
Whipstick Whispers

Eaglehawk North Primary School No. 1428

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12TH 2009

NO 2

CALENDAR

Friday	Friday 13 th	Casual Dress Day- Bushfire Appeal
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	February 16 th , 17 th & 18 th	Grade 1 and 2 Goal Setting Interviews
Wednesday	February 18 th	Grade 3-6 Parent Information Night
Thursday	February 19 th	Prep Information Night
Friday	February 27 th	Closing Date for EMA applications Grade 1 Pizza Night Grade 2 Sleepover
Wednesday	March 11 th	Prep Family Fun Night

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Principal's Award

My congratulations to the following students on their selection by their teachers as award winners for this week.

I look forward to presenting certificates on Monday at our assembly. Please feel welcome to attend and share this time with us. *Caitlyn V, Jack F, Toya G, Kynan G, Krystal D, Tylar C, Tyler S, Brooky P, Jack T, Declan F, Harvey H, Marli F, Dylan F, Ben T and James L-H.*

Bushfire Appeal

As a means of making a school community contribution to the Bushfire Appeal, we will join with schools across the state in conducting a "Casual Dress Day" for students tomorrow. Children are able to dress casually however we ask for a gold coin donation in support of this. If you feel the desire to donate more than a gold coin, this would be greatly appreciated. Our contribution will be combined with that of every school across our state and I am sure that, together, our school communities will make a significant contribution. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Earlier this week I sent home a note specific to ways in which families could provide support at an individual level. This process of support remains in place should you feel the need.

Minister's Message

Please find attached to your newsletter a message from the Minister for Education, Hon Bronwyn Pike MP.

It is encouraging that our Minister takes the time, through schools, to welcome our families into the school year and to encourage their involvement in the learning year.

Enjoy Your Break Mr Morton

Our Assistant Principal, John Morton, will be taking a period of Long Service Leave from the end of this week for the remainder of term, joining us again at the start of Term 2.

No doubt he will spend some relaxing hours on his trusty motor bike touring wherever the roads take him. I wish him well for this period of leave.

Mr. Morton's Auslan teaching role will be undertaken by Mrs Karen Riley during this time. If parents have any concerns that are usually directed towards Mr. Morton, please contact me in the first instance and I will ensure you are provided with the necessary support.

Netbook Program for Grade 6 Students

Through the Department of Education (DEECD) the State Government is embarking upon a very positive pilot program in 2009 to further expose our students to learning through the very latest technologies.

At the beginning of March grade 6 students will be supplied with a personal Netbook with costs being predominantly met by the Education Department and school. Parents will be asked to contribute \$52 per year (tax deductible) and enter into an agreement on the management of the Netbooks. The student will be able to treat the Netbook as their own and use it both at school and home. The student will take their Netbook with them when they move on to Secondary College and the agreement will then continue for a further two years in that setting.

Full details including information brochures will be sent home with year 6 students very soon.

Our school is already a leader in teaching and learning through Information and Communication Technologies. I encourage our families to fully support this new initiative as it provides the children with the very best opportunities to extend their learning through technology.

School Council Elections

Please find attached to your newsletter information regarding the forthcoming School Council election process which is undertaken annually at this time.

The documentation attached will provide the necessary detail and timelines around the nomination process.

This year a new aspect to the process, that is for self-nomination, has been added. If you wish to nominate, or to make a nomination for another parent or staff member, the necessary form may be collected from our general office. Please note that nominations close next Friday, 20th February at 4pm.

Should you require any clarification on this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Council Meetings

Please note that our two Council meetings for this term will be held on Tuesday, 24th February and Tuesday, 24th March.

ASTHMA – Please Update Action Plans

We have received documentation from the Minister for Health & Ageing warning that ***“In February each year, we see a dramatic increase in the number of school-age students being hospitalized and attending Accident and Emergency departments due to asthma related illnesses.”***

If your child in any way suffers from, or is prone to, asthma, an action plan should be in place at school. We will monitor our lists to check on information provided to us but I do encourage you to contact us if there may be concerns to ensure your child’s action plan is updated.

