



Greensborough Primary School - 2062

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Borough Bulletin ~ 05 February 2026

Friday 30 January 2026	Grade 6 Funfields Excursion Welcome to our new International Students
Wednesday 4 February 2026	Pupil Free Day – Prep Students only
Friday 06 February 2026	Interschool Sports Round 1 – Streeton PS V GPS – Away First Friday Afternoon School Assembly – 3:10pm
Tuesday 10 February 2026	Student Swimming Trials – WaterMarc – 9:30am
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Pupil Free Day – Prep Students only
Friday 13 February 2026	Interschool Sports Round 2 –GPS V Watsonia Heights PS – Home
Tuesday 17 February 2026	Chinese New Year Celebration – Lion Dance – 03:00pm
Wednesday 18 February 2026	Pupil Free Day – Prep Students only
Thursday 19 February 2026	District Swimming Carnival – 10:00am to 12:30pm
Friday 20 February 2026	Interschool Sports Round 3 – GPS V Watsonia Nth PS – Home
Monday 23 February 2026	School Council Meeting – 7:00pm - TBC
Wednesday 25 February 2026	Pupil Free Day – Prep Students only Parent/Teachers – Meet & Greet sessions
Friday 27 February 2026	Interschool Sports Round 4 – Bundoora PS V GPS – Away 2026 Camp Weekaway 2 nd Instalment Due
Wednesday 04 March 2026	Twilight Sports Event – 5:00pm P&F Barbeque – 5:00pm to 6:30pm
Friday 06 March 2026	Interschool Sports Round 5 – GPS V Watsonia PS – Home
Monday 09 March 2026	Labour Day – Public Holiday
Wednesday 11 March 2026	NAPLAN – Writing – Grades 3 & 5
Thursday 12 March 2026	NAPLAN – Reading – Grades 3 & 5
Friday 13 March 2026	Interschool Sports Round 6 – GPS V Norris Bank PS – Home
Monday 16 March 2026	NAPLAN – Numeracy – Grades 3 & 5
Tuesday 17 March 2026	NAPLAN – Language Conventions – Grades 3 & 5
Friday 20 March 2026	Interschool Sports Round 7 – St Mary's PS V GPS – Away Special Visitor Day – Prep to Grade 2 - TBC
Monday 23 March 2026	School Council Meeting – 7:00pm – TBC
Friday 27 March 2026	Interschool Sports Finals 2026 Camp Weekaway 3 rd Instalment Due
Thursday 02 April 2026	Easter Bonnet Parade Last Day of Term 1 – Early finish – 1:30pm
Friday 03 April 2026	Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday 20 April 2026	First Day of Term 2
Friday 24 April 2025	ANZAC Day Service – 10:50am Interschool Sports Round 1 – GPS V Norris Bank PS – Home

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Principal's Report

A very warm welcome back to everyone to our 2026 school year, especially our Prep class of 2026 and new students in Grades 1 – 6, and their families. It was lovely to see students' and staff excitement as they returned and caught up on holiday adventures and began to get to know their new classmates. Our new Grade 1/2 teacher Sheridyn Houlihan met with her class last year and is enjoying the opportunity to meet siblings and parents also.

We congratulate students and staff on their smooth start to the year and retaining their enthusiasm and focus on teaching and learning, despite the impact of the power outage we experienced on the eve of students' return. Margaret and I have been working non-stop to restore all services and Margaret is continuing to work with VSBA. Whilst we've had some quick wins, the huge power surge has impacted classroom use of technologies and overall school systems. We are also seeking VSBA or Regional support to complete the massive task of seeking reimbursement from AUSNET or DET to replace the extensive list of equipment that has been 'fried' in the power surge.

The excellent start to class programs was no doubt due to staff setting up their classrooms in the school holidays and planning class programs together. This does not happen in all schools, and we thank our ES and teachers for their commitment and enthusiasm for their students. The buildings and grounds looked terrific for our return, as we also had a great deal of work completed during the break, and Margaret has included a detailed report in this newsletter.

