Our Mission: To nurture and develop individuals to become adaptable in a changing environment and to acquire a lifelong love of learning and the skills and attitudes necessary to function successfully in a sustainable global society.

Our Values: Respect, honesty, excellence and resilience.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR

Welcome to the start of 2012 with a special welcome to all our new families.
All our students have settled in to the school year extremely well and are very happy and enthusiastic. A very confident start by all! The parents held up exceptionally well too, no tears this year! On my visits to the classrooms, I have already been impressed with the standard of work that I have been seeing so I am sure that 2012 will be another great year!

STAFFING – We warmly welcome Mrs Claire Devilliers in Year 5, Mr Jared Meredith in Year 2 and Mr Luke Walker in Phys Ed.

Following a wedding in January where Lisa (McGinty) made a very beautiful bride on a lovely beach in New Zealand, I need to introduce Mrs Lisa Gray.

I also have pleasure in welcoming Tracey and Brad Dring’s new son Blake who arrived on 18 January.
NEW FAMILIES BARBECUE
All our Prep families and all our new families throughout the school are warmly invited to attend our New Families Barbecue on Thursday 23 February from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. This is an opportunity to meet other families, school councilors, representatives from Friends of Jells Park and many of the staff. Food, water and cordial will be provided by the School Council. I look forward to having the opportunity to chat with you on this occasion.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
The Parent Information Evening is on Wednesday 15 February at 6.30pm in the GP Room. This session will provide information on our revised Integrated Curriculum and suggest ways of supporting your child/children at home with their education and with their social relationships. This will include information on cyber bullying and working with us to keep your children safe. The session will be presented by our Leading Teachers.

PUPIL FREE DAYS
There was a change this year from the three mandatory pupil free days at the start of the year. Schools may now select days that meet their specific needs. This is advanced notice of the three pupil free days at Jells Park for 2012. They are:
- Friday 25 May
- Friday 17 August
- Monday 5 November

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
At Jells Park we like to provide as many leadership opportunities for our students as possible, starting in Prep and developing as the years pass. By Year 6 we are confident that our leaders have developed a high level of skill and appropriate attributes to be effective role models for the rest of the school.
At our first Assembly on Monday 13 February all our Year 6 students will be introduced to the school community and presented with their Year 6 Badges and their Leadership badges.
- School Captains: Grace P and Cooper G.
- House Captains: Bradman – Lauren G and James M Fraser – Lily O and Jaxon G, Freeman – Laura G and Kris C Perkins – Rebecca D and Jackson D.

Music Captains: Maddy E and Callum H and Environment Captains Nicole F and Ben B
Music Vice Captains: Ainsley V and Michael Y and Environment Vice Captains Katherine D, Matthew H and Lochie M
Band Monitor: Lauren Macdonald

The Year 6 Monitors for 2012 are:
- Kiddy Mail- Michael P, Radley, David W and James G
- Environmental Support-
  - Worm Farms Dion G, Calum L, Makayla L, Christina B, Rebecca L and Chloe H
  - Rubbish Bins Jack W, George S, Neha P, Meng How L, Max A and Jacob C
- Lost Property- Nick S and Josh M
- Assembly- Cmeron K, Steven E, Karma L, Alysha L, Jack L and Lachlan C
- Library- Bridget O and Elllie K
- Book Club- Josh D and Moritz P
- ICT Lab- Tom D and Broc C
- Goal Post Safety- Mateos S and Marcel P
- Art Room- Chloe T and Rhea S
- Flag/Key- Tamara H and Katie T
- Junior Assistants- Jordan K, Maddy S, Jake G and Brigitte W

These are very important roles and I am confident that all our students will carry them out responsibly and reliably and I appreciate their commitment to the school community.

Class Representatives from Years 3-6 will be presented with their badges at the Assembly on 20 February.
‘GETTING TO KNOW YOU’ INTERVIEWS
‘Getting to Know You’ interviews are being held on Tuesday 28 February. This is an opportunity for parents to share any information with teachers that will assist them in catering for their child. Many parents will find that the Communication Book or the feedback proforma is adequate but the opportunity is available for parents to visit classrooms and meet the teacher. An information sheet on class routines and procedures will be sent home next week.

