

Green Valley Voice

Green Valley Public School

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Issue 4 - Term 1- Week 9

Monday 24th March 2014

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Harmony Day celebrations were held last Friday and it was great to see how colourful the day was.

Harmony Day has now been running across the country for quite a few years now and seems to get a bigger profile each year.

This year it coincided with the National Day of Action Against Bullying.

We started last week with a talk for all students in the hall about being respectful towards each other at all times not just on special occasions such as Harmony Day. I feel that at GVPS we are a very safe, respectful school committed to learning, but I also believe we can always improve in whatever aspect of school if we have a deep, critical, reflective look.

One such area we need to develop in our students over the course of their years at GVPS is a stronger understanding of respect.



Some of the colour of Harmony Day

Respect runs much deeper than being polite and well mannered, though undoubtedly these are vital values we (school and families) instil in our students. Developing a sense of respect for and of identity and heritage is even more important. It is quite easy to be polite and well mannered, and thankfully our students are, but it is also possible to be polite and well mannered outwardly but inwardly be disrespectful.

Here at GVPS, we are represented by over 30 language groups, with a rich student heritage coming from all corners of the globe. I am proud to say that on a daily basis students get along with each other at GVPS so well and they honestly, wouldn't even consider that they come from a different cultural background to each other. They just get on with the job of being a kid. Wouldn't it be nice if this could continue into adult life.

Harmony Day is a day to say we are proud of our heritage and even prouder that we live in this great country as one.

Congratulations to all our students who work so well each day to build respect for each other.

Voluntary Contributions

\$30/family.

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

Last week the P&C meeting moved a motion to expend funds towards the purchase of a new electronic notice board at the front of the school, new picnic furniture for the students in the playground and re-do the playground games in the playground.

These projects will take place over the year.

Please consider making the voluntary contribution payment to the school of just \$30 per family. If every family paid \$30 we would raise an additional \$10 000 each year towards school expenses and items above and beyond that which a school budget normally provide. At the moment we are at around \$2500. Thank you to these who have made the payment and I ask that you consider making the contribution if you have not done so as yet.

Mr B Warwick
Principal

SCHOOL INFORMATION

CLASSROOM PACKAGE REMINDER

This year we are not using textbooks. We will be using a Read-it Book (Kindergarten only) which is a home reading log book and utilising Mathletics, a web based learning program. Mathletics will be used by the students (K-6) in school and for homework. **Students can not log onto the Mathletics Program until the classroom package has been paid.**

Kindergarten Package \$20 Years 1-6 Package \$15
Payments can be made any morning at the school office.

Save the Date

*8th April Parent/
Teacher Interview Night*



K-2 ASSEMBLY

WHEN: 25th March WHERE: School Hall
HOSTED BY: 1NR TIME: 2.00pm
All parents welcome.

FITNESS CLUB

Today was the last Fitness Club for students in K-2. The last Fitness club for students in Years 3-6 is Wednesday 26th March.

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN WORKSHOP—Reminder

WHEN: Tuesday 25th March TIME: 6.30pm—8.00pm
VENUE: Green Valley Public School Hall

ICAS COMPETITIONS

This year students from Years 3-6 have the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments Australia (ICAS). These tests provide a comprehensive record of student's performance. The subjects available are English, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics. Achievement certificates are awarded to all participating students at a range of levels. There is a permission note outlining the dates and fees of the tests. If you would like your child to participate in any of the tests please return the permission note to the office by Friday 11th of April. If you have any questions, please see the Mrs Cruz.

PARENT VOLUNTEER WORKING BEE

When: 1st April

Time: 9.00am—12.00pm

Venue: Staffroom

We are asking for parent volunteers to assist in creating Literacy & Numeracy resources for the classrooms. This will involve cutting, laminating and gluing. Morning Tea will be provided. A note has been sent home with this newsletter. If you can help, please return the slip to the school office.

STAGE ONE WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY FUN DAY

On Monday 7th April 2014, Stage One are having a "Workers In The Community Fun Day" to celebrate the completion of our HSIE unit for this term. Students are asked to come to school dressed as a worker in the community on this day. Throughout the morning, Stage One classes will be listening to a variety of guest speakers, such as Police Officers, Fire fighters and Surf Life Savers. All Stage One students will be having a picnic lunch under the COLA from 10.30am—11.00am. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their child at this time. A parade, which parents are also welcome to attend, will be held at 11.50am in the hall. The parade will give each student a chance to show off their outfit.

SCHOOL WALL PLANNER

A 2014-2015 wall planner has been sent home today. Please display it at home so you can keep up with all the school events planned for this year.

P&C News

President's Report—This is my first report for the year and I would like to welcome all parents and students for 2014. If anybody has any questions about the P&C, please do not hesitate to contact me or attend the next meeting. Remember "As parents, we are the first teachers for our kids".

At the last meeting, on the 19th March, members voted to donate \$15,000 to the school for a new electronic notice board for the front of the school and new playground markings for the students.

