

Term 2, 30th April 2020

Greenhills is **G.R.E.A.T.**  
Grit, Respect, Effort, Adventure, Teamwork

## Term 2 - Week 3, 2020

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was a very different ANZAC day on Saturday – but a very special one as well. It was GREAT to see so many households in my own street on their driveways at 6am. We could even hear a trumpet from a nearby street playing the last post. Thank you and well done to our Junior School Council leaders who organised this through our school blogs. Here are some wonderful examples of this drawn by the L'Estrange and Cust families.



### REMOTE & FLEXIBLE LEARNING

It has been a joy to view some of the students' learning posted in the various Seesaw classrooms. It is only now day 12 of our Remote & Flexible Learning Program and the positive student and parent feedback and high levels of engagement at this point in time have been encouraging for our staff. We appreciate that at times, there are conflicting demands on parents and we highly value everyone trying their very best in these current circumstances.

As we continue in this model, there is a risk that student (and family!) motivation will start to drop. To help with this we will be rolling out the next phase of our program which will include:

- 9am Monday morning live welcome via Webex (10 minute roll call and check in with teacher).
- 15 minute conferences via Webex with the teacher and small groups of students together (Each student will participate in one of these during the week).

Our team recognises there is a social and wellbeing value in the opportunity for students to connect with peers online and as such are very excited to start these small group online conferences.

Also, as part of our continuing Remote & Flexible Learning Program we are seeking feedback from parents and carers. Our school team is working hard to ensure that what we are providing best meets the needs of our students under these difficult conditions. Your feedback is vital and valued in helping us as we continue using this model.

Here is the link to the survey which will be open for the next week: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C5HTXWZ>

## SCHOOL COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Earlier this week our School Council Sub-Committees met using Webex or Zoom. This was certainly very different but extremely valuable. Whilst we are working in very unsure times and don't have a specific return to school date, it is important that we continue to run our school as normal as possible. I thank all of the parents, carers and staff who continue to support our school by attending these meetings and having an active voice in shaping what we do and how we do it.

Here is a short summary of what was discussed and actioned:

### EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Our Education & Communications team spent time discussing our Remote & Flexible learning Program including reviewing the school's communication and process for continuing to maintain family support, engagement and motivation. Work also continues on developing a new school website and we are not far away from launching it once school returns to normal.

### SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

This is a new team and it was exciting to have strong interest and attendance for our first meeting. There was lots of ideas and suggestions put forward and the plan is to now develop a clear action plan. This will include consulting with our school community to develop an environmental policy and pledge. The team is also looking at running a school based "Plastic Free July" which we started last year, improving our rubbish recycling and school yard litter, and exploring ways to build more sustainable practices into what we do across the school.

### PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Easter Raffle was a big hit with \$579 raised. Congratulations to our winners and thanks you to the PA team for bringing this together so quickly. With all the current Covid 19 restrictions in place, our PA team have had to temporarily park many of our plans for this year including rescheduling our Spring Fair to 2021. Remote learning has also forced our team to think outside of the square. As such, instead of our wonderful Mother's & Special Person's Day stall, we are planning a very secret way to celebrate the day. – I can't reveal anymore than that! We would also like to run a community celebration night in our new multi-purpose space and refurbished gym if or when we are allowed to!

**The next meetings for all of these committees will be the evening of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to join any of them please contact me.**

### TRANSITION UPDATE

Our Year 6 students and families are now in the process of organising their preferences for their placements into high school. This is an exciting time but it can also be challenging and stressful for families as they make this decision. DET Schools have to follow a very strict regime of dates and processes and it is very important that this is maintained. The next step is for all of our families of Year 6 students to **complete the preference form** that will be sent home shortly and return this back to our school by return post, in person at the office or in our school mailbox by **Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>**. It is also important for our Year 6 parents to understand that many schools in our area have enrolment restrictions. I encourage you to research this in detail and make the time to find out more about the school/s you may wish your child to attend.

