

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Thank you for your response this past week in coming up for our parent/teaching information evening.

It was great to see so many families here for the night.

We would be keen to hear what you thought of the night by completing a feedback slip in this newsletter. Please consider taking a few minutes to tell us what your thought of the night.

In this newsletter is an article by Michael Grose that I had included in my presentation on the night to help your child achieve.

Thank you also for the great response to volunteer training that was held on Wednesday morning.

We had 35 people here to go through some expectations of volunteers in our school and our school volunteer policy.

It is not too late to sign up to help out, even if you were unable to attend this week. All the information regarding volunteering is in the school office. Simply visit the school office to sign up and I am happy to spend a few minutes with you to explain what needs to be done.



Volunteer training hard at work

The following points about the benefits of volunteering are from psychologist and author Michael Grose

**1. You help your child succeed at school.** *The positive correlation between a parent's school engagement and a child's success at school has been repeatedly found in studies across the globe. Positive participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school.*

*Kids of all ages copy their parents' views so your positive involvement in both school and learning is catching. In short, if you want to maximise your child's chances of success then engage as fully as possible in the life of your child's school.*

**2. You learn what happens at school.** *Let's face it, some kids are conversational clams so it's hard finding out about their day at school. By helping out in the class, going on an excursion or helping to maintain their school gardens you find out for yourself how modern schools operate.*

**3. Your school will value your contribution.** *The recent flurry of capital expenditure in school buildings may suggest that there is plenty of money around for education. Nothing could be further from the truth. Schools in all sectors run on tight budgets and rely on volunteer assistance inside and outside the classroom. In many cases, if volunteers don't do a job, it won't be done. It's that simple.*

**4. You will feel more connected to your community.** *Social researchers have noted that children's schools offer many people their first connection to their town or suburb. Mobility is a feature of Australian families with many parents moving vast distances from where they grew up and away from their extended family and peers. Whether you are an urban dweller, a regional city resident or live in a small country town, your child's school offers an entry into a wide social circle.*

**5. Volunteering is good for your mental health and well-being.** *Mental health professionals point to volunteering as an important way to maintain good mental health. Not only does volunteering prevent social isolation but it offers the chance to get a feeling of satisfaction from helping out that money just can't buy. If you'd like to help out at your child's school but you aren't sure where to start then consult your child's teacher, year level co-ordinator or senior staff. They'll point you in the right direction.*

*By fully engaging in the life of your child's school you'll enjoy a richer school experience and help your kids to succeed at school as well.*

Our first K-6 assembly for this year is on this upcoming Friday, 1st March. I hope to see you there.



Mr B Warwick  
Principal

**Voluntary  
Contributions  
\$30/family.**

Please consider helping us out financially with this payment. Payments to the front office

# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## FAMILY COURT MATTERS

Please let the school know if your circumstances change in regards to any legal matters that impact upon your child such as AVOs and custody orders.

## HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club is starting on the 4th March. Keep an eye out for the separate note coming home for this program as numbers are strictly limited.

## EARN AND LEARN

A huge well done to everyone who supported the Woolworths Earn & Learn program last year. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we managed to collect **37,067** stickers which we used to buy a large selection of resources to support literacy and numeracy. These items include scales, teaching clocks, fractions kits and 420 student whiteboards. Those items are now heading their way to your child's class.

Your continued support which enables us to provide the children with valuable, engaging learning experiences is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Webeck - **Maths Coordinator**

## K-6 ASSEMBLY

Our first K-6 Assembly will be held on 1st March at 9.10am. It will be hosted by 5P & 5L and all parents are welcome to attend.

## WAKAKIRRI

If your son/daughter is interested in being part of Wakakirri this year, please see Miss Zimmer. We are looking for dancers, prop designers and backstage crew. The more the merrier!!

## TEXTBOOKS

All students in Kindergarten to Year 6 require a Textbook Pack. The cost of the pack is \$25 and payment can be made at the school office before 11.00am each morning. If you finalise payment before the 1st of March you will go into a draw for a \$20 uniform voucher.

# SPORT NEWS

## BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL PSSA TEAM

Congratulations to Ben from 6BP, Keiran from 5L and Malekai from 5P who made the Green Valley PSSA boys Basketball team. There were 19 students who trialled from around the district.

Congratulations to Amanda from 6BP who made the Green Valley PSSA girls Basketball team also to Tiffany from 6BP who made it in as a reserve. The girls were selected from a total of 28 students from around the district.

Both boys and girls will compete in the Sydney South West Basketball Championships on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at Centennial Stadium, Minto.

## GVPSSA DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Mrs Wicker would like to thank all the students who attended the GVPSSA District Swimming Carnival on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of February. All students were displaying their best behaviour, an excellent representation of our school. All students raced as hard as they could and achieved amazing results.



Students with Olympian James Roberts

Everyone was also lucky to have a meet and greet with Olympian James Roberts, who represented Australia at the London Olympics.

James warmed up in the lanes alongside the swimmers then went up against the best swimmers of the day in the GVPSSA District Swimming Carnival Invitational. It was great to watch!

Everyone should be very proud of their results.

Green Valley looks forward to seeing you all (and many more) there next year!

A **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to Kalebb Kalcher for qualifying for the Regional Swimming Carnival. Best of luck Kalebb.