ASIAN LITERACY
To increase our students’ knowledge of our geographic neighbours, each class has adopted a country. This is an informal way for students to gain a better understanding of the culture, history and geography of some of our neighbours. Do ask your child/children what country they are and take the opportunity to learn more about this country together. The Prep unit is Australia and they will begin by learning more about our own country. To further support this initiative Jells Park is one of five Monash schools to participate in a new Internationalising Education Project. Myself and two teachers will visit India during the year to learn more about their culture and to explore educational links between our two nations.

GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT
Over the Christmas break a great deal of grounds work has been completed. This provides an exciting new playground area in front of the gym and a paved access area on the Homestead Drive side. Now the Buildings and Grounds Committee with the help of parents at the working bees will be able to plant grass, trees and shrubs around the area.

WORKING BEES
Working bees are held once a term and do lots of great work around the school but we realise that most families are very busy and are unable to attend. With this in mind the School Council has established a tax deductible building fund and parents are asked to contribute $50 per child per year if they are unable to attend the working bees. Parents who regularly attend the working bees are exempt from this contribution. Please note that parents need to make this decision at the start of the year as refunds cannot be given. The first working bee will be on Saturday 17 March.

EXCURSION LEVY & YEAR 6 SPORT LEVY
Just a reminder that the 2012 Excursion Levy and the Year 6 Interschool Sport Levy were to be paid by December 2 2011. If you have not already paid these fees, please pay by Friday 17 February to ensure that your child does not miss out on any upcoming activities. Thank you.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERMISSION FORMS
Parent information envelopes were distributed to every student on their first day this year. Please ensure that permission forms enclosed are returned to class teachers by 10 February. If choosing to pay your Parent Contributions via Bpay please return the form indicating your payment breakdown.

STUDENT ALLERGIES
There are an increasing number of students in our community who suffer allergic reactions to a range of products. Some reactions, although distressing, are able to be managed relatively easily. Unfortunately some students suffer life threatening allergic reactions. The most serious of these is to nuts and nut products. At Jells Park we train all staff in the use of epipens and have clear processes in place to implement the medication if required, but the consequences of not getting it right or of being too late are fatal. Our School Council has discussed this issue at length and has decided to request that no child bring nuts or nut products to school. Council is aware that this will cause problems for some families but feels strongly that we would never want a child to die as a result of inadvertent contact with a nut product. If anyone has a concern about this please contact me.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
This is a reminder to all families the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold Insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. This may include mobile phones, calculators, toys and sporting equipment. We make all efforts to take care of student property and ensure classrooms are locked when not in use, but it is advisable not to bring valuable items to school and certainly do not leave valuables in your car as we have had thefts of bags left in cars.
NEWSLETTER - SUSTAINABILITY
As parents would know, Jells Park is a sustainable school and is continually looking for ways to protect and conserve our environment. As computer technology is so advanced now I would think that the majority of our families would have regular access to the internet and so we have once again decided not to send hard copies of the newsletter home to each family this year. We would like to encourage all our families to access our newsletter on our website where it can be enjoyed in colour and at your convenience. The school’s website is www.jpps.vic.edu.au Any family who still requires a hard copy of the newsletter can complete the form attached at the bottom of the Newsletter, or if you would like to start receiving the Newsletter via email link in 2012, please provide your email address on this form (only if you are not on our email list already). I thank the community for their support in this very important community action. Please note newsletters will be available on weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 in each term.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
We are most fortunate in having volunteers to be able to offer a Religious Education Program for our students. This is an excellent program that supports our school values of Respect, Honesty, Excellence and Resilience. It also promotes other important values including friendship and compassion. The program is planned to commence in the next few weeks. It is assumed that all students will participate. (Any parent not wishing their child to participate in this program will need to inform the school office in writing).

PARENTS RESOURCE
Parent may subscribe to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s new weekly Prep for Parents email. You will be sent an email every Wednesday during school term that will include tips, advice and information about the day-to-day experiences children have in the classroom and things you can do at home to assist and encourage your child.