The Year 6-7 placement process is just one very small part of our transition program at Greenhills. The major part of our focus and work in this area is preparing all of our Year 6 students for the transition into secondary school. The feedback we get from our local schools is that our students are very well prepared academically and socially.

They are well equipped to deal with the many changes and challenges they have to face including the movement from classroom to classroom, teacher to teacher and other key organisational aspects that impact on learning.

This is the result of the way we set up and deliver our curriculum structures and programs, the quality of our teaching team and also the many extra-curricular programs we operate. As a school community we can be very proud of the achievement of our students and know that they will leave our school very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.

## HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Things are really starting to take shape now and we might even have the situation of the project being finished before we all come back to school. All of the external work is nearly completed and plastering and painting has starting on the inside. Here are some photos to keep you updated. I'm sure you'll agree that our architects have done an amazing job with the design and selection of materials. It is growing into a GREAT space –both inside and out!



By the way....happy Star Wars Day for Monday – “May the Fourth Be With You!”



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JP".

James Penson  
Principal







**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS**

**Ava B, Yazmin T, Yat W, Maeve O, Thomas C, Odin T, Emily W, Niya M, Hailey M**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING @ GREENHILLS Teaching and Learning**

**Don't forget to check out the Blogs**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PREP?**

<http://prepsatgreenhills.global2.vic.edu.au/>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GRADE 1**

<http://greenhillsgrade1.global2.vic.edu.au>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GRADE 2**

<http://greenhillsplevel2.global2.vic.edu.au/>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GRADE 3 & 4**

<http://grade34ghps.global2.vic.edu.au>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GRADE 5 & 6**

<http://grade56l.global2.vic.edu.au/>



## FROM THE OFFICE.. 2020

We are very pleased to say that our school office is open for business to assist you in any possible way we can during these difficult times. If you are visiting the school office, you will notice COVID-19 health and safety measures have been taken to ensure social distancing. This may cause increased waiting times during peak periods and with this in mind, we kindly ask for your patience.

### Office Updates:

Office hours are 8:45am – 4:00pm

Family payments:

Term two Acer Netbook lease payments (Grade 6) due **28<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

Term two payment instalments are temporarily on hold due to COVID-19.

### Please note:

Any payments received for activities cancelled, will be reimbursed.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact James Penson.

The following events have been postponed:

School Photos (28<sup>th</sup> April 2020) – moved to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

GHPS Athletics Carnival (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) – new date TBC

Cross Country (16<sup>th</sup> April 2020) – new date TBC

Grade 3/4 Swimming Program (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 – new date TBC

**SCHOLASTIC Book Club**

**BOOK CLUB IS COMING!**

We're really excited to have **BOOK CLUB** running this Term! But, there are a couple of things we've had to do differently!

For this issue only it will be a virtual catalogue rather than the printed catalogues you're used to receiving.


To order from this issue go to:  
[Scholastic.com.au/Book-Club/virtual-catalogue-1/](https://www.scholastic.com.au/Book-Club/virtual-catalogue-1/)

You will still have access to the wide selection that Book Club has to offer.

Go to LOOP to place your order as normal by: **Friday 8 May**

Unfortunately as we are unable to receive the orders back to our school, you will need to have your order delivered to your home address for a fee of \$5.99.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact: [ghps.bookclub@gmail.com](mailto:ghps.bookclub@gmail.com)



Even though this is a virtual catalogue, we will still receive 10% of your order value back in Scholastic Rewards to use to purchase additional books and resources for our school!