Our Pupil Free day on Tuesday 27th January was very productive as staff worked through the list of all students enrolled at the school to ensure there is understanding and consistency with important medical, social/emotional and academic information. We've also completed our CPR updates, so overall it's been a busy but very productive fortnight.

We're looking forward to working with our excellent group of student leaders this year and at Friday's assembly they will be presented with their badges. Grade 5/6 teacher Clara Ellis is coordinating our Student Leadership program this year and we look forward to their student voice and agency enhancing our programs. Clara has included photos of the leadership group in this newsletter.

Mental Health In Primary Schools and School Wide Positive Behaviours

We're very excited to implement two new programs this year. Funding has been rolled out to schools in our region for the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) initiative. Kristy Bedford has extended her role at GPS and, as well as Visual Arts, Kristy will be our Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL). MHWLs lead a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Kristy will work across the school to lead a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing for students, staff and families based on the needs of the school community.

Our application to join the School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS) initiative was also successful and staff will have access to professional learning and coaching. SWPBS is not a specific model but a compilation of evidence based effective systems and individualised strategies for achieving important social learning outcomes. It builds on the work we'd already started last year with Positive Classroom Behaviour Strategies.

CSEF increased to \$400!

Pleasingly, from 1 January 2026, families eligible for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will see an increase in support to \$400 for primary and secondary school children, up from \$154 and \$256 respectively. This is excellent news for families and CSEF can be used for 2026 camp costs for Grade 3 – 6 students. All students can use the funds to pay for swimming, excursions and ISS buses. We ask families who are eligible for CSEF to contact Meghan our Business Manager. Meghan will also send an application form home to families who currently receive CSEF as well as families new to the school.

Welcome International Students

We were very pleased to welcome four short term international students this week, with an additional five beginning next week. The students will stay with us for durations of 2 – 4 weeks and to show their appreciation the families have organised a Lion Dance to celebrate the Chinese New Year during assembly on Tuesday 17th Feb at 03:10pm. We invite family members to join us.

The Lion Dance performance during Chinese New Year symbolizes the warding off of evil spirits and the ushering in of good luck and prosperity. It is believed that the rhythmic movements and vibrant colours of the lion bring positive energy and joy to the community, fostering a sense of unity and harmony. Our international student program complements our Mandarin program and is a wonderful opportunity for cross cultural exchange.



Parent/Teacher 'Meet and Greet' Sessions – Wednesday 25th February.

Information will be sent home via COMPASS for parents/carers of children in Grades 1 – 6 to book a time for Parent/Teacher 'Meet and Greet' sessions. Bookings for interview times will once again be via our COMPASS platform and barring any technical glitches, they'll go live **Monday 16th February at 05:00pm**. If any parents/carers experience difficulty with the COMPASS booking process, please contact the office for assistance. Families with more than one student attending GPS are advised to book early so that you are able to arrange sessions close together, rather than have large time gaps between meetings. So as not to inconvenience families, meetings will run on time and adhere to the ten-minute time allowance – if any parents require additional time, a further meeting can be arranged on another date.

The 'Meet and Greet' sessions provide an opportunity for parents to meet with your child's new class teacher to share information about your child and discuss any relevant issues. Information about class programs, organisation and learning goals will also be provided to parents at this meeting. Prep parents are not required to attend the 'Meet and Greet' sessions as we have shared information during transition sessions. Parents of students who participate in Student Support Group meetings will be sent an invitation to arrange an SSG with their child's class teacher or attend the 'Meet and Greet'.

Twilight Sports – Wednesday 4th March 05:00pm – 06:30pm

Don't forget to put the date of our Twilight Sports Night into your diary! This annual event will be held on the oval on Wednesday 4th March. This is a terrific night where students come dressed in their House colours and compete in their grade levels in House Teams, cheered on by their parents and family members. Dinner can be purchased from the Parents and Friends' Barbeque or families may bring a picnic with rugs and chairs. Our Grade 5 and 6 students run various stalls to raise money for Graduation, including Face Painting, Colour Hair Spraying, Nail Polishing in House Colours and much more, so please bring along your gold coins! The barbeque will begin at 05:00pm and sporting events at 05:30pm. More information will be sent home closer to the date.



