



# George Street

PRIMARY SCHOOL, HAMILTON, VICTORIA

Newsletter # 13

14th October 2016

**George Street**  
Primary School  
HAMILTON

## Forthcoming Events

### October

28th—Casual clothes day

31st—Melbourne Cup luncheon & dress up day

### November

1st—Melbourne Cup—pupil free day

8th & 9th—Grade 2-6 camp

10th—P/1 slepover

11th—P/1 activity day

11th- 5/6 Super 8's cricket



The "Holy Grail" of horse racing, the Melbourne Cup, is proudly (and carefully) held by Zeek and Ethan when this magnificent trophy was on display recently. This was our second brush with Melbourne Cup fame, as we had a visit from 1992 cup winner Subzero two years ago. What could our third cup moment be? Perhaps a jockey, owner from GSPS???



CONFIDENCE



PERSISTENCE



ORGANISATION

The Keys to Success



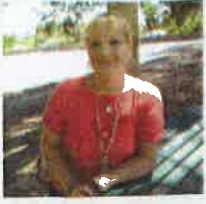
GETTING ALONG



RESILIENCE

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## From the Principal's Desk



Welcome back to the final term for the year. Term 4 is an incredibly busy term for staff, as they plan for this term and next year, but it's a term we all love as Christmas draws closer and the decorations come out. A very warm welcome to our new Business Manager Jane, and our six new students: Baelan, Daniel, Paige, Briodee, Charli and Noah who all started at George Street this term.

Wow! The Parent Opinion Survey results are in with outstanding achievements in all areas. They certainly reflect the amazing changes we have implemented and your continued support has contributed. Big thanks to my staff, students and families for being part of this journey.

### CAMP

As our annual camp isn't that far away, please ensure that payments are finalised prior to attending camp. Although the school has assisted families in the past, we are finding it incredibly difficult to maintain this within our budget, therefore payment plans are always offered to support families. Also, our junior grades in Red House will be having an exciting time sleeping over at the school. More details will follow.

### LAST WEEK OF TERM (Activities Week)

We are looking at offering our students an exciting opportunity on the last full week of term, the same as secondary schools offer their students. We are currently organising a week of fun activities, with Halls Gap Zoo the main attraction. Parents will be asked to pay a minimal fee towards the cost of hiring a bus and zoo entrance.

### COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

Can I please remind parents that when they have a concern that they'd like to discuss with either myself or other staff please make an appointment. We are always willing to listen to any concern or feedback, however rude or aggressive behaviour is not tolerated in this school, as this style of communication is not effective, neither does it lead to positive outcomes. We are continually modelling effective means of communication to our students and request parents do so also.

### FACEBOOK

Social media (Facebook) is not a productive tool for communicating concerns or issues. It incites negativity and often comments are geared towards opinions rather than fact, often with no solutions offered, therefore please be mindful on posting.

### ATTENDANCE

Please note we are focusing on attendance this term and also throughout 2017. It is critical that students attend school every day. If for some reason they need to make an appointment with a dentist or specialist, please try to make the times after school. We of course understand that every child becomes unwell at times, but taking time away from school impacts on their learning.

### TRANSITION

This term is also a busy term for transition. We are holding a number of days for our 2017 prep students along with a whole school STEP\_UP Day on 7 December whereby all students will be able to work in their new grade for 2017 for the day. If you're aware of a family that is planning on George Street for 2017, please ensure that they contact the school ASAP, as we like to keep our class sizes small for that personal touch.

Tina Walkeden



## What's happening at GSPS.

Red House is excited to welcome three new students to our class. Max and Ashton joined us at the end of Term 3 and Baelan at the start of Term 4.

On Thursday, students from SGAE came to George Street to participate in reading activities. Each student paired up with someone from Red House and organised to read them a story, play games, and do activities relating to the book. The students from SGAE did a fantastic job at organising their activities, and we all had a wonderful time! Next week, Red House will hop on the bus and visit them at their school, and the week after we will celebrate our hard work with a break up celebration.

In maths, Red House have been learning about money and mass. The students have been exploring ways to weigh objects, which include using scales and hefting. They have also been looking at the Australian coins, specifically how we can identify them and their value. The students have had a wonderful time learning about our money system and role-playing with money.



The residents of Eventide were treated to some excellent reading skills, when our school recently paid a visit. Once again we were out and about in our local community bringing happiness to these people.



HANNAH



BRODIE



ZAYNE



OSCAR



### MELBOURNE CUP VISIT

Our senior students were lucky enough to attend a presentation from 1994 cup winning jockey, Wayne Harris, who rode Jeune, and Victorian Racing Club historian, Dr Andrew Lemon.