**SCHOLASTIC**



Kate Reade, Nicole Pearson, Anne Doolan & Karen Heitzmann  
School Administration Team

# STUDENT OF THE WEEK Term 2 Wk 3-PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY on 15th May 2020



## HERE ARE OUR SUPERSTARS for this week

NAME	CLASS	REASON
Chloe S	Prep BH	Chloe, what a superstar Remote Learner you have been! I am beyond impressed with your enthusiasm and effort with all of the activities you have completed at home. Your explanation of your maths activity was amazing. Keep it up :)
Elliot M	Prep BJ	For all your amazing work during Remote Learning. WOW Elliot, I am so proud of all the things you are achieving at home and can't wait to continue that learning in the classroom soon. Keep up the awesome work Super Star!
Lily M	Prep SM	For your beautiful videos and voice recordings you have made to explain your learning! Well done Lily for an incredible effort with your Remote Learning! I can tell you have been trying so hard to be the best learner you can be, well done superstar!
Lucas L	1KO	For how hard he is trying with his writing by writing in lowercase letters and thinking about the vocabulary he is choosing. Lucas, you are a superstar and are working really hard to keep improving. Well done!
Hunter M	1LO	For being a counting superstar!! You have done an amazing job working on your counting fluency and setting goals to help you improve! Keep up the awesome work Hunter!
Zoe A	1ND	For improve her writing skills, even while learning at home! Zoe is working hard each week to be a 5-star writer. She uses interesting vocabulary, varied punctuation and developing into an amazing writer. Keep up the great work Zoe!
Maanchi J	1RM	For putting in maximum effort with his remote learning. Maanchi willingly takes on feedback and tries hard to improve that part of his work next time. He is setting goals and striving to achieve them.
Noah K	2BR	For the attitude he is showing towards his learning. I am so impressed with the way you have taken on feedback, set mini goals and have persevered with your learning. You are a star Noah!
Aidan K	2SH	For your consistent positivity and your "I CAN DO THIS" attitude towards all of your learning activities. Aidan, it is wonderful to see you not only completing your work every day, but also challenging yourself with our daily Brain Busters and giving it your all. Well done superstar!
Lachlan L	2TW	For consistently trying his hardest and showing his best work while working at home. I love that you are putting in a great effort during Remote Learning. Keep up the awesome work.
Blake G-P	34B	For working hard to keep a growth mindset and showing a great understanding of yourself as a learner, even remotely! You are an incredible person Blake with a wonderful sense of humour, thoughtful ideas and a caring nature. Keep showing the world that amazing personality of yours!
Buddy C	34H	For the AMAZING work that you are doing during Remote Learning. You are achieving great results due to the hard work and effort that you are putting into your learning activities, especially with your writing! I am also loving your videos! Well done Buddy!
Dominic V	34K	Dominic, you are to be congratulated for the enthusiasm and independence you have shown during your online learning. You have competently and efficiently completed your tasks. I have loved your recordings and I want to publically THANK YOU and your mum for helping me 'set up' Webex!
Claire L	34R	For a wonderful effort for adapting to flexible and remote learning and your enthusiasm to tasks. Well done Claire!
Charlotte C	34S	For your amazing attitude towards remote and flexible learning. I am so proud of how much effort you are putting in but also knowing that sometimes you need to stop, take a break and do something fun instead! You are incredibly kind, caring and thoughtful Charlotte. Thank you for being you!
Hudson G	56E	For your amazing organisation, work ethic and commitment to Remote Learning. I can tell the effort you are putting into all your work and I particularly like your Maths Tasks. Keep up the fantastic work Hudson.
Izzy N	56F	For her persistence and dedication to remote learning. Izzy I am so proud of how you have faced technical issues and other challenges associated with learning from home, all with a big smile and positive attitude. Keep it up superstar!
Tahlia T	56J	For her excellent attitude towards remote learning. Your enthusiasm is infectious and I love seeing the work you post every day. Keep up the amazing work!
Callan D	56M	Callan has been working really well during our remote learning. He has dug deep and produced some really strong work, particularly when we did our math think board task. Very well done Callan.
Ava B	56S	For the dedication and effort, you have shown to Remote and Flexible Home Learning. Ava, your ability to seek guidance combined with your reflective nature has been evident in your work. Keep it up!
Jeana B (1 KO)	ART	For the amazing collaborative rainbow you made with dad from found objects during your first remote Visual Art lesson. You blew me away and I was so excited when I saw your work on Seesaw. Keep working hard and using your creativity.
Marco S (2BR)	ITALIAN	For the way that you read an Italian picture story book. Your Italian pronunciation was amazing and you were very fluent in your delivery of the story. I loved the way you included lots of expression too!!! Your sister was a great asset with her input in your storytelling. Bravissimi.
Koda K (34B)	MUSIC	For the pieces you made using the Kandinsky Experiment on Chrome Music Lab. I was not only impressed with the end result but also how you followed the instructions of drawing your pictures first and then copying them onto the program. Very creative Koda.
London K (Prep BJ)	PE	For the fantastic start that you have made to remote learning in Physical Education. It was awesome to see you working hard on your throwing and catching skills, with your trick shot being the cherry on top! Keep up the G.R.E.A.T work, London.