## HOUSE CAPTAINS

On Wednesday this week, we will be holding meetings to select house captains for 2013.

Students in years 3-6 will assemble in their house teams (Beachley, Freeman, Gilchrist and Thorpe).

Students in year 6 will be given the opportunity to express interest in leading their house. Those students who are interested will be required to say a speech as to why they will make an excellent house captain.

Students from years 3-5 will vote for a boy and girl house and vice captain. In the spirit of providing leadership opportunities to more students, school captains, prefects and SRC students will only be eligible to be a house captain should insufficient numbers of Year 6 students wish to be a house captain.

Good luck to those students interested.

## NEWCOMBEBALL TRAINING

Will now be held on Wednesday mornings at 8.25am with Mrs Le Gras.

# P&C NEWS

## SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

A second hand uniform stall will be set up next Friday 1st March from 2.30pm. Lost property that has not found its way back to its owner (unlabeled) will be washed and sold at very reasonable rates.

# G E L A T O

The P&C gelato stall started again for 2013 last week. Come along a cool down with a gelato on your way home on Friday for \$2.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Green Valley Public School will be participating in Clean Up Australia Day by cleaning up our own school and surrounding areas. **Students are to supply their own**

**g l o v e s .**

WHO: K-6 students

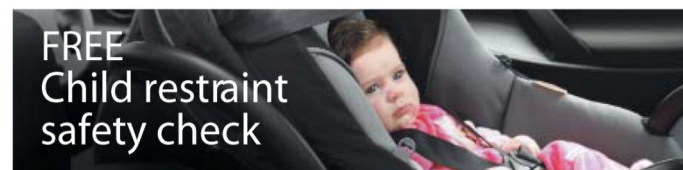
WHEN: Friday 1st March

Time: 11:40am

If you would like to help by cleaning up our vegetable patch area, please see the office, sign in under our volunteer arrangements and help out. We'd love to get this area ready for the students to use again this year. **Please contact your child's class teacher in writing if you do not want your child to participate in this community event.**

### PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please think about our neighbours when parking around the school particularly after school. Some neighbours have experienced difficulty with vehicles blocking driveways or actually parking in their driveway.



DATE: Friday 5 April 2013  
TIME: 10:30 am to 1.30pm  
LOCATION: Liverpool City Council  
Northern Wing  
1 Hoxton Park Rd  
Liverpool 2170  
Bookings for all restraint checks are essential

You can have your child car restraints, harnesses and booster seats checked for safety and correct fit.

Children's car restraints will be inspected by RTA Authorised Restraint Fitters.

For more information contact the Council's Road Safety Officer on 9821 8835 or 9821 8838. Bookings can be made from 20 June.



An initiative of your local council as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program.



## DIARY DATES

*Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, \* indicates new or changed dates since last newsletter.*

### FEBRUARY

- 27 House Captains meeting
- \*27 Fitness Club
- 28 Student Banking

### MARCH

- 1 School's Clean Up Australia Day
- 1 PSSA Round 1
- 1 K-6 Assembly
- \*4 Homework Club
- 6 P&C meeting
- \*6 Fitness Club
- 7 Student Banking
- 8 PSSA Round 2
- \*13 Fitness Club
- 14 Selective High School test
- 14 Student Banking
- 15 PSSA Round 3
- \*20 Fitness Club
- 21 Harmony Day
- 21 Student Banking
- 22 PSSA Round 4
- \*27 Fitness Club
- 28 Easter Hat Parade
- 28 P&C Easter Raffle Draw
- 28 Student Banking
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday

### APRIL

- 1 EASTER MONDAY Public Holiday
- 3 P&C meeting
- \*3 Last Fitness Club for Term 1
- 4 Student Banking
- 5 PSSA Round 5

## NEXT P&C MEETING

Wednesday 6th March 9.00AM

STAFFROOM



Tell us what you thought of...

Parent teacher information night and BBQ



1/ 2 WL have been learning about

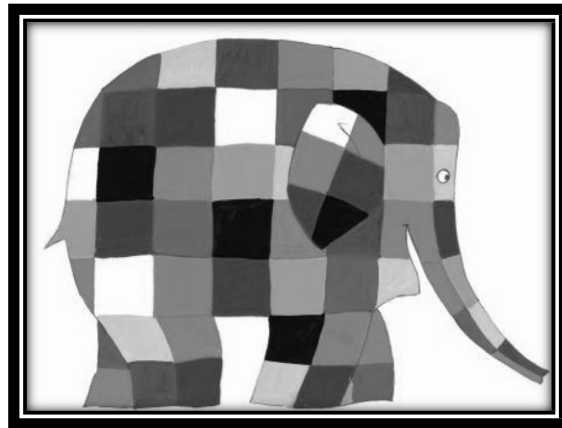
# describing

We have been reading  
“Elmer”. These are the words  
we used to describe him:

colourful

patchwork

big



friendly

kind

funny

We also drew what  
our teacher  
described



Ronia



Shieron



A'aeriana

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator

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## Help your child **ACHIEVE!**

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.



There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child's chances of school success.

### 1. Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve.

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

### 2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.

If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

### 3. Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home.

One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

### 4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time.

Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

### 5. Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes.

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

### 6. Skill children to work with others.

Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

### 7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.

Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

### 8. Participate fully in class & school activities.

There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

### 9. Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience.

Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

### 10. Talk up what happens at school.

Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.

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