No students but these celebrities:  
 October 17th—Eminem (Rapper)  
 October 18th—Zac Efron (Actor)  
 October 20th—Tom Petty (Rock legend)  
 John Cleese—27th October (Basil Fawlty)

#### Term four 2016

Term 4 : 3rd October — 20th December

#### Term one 2017

Term 1 : 31st January—31st March



Puttin' on the Ritz

# GEORGE STREET P.S. SUMMER BALL



## "The Ritz"

*Venue : Hamilton Golf Club  
Rippon Rd, Hamilton*

*Time: 7pm*

*Date: 18th February 2017*

*Cost: \$50- per person*

*Live Band*



*Drinks at bar prices (strictly no BYO)  
Finger food provided*

*For tickets contact 0477 536 283*

*Tickets on sale now.*

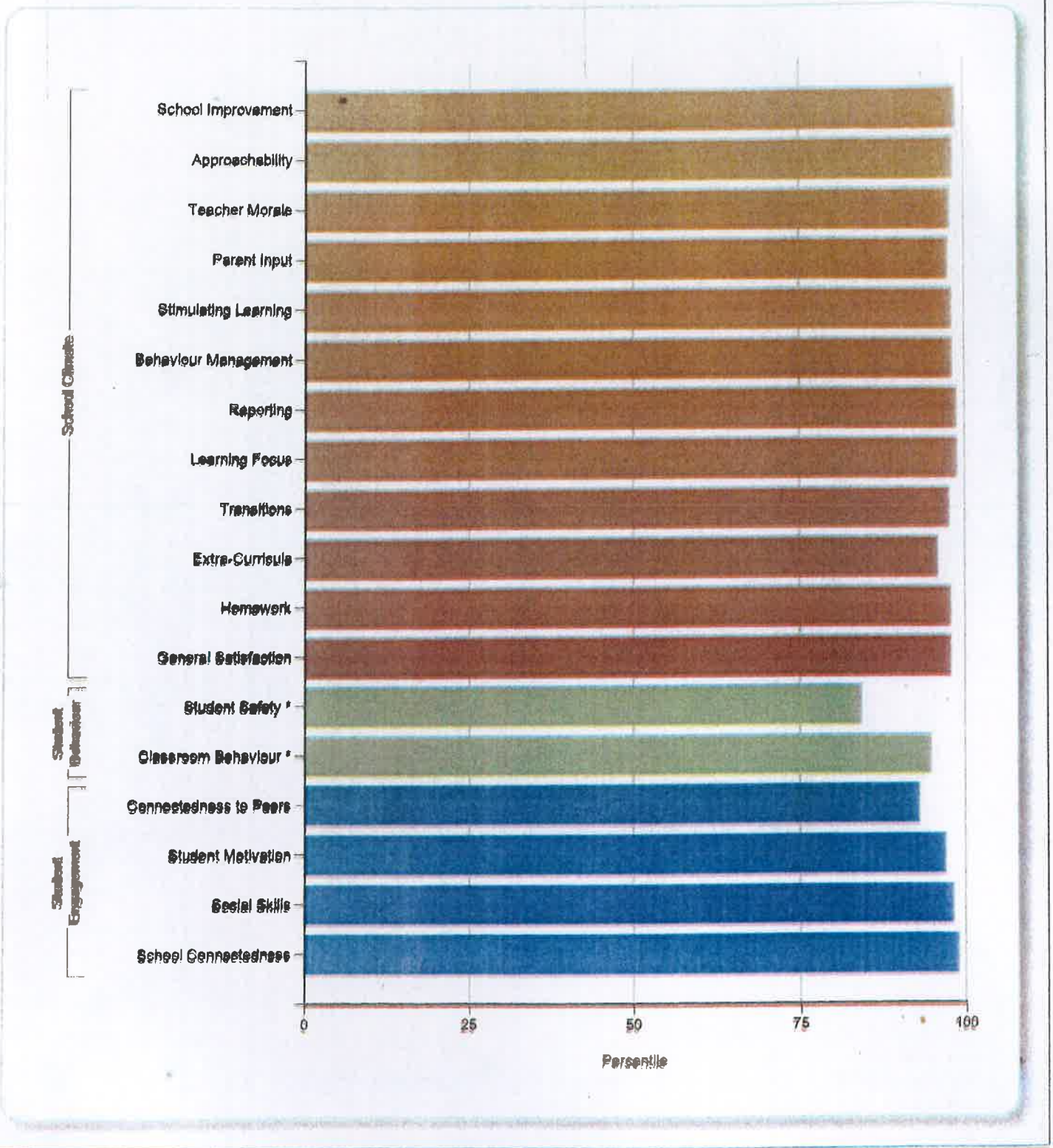


Puttin' on the Ritz



Parent Opinion Survey – Percentile by Factor by School Type – 2016 - George Street Primary School - Hamilton (4777)

School means plotted as percentage ranks against Primary School means



# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



## It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids 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 kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often 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 kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

### That's not a reason to be away!

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 too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

### As a Parent:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

### Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

### It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids 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 kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.