

Greenhills Primary School



Greenhills is **G.R.E.A.T.**

Grit, Respect, Effort, Adventure, Teamwork

Term 2 - Week 10, 24 June 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ GREENHILLS 2021

Thursday 24 th June	Last day of Term 2 3.30pm Finish (Assembly at 2.50pm)
Friday 25 th June	CURRICULUM DAY PUPIL FREE – OHSClub WILL BE OPERATING
Monday 12 th July	First day of Term 3 Breakfast Club 8.30am in Portable 4 (opposite Library)
Tuesday 13 th July	9.30am School Tour Nude Food Tuesday
Monday 19 th July	Breakfast Club 8.30am in Portable 4 (opposite Library)
Tuesday 20 th July	Nude Food Tuesday 9.30am School Tour 6pm Education & Communications meeting 7pm Parent Association meeting
Thursday 22 nd July	Class of 2019 & 2020 Re-union
Friday 23 rd July	Ride / Walk / Scoot to School Day 2.50pm Assembly
Monday 26 th July	Breakfast Club 8.30am in Portable 4 (opposite Library)
Tuesday 27 th July	Nude Food Tuesday 3.30pm Open Classrooms Afternoon
Wednesday 28 th July	Experience Greenhills (Prep Transition 2022) 9.30am / 11am / 2pm
Thursday 29 th July	Year 5/6's excursion to Montmorency SC Production

THANK YOU SEMESTER 1

Wow – we made it through to the end of a long and action packed term. Looking at our staff and students I think we only just made it and the holidays have come at the perfect time. (Even better the fact that many restrictions have now been removed so that it might even feel like a holiday too!)

My photo this week was taken a few weeks back by Mrs Mackie. I think it really captures the very special environment that we have at our school and just how lucky we are to live and learn in such a wonderful city.

I have been really pleased with our first half of the year, especially given the hurdles and other things beyond our control that our school community has had to deal with. As always, our staff, students and parents have worked together and remained as connected as possible and we can look forward to GREAT things continuing in the second half of the year.

There have been many highlights for me this semester:

- Our Amazing race staff professional learning day on the first day back.
- Working with Don Elgin who engaged our students so effectively as we focused on our GREAT values launch and the day itself where student worked in multi-age teams throughout the day on various challenges.
- Our staff working in Professional Learning Teams to track student achievement data, focusing on the impact their teaching is making and then developing curriculum around the needs of our students.
- The camps, excursions and events organised as part of our extensive extra- curricular programs across our school.
- Terrific support from our PA with our End of Term BBQ, Easter Raffle, Hot Cross Buns & Mother's Day Stall and more.
- Inducting so many parent helpers (now we just need the green light to start this up again in our classrooms).

The biggest highlight for me was the launch of our 3 x 15-minute focus sessions each day. These Reading, Numeracy & Agency sessions are starting to have an impact. This is evidenced by the feedback we are getting from students in different focus groups both formally and informally. We have been very strategic in the timing of these sessions each day and are working with our staff team to ensure consistency and high levels of engagement. Our challenge is around maintaining our energy and focus across every classroom, every day. In this way, we are ensuring that we are “walking our talk” when it comes to the three educational outcomes that are the most important to us at Greenhills.

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING & SAFETY TRAINING

Tomorrow our entire staff team will undertake Cultural Understanding & Safety Training which is being delivered by our Department of Education & Training Koorie Education Support Officer.

It will be a very important day of learning for us all and one that we hope will enable us to ensure our students and community at Greenhills develop a deeper respect and understanding of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait history and culture. I think the impact of this day will be seen through an increase in the way we respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of our land, whole school activity through events such as NAIDOC Week and most importantly ensuring we incorporate and embed the learning outcomes as outlined in the Victorian Cross Curriculum Priority Area “Learning About Aboriginal & Torres Strait islander History & Cultures” across our Inquiry, Literacy, Numeracy and other key areas. This will have the deepest impact across our school and is something we are very much committed and looking forward to.

CALL FOR COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

One of the main actions for our Education & Communications Sub-Committee this year is to further refine and develop our Communications Strategy. This will assist us to explore and outline the various communication tools and processes we use, streamline these where possible and identify any gaps or areas for improvement. The aim being to produce a document that is very clear and easily understood by our school community.

We would appreciate the assistance of anyone with expertise in this area or even the support of those with a passionate interest to join this team of staff and parents as we work on this project over the next few months. If you are able to assist, please contact me:

james.penson@education.vic.gov.au

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3:

I have included a Term 3 calendar with this newsletter. This provides families with a list of dates for the different activities we have organised next term. Keep an eye out for that COMPASS Calendar – this is still our goal for us to get up and running.

SIBLING ENROLMENT FORMS

This is the final call for any sibling enrolments for Prep in 2022. We have sent out confirmations of enrolments to families on our waiting list and are now beginning to organise the grade structure for preps next year. It is vital that if you have a student starting school next year that you put in an enrolment form.

Finally, thank you for your continuous support of our school. I am so grateful the work of our dedicated staff, the engagement of our students each day and the home school partnership our school has built over such a long period of time. Working in our school each day is an absolute privilege because I see so many good things happening, and our students always have smiles on their faces. Greenhills is a GREAT place to be.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!

I hope that all of our families get some time together to enjoy life away from the school routines and are able to come back refreshed for Term 3!

James Penson
Principal



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS:

Dakota C, Amelie T, Chelsea B, Fletcher V, Lucas, Lachlan H,
Claire L, Zack H, Tina D, Charlie M, Vincent J

Connected Schools – Constructive comments when kids are anxious

When you see anxiousness take hold here are some things that you can say that will help a child cope.

“You’re okay. I’m here and I won’t be going anywhere.”

Such statements indicate warmth, safety and comfort. A child may not believe you straight away but that’s okay; your presence will get the message across.

“You don’t have to do anything right now. Just breathe.”

The less children fight anxiousness, the more likely it is that the feeling will go.

“Let’s go for a walk”

Physical activity is the best antidote to an anxiety attack as it helps burn up the adrenalin that prepares a child’s body to fight or take flight, and releases dopamine, the feel-good hormone.

“Take some big, deep breaths. I’ll do it with you.”

Breathing triggers, the relaxation response which, like the fight or flight response, is hardwired in all of us.

“I’d like to understand what your worry is like for you. Can you teach me?”

The ability to accurately identify a feeling when it occurs is at the heart of emotional intelligence so encourage your child to verbalise what their anxiety feels like.

“What would you say to a friend who was going through what you go through?”

Invite your child to take a more objective look at their own anxiety to help them gain a different perspective and level of understanding.

“Your brain is amazing. Every time you breathe through your anxious feelings you’re teaching your brain how to manage your anxiousness.”

Brains have an amazing capacity to adapt and learn new ways of coping. By helping a child understand that they are, in effect, training their brain to better respond to anxiousness you empower them to positively manage their feelings.



James Penson, Janine Hough, Roslyn Mackie and Betty Hajichristou
Connected Schools Team

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ORTHODONTICS

Tuckshop Job Opportunity

Briar Hill Primary School and its community are extremely proud of our school Tuckshop. Our Tuckshop manager of 7 years has recently moved on and we are now looking for someone to take the helm and continue to grow the Tuckshop.

Briar Hill Primary School Council is seeking a suitable applicant to manage the day to day operations of its Tuckshop. This is a contracted position, ideal for a person who currently operates a catering business or someone who is seeking a part-time business to operate within school hours and terms.

If you are interested more information can be found here :

https://www.briar-hill-ps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/9/0/109055401/tuckshop_opportunity_final.pdf



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