Message from the Principal

Dear families,

Gifu Shotoku Gakuen University

Konichiwa! This week we have had a group of university students from Japan visiting Spotswood Primary School. As part of their education course they are visiting a number of schools and kindergartens in the Hobsons Bay area. During their stay local families have welcomed them for homestay visits and I would like to thank 3 of our families, the Greilachs (Emma and Liam), the Millers (Amelie and Caterina) and the Carlessos (Michael) for supporting this program over the 11 days.

During today’s visit our guests introduced some cultural activities to the students in the 1/2 area.

House Captains

On Monday we will be presenting our House Captains with their badges. House Captains have an important role throughout the year at several events such as House Sports, and take on the responsibility of being role models and leaders with their younger students. They collect weekly house points across the school and present the weekly winners at assembly.

This year our House Captains are

Gold  Paris Carpio & Ethan Areskog
Green Nick Petkov-Gration & Yasmin Kottek Kean
Blue  Ashley Brockton & Josh Jedretich
Red   Bec Domoney & Kelly Joyner

To Do

- Return RSVP for Parent Information Night for Prep parents
- Pay Term 1 keyboard fees
- Pay Books & Resources Levy ($250 full year, $125 half year, $62.50 quarterly)
- Return permission to photograph, head lice & local walk excursion notes (new students in 2015)

...continued on next page
Our Class Captains were presented with their badges at assembly this week.

School Council
Accompanying today’s newsletter is some information for families about our School Council and this year's election process. School Council is made up of staff and parents and meets twice each term. If you are interested in finding out more about School Council or nominating as a member, please do not hesitate to come and talk to me. This year we have 5 parent positions open for nomination.

Anaphylaxis Training
On Tuesday evening all staff attended a 3 hour update on our anaphylaxis training. We have a number of students at Spotswood Primary School with various allergies and we take seriously the responsibility of keeping everyone safe at school. You may have been asked to avoid sending certain food products with your child if their class has a priority in this area. We thank families for their support. Part of our risk management will also be to remind all children that we don’t share food at school and how important it is to put all our wrappers in the bin and wash our hands after eating. We have new soap dispensers in the toilets to assist with this.

Pancake Tuesday
Thank you to the MANY parents who volunteered their time this week to support our annual pancake morning tea on Shrove Tuesday. It is certainly a highlight for students and requires a big workforce to feed them all! This year we raised approximately $500.

Swimming
Our school team is competing at the Victoria University swimming pool today in the District Swimming Carnival. For some of our students this is their first inter school sport experience and they were very excited heading off this morning. Thank you to Mr Lamb, Mr Anstey and Ms Hardy for supporting the early morning training sessions last week and to all the parents who helped out feeding our hungry swimmers. Members of our swim team are Jake H, Charlotte, Izzy B, Nevadah, Shauna, Natasha, Molly H, Lizzie, Jessica Briggs, Liam G, Kai B, Will B, Josh J, Emma G, Paris, Sarah, Abbey Burns, Rishi, Bella, Aimee, Lily Fenn and Jayden. We look forward to hearing a team report about this event soon.

Shade Sails
We have had two new shade sails installed at school this week in the courtyard replacing the pair that were unfortunately damaged over the holiday break. They look fantastic! With new technology and a lovely charcoal grey colour, they provide a very shady spot for students at break times.

Jackie Green
Principal
Library News

Dear Parents,
Our next library meeting will be in the library after assembly next Monday the 23rd of February.

All parents are welcome to come along and learn about what is involved in being a library volunteer, whether you can volunteer once a term, once a week or can take books home to cover, all help is greatly appreciated.

There will also be a person from the Library system computer company coming to our meeting to show us how to use different sections of the borrowing system. This means the meeting will run for just over one hour this time.

A reminder: To help look after our books it is important for the children to have a library bag to keep their books in. This can be a $1.00 reusable bag from the supermarket with their name written on it. It would also be appreciated if everyone could search at home to see if they have any overdue library books to return to the library.

Regards,
Tracey Kelly

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Skoolbag App ... did you know?
Did you know you can advise the school of your change of address or new contact details using the app. Click on ‘Parent eForms’, then ‘Change of Details’ and complete your new information. Once submitted an email will be sent to the school. Sharon will then make the changes to your child’s record based on the email. This is a great way to ensure that all details are up to date in the event that we need to contact you.

To install the Skoolbag app, just search for our school name "Spotswood Primary School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. Once installed you will receive the newsletter and updates automatically as they are sent from the school.

Our Skoolbag app has been downloaded 88 times so far with excellent feedback being received by both Jackie and Sharon.

