In 2014 our school was involved in a Peer Review, providing the opportunity to critically evaluate our performance against state-wide measures relating to student achievement, engagement, well-being and productivity. Our school’s performance against these benchmarks was commended by the review panel and their opinion was that Greythorn Primary School has much to celebrate. This type of feedback and analysis is extremely satisfying and affirmed the work that we have undertaken during the life of our previous Strategic Plan. Even though our current performance is well above comparable benchmarks, we have identified areas where even greater expansion and advancement in student achievement is possible. These new challenges, focus areas and priorities will shape the school’s new Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018.

Our teachers and support staff have continued to deliver high quality curriculum programs in Literacy and Numeracy and engaged students in challenging and meaningful ways through the Inquiry and Specialist Programs. The inaugural Greythorn Expo, held toward the end of Term Three, was a unique event that enabled us to showcase the learning and understandings that students gained from the Inquiry units studied during the term. The opportunity to share this rich learning with parents and students from other year levels was maximised through the Expo.

There have been many notable achievements by our students in extra-curricula areas during this year. Highlights were, Ryan Lobo winning two state swimming titles and being duly recognised for his performances at state and national level; the Boys’ Hockey team gaining a silver medal at the state championships; Kyrill Ivenkov being awarded first place in the state following his performance in the Alliance Française poetry speaking competition; Our Chess teams competing in local and state tournaments; Our sporting program producing excellent personal and team success in District, Divisional, Regional and State competitions.

The school concert – ‘Lights, Camera, and Action’ was a resounding success and gave all students the opportunity to perform and display their talents on the big stage over two nights. Whilst there were many contributors to this high quality event, I would particularly like to thank Joy Odou our Performing Arts teacher and the Concert Committee for their dedication and commitment.

Our Student2Student reading program entered its twelfth year supporting students across Victoria learn to read. The interest generated by S2S enabled us to run our own local version – GPS2S where Year Six tutors worked closely with other Greythorn students during lunch breaks to assist them to develop reading skills. Once again the work of Cheryl Williams in S2S and GPS2S is acknowledged with gratitude.

The development of our buildings and facilities continue to be high on our priority list. Despite a serious lack of government funding and support for capital building works, we continue to ensure that our school is presented in an acceptable condition. Carpet throughout the corridors certainly made a difference in the cold winter months and the new playground surface has given this area a significant lift. The facilities committee is investigating how we can undertake smaller scale developments and refurbishment whilst we apply appropriate pressure to gain consideration from government for future major capital works funding.

At the close of another extremely productive year I would thank you all for your contribution, care and for genuinely ‘working together’ for the benefit of our students.

Thank you to staff and students who contributed to this edition of ‘Readabout’. Sincere thanks to Sarah Tirtilas and Anna Webb for their efforts in collating and producing such a quality publication.

Geoff Agnew
Principal