Dear Parents,

Mrs Moy had her surgery earlier this week and is “resting” in hospital, beginning her recovery.

The children are all working well in class and the year is off to a good start with excellent behaviour and support of each other being exhibited in the classrooms and the playground.

More activities!

We have an exciting new choice of activities available for the children at some lunch and recess times. Tuesday lunch time is book reading with Mrs Saal, where I will be reading aloud, favourite children’s chapter books in the library. Wednesday morning tea, Mrs Gillespie will be taking choir and at lunch time Chappy Karl will be doing his “Strength” program with older students. On Friday Mrs Lawson will be running a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) program. These choices are voluntary, children still have the other simple option to play in the playground.

Mobile Library (for those who attend).

Beginning this week, the 3–6 class will only be attending the mobile library every second week. This is to allow more time in the classroom so that Mrs Lawson can cover work requirements for her curriculum areas. The P-2 class will attend each week with the 3-6 class visiting on even weeks of the school term (ie 17/2, 3/3, 17/3, 31/3) Classes will also be alternating PE and art lessons each week so as to allow a greater length of non-interrupted time to experience each of these subjects.

Photographs

It has come to our attention that some photographs of groups of children from Greenmount School have been put on Facebook. Parents, please be more aware of the Privacy Act, and for legal reasons, do not post or take photographs of other children without prior consent.

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Fun facts!

Your brain is faster and more powerful than any super computer made by man. It also produces enough energy to power a light bulb.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 16th Feb</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 21st Feb</td>
<td>Central Downs Tennis Carnival</td>
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<td>Fri 24th Feb</td>
<td>Clifton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th March</td>
<td>Young Leaders Conference</td>
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<td>1st to 3rd March</td>
<td>Principals Conference</td>
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Arrival and pick up times.
A reminder that children are not to be at school prior to 8:30 am unless it has been arranged beforehand with Mrs Moy. This is to enable teachers to have uninterrupted preparation time for activities for the day’s work. We also request prompt pick up time so that staff can attend after school meetings or other personal commitments. This particularly applies to the afternoons of ‘After School Sports’. Thank you for your consideration.

Calendars.
There are 2017 school calendars available for parents and these will be sent home with the newsletters once printed.

Staff.
We have had a large number of staff away with Mrs Moy and Mrs Johnston being unwell and Mrs Cox and Mrs Cheetham on long service leave. I would like to thank parents for their consideration if things don’t go exactly according to plan during this time. I will be away at PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) coaching training in Warwick on Wednesday 15th February and again for a half day for tennis coaching on Tuesday 21st February. Mrs Stenzel will take the Prep to 2 class on these days.

Year 6 parents.
Please have your children smartly dressed in complete school uniform on 16th February ready for us to attend the mayoral morning tea in Toowoomba.
2017 is here and our P&C is in full swing! We hope everyone had a wonderful break with your families and we warmly welcome all of our new families to our little school! With this the P&C Committee invite you all to join our School P&C Association. You may feel hesitant at first, but being apart of the P&C is a great way to keep informed, to make new friends and to contribute to the quality of your child’s time and opportunities at school. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, however, your ongoing support to our P&C is invaluable! By joining the P&C, you open opportunity to learn new skills and gain a clear understanding of how the Greenmount SS operates. This truly is a wonderful opportunity to share in the School decision making process and shape the future for our children. There will be forms sent home within the coming week inviting any parents who would like to nominate for our executive team and/or sub committee. Also a membership application to join the Greenmount’s P&C. This is FREE to everyone. Also information regarding the P&C AGM on 27th Feb at 6:30pm. If you did not receive these forms, please don't hesitate to ask. I will be happy to help you out! As you are all aware, the students have recently participated in extra swimming lessons this year. In order to do this, we as a P&C are needed to raise the funds to be able to present this opportunity and life skill for each student. Therefore, plans are underway for our Term 1 fundraisers. We are currently selling tickets to win 1 of 2 Angliss Meat Trays at the Greenmount Pub each Friday night. If you are unable to attend the Pub, but you would like to support the school and try win yourself a meat tray then Tickets ($1) are available for purchase Friday afternoon at school pick up. Also we're busy organising the prep-6 small school social disco on March 10 for the smaller schools within our cluster. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students of each of these schools to meet up, form friendships and also have lots of fun together! As well as raising some funds for our P&C, we will also be supporting Chappy Karl and his Chaplaincy Program for the students for this event. Lastly we will have our Easter Hot Cross Bun drive. Forms will be sent home in the coming weeks. We ask that every family supports and collects orders where possible please. We really appreciate and value each family’s support with this.

Tuckshop will be commencing this Friday 10th. Our amazing Tuckshop Convenor Belinda would like to remind you all to clearly write all orders, with names, on separate brown paper bags (one for each break) with your correct money and place in the ORANGE P&C box. Located in upper classroom. Brown paper bags can be purchased from Woolies or Coles for less than $3 for 100. This process creates less confusion and ensures your child does not miss out on their tuckshop order.

To wrap it up, on behalf of the P&C, I thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you all at the AGM!

Kindest regards
Shannon Priebbenow
P&C Vice President
Awards!
Term 1 2017 has started at a cracking pace for our years 3 to 6 Geographers. We are flat strap into developing the skills we need to be successful geographers, and global citizens.

This term our Year 3’s are focusing on the characteristics of places. We will investigate the different climates around the globe and suggest reasons why there are such vast differences. They will learn more about the natural and human characteristics of places in Australia as well as our neighbours. We have started using the atlas as a learning tool and are investigating the characteristics of maps as well as learning the points of a compass.

Year 4’s are extending their knowledge as global citizens and are working on understanding place with a focus Africa and South America. We will be looking at learning more about the vast differences we have on our planet and will be looking at the natural vegetation and animals on these continents and how people and the environment exist together. We will be developing skills in interpreting data and using information to form conclusions. We will be working at developing our skills as map readers and building on our learning from last year to become successful map readers.

Year 5’s are going to look specifically at the factors that shape the human and environmental characteristics of places. We will investigate the different global landforms and climates of places and how people are influenced by their environment. Our global focus will be Europe and North America. We will use the inquiry process to collect information from a variety of sources, for example, weather maps, satellite images and media reports and develop action plans for the future.

Our Year 6 focus is our Diverse and Connected World. We will investigate specific places and interconnections. We will learn more about people and cultures across the globe and uncover the similarities and differences of people culturally. We will develop skills towards becoming responsible global citizens. In doing this, we will use our mapping skills learnt and our skills we developed in using data to make informed decisions and plans for our future on world wide issues.

At home, it would be fabulous if students were able to access any maps - digital or hard copies and talk with you about places that they (or family members), have visited in the past, or would love to visit in the future. Find your house or world wide icons on Google Maps and access ‘Finding Hannah’ on the Geosite Page (year 5/6).

We are working on knowing all the states, territories and our capital cities and improving our general knowledge of Australian places in years 3/4, and in years 5/6 we will be looking at knowing the continents and being able to identify which continents different countries belong to.

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?”

Michael Palin 2007