

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back

Welcome back to school for term 3. We have another exciting term ahead as we work towards challenging our students. We want our students to be thinking about their learning in ways that promote creativity, social awareness, and to achieve a greater understanding of concepts being taught. Our teachers have been continually trying to develop their questioning skills to help our students with their learning. It takes a considerable amount of time, experimentation and reflection on the teachers' behalf to identify the strategies that work most effectively. I look forward to seeing this further develop throughout the term.

Class Letters

All students will be receiving a class letter by the end of next week, which will outline student expectations for the term. Parents are also reminded to speak with their child's teacher if they are unsure about these expectations.

Leading Communities Workshop

Yesterday, Kristine Travers and I attended a workshop in Melbourne called Leading Communities. The aim of this project is to develop stronger home/school relationships that benefit the learning outcomes of our students. There is quite a bit of research that shows a positive connection between the level of involvement and interest show by families in their child's education and the academic performance of that child. Involvement in school doesn't necessarily mean parents coming in to school to help or attending school excursions and special days. It does include talking to your child about school in general (often dinner time or travelling in the car). It can be about what they learnt, but it could also be about what they did at school, what their interests are, who they played with, what the best and worst parts of the day were. This type of involvement led to children understanding the importance their parents place on education.

Special Religious Instruction Consent Forms

The DEECD has published new Special Religious Instruction policy and consent requirements, therefore providing a new consent form which needs to be returned prior to Special Religious Instruction lessons being provided. The old consent forms are no longer current and cannot be used. A new consent form will need to be completed at the beginning of each year before students are able to participate in any lessons. There will be no change to the program that will be offered through the school. Lessons will continue to be scheduled once per week with the lesson

lasting no more than 30 minutes in duration. Please ask your child for the consent form, which will be sent home today and needs to be returned to school by this Friday 18th July.

Chocolate Drive

Last term, I mentioned that the School Council was running a Cadbury chocolate fundraiser this term. The boxes of chocolates will be arriving this Friday and a box will be allocated to every family. If you are unable to take a box or do not wish to participate, please contact the school by this Friday otherwise chocolates will be sent home with the eldest in each family early next week. Funds raised from the Chocolate Drive will go towards the visit for students from Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania. These students are fire affected and this project will be a great way to support the school and help in their recovery.

National Schools Tree Day

Our school is participating in National Schools Tree Day next Thursday afternoon. At assembly on Monday I said that it would be on Friday afternoon, however, we have had to make a change. While the details have not yet been finalised, we will be completing activities related to looking after our natural environment. More details will be published as we get them.

Health Study For Students in Years 4-6

Students in grade 4 and 6 will be invited to participate in a health study. Our school was involved last year with students being weighed and their height measured as well as a small group of students wearing pedometers for a short period of time. The study is being conducted by Deakin University as they seek to identify relationships between various backgrounds of people and their health and wellbeing. Participation in this study is completely voluntary, with permission forms to be sent home next Tuesday.

Joel Fraser – Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER		
21 Jul	Mon	Parents & Friends Meeting – After Assembly
24 Jul	Thu	National Schools Tree Day
28 Jul	Mon	Book Club Due In
30 Jul	Wed	Parent Information Session – Health & Human Relations
4-6 Aug	Mon-Wed	Years 5 and 6 Ballarat Camp - \$220 per student

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16 and hold a valid Health Care or Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the 2nd instalment for 2014. Please note the EMA program will cease at the end of 2014.

If this is your first time applying in 2014 contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA before Friday 1st August. If you have previously filled in a form earlier this year you do not need to apply again. No applications can be processed after this date. For more information about the EMA, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/ema.htm.

Joel Fraser – Principal

YEARS 3 – 6 HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS EDUCATION

There will be a parent information session held on Wednesday July 30th at 11:30am for all interested parents of students in Years 3-6. Years 5 and 6 students will have five sessions this term beginning on August 13th whilst the 3 and 4's will have three sessions starting next term. If you are unable to attend this session please contact me to arrange another suitable time to answer your queries. Please fill out and return the slip below so we can cater for numbers expected.

~ Kristine Travers ~

RETURN SLIP FOR PARENT INFORMATION SESSION HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS EDUCATION

Family Name: _____

I will/ will not be attending the Health and Human Relations parent information session on Wednesday July 30th at 11:30am.

Weekly Newsletter No 19
Wednesday, 16th July 2014



Family rituals and traditions

Rituals are the unique family activities or celebrations that recognise special events or achievements. Rituals and traditions are important to kids and important to families. They help to establish the memories that bind people together and children inextricably to their family.

Christmas, birthdays and bah mitzvahs are examples of more common rituals and traditions that are practised in many families. But each family tends to celebrate and mark occasions in their own unique way.

Rituals that work best are those that emphasise celebration and involve fun and enjoyment.

Events such as weddings and funerals help children find their place in the wider family tribe.

Rituals and traditions are best described as 'we' events. It is the notion that 'we' in this

family celebrate or mark events our way. It is the rituals and traditions that set each family apart.

While some rituals are culturally based or ingrained in family tradition others evolve due to individual circumstances. Children can participate in establishing new traditions and rituals, new ways of celebrating or marking events.

As families become increasingly similar in this media age it is important to maintain those distinctive traditions and rituals that make each family special and signifies a child's significance within their primary social group – their family.



Solar Energy Generation

The reading this week is 31561kwh which means we have generated 319kwh since the last reading.

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