# GHPS Cupcake Decorating Cook Off

Proudly organised by your 2020 JSC Representatives

## THE CHALLENGE

If you have all the ingredients come and join the Cook Off. You'll have to make Cupcakes and then decorate them however you want, making sure that it is as creative as you can think. You can buy the cupcake mix or you can make them from scratch using the recipe below.

## JUDGING

All the JSC's will be judging this contest. The student that has made the most creative and fun topping on their cupcake will win. Entries can be submitted here: [www.tinyurl.com/CUPCAKEGHPS](http://www.tinyurl.com/CUPCAKEGHPS) The winner will be announced in next week's contact. Entries close 5th May at 9pm

## *HERE IS A RECIPE TO USE IF YOU DECIDE TO START FROM SCRATCH*

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups self-raising flour, sifted
- 3/4 cup caster sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup milk
- 125g unsalted butter, melted, cooled
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- Sprinkles, to decorate

### ICING

- 1 1/2 cups pure icing sugar
- 1-1 1/2 tablespoons water



### STEP 1

Preheat oven to 200C or 180C fan-forced. Grease a 12 x 1/3-cup capacity muffin pan. Alternatively, line holes with paper cases. Combine flour and caster sugar in a bowl. Make a well in the centre.

### STEP 2

Add milk, butter, eggs and vanilla to flour mixture. Using a large metal spoon, stir gently to combine.

### STEP 3

Spoon mixture into prepared muffin pan. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Stand in pan for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool.

### STEP 4

Make icing: Sift icing sugar into a bowl. Add food colouring and water. Stir until smooth and well combined. Spoon icing over cupcakes. Decorate with sprinkles.



## Community Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to **Ethan O (3/4K)** who took a Hat Trick in one of the last games of the 2019/20 Season, while playing for Diamond Creek Cricket Club (U10 Yellow). He finished the game with bowling figures of 4/11 off 3 overs and 15 off 16 balls with the bat.

Not too many cricketers can say that they have achieved this feat, so you should be extremely proud of yourself! Keep on hitting them for six, Ethan! Well done!

*If your child achieves something special (grand final win, most valuable player award, best and fairest etc.), please email me ([daley.jordan.w@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:daley.jordan.w@edumail.vic.gov.au)) through photos (just make sure these photos only contain students from Greenhills PS) to post in Contact.*

*It is important to celebrate and recognise such successes with the school community.*

## REBEL COMMUNITY KICKBACKS PROGRAM



Greenhills Primary School is involved in the Rebel Community Kickbacks Program

*What can you do to help Greenhills primary School benefit from this program?*

Staff, family and friends can link the school to their Rebel Active Loyalty Program account and instantly start earning credits.

Thank-you  
Jordan Daley





# Parent Partnerships – Successful Close Living

(Advice by Michael Grose)

The current physical distancing measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for some time. This cocooned existence is a test of parental patience, children's willingness to cooperate and a family's ability to pull together.

