

Term 2, 16th April 2020

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

Term 2 - Week 1, 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hi Greenhills

As I emailed out yesterday, I would like to thank everyone – staff, students, parents, carers, grandparents for everything you have done to help us get to this point. We have a long way to go and there will be plenty of challenges ahead but to be part of such a supportive and caring community definitely helps.

Whilst we only have those few students who have been approved by me to be on-site to complete their remote learning, there is still lots of activity and energy across the school. Our office team have been very busy helping with communication, organising access for families to borrow school netbooks and ensuring the rest of what needs to happen - happens! Our teachers and support staff are also on-site on different days helping with supervision and then we have a range of team meetings and planning sessions happening via Google Chat and other applications. It is certainly very different attending these “remotely” via the computer screen, but something we are already getting more used to.

Our staff team recognise these are extraordinary times. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt widely and deeply by our entire community. That is why it is so important that we remember that Greenhills is not just a school with a physical presence in Mine Street, Greensborough – we are a community with a wide reaching connection.

The health, safety and wellbeing (as well as the learning) of the entire Greenhills community continues to be at the core of our thinking. Please be reassured that Greenhills is here for you.

If there is anything you need or if you know of anyone who is doing it tough please let me know.

REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE

We have already seen our students start to adapt to using See-saw and finding out ways in which we can use this platform even more effectively. This is exciting for our staff and as we settle in and find our remote learning groove we will start to roll out a more “connected” style of learning.

This will include video messages from the teacher to the whole class, students being able to receive regular feedback and eventually individual or small group “live” sessions using web conferencing technology. In this way, we will try to ensure our students are connected with each other which is one of the biggest things they are missing at the moment and such an important part of learning at school.

We also welcome your feedback and suggestions as we move through the different phases of our model. We are particularly interested in feedback around connectivity issues, accessing information and answers to your questions from teachers, overall communication, how you have been managing at home and suggestions that could help others at home. Please send this through to me via email: penon.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Phases

Phase One

- Setup
- Routine
- Revision
- Daily tasks

Phase Two

- Video Messages
- Submitting work
- Some feedback

Phase Three

- Conferencing
- New learning
- Teacher feedback

BUILDING UPDATE

Another example of lots of activity happening at our school is our Hall Refurbishment Project. I have attached some photos to keep you updated with how things are progressing. The building is certainly taking shape and fingers crossed we come back to school ready for Term 3 and with this project finished as well!!



We will continue to be in regular contact with you over the coming weeks and throughout this crisis. I trust that, like me, you take comfort in being part of a close-knit community as we face this crisis together. On behalf of the Greenhills team, I send my best wishes that you remain safe and well. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.



James Penson

Principal



Happy Birthday to the following students celebrating their birthdays

**Olivia M, Morgan F, Tully S, Hamish L, Lily S, Taylah P, Josh S,
Henry H, Audrey P, Claire M, Oscar S**

FROM THE OFFICE.. 2020

Hello everyone

Hope you are all keeping well!

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 **28th 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 (28th April 2020) – moved to 6th August 2020

GHPS Athletics Carnival (23rd March 2020) – new date TBC

Cross Country (16th April 2020) – new date TBC

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

Scholastic Books:

Greenhills have opted for the Scholastic "virtual catalogue" for Term 2 due to COVID 19

Please see the link <https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>

Families can order and get a direct delivery for \$5.99.

The school will get 10% of the order total from direct home orders.



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

Parent Partnerships - Does your parenting rulebook still apply? by Michael Grose

The current social isolation policy because of the COVID-19 pandemic has confined people to their family cocoons. Life for parents is very different now that we can no longer share the parenting load with relatives, friends and professionals outside the family home.

Parenting success will require you to quickly adapt to new circumstances, by replacing some of your current parenting practices with methods more in tune with close quarter living. This may seem uncomfortable at first, as you may be going against some current beliefs that are in vogue. In effect, you may have to create a new parenting playbook suited to your family's needs, rather than being dictated by 'groupthink' that social media encourages.

As a way of helping with this process, I've examined four common parenting rules of thumb, and replaced each with a new, more appropriate rule.

Current rule: Put your kids first

Current parenting practices place children before parents in many aspects of life. The tendency to put our own personal lives on hold for the duration of their childhood while we cater for children's after school activities is an obvious example. Nothing wrong with wanting the best for our kids, but it needs to be questioned if it comes at the cost of a parent's quality of life.

Try instead: Put yourself first

Most parents know the importance of self-care but fail to put it into practice. Make yourself a priority and attend to your own physical and mental health and personal happiness. Practise the good care habits that we encourage in kids – eat well, sleep well, get plenty of exercise, take regular time out and ensure you do something each day that brings you joy. It takes a great deal of selflessness to be a parent. Finding ways to prioritise ourselves can actually make us even better at it.

Current rule: Focus on individual good

The shift to smaller families has brought about a shift in focus from parenting the gang to parenting each child individually. This shows in everyday activities such as individually-designed meals for each child and paying children for completing chores. The propensity to focus on individual needs often comes at the expense of the family good, which is evident when difficult times arise.

Try instead: Focus on greater good

Alfred Adler, the father of Individual Psychology believed that children's moral development is fostered in full when they contribute to the wellbeing and functioning of the family. It's a 'we' before 'me' concept. When children are living in close proximity with each other for long lengths of time it's essential for them to consider the needs of others as well as their own needs. "How does my behaviour impact on others? How can I help? How can I ease the load?" become the prime consideration for all family members.

Current rule: Parents are responsible

The responsibility in many families falls to parents to resolve most problems, even if kids own them. If a child leaves a lunch at home, often a well-meaning parent will take it school. Parents resolve a child's friendship issue. Conflict with a sibling? Mum or dad will sort it out. The propensity for parents to take responsibility for what are essentially children's problems is exhausting (for parents) and leads to unprecedented levels of parental guilt when children are unhappy. Yes, we even tend to take responsibility for their individual happiness.

Try instead: Children are responsible

The current social isolation measures mean it is almost impossible for a parent to sort out all of a child's problems. "That's your problem. Please work it out yourself" is the mantra for close quarter living you can apply to many situations such as boredom, hunger and dealing with noisy siblings. At times of children's high need during social isolation caused by COVID-19 I suggest that you make yourself scarce, emerging only when you know kids have tried and failed to resolve their own problems.

Current rule: Get their compliance

Most of the current child and adolescent management techniques are built around compliance. "How can I get my kids to do as I wish?" still dominates much of the current parenting narrative, reflecting old practices when children were seen and not heard, and corporal punishment was in vogue. These methods are not suitable for getting kids onside on the family cocoon.

New rule: Win their cooperation

Recently the management narrative shifted from getting compliance to gaining cooperation from kids. This shift requires a change in mindset, behaviour and language from parents. The language of compliance ("I want you to do this!") still has a place in family-life albeit very minor, however the language of cooperation ("I need this done.") in all its forms represents this essential shift in management mindset that is required in the current circumstances.

The new circumstances we find ourselves in due to COVID-19 while daunting at first glance, offer an opportunity to revisit old habits, principles and rules in all areas of life, including your parenting. It is human nature to feel comfortable with old ways even if they are not working for us. Sometimes it takes a crisis such as the one we are all experiencing to examine old habits, principles and rules to see if they are suitable. If they are not, then it is time to create a new rulebook.

Behind every difficulty lies an opportunity. Stay safe, stay well. Enjoy the learning.

Roslyn Mackie

(Home-School Partnerships Leader)

