FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

Newsletter Day: Last year and for the first couple of weeks this year, the newsletter has been distributed each Thursday. I would like to change this to each Wednesday, so until further notice, you will receive the newsletter every Wednesday. The newsletter is produced to keep families up to date with what is happening at school and I encourage you to read it through as soon as it arrives home.

Information Night: Next Tuesday, the 16th of February our Parent Information Session will be taking place at school. We will inform parents of all programs and plans for 2014 and this is a good opportunity to come in, ask questions and see what is happening here at school. The night will begin at 7:00pm and will go for approximately an hour. The children will prepare a delightful supper of scones, jam and cream. Please make this night a priority in your diary.

School Council Nominations: As mentioned last week there are vacant positions on the school council. We would like to invite people to be part of the decision making of our school. Nomination forms are attached to the newsletter and need to be handed in to school by Tuesday, March 4th.

Active After School Communities: Active after school began this week and it was great to see so many of our children involved. As we are an isolated community and it is difficult for parents to get their children to organised sports Active After School Communities is a fantastic way for our children to get to experience a number of sports and have fun keeping fit. During this term we have Ash doing basketball on Mondays and on Tuesday we have Jai doing skateboarding.

Bike Education: Last Friday we had Tom from Bicycling Victoria visit and do a clinic with the Grade 3-6 class. We have been following that up with some bike sessions at lunchtime. The junior students are welcome to join in and bring their bike and helmet to school. Please see back of the newsletter for more photographs.

Clean Up Australia Day: We are a registered Clean Up Australia day site and on Friday, February 28th from 9:00am until 10:30am, the whole school will be cleaning up, beginning in the school grounds and then moving out into the surrounding public areas. If you would like to join us we would be delighted for you to assist us in Keeping Australia Beautiful!

Buddies: We also have a page at the back of the newsletter with all of our buddies. Buddies is an important program for our school and helps the children to form strong relationships and learn to look out for one another.

Open Water Learning: On Friday the Grade 3-6 students are going to Open Water where we will learn to cope in dam-like conditions. This program run by Lifesaving Victoria is important for our children because they live on farms and may swim in dams and rivers. The program covers swimming and safety in such areas.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY
Thursday, 13th
Due date for Library Excursion permissions and payment [Prep-Grade 2]
Friday, 14th
Open Water Excursion—Grades 3-6
Library Excursion—Prep-Grade 2
Monday, 17th
AASC—Basketball
Tuesday, 18th
Due date—Book Club Orders
AASC—Skateboarding
Parent Information Night—7:00pm
Wednesday, 19th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS
School Council—6:00pm
Wednesday, 26th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS
Friday, 28th
Clean Up Australia Day

ATTACHMENTS
⇒ Library Excursion Permission Forms
⇒ ‘Every Day Counts’—DEECD Brochure
⇒ Buddies Page
⇒ School Council Nomination forms
⇒ CentaCare Family Newsletter

Library visit: Although it is very late notice we have decided to take advantage of having the bus going to Bendigo and have the Prep to Grade 2 class go to the new Bendigo Library. The children will have a tour and then read books with Mrs Mertens as Mr Sait will be at Professional Development. Please return the permissions forms attached.

Thanks,
Sally Gill, Acting Principal.
WEEKLY AWARDS
Principal’s Award: Mia for her acceptance of others.
Student Award: Reegan for his leadership in class.

THANK YOU
☺ To Isy and Bryce for cooking the sausages for the Sausage Sizzle this week.
☺ To Jodi Brophy for the home grown cherry tomatoes. They were delicious.

OPEN WATER LEARNING EXPERIENCE
The Grade 3-6 students will be attending an Open Water Learning Experience this Friday, February 14th. The cost is $15.00. Permission forms were due back at school today. There are still a number outstanding. Please return them by tomorrow at the latest. Payment is also due.

All students must bring the following items:
- Enclosed Shoes*
- Shorts
- Rash Vest/ T-shirt/ long sleeved shirt (no tank tops)
- Bathers / wetsuit
- Towel
- Broad brimmed hat (no caps)
- Water bottle
- Lunch/ snacks
- Warm clothes to change into afterwards

Please be advised that Life Saving Victoria strongly recommends the use of enclosed shoes by all program participants whilst participating in dry and water based activities (open water venues, not required for swimming pools). Thongs are not recommended.

PAYMENT PLAN FOR EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS
The permission forms and payment for the Open Water Learning Experience excursion were due today. Without a signed permission form, students cannot participate in any excursion/camp.

The school tries very hard to keep costs for parents to a minimum, but we do still need support from families. If payment by the due date isn’t possible, please contact Sally Gill to discuss a regular payment plan for your child/children.

DIRECT PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL
The school is able to process payments via internet banking. If you would prefer to pay for the booklist, excursions, camps, etc. using this method, the school details are:

BSB 063 517 (Commonwealth Bank, Kyneton)
Account Number: 00903062

When making a payment this way, please identify it with your family name. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB
The first Book Club for 2014 was distributed last week. There are some great offers available. Orders along with payment are due back at school by Tuesday, February 18th. Payments can also be done online on the Scholastic website: http://parentpayments.scholastic.com.au/

THIS WEEK'S VIPs
Isy and Lachlan are ringing the bell all week!

FARM HANDS
The Farm Hands are Brendan and Nick, thankyou for doing a great job!
EVERY DAY COUNTS – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

♦ Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
♦ Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

A reminder to those who wish to apply for EMA, to please submit your application to the school by Friday, February 28th, 2014 for the first instalment.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify that the cardholder is receiving a benefit.

PREP—GRADE 2 NEWS

Bendigo Library Excursion

Apologies for the very late notice, but to take advantage of the bus already heading into Bendigo it has been decided to take the P-2 on a short excursion to the Bendigo Library this coming Friday, the 14th of February. Students will receive a short tour of the new library and then participate in some reading-based activities. Students will then meet up with the 3-6 class for lunch and return home. The excursion will cost $5.00 per student. Permission slips are attached to this newsletter and if possible, it would be appreciated if they could be returned to school by tomorrow.

Take-Home Readers

Encouraging children to read at home each night is a great step towards reading success and supports the learning undertaken at school. In addition to reader books, children will soon bring home common/sight words to read over and learn at home. Please also help children to remember to bring their reader bag to school each day in their school bag as some forget regularly.

Show and Tell

The Show and Tell roster for the junior classroom is:
Monday: Lachlan & Kofi
Tuesday: Lucy & Jesse
Wednesday: Max & Jorja
Thursday: Tyler & Mia

Students may need some help to remember their Show and Tell day early in the term and to be reminded to bring something from home to share with our class.

Students making a life size model of our letter of the week: ‘D’.