Easter Raffle— On Wednesday 9th April, we will be having a Mufti Day (out of uniform day) and we ask students to bring in an Easter item for our raffle.

DIARY DATES

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

MARCH

- 25 Raising Resilient Children Workshop 6.30-8pm
- 26 Last Fitness Club 3-6
- 28 PSSA Round 5

APRIL

- 1 Homework Kit—Working Bee 9-1pm
- 4 K-6 Assembly
- 5 PSSA Round 6
- 7 Stage 1 Workers in the Community Fun Day
- 8 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 9 Buzz Day
- 9 P&C Mufti Day & Working Bee 1.00pm
- 7 Easter Hat Parade
- 10 P&C Easter Raffle
- 11 PSSA Round 7
- 12 Last day of Term 1
- 28 Staff Development Day
- 29 Students return for Term 2
- 30 ANZAC Service

MAY

- 2 PSSA Round 8
- 7 P&C Meeting
- 7 Mother's Day Working Bee 2.00pm
- 8 Mothers' Day Stall
- 7 PSSA Round 9
- 8 Parent Working Bee—Gardens
- 13 NAPLAN
- 14 NAPLAN
- 15 NAPLAN
- 16 PSSA Round 10
- 23 GVPSSA Cross Country Carnival
- 28 Stewart House Clothing Appeal
- 30 K-6 Assembly

JUNE

- 6 PSSA Trials
- 11 P&C Meeting
- 12 SWS Zone Cross Country Carnival
- 13 PSSA Round 1
- 16 ICAS Writing Competition
- 17 ICAS Spelling Competition
- 20 PSSA Round 2
- 25 Buzz Day
- 27 K-6 Assembly

**Gate locked between
9.15 & 2.50 each day.**

**Between these hours
all visitors please
report to the office.**



Next P&C

**Wednesday 7th May
9.00am in the school Staffroom
All Welcome.**

Tickets for the raffle will be sent home on Monday 24th March. Tickets are \$1.00 each. Raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade on the 10th April.

Easter Raffle Working Bee— On Wednesday 9th April, we will be holding a working bee at 1.00pm in the school hall to help make the raffle prize hampers. All parents are welcome to come along and help.

Mother's Day Stall—On Wednesday 7th May, we will be having another working bee at 2.00pm in the school hall to prepare gifts for the stall. All parents are welcome. The Mother's Day Stall will be in Term 2 on Thursday 8th May. Items will range from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Vacant Positions—As from 19th March 2014, we have two vacant positions within the P&C Committee, the Secretary and Vice President. If you are a financial member of the P&C Committee you can come along to the next meeting and nominate someone or volunteer yourself for a position. We invite everyone to show their support.

Next Meeting Date—7th May. Please come along and join in. Everyone is welcome.

LIBRARY NEWS

It's that time again! The Premier's Reading Challenge has begun for 2014. So start reading. The library has many PRC books that are marked with the appropriate stickers for each stage - red stickers for K-2, green for 3-4 and purple for readers in Years 5-6. Some keen students are already well on their way to reading the required 20 books that the challenge sets for stages 2 & 3. Students have till the end of August to complete the required reading. Don't forget to ask Mrs Reardon or Mrs Whittle if your child has difficulty selecting books to read.

Kindergarten parents don't forget to drop in with your child to borrow a Bedtime Bag. Get them on the road to being life-long readers and learners.

Mrs Whittle.

SPORT

CONGRATULATIONS to Sara Draskic 5/6C, Honeyleen Bohol 6W and Tahlia Galea 5L who have made it in to the Zone GVPSSA Girls Soccer Team.

CONGRATULATIONS to Connor Moore 5P who has made it in to the Zone GVPSSA Boys Rugby league Team.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Parlapiana 5/6C, Lauchlan Croft 5/6C, Brayden Walsh 6W, Malekai Moutrage 6W and Kieran Brook 6K who have made it into the Zone GVPSSA Boys Basketball Team.

LAST CHANCE TO AUDITION FOR THE CHOIR *Voices of Sydney*

Voices of Sydney Choir (formerly Sydney Region Choir) is an auditioned and official DEC choir for public school students from Years 5 – 12, with great performance opportunities.

- If you like to sing, and would like to sing in a choir, and
- If you would like to perform in great events (including the 2014 Schools Spectacular)

Then come along to a weekly rehearsal before the end of this term and join the rehearsal.

- Tuesday afternoons at Sutherland Public School. 4.00pm-5.30pm (Deb and Therese)
- Thursday afternoons at Darlington Public School 4.30pm – 5.45pm (Kipi and Helen)

Please ring, text or email to find out more - or turn up to a rehearsal and meet the choir.

Heather Causley Manager- 0400 808 603 causleys@bigpond.net.au



More information on the website www.sydneyregionarts.det.nsw.edu.au – Music Programs- Sydney Region Choir (the 2013 information is still current for this year).