To subscribe to Prep for Parents, see: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/prepare/prepforparents/default.htm

STUDENT BANKING
Student Banking will resume next Tuesday 14 February. If there are any parents who would like to assist with the Student Banking, please contact the school office. It takes approximately one hour on a Tuesday morning, and any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Nominations for School Council close on Monday 13 February at 4.00pm. If you would like further information about nominating please contact the Office.

Gillian Brookes
Principal

TERM DATES 2012

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<th>2 February</th>
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<td>29 June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>21 December</td>
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS
The Religious Education program is seeking a new teacher to take Prep classes, (or another level if preferred). Please consider if you could help in this way. Training is provided and you would join a friendly helpful team. For further information or enquiries please phone Jilba on 9560 7056 or email at jilbamay@hotmail.com

FRIENDS OF JELLS PARK
Welcome back to the start of a new year!! If you are anything like me it is taking a little while to warm up into the routine of the school year!! So to get things moving I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join me for a cup of tea/coffee and a bit of a chat on Friday 10 February at 9.15am in the staffroom. The first Friends of Jells Park meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 29 February at 9.10am in the staffroom. We look forward to meeting new and familiar people and I encourage anyone who is not able to make it but would like to be involved to send me an email and be on the Friends of Jells Park email list. Cheers, Jean Semple phone 0409 556 085 or email jean.semple@hotmail.com
SPORTS/PE UPDATE

Welcome back to 2012 – an Olympic year for sport – in London as well!! We have lots of great events and opportunities planned for the students during the year as we hope to maintain the very high standard of sport at our school. We always greatly appreciate the help and support of parents as we would not be able to run many of the events we do without your help. The following events are dates for your diary to participate in where possible:

TERM 1: Friday Feb 10 Swim trial for Year 4, 5 and 6 students. Friday Feb 17 Inter School Sport begins for Year 6. Wednesday Feb 22 Swim carnival at Nunawading for selected Year 4, 5 and 6 students. 27 Feb to 9 March Senior swim program for Year 3, 4 and 5 students.

TERM 2- Friday April 27 House Athletics at Knox Stadium (Change of venue!) for Year 4, 5 and 6 students. Friday May 11 House Cross Country Event at Jells Park.

I would also like to welcome Luke Walker my co-PE Teacher who will be working closely with me at the school this year. He will be taking some of the senior classes for PE. Luke and I will be planning and working very closely together during the year to maintain the high standards of PE and Sport at Jells Park.

Thanks again for your support in advance and let’s hope we have another great year of sporting success for the school!

Andrew Farmer
PE and Sport Teacher

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1 February 2012) which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2011). The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2012 for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment. The EMA provides an annual amount of $230 for primary students and $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Payment Amounts

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Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2011 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2011 and prior to or on 5 August 2011, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment. Contact: School Office for application form and further information.

LIFEWOKRS

Lifeworks offers professional counseling, family dispute resolution, mediation and relationship education skills training for individuals, couples, families, children and adolescents. They also offer relationship enrichment programs to promote healthy and positive relationships. Further information can be obtained by phoning 8650 6200, visiting www.lifeworks.com.au or picking up a brochure from the School Office.
SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM
Learn keyboard, guitar, here at Jells Park Primary School

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, here at the school. Creative Music for Schools conducts a School Music Program of small group classes here at school each week. We aim to give children an excellent grounding in music. Children will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument. Tuition costs from $14.00 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1. Interested parents should call Tamara during office hours on 9818 2333 for more information. You can also access our web page at www.creativemusic.com.au

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Waverley Victory F.C. Registration Day Sunday 12 February 10am-12pm at Brandon Park Reserve, Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley. Contact John 0447 107 996, John 0404 635 605, Karen 0448 351 609 or Darren 0403 258 441.

Hook In 2 Hockey Knox Hockey Club runs from THE Knox School at 220 Burwood Hwy. For further information contact Jim Bell on 0401 135 318, email juniors@knoxhockeyclub.com.au or visit www.knothockeyclub.com.au

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Family name ................................................................. Eldest child’s class 2012 ..........................

☐ I do not currently receive an online Newsletter and would like to receive it via email.

My email address is: ..........................................................

☐ I would like to receive a paper copy of the School Newsletter each fortnight.

Signature ...........................................................................