Mathematicians at Hamlyn Banks**

Last week I was lucky enough to spend some time in one of the Grade One classrooms, where the students were keen to show off their skills as mathematicians to me. Their excitement to share their knowledge and independence when working mathematically was very evident as they worked together in pairs to play some maths games. The students were very aware of the opportunity this gave them to practise their mental strategies as mathematicians. As a class, we then worked together to use some of the fabulous classroom resources to estimate and then measure accurately the length of their class mathematics mascot ‘Count von Count’, who willingly lay still long enough for the students to use the different materials to estimate and then check his length. The students recorded what they found, and discussed if their estimate was reasonable. The skill of estimating within a reasonable range is an important element of being a great mathematician.

Laurelle Conder
Maths Coach

GEELONG HOCKEY CLUB

is seeking new and returning players – all ages, all abilities Juniors and Seniors

5-week Junior Clinic  Ages: 6 – 13 years

 Starts: Wed Oct 29, 2014 Time: 4.30pm-5.30pm

Venue: Stead Park Hockey Centre, Johns Street, Corio
$20 for 5 weeks, or $5 per session – sticks and shinguards provided (mouthguards recommended)

Register with GHC Junior Convenor Adam on 0427 713 184

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**Star of the Week**

**Grade Prep D:** Nathan L & Kiara E
For being awesome writers.

**Grade Prep R:** Alyssa O
For being a super Mathematician and giving it her best shot! Great counting!

**Grade Prep S:** Gemma M
For her kind and caring attitude towards all her classmates.

**Grade P1F:** Lilly S
For a fantastic attitude when writing.

**Grade 1O:** Brody W
For his mature attitude towards completing his writing.

**Grade 1S:** Kyan M
For the lovely way he read “Mr. Whisper”.

**Grade 1W:** Hayden W
For the imaginative stories he writes in class.

**Grade 2D:** Melody C
For always challenging and extending herself. Well done Mel!

**Grade 2M:** Tyler-Jay T
For showing he has a clear understanding of the structure of a narrative.

**Grade 2W:** Kya L
For being an excellent helper in the classroom.

**Grade 43D:** Shayleah Parker
For writing amazing narrative stories with so much detail and description. Well done!

**Grade 43J:** Tayah W
For her excellent efforts in handwriting with diagonal joins. Well done Tayah!

**Grade 43M:** Tom B
For his great effort in reading.

**Grade 43S:** James M
For showing our school values, particularly showing respect. You should be very proud of yourself James.

**Grade 43U:** Cody C
For being an awesome buddy on BluEarth Day!

**Grade 65D:** Alicia M
For her incredible leadership in BluEarth and generosity in giving her time.

**Grade 65G:** Riley V
For his wonderful ability to take on Leadership roles within our class. Keep up the excellent work Riley.

**Grade 65L:** Emma N
For always leading by example in the way she goes about her work in and outside of the class.

**Grade 65L:** Laylah R
For always sticking to the class values and setting the example for her friends.

**Grade 65M:** Bronte R
For organising an unbelievably successful BluEarth day. Showing great cooperation and leadership skills. Amazing job Bronte.

**Sports Star:** Meagan F & Bronte R
For their amazing partner balances in the Circus Workshop

**Maths Star:** Kayleb K
For the persistence and focus that he displayed whilst developing his understandings around single-digit and double-digit multiplication.

**Maths Star:** Danielle R
For making connections between fractions and telling the time.

**Before School Care:** Leah R
Leah is always displaying her best behaviour. Well done Leah!

**After School Care:** Tom C
For being such a great help during our science experiments. Well done Tom!
Before School Care
Head Office Ph: 1300 105 343

Hello Everyone!

We have been choosing some themes and activities for the rest of the term. Along with the usual Christmas and Halloween themes, children have also suggested sports, animal and music themes. Looking forward to doing all of these!

We are winding up our fundraising this week which means the children have voted and Jess will be getting slimed, Debbie is getting a pie in the face, and Daniel will be singing let it go in costume at assembly! Eek. I am scared! Students are choosing the challenges for Daniel Vella, Debbie and myself! I think this could be very funny! Congratulations to everyone that contributed to the effort and we will give you the total amount raised next week. I am sure The Smith Family will be very grateful.

This week's Star of the Week award goes to Leah R. Leah is always displaying her best behaviour. Well done Leah!

Enjoy the rest of the week,

Jess and Debbie

After School Care

Hi everyone,

This week will be Karen’s last full week with us for this term, as Katie will return from her teaching rounds next week. I would like to thank Karen for all of her help during Katie’s absence. It had been great to have a consistent, capable staff member that knows the students attending and the routine. Thanks again.

Last week our caterpillars were a raging success with most children completing one, some children made multiple caterpillars, which is always a great thing to see. Our duck vibrations were a little tricky at first to get any noise out of them, but the students showed great persistence and finally got them going. I would also like to say thanks to the students that could get them working quickly and then helped out the other students. I am very proud of all the team work that was shown. Such a great discussion was had about why the larger ones made a sound than the shorter ones.

This week our art and craft activity is making tropical islands, hopefully this weather stays nice so we can really pretend we are there! Our science activity this week is making balloon rockets, we will be looking at seeing how fast our rockets can move with different levels of wind power. Such a busy week for a 4 day week!

Our star of the week this week is Thomas C for being such a great help during our science experiments. Well done Tom!

Thanks for your time,
Mel, Irena and Karen.