PSSA BEST AND FAIREST Rounds 2 & 3

Boys Basketball	Juniors	Jason Van / Allen Nguyen
	Seniors	Carlos David / Malekai Moutrage
Boys Oz Tag	Juniors	Juan Gobbi / Jayden Farrah
	Seniors	Kevin Nguyen / Izaaya Allabdullah
Boys Softball	Juniors	Hayden Williams / Jacob Palepoi
	Seniors	Jayden Johal / Aadarsh Anuj
Girls Soccer	Juniors	Angelyne Abdishou / Jelena Saric
	Seniors	Sara Draskic / Honeyleen Bohol
Mixed New/Ball	Juniors	Miha Shah
	Seniors	Justin Khannara
Girls Touch	Juniors	Jessie Thornton / Jesse Thornton
	Seniors	Amber Gunn / Jasmine Gunn

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WHEN:
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Thursday 4:30pm

Call Matt - 0411532519

HARMONY DAY

Last Friday, we celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a day for us to appreciate the many different cultures in our community. The SRC hosted a special assembly where we were treated to fantastic cultural dances from Callum (5L), Nadia (5/6C) and Christie (6W), and also a special magic performance from Mis Balati. Many students wore orange or a national costume and it was fantastic to see so many people taking part in the celebrations.

Our school was also invited to a Harmony Day soccer clinic run by Liverpool Council and the Western Sydney Wanderers Football Club. Forty-five students from Years 3-6 participated in the event and learnt many different skills from the WSW training team. They were also lucky enough to meet three of the Wanderers players. Thank you to Miss Weeks and Miss Planes for accompanying the students. The students represented the school with pride and had a great time.



**5L Playing
with
GOLD!!**

2. Your personal alarm

Children have an innate sensitive personal alarm, which we can teach them to use. This is their natural defence system. Work with them to identify and recognise the physical and environmental signals that cause their alarm to sound. Knowing that a rush of adrenalin will cause physiological changes in our bodies and activate our personal alarm is a good start. A child's personal alarm will present the same physical and emotional cues that an adult's will.

3. Trust your instincts

Have you ever gotten "the creeps"? Maybe it's the idea of snakes, mice or heights that does it for your child. Encourage them to draw on how it feels when they get the creeps. Instincts are those feelings you get when

something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Instincts are the physiological changes that happen to our body when our personal alarm goes off.

Physiological changes include noticing that you feel scared or nervous, your tummy feels upset and your heart is racing. And you know what? Our personal alarm is right 100% of the time.

4. Personal space vs. safety zone

Most kids understand the concept of personal space. How many times have we heard, "Stop invading my personal space!" Most people feel comfortable within an arm's length of others. However, do your kids recognise their safety zone? Teach your child to be aware of their surroundings. If a "strange" person is too close, suggest they back away and maintain their safety zone. A safety zone is much bigger than your personal space – at least three giant steps bigger.

5. Safe places, safe people

There are times when a child must ask for help quickly and instinctively. We already know that not all strangers are bad, that most strangers will help a child who is lost or upset. It is situations that are safe, not places. Talk with your child and reinforce that he or she must ALWAYS use his or her skills with ALL people, including those presumed safe. Encourage your child to tell an adult they trust when someone or something has frightened them.

As parents we need to empower our children with self-confidence and trust in their ability to sense when something is just not right. It doesn't matter if they can articulate it; they just have to feel it.

Catherine Gerhardt, Kidproof Melbourne

Kidproof provides proactive and preventative child and family education programs. We work with schools, community groups and other child centric organisations. We provide peace of mind for parents and create safer communities for everyone.

- www.kidproof/safety.com.au
- melbourne@kidproof/safety.com
- 1 300 577 663

THE NEW RULE EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

Have you ever heard yourself say to your children, "Don't talk to strangers?"



BY CATHERINE GERHARDT

An honest person will likely admit that at some time in their childhood, they were given this rule. In fact, many parents will admit they continue to pass this rule onto their own children. Yet, in the same breath, we might encourage our children to talk to the supermarket cashier, the sales person or the long lost relative. All of these people fit the definition of a stranger, but for some unknown reason it is okay for the child to talk to them. At best, this rule sends mixed messages to our kids.

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of "never talk to strangers" to "never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first". A child who has been taught to never talk to strangers may feel they have nowhere to go if they find themselves lost in a shopping centre or other public place.

As parents we need to emphasise who is a "stranger". Your definition and your child's may be quite different. Engage with your children to help them understand that a stranger is simply someone whom they do not know. We do not know if someone is good or bad just by looking at them. Rather, we need to teach our children about "strangeness".

Five ways to enforce the new rule:

1. Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first

This is the new fundamental rule to keeping kids safe. This rule must NEVER be broken. Regardless of if it is a school, public or family function, work with your children to ensure they always ask an adult for permission before going off with ANYONE.

Classic "what if" scenarios are worth their weight in gold. "You are at school and walking back to class after snack when a man comes up to you and says he is looking for his son's class. He asks you to go with him to show him where it is. Do you go?"

Use tempting scenarios that are relevant to your child, such as puppies or toys, and discuss safe options and strategies in each case.



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