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● Spotty Calendar ●

**Monday 23rd February**
Library volunteer helpers meeting (in the library after assembly)

**Monday 2nd March**
Preps start attending school full time
Prep parents information night (6.30pm-7.30pm)

**Monday 9th March**
Labour Day Public Holiday (no children at school)

**Friday 27th March**
Last Day of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)

**Monday 13th April**
First Day of Term 2

* more details to follow
Piano and Keyboard Lessons
Private and group piano and keyboard lessons are offered during school hours at Spotswood Primary School. Lessons are 30 minutes duration held on Wednesdays and/or Thursday afternoons. These lessons are available for children in all grades and cater to individual needs. A.M.E.B exam preparation is offered and the opportunity to perform. For more information please contact Sharon in the office or Kerry on 0402 950 315 or email: k-anne-t@hotmail.com

Fees:
Private lesson – $27.00 p.w.
Group lesson (4 or 5 students) - $13.00 p.w.
Lessons are paid by the school term (or by other arrangement with Kerry).

Please see Sharon in the office for enrolment details.

Kerry Trevethan
Keyboard / Piano Teacher

Guitar Lessons
Genesis Music School provides guitar lessons for children in Grades Prep to 6 on a Thursday during school time. Guitar lessons commenced this week and new enrolments are welcome.

Fees:
Group lesson (3 students) - $14.00 p.w.
Shared lesson (2 students) - $20.00 p.w.
Private lesson – $27.00 p.w.
Lessons are paid by the school term.

Enrolment forms are available from the school office or contact Genesis Music School direct on 0421 426 674.

Happy Birthday To –

Jayvier
Petra
Will A
Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly on Monday. This week our awards focused on the value of ‘Care and Compassion’:

| Prep B | Ilias Pilakis – being a supportive class member who is always willing to help his peers! Georgia G – always looking after her friends. Great work! |
| Prep V | Molly F – helping a classmate who was feeling upset Archie – including other children in games |
| 1/2A | Josie – always being a supportive and caring friend Archie – including other children in games |
| 1/2KJ | Lizzie – making sure everyone around her is feeling OK Jessica – helping her classmates when they need some TLC |
| 1/2R | Charlie F – playing nicely and showing good sportsmanship Ella T – always treating her friends and classmates with genuine care and kind heartedness |
| 2/3K | Declan – caring about his fellow classmates. Well done Declan! Zoe – caring about everyone in our class. Great job Zoe! |
| 3A | Sean – watching over your younger brother in Prep Kellan – consistently being thoughtful to all your classmates! |
| 6H | Liam G – always being aware of the feelings of those around him Jasmine – having the same lovely disposition with everyone in the class |

Grade 6 remote control day

The Year 6 students are participating in different lunchtime activities each month. Last Friday our Grade 6s used remote control vehicles, manipulating them around a track which had been set up in the senior school building.
**Program Update**

Hello everyone!

This week’s Oshclub Superstar award goes to one of my amazing helpers, Zanthe Panay. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Due to popular demand COLOUR WEEK is back next week!

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**Next Week’s Activities**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Orange Playdough</td>
<td>White angel pom poms</td>
<td>Purple flowers</td>
<td>Paper bag black cat</td>
<td>Rainbow disco balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Orange scones and Gate soccer</td>
<td>White Chocolate fudge and basketball</td>
<td>Purple grape Kebabs and batty bowling</td>
<td>Black and White chocolate brownies &amp; Pac man game</td>
<td>Rainbow streamers &amp; Fling ball activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Parent Information**

OSHC program phone: 0423 728 739  
Coordinator: Michelle Antoniou/Ronisha Altman  
Assistants: Danielle Anthony/ Desiree  
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
Dear Families,

Below is the 2015 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations for School Council. School Council elections are held at this time each year. A position on School Council is for a two year term, and ‘retiring’ members are eligible to re-stand for School Council.

School Council meetings are held twice per term from 6.15pm to 8.15pm and all members are expected to sit on one sub-committee. Sub-committee meetings are also held twice a term and run for approximately 30-45 minutes.

Our sub committees are Buildings and Grounds, Policy and Curriculum, Marketing and Finance. You do not need to be a School Council member to join a sub-committee. Further information about these committees will be available after the election process concludes.

On the back of this notice is a FAQ sheet about School Council, however I encourage you to come and see me if you have any queries.

Jackie Green
Principal

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Spotswood Primary School
If you are interested in standing for School Council, please obtain a nomination form from the office.
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by:

4.00 pm on Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March

If an election is required, ballot papers will be distributed and the ballot will close at:

4.00 pm on Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} March

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. Green
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Principal
20/2/2015
School Council Elections 2015 - Information for Families

What is a school council and what does it do?
All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

Remember
• Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• Consider standing for election to council this year
• Be sure to vote in the elections