Anaphylaxis Reminder

Student safety is always a priority at GPS, and we ask families to not send any food to school that contains nuts. Class teachers have reminded students that they are not to share food and we ask parents to reinforce this message also. While there are several students who are known to have anaphylaxis across the school, there may be some undiagnosed cases. Staff complete annual training in managing an anaphylactic incident and we have regular drills with students as part of our emergency management routines.

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School Council Elections

One of the major tasks for first term is the election of the 2026 School Council. *There are four parent positions available for nomination for a two-year term of office.* I would urge all families to consider involvement in this important aspect of school management. Parents whose two-year term on School Council has come to an end, have the opportunity to renominate for subsequent terms on School Council. School Council involvement includes two x two-hour School Council meetings per term, and involvement in a School Council subcommittee. ***From 2026, SC members are required to have a Working With Children Check – please see further information from DET below.***

Parents can either nominate themselves for School Council or they can be nominated by another person. **Nomination forms are available at the office and need to be returned to the office by Thursday 19th February.** If the number of nominations matches the number of vacancies, then the parents who have nominated are automatically on School Council. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, there is an election process.

School Council provides a pivotal role in the effective management of the school. If you have any further queries about School Council involvement, please do not hesitate to contact either Margaret or myself or a current School Council member.

Notice of Election and call for nominations	Thursday 5 th February 2026
Closing date for nominations	Thursday 19 th February 2026
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted.	Thursday 26 th February 2026
First Council meeting to elect office bearers and co-opt Community members.	Monday 23 rd March 2026 – TBC

From DET re WWCC for SC Membership

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, I encourage you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.

Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at Service Victoria.

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for. If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council. Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again. For more information, refer to Ministerial Order 1280 (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020.

We're looking forward to a terrific year in 2026. For families with students at secondary school, I hope they had a great start to this next chapter of their education. We greatly enjoy our past students returning to say hello and letting us know how they are progressing.

We're very fortunate to have a wonderful community at Greensborough Primary and we're looking forward to a terrific year ahead.

Regards,

Angela Morritt

Principal

Dear School Families,

Welcome back to the 2026 school year. Please find below for your information, an update on Buildings and Grounds and Finance

Buildings and Grounds

It had been identified that the forty-five-year-old cabinetry in the staffroom was quite dangerous with overhead cupboards and updating to power points required. Our wonderful volunteer Grandads (Wayne and Geoff) have completed installing new cupboards and benches which look amazing and now make the staff room both safe and pleasant for staff to use.

Based upon the success of the staffroom cupboards we are having a plan put together to have all of the cupboards and benches in the art room which are also forty-five years old replaced.

- ★ Over the holidays the Staffroom and Prep room were repainted and the staffroom and office chairs steam cleaned
- ★ Noise absorbing wall tiles were installed in the two Grade 5/6 classrooms, the Numeracy room and the Admin area.
- ★ Repairs were made to the artificial turf on the Netball court, and a full maintenance of all turf will be completed next week.
- ★ The school has been plagued by a slow water leak and, finally, over the holidays, when we were able to isolate water usage, the damaged underground pipe was found and this has now been repaired.
- ★ As a result of the power surge last Tuesday, the scheduled replacement of all othe school's switchboards has been brought forward and will now commence next week.
- ★ Once the switchboards have been replaced an assessment will be made on the situation with the air conditioning units and other infrastructure impacted by the power surge. Until then, the temporary air conditioning units installed last Tuesday will remain.
- ★ Design work has commenced for a new school roof, and structural engineers attended the school over the holidays to commence this process.
- ★ The Scope of Works for the window replacement is continuing, and we hope that work on this project will commence quite soon

Finance

As was communicated last year, rather than families having to individually order book packs for their children, the school placed an order for all students in the school which was delivered last year, and all grades had their booklist items ready for use from day one. The \$50 cost of the book packs was included in the parent payment schedule. We are very appreciative of the families who have either paid the 2026 parent contribution on full or the \$50 book pack component. Families are welcome to make small instalment payment towards the 2026 payment schedule if this works better for family budgets. A copy of the 2026 schedule has been attached to the newsletter. Please contact the office if you require any more information or support.

