Hello and welcome back to school for 2014! I hope everyone had an excellent holiday, with a nice Christmas and New Year thrown in and are ready and fresh for the new year.

Welcome: We welcome our new students, Jesse Parsons in Prep and also Lachlan and Chelsea Smith. Lachlan is in Grade 1 and Chelsea is Grade 4. It is lovely to have the Smith family back with us! If you see them about please say hello!

Thank you to all of those people who looked after our chickens and Roast over the holiday period as well as sprinkling a bit of water about. The gardens suffered a little bit due to hot weather but thanks to Lawrence, who does our grounds maintenance and Jo Smith who came and did some gardening, the grounds are looking quite good for the start of school.

Teacher Appointment: We are pleased to say that after an interview process James was successful in gaining the P-2 position for this year and we are looking forward to a great year. At the end of last year the students decided on this year’s term themes and they are Wildlife, Ancient Cultures, Ocean and Circus.

Heat Warnings: There is a severe heat warning for the rest of this week and into next week. Families are asked to review their fire plans and to make sure everyone is aware of the plan. You are also asked to ensure that everyone stays hydrated. Here at school we are doing the same and children’s exposure to heat is being kept to a minimum. Today we spent lunch time inside and recess was spent in the river.

Permission Forms: There are a number of forms included with the newsletter. Please take the time to read and complete them all and return to school as soon as possible. It is important that all information held at school remains up to date.

---

**DATEs TO REMEMBER**

**FEBRUARY**

Wednesday, 5th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS

Wednesday, 12th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS

Due Date for Water Safety Permission Forms

Friday, 14th
Water Safety Excursion—Grades 3-6

Tuesday, 18th
Parent Information Night

Wednesday, 19th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS

School Council—6:00pm

Wednesday, 26th
PUPIL FREE DAY FOR PREPS

---

**ATTACHMENTS**

⇒ Water Safety Excursion—Grades 3-6
⇒ Permission forms for signing/returning to school
⇒ Absence Forms
⇒ A number of payment envelopes for your use
⇒ Student information to be checked and returned to school
⇒ Bus timetable

Cycling Incursion: We are having an incursion next week! Cycling Victoria are going to run a bike education session with the 3-6 students. Students will need to bring their bicycle and helmet to school for this session. Bikes can be brought into school at parents’ leisure through the week and we will lock them up in the art room.

Information Night: There will be a Parent Information Night on Tuesday, February 18th. I encourage all families to come along. It will be an opportunity for you all to find out how the school program will be organised this year and how you can support the students in 2014.

Thanks,
Sally Gill, Acting Principal.
2013 TERM 4 2013 AWARDS
Principal’s Award: To Timothy for his enthusiasm for the term theme.
Student Award: Ethan for persisting with his learning.

2014 GRADES
Grade PREP-2

THIS WEEK’S VIPs
Nick and Lachlan are our V.I.P.’s for this week. Thank you guys!

FARM HANDS
Tyler and Kofi are our farm hands this week. Thank you very much for looking after our animals!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Alex and Mitchell had the birthdays over the holidays. We hope they had a great Birthday!

THANK YOU
😊 To Jo Smith for her weeding and watering the school gardens.
😊 To the Broadbent, Brophy/Patros, Gill, Sait, Stables and Sundblom families for feeding the chooks and Roast during the holidays.
😊 To Eli Spencer for slashing the long grass in the Wetlands.
😊 To Jodi Brophy for cooking the sausages this week for the Sausage Sizzle.
😊 To Flo Watson for the extra cutlery for our Healthy Eating Days.
IT’S NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY
Please find attached a flyer about absence. Most of our students are regular attendees, however we have a high number of unexplained absences and we would like to correct this. Simply filling in our pre-printed absence note when your child is away will fix this.
A number of these are included with the newsletter. Thank you.

GRADE PREP-2 NEWS
Show and Tell: Show and Tell will kick off next week and is a valuable activity for students each week. The roster for Show and Tell is:
   Monday: Lachlan & Kofi
   Tuesday: Lucy & Jesse
   Wednesday: Max & Jorja
   Thursday: Tyler & Mia
School Readers: At home readers will come home today and tomorrow with all students. Reading at home is an incredibly valuable activity for students to undertake at home and it backs up learning activities completed at school. Students should aim to read each night with parents or family members. Those students yet to return their reader bag, need to bring them tomorrow.

OPEN WATER LEARNING EXPERIENCE
The Grade 3-6 students will be attending an Open Water Learning Experience on Friday, February 14th. The cost will be $15.00. Permission forms are attached to the newsletter today and must be returned to school on or before Wednesday, February 12th. Payment is also due by February 12th.
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.

MARC OVERDUES
There are a number of books still outstanding. Mrs Russell would appreciate it if all books could be returned to school before her first visit next Wednesday. Thank you.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:
   ● $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
   ● $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
   ● $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
   ● $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.
The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).
To be eligible for the EMA:
1. Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
2. Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
3. You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
   ◊ be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   ◊ be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
   ◊ be a temporary foster parent.
4. Submit your application to the school by the due date:
   ◊ 28 February 2014 for the first instalment*
   ◊ 1 August 2014 for the second instalment.
* Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between March and August.
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.
2013 SCHOOL MAGAZINE
The 2013 Year Book was full of highlights and examples of students’ work during the year. If you would like to order extra copies, they are available at a cost of $8.00. Please contact the office.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
The Sausage Sizzle is every Wednesday. Students can purchase a barbeque lunch for $3.00 (sausage in bread, drink and fruit). Extra sausages can be purchased for $1.00 each. There is no option to not have fruit or a drink.

Prices per student are as follows:
1 sausage in bread + drink + fruit = $3.00
2 sausages in bread + drink + fruit = $4.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY:</th>
<th>Cooking</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 5th</td>
<td>K. Sundblom</td>
<td>L. Stables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12th</td>
<td>R. Blake</td>
<td>S. Vescovi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19th</td>
<td>J. Smith</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All proceeds from the Sausage Sizzle go to subsidising excursions.

Thank you everyone.

SCHOOL LUNCH DAYS
We continue to encourage students to have healthy lunches at school. Foods such as salad sandwiches, wraps, salads and quiche are recommended as every day foods. Foods such as pies, sausage rolls and pizza are recommended as sometimes foods. The days for heating food for Term 1 are as follows:
Thursday - Food may be heated in the oven.
Friday – Toasties [School Captains will toast the children’s’ sandwiches].
Please do not send foods that require boiling water to be added as this is a safety issue for staff and students. We are unable to microwave any food.

STUDENT BANKING
Student Banking was included with the newsletter last week. This is a savings initiative of the Commonwealth Bank. If you wish to open a new account, please speak to Joyce in the office.

School Banking Day is every Wednesday.

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.