The following tips will help ensure your children not only survive each other, but also emerge from the cocoon with a strong sense of camaraderie, a greater appreciation for their siblings and knowledge that they belong to a rock solid family who can pull together in a crisis.

## Get kids on board

Start your period inside the family cocoon by getting everyone on board. Give kids a voice in how they would like their social isolation time to flow. Listen to their fears and worries. Empathise with any concerns about missing regular activities and contact with friends but point to the positives of having more free time than normal. Consider providing kids with family organisation roles – the music girl, games guy, food planner and so on – and swapping these regularly to maintain interest. It is reasonable to expect kids to help with the chores at home.

## Establish structure

Many kids struggle with anxiety when routines break down, so ensure that you have a regular structure that brings predictability to each day. Parents and kids need their own routines starting with get up times, work times and times for schoolwork. Break the day into different time zones that mirror their school days. A regular structure will make the days more workable, feel shorter and be more manageable. It is important to keep daily foundation behaviours in place such as waking up at the same time, dressing for school and preparing for class as they trigger your child's readiness for learning. Similarly, relaxing your routine on the weekend gives everyone a break from the structure of the school and working week. A regular family meeting provides an ideal way to give kids some input into their own routines and a say in how family-life looks in the cocoon. If formal meeting are not for you, then ask for opinions and gain feedback in ways that are more conversational.

## Set up activity zones

The Nordic countries with their long, dark winters lead the way in successful close quarter living. One of their major strategies for success is the establishment of living zones within homes and apartments. These zones differ from the usual sleeping, cooking and communal living areas that you may be used to. They incorporate areas for individual activities including learning, playing, chilling out and exercise. With consistence use, children soon associate a specific activity with a particular zone making concentration and focus a great deal easier. Avoid having multiple activities in one space as this may lead to conflict, while diluting the impact of this whole zoning strategy.

## Get moving, grooving and having fun

Maintaining children's healthy exercise levels when organised sports and informal group play is prohibited is a major challenge for parents. Some organisation and creativity will help. Establish mini movement breaks during each day involving dancing, shooting hoops and exercise to movement. Remember that any activity that gets kid's arms and legs moving is beneficial to their physical and mental health. Amp up the fun factor by incorporating music, dancing to online videos and playing simple indoor games.

## Instil good mental health habits

As the old saying goes 'prevention is better than a cure', which is pertinent if your child is prone to anxiety and depression. With routine preventative measures such as playing and talking face to face with friends on hold, consider introducing regular mindfulness and breathing into your daily routine. We recommend the resources at [smilingminds.com.au](https://smilingminds.com.au) as they cater for mindfulness for all groups and at any level. Schedule times for kids to connect digitally with friends so that they do not experience the effects of isolation.

## Know when to steer clear

It is hard for family members who are used to doing things on their own when they are suddenly thrust together in each other's company for extended periods. Many family holidays end in sibling squabbles because family members are not used to spending so much time together in the same space. Encourage kids to spend some time alone each day so they can relax, reflect and draw on their own emotional resources. Time alone is an under-rated contributor to a child's resilience and mental health.

## Parent Partnerships – Successful Close Living contd..

### Know when to come together

While time alone is important, it is also essential for your family to come together to connect, to have fun and to enjoy each other's company. Work out your regular family rituals and make these non-negotiable. Evening meals, family discussions and at least one weekly movie or entertainment activity give children and parents the opportunity to come together on a regular basis.

Parents also get the chance to establish the positive behavioural and mental health habits in their children that has so often been made difficult by the insanely busy lifestyle that we have all been living for some time now.

The roller coaster has stopped. It's now time adjust to a slower pace and have the types of conversations and pleasurable times with kids that have meaning, have impact and leave lasting memories.



Roslyn Mackie  
(Home-School Partnerships Leader)

## Community / Sporting Events Advertising

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