At the next School Council meeting we will present an overview of 2026 extra curricula activities and estimated costs. Once School Council has approved this proposal, we will send it out to school families to give everyone the opportunity for future planning.

With the \$500 raised from the Bring and Buy table last year, Parents and Friends committing the profits from the Bunnings and Christmas Picnic barbeques and a very kind donation from a school family we are well on the way to having the funds required to pay for the Grades 3 – 6 camp buses. If anyone has any Bring and Buy donations to send along, the table will be set the up again and the profits from this should mean the camp bus costs will be covered.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Hirth

Assistant Principal

2026 Parent Payments

Dear School Families,

School Council have now ratified the 2026 Curriculum Charges and these are set out below. The only costs for families beyond the Parent Payment Schedule will be:

- The cost of Camps, Excursions /Incursions, Transport costs for interschool sport and athletics, Pool admission for Swimming and the Circus lessons incursions
- For 2026 the cost of Student Bookpacks has been included in the Parent Payment Schedule so parents will no longer be required to order individually from MAXIM. This way, all resources required for student use will be delivered at the end of 2025 and everything will be in place for the start of the 2026 school year

As part of the Education Department's updated policy on the collection of Parent Payments for essential school items, we are no longer able to issue statements beyond the information below however, upon request, Meghan is able to provide an updated statement of amounts owed or payments made.

In addition to the Curriculum Contributions, families are invited to support programs at the school with the option of \$30 contributions towards:

- The Library Program
- Student Welfare Activities
- ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) equipment and programs

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Payment can be made at any time via:

1. Via your Compass App
2. Via Direct Debit to the school account:

BSB: 063 185

Account Number: 1014 8099

Please put the name of the student/s in the reference section

3. In person at the office.

Thank you very much for your support and assistance, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Hirth

Greensborough Primary School regularly reviews and updates our policies and procedures to ensure they meet the Department's requirements. These are available on the school website, or a hard copy can be obtained from the office.

We are committed to continuous improvement and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our policies and procedures.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions please contact Angela or Margaret.

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Curriculum Contributions – items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Year Prep – 6 classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper (\$10) • Science – chemicals, equipment (\$5) • Mathematics – numeracy blocks (\$10) • English – book boxes (\$10) • Sports – equipment (\$5) • Library – books, library systems (\$5) • Discovery program EG LEGO room equip (\$5) 	\$50
Online Subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compass (\$10) • On-Line learning platforms (\$20) 	\$30
ICT Devices – provision of devices from the shared classroom sets	\$10
Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$10
2026 Student Bookpacks	\$50
Other Contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria membership	\$5
Student wellbeing programs	\$20
First aid equipment	\$5
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$20
Total Amount:	\$200

Financial Support for Families

Greensborough Primary understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Referral to community-based support agencies where available
- Payment Plans to meet family needs

Whilst payment of the Curriculum Charges is voluntary, it is greatly appreciated. For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Mehgan Uren on +61 3 94351496 or greensborough.ps@education.vic.gov.au



GREENSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM



School Captains & School Vice Captains

Last year, we had 16 out of 18 Grade Five students apply for our School Captain role! When it came to finalising our decision, it was not an easy task with all candidates blowing us away with their engaging speeches.

We are confident our School Captains, Ella and Hudson, and School Vice-Captains, Evelyn, Philippa and Tomas, will proudly represent our school.



Evelyn, Philippa, Ella, Hudson & Tomas

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GREENSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

House Captains & House Vice Captains

Each year, we incorporate Student Voice and Agency into our Leadership selection process, by giving students the opportunity to present reasons on why they are the best candidate for the role. Our student body is then responsible for electing our House Captains and House Vice-Captains.

