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

ELECTRONIC BOOKINGS
Thanks to all the families that gave us feedback on the electronic booking process for the recent ‘Getting to Know You’ parent/teacher interviews. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive so the process will be used in June for the next round of parent/teacher interviews as well as for the booking of concert tickets in Term 4.

SWIMMING
The Year 3 to 5 Swimming Program commenced last week and has been enjoyed by all the students. Our win at the District Swimming Sports also demonstrates the success of our Swimming Program, the commitment of families and the enthusiasm of our students. Congratulations to Andrew Farmer and all the students who participated so well. Well done everyone!
SCHOOL COUNCIL 2012
School Council had their first meeting last week and the office bearers and parent members are as follows:

President     Nathan Bower
Vice President   Andrew Peake
Treasurer   Andrew Peake
Correspondence Secretary Lillian Rizkalla
Members   Scott Henderson, Marea Franes, Chris Norman, Tanya Pensa and Clare Jerram.

This is an important role and I greatly appreciate these parents giving up their time to support the main decision making body of the school.

The role of School Council includes the setting and review of school policies and the management of school finances. School Council continues to use our school funds to provide excellent learning spaces for our students, safe and interesting play areas, up to date IT and many and varied classroom resources. In recent years School Council has provided funds to build our music room and for the building of four new classrooms where our current Year 2 students are placed. This has allowed us to keep our class sizes down to an average of 22 students with no class having over 26 students. School Council has also funded an electronic white board for each classroom and our wonderful artificial grass oval.

With the completion of our new gym we are now turning our attention to the Prep area and junior school toilet block. We are exploring ways to modernise this facility and have engaged a company to develop a concept design for the area. We look forward to seeing what we can achieve to further enhance the school facilities.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE – resourced from an article by Michael Grose

There has been significant media coverage about student attendance recently, highlighting the government’s initiative ‘It’s not okay to be away’. One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure they go to school every day - and gets there on time.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well established. The more time children spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early and of experiencing long term unemployment.

When children miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the children who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting children at a distinct disadvantage.

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday, being absent because they stayed up late watching television, going shopping for clothes, an extended long weekend and children not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to children that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences. As parents we need to make a commitment that our children make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day. Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when children should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

At Jells Park, all staff work hard to make the learning fun and to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all our students. We seek parent support to reinforce the important messages above and to work with us to provide the best possible learning outcomes and future opportunities for our students.
WORKING BEES
The first working bee for this year is on Saturday 17 March from 9am to noon followed by a barbecue. Tasks for this working bee include replenishing the sand pit, adding mulch to the playgrounds and planting around the gym area. All families are welcome.

Gillian Brookes
Principal

ASSEMBLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students who have received Assembly Certificates: Rayan S (PN), Connor S (PS), Sarah D (PS), Jack P (PW), Aisha W (PW), Damon H (1G), Sean Q (1N), Sara G (2A), Hanna C (2C), Daniella G (2G), Tiarna S (2M), Amelia H (3B), Connor F (3C), Will B (3M), Lucas D (5D), Owen L-L (5/6Z), Ellie K (6C), Chloe H (6C), Mateos S (6C), Brody A (6M), Darius S (6O), Kira G (PN), Ashley B-A (PN), Emma H (PW), Lily C (1N), Dylan F-L (2A), Ellie K (2C), Cooper W (2M), Cameron B-A (3B), Maddison M-M (3C), William G (4C), Harrison K (4PW), Luke R (4PW), Kevin P (5D), Dominic L (5/6Z), Penny P (5/6Z), Gregor C (6M), Laura G (6O).

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2012
This year has been designated as the Year of Reading, so it would be wonderful to have lots of students involved in the 2012 Premier's Reading Challenge. Last week students were invited to join the challenge by signing up on the consent form. We will be registering students over the next few weeks, so please return the consent forms to the classroom teachers as soon as possible. The Challenge will finish in early September.

Claire De Villiers, Sandy Mettrick and Sudar Sridhar
PRC Coordinators

SPORT/PE UPDATE
Jells Park PS swimmers are preparing for the London 2012 games with an awesome performance in the WESA District swimming. The 65 students in both the Fun Leisure pool and the Main 50m pool performed magnificently. Jells Park won, beating the other seven schools involved in the competition by 21 points in the Main Pool and by a whopping 50 point margin in the Leisure pool. All swimmers were exceptional with some 29 qualifying for the next round of Division swimming on 8 March. Jells Park qualified first or second in seven of the eight relay events – so well done to all those involved in another successful District event.


Friday Morning Inter school sport has started again for all Year 6 students. Please let me know if you can be involved in any of the school sporting events as we do always need parent helpers and support. Keep up the great work !!! The Summer draw is:

9 March Jells Park V Albany Rise 16 March Jells Park V Glen Waverley South
23 March Jells Park V St Scholastica’s 20 April Camelot Rise V Jells Park
27 April Jells Park - Bye.

