
Greenhills is GREAT

In the beginning...

In 2005 the Greenhills community, including staff, students and parents collaborated to determine a shared Vision for the school. From this a Mission Statement was developed and following that the school set about redefining its core values. These were expressed as our GREAT core values:

- G – Generosity**
- R – Respect**
- E – Enthusiasm**
- A – Acceptance**
- T – Teamwork**



At the end of 2005 Mr James Penson (Leading Teacher) led a team of teachers to develop a values education program to be introduced as a common 'Greenhills Get's Going' (start-up) program in 2006 for all classes across the school.

In 2006, grades discussed the five core values and focused on a different value each week. From this process, each class then developed their own mascot, mission statement and motto. These were proudly displayed around the school and the values were constantly referred to. This process was reviewed and again continued in 2007. A Fun Day was also introduced where students would participate in activities for their 'house' and wear their house colours. This provided an opportunity to practise and strengthen our five core values. The teams competed for the 'Greenhills Cup.'

Each classroom within the school has been encouraged to organise displays linking into the 'Greenhills is GREAT' theme. The school also participated in a Generosity Day, where students came to school in casual clothes to raise money for our World Vision child. To reinforce the core values and maintain a shared understanding and acceptance of them, each year every grade creates a 'Greenhills Get's Going Guide' for their portfolio including:

- one page on each core value

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- their classroom mascot, mission statement and motto
 - a photo of the grade.



In 2008...

Tanya Kirkright (Leading Teacher) is leading the program in 2008 and has led a team of teachers in continuing this fantastic culture within the school. All teachers have again incorporated the GREAT values into their initial learning sessions as well as Generosity Day.

Students have once again developed their own mascot, mission statement and motto to represent their class to the whole school and community. Each week at assembly during first term, student representatives from each grade presented their mascot, motto and mission statements to the whole school. It was wonderful to see the values language being used and the interest on the students faces to see what other grades had created. There were even grades that had created jingles and songs for their class.

The mascot, motto and mission statement from each class have been collated and bound in a booklet which is currently being passed from grade to grade to share. Classrooms have created displays which act as an every day reminders to students of the GREAT values. Students and teachers have built the values into their daily language and we reflect on these values throughout every aspect of the students' learning.

In Term 2, the Fun Day was held as a celebration of learning. The Welfare Professional Learning Team applied continuous improvement strategies by reflecting on the positive outcomes of the 2007 Fun Day and identifying areas for improvement or change. Using this information the teachers developed an exciting day for all students. Students dressed in their house colours and participated in rotational activities within their grade area. The Junior school started the day and the Middle and Senior schools participated after recess. It was great to see the splashes of team colours that day and the teachers wore colours for their house team too. House Captains and Junior School Council members were trained to run each activity and conducted the activities with confidence.

In the afternoon session the whole school sat on the oval in their house teams. First we had a cheering competition where each house had time to organise a chant and then perform it. There were clapping chants and mini-songs. All the performances were excellent. The winning house was Meruka (yellow house) with 'the chicken dance' theme.

Next on the agenda were the races. There were five different events that representatives from each house competed in (the teams consisted of a student from each grade level and a teacher). It was a fantastic afternoon.

On this GREAT day, the students:

- were very **generous** to each other
- demonstrated **respect** for each other and their teachers
- displayed extreme **enthusiasm**
- showed **acceptance** of their peers' skills
- used **team work!**

The aim for the rest of the year is to continue to reflect on our values in the classroom. The Welfare Professional Learning Team is continually thinking of ways to promote the five core values within the school. Our next project is a trivia session for each grade level in Education Week, which will focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Values, Thinking and lots more!