We are excited to see how our House Captains and House Vice-Captains will contribute positively to our learning environment throughout 2026!



Ren, Atri, Fatima, Lily & Jacob

GREVILLEA

House Captains:

Fatima & Atri

House Vice-Captains:

Ren, Lily & Jacob



Nour, Olivia, Charlie, Nyora & Caleb

ACACIA

House Captains:

Olivia & Charlie

House Vice-Captains:

Caleb, Nyora & Nour

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GREENSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

House Captains & House Vice Captains



Scarlett, Lola & Kashvika

BANKSIA

House Captains:

Lola & Kashvika

House Vice-Captain:

Scarlett

EUCALYPTUS

House Captains:

Mary & Dash

House Vice-Captains:

Yasmin & Raythan



Raythan, Mary, Dash & Yasmin

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Grade 6 Funfields

On Friday 30 January, our Year 6 students enjoyed their first special Grade 6 excursion with a fun-filled day at Funfields in Whittlesea. With the sun shining and perfect weather for waterslides and ice creams, students made the most of every moment. They bravely took on popular rides such as the Pirate Ship, dodgem cars and toboggans, with some thrill-seekers even conquering the 360-degree Voodoo ride. After recharging with lunch, it was time to cool off in the water, where the waterslides, Tiki boats and wave pool were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Congratulations to our Year 6 students for their exceptional behaviour and positive representation of our school throughout the day.

"The fields were fun." Jacob

"The whole day was absolutely exhilarating!" Drew

"All the rides were really fun and exciting. My favourite was the Pirate Ship." Evelyn

"The day was fun and I enjoyed the Pirate Ship!" Eloise

"The Voodoo looked scary at first, but once I went on it, it was really fun." Fatima

"It was a great opportunity to hang out with the Grade 6s I don't see that often." Lola



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STUDENT WELLBEING

Hi Everyone,



2026! WOW! I recently 'bumped' into an ex-student, and she informed me that she is now in YEAR 10, when I feel like she has just left Year 6! I tell my children not to BLINK!

A SPECIAL WELCOME to our Preps and other new students and their families.

I look forward to continuing to work with your children and to meet new ones. Please note that, for personal reasons, I am only working on Tuesdays. Please also read the **BREAKFAST CLUB NOTICE** below so Wednesday Breakfast Club can continue – students keep asking me when it will be on.

So, let's continue to work together helping our young people become all that they can be!



Robyn Mulholland

Student Wellbeing Coordinator
Tuesday only

robyn.mulholland@education.vic.gov.au

BREAKFAST CLUB

A VOLUNTEER WEEKLY CO-ORDINATOR AND ROSTERED VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Our students are very fortunate to have breakfast options. Research shows that a healthy breakfast is vital for enabling students (and adults) to start their day on a full stomach which increases concentration and alertness for learning.

On Wednesdays we have provided a cooked breakfast BUT, DUE TO MY CHANGE OF DAYS, I am unable to continue to co-ordinate the Wednesday Breakfast Club. A number of students have been asking when it will start and, at present, I have to disappoint them.

If you are able to take on the co-ordination of the weekly Wednesday Breakfast Club, please contact me via email: Robyn.mulholland@education.vic.gov.au and we can arrange a meeting.

We also need volunteers to be rostered for about one Wednesday a month.

Please seriously consider these roles so that the Wednesday Breakfast Club can continue.

The students and I are hoping for your support!

Kind regards,

Robyn (Student Wellbeing)



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. The CSEF is paid directly the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

Payments for 2025 are:

- \$400 per year for eligible primary school students

Payments are made directly to the school:

- from March onwards each year where the parent/carer's concession card is assessed as valid on the first day of Term 1 and
- where the parent/carer's concession card is assessed as valid on the first day of Term 2.

Payments are for the application year and cannot be claimed for previous years.

All families who are eligible to apply for CSEF funding should collect an application for at the office and provide a copy of your valid Parent/Carer Concession Card. Applications close soon so if you have any questions, please contact Mehgan on (03) 9435 1496