CANTEEN MENU
The school Canteen Menu is available on the school web site under Notices, Whole School Notices and at the following link http://www.jpps.vic.edu.au/uploads/873/Canteen_Term_1.pdf. Hard copies are also available from the office.
FRIENDS OF JELLS PARK
Everyone should have received their Walkathon sponsorship form by now so if you have not seen it come home with your child either a) check the bottom of their school bag which is where I found mine or b) ask at the office for another one!! The Walkathon is on Tuesday 20 March and all parents are welcome to come along & cheer on their child's class. All students participating in the Walkathon are allowed to come in their school House colours. The aim is to raise as much money as we can to go towards the installation of a cricket pitch & net on the oval so I encourage everyone to get out there and get some sponsorship.

Looking forward to a fantastic day and keep your fingers and your toes crossed for a day of fine weather!!!

Till next time
Jean Semple
Friends of Jells Park Convenor

OSHCLUB NEWS
This week we are focusing on balloons and the many different ways they can be used. Some examples are: stress balls, balloon people, balloon heads, string balloons and juggling balls. We will also be using them in science experiments such as: blowing up balloons and balloon speakers. We will also be playing games with them such as: balloon volleyball, tennis and battlefield. All of this helps the children to expand their thinking by using a simple thing like a balloon and using it for more than just hitting into the air or for decoration.

I also put up a chart this week for the children to put in any suggestions they may have for craft activities, games, breakfast, afternoon tea and the specials we have at afternoon tea. Keeping in mind that we do follow the healthy eating program. I am pleased to say that there have been some very good suggestions such as a book club and smoothies. I will be looking at all of the suggestions and incorporating them into the program. By doing this, the children can become more involved and have a sense of ownership in the experiences they have at OSHClub.

Please feel free to come and check out our program or ask any questions you may have involving Before School Care, After School Care or Vacation care.

Anne Hanify
Coordinator

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Is your Son or Daughter an elite athlete?

School Sport Victoria offers pathways for elite junior athletes (12 years and under) to participate in ‘Team Vic’ state teams that compete at National Exchanges throughout the year.

High achieving students in team sports: Australian Football (Boys only), Basketball, Soccer and Netball (Girls only) are to be nominated through schools with successful students progressing through rounds of trials at District, Division, Regional and State level. Students must complete a nomination form found at www.ssv.vic.edu.au (follow the tab marked ‘forms’). Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is nominated and receives information relating to trial dates, times, venues and costs.

High achieving students in other sports: Swimming, Track & Field, Tennis, Softball, Golf, Rugby League (Boys only) and Hockey can also register online via the SSV website www.ssv.vic.edu.au. Follow the tab marked ‘Interstate Teams’ and then to each sports information. Parents are to be responsible for registering their child and for downloading all details relating to trial dates, times, venues and costs.
GLEN WAVERLEY HAWKS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB-UNDER 8s, UNDER 9s, UNDER 11s PLAYERS REQUIRED. Do you love your footy? Then come and join us for season 2012 at The GWHFC, you are guaranteed to get a game every week. SOCKS, SHORTS, JUMPER AND HELMET PROVIDED FOR NEW MEMBERS all you need to bring is your mouth guard and your boots and of course a fun filled attitude. Based in Glen Waverley @ Capitol Reserve Melway Ref- 62, G12. We are a family friendly club with Grade 1 and above accredited coaches, so if you were born in 2001, 2003 or 2004 you are able to play for us, contact and membership details @ www.glenwaverleyhawks.com. Junior Registrar Andrew Newey@ AndrewNewey@arnsystems.com.au or email John Wilson @ john.wilson5@three.com.au, Tel- 040856674. Come and have some Footy Fun!

CITRUS DANCE offers fun and supportive dance classes to all ages and abilities. BALLET, JAZZ/HIPHOP, TAP, LYRICAL, KINDERS, ADULTS
Visit: www.citrus-dance.com for more information or phone 0434 420 585

FREE PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - How do I raise a Resilient Child? - The 32 skills that build resilience.
Date and Time: Wednesday 21 March 2012, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Location: Brighton Grammar, Robert Sanderson Centenary Centre, entrance on St Andrews St, Brighton
Cost: A gold coin donation to The Fred Hollows Foundation is warmly welcomed
Facilitator: Melissa Anderson – Counsellor, Pharmacist and Educator
Bookings: 9596 8814 or info@shineacademy.com.au

MELBOURNE VIXENS CLINIC – See the Vixens at the Waverley Netball Centre, Wheelers Hill on Tuesday 3 April 9.00-3.00pm. There are over 30 chances to train and learn from the Melbourne Vixens. For bookings visit www.melbournevixens.com.au or phone 9321 2286.

CALLING ALL YOUNG MUSICIANS: We invite all brass, woodwind and percussion players to play with us in:
The John Mallinson Youth Band (AMEB 4-6) or The Wilf Dyason Wind Ensemble (AMEB 2-3)
Time: every Saturday afternoon Venue: Mt Waverley Secondary College Melways 61 F11
http://www.ybp.org.au Email: melaniebennetts@optusnet.com.au