Policy Sharing

This week’s policy for your consideration is our School Dress Code.

Please thoroughly read the policy and contact me if you have any concerns on its content.

All of our policies are located on the school website if you have need for future reference.

www.ehnps.vic.edu.au

Thank You

I wish to extend thanks to all in our school community for the excellent start to our school year. It has been very organized and smoothly implemented.

We have started with 345 students in 15 home classes. Our teachers have been very well planned so that students move straight into the learning program. Our administration staff have done a wonderful job completing the extensive work that always presents for them at the start of the school year. We have received appreciated cooperation from our parents, some of whom have had to develop new relationships with teachers. On the whole, our students have commenced their year in a very settled manner, many being excited by their new classes, teachers and the opportunity to take on new challenges. We are looking forward to a very fruitful year.

Ron Payne

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Walking School Bus

Do you live along the route? Would you like your children to walk with our Walking School Bus on Wednesdays? Permission forms are in the foyer at school along with timetables and a map. If you are keen to be one of our parent helpers we can provide you with the paperwork to join the program. We will show you how to get a '*Working with Children*' card to enable you to participate. It is actually a handy '*qualification*' to have for numerous other community roles.

Our bus is underway in 2009 and our continued thanks must go to our volunteers Nicole Ryan, Tim Attwater, Jody Abel, Susie McGregor, Sara Hill and Rebecca Downing who have made a big commitment to the program as 'drivers' and 'conductors'. They are the people who front up each week to guide our bus safely to school. I promise I will have the Milo organised for next week. In my Long Service Leave absence I have asked Mrs Susie McGregor to be our contact person for WSB.

Auslan

Grades 3 to 6 will be having weekly one hour Auslan signing sessions with me this year. It is a Department of Education requirement that we report on a Language at Level 4 which is effectively Grade 5 and 6. I have a personal interest in Auslan and see it as a very accessible language for children of all ages and equally appealing to girls and boys. I would like to run some parent classes further into the year and we hope to revive the Sign Choir. See me personally if you have an interest in Auslan and would like to participate in some way with its implementation at our school or even if you would just like some material to study.

'You Can Do It' Surprise

As I wrote out the YCDI Keys for our Monday Assembly last week I was delighted to see that one of our new Preps Rebeka Green was receiving one for singing a song in front of the class on her very first day of school. What confidence! She followed this up by repeating the performance at our Monday Assembly. The key she received should definitely re-surface at her 21st Birthday party I think. In my Long Service Leave absence I have asked Mrs Holland to take over my You Can Do It duties at Monday Assemblies.

School Rules

In our newsletter this week you will find a copy of the six categories we write our classroom rules around. All teachers work with their children on composing appropriate rules for their classrooms and the six categories are standardised across the school to ensure consistency. The wording and flavour of rules within rooms will vary but the categories are the same across the school.

John Morton

5/6 TEAM NEWS

Homework: Students will need to hand in their Values Project tasks 1 and 2 tomorrow. They should also hand in their reading log and times tables booklet.

The Parent Information Session for 5/6 will be held on Wednesday 18th February. Students should have returned their notes regarding the BBQ for this Parent Information Evening.

Hobbies and Clubs will be running again this year. It will commence on Friday afternoons starting March 6th and will run for four weeks. If any parents, friends, grandparents have a special talent or would like to run an activity with a small group of students for these sessions it would be greatly appreciated. Please discuss this with your child's teacher.

If any parents are able to help out in classrooms please contact your child's classroom teacher. We appreciate any help and encourage parents to stay involved in their child's education if they are able to.

Casual Clothes Day: Don't forget tomorrow all schools will be having a fundraising '*Casual Clothes Day*' for the Bushfire Appeal. Please bring a gold coin donation if your child wishes to participate.

Amy, Jo, Jason, Bronwyn and Rob

3/4 TEAM NEWS

The normal school routine has started this week. This includes the Specialist timetable which for grade 3 /4 includes: *on Thursday*, ICT, art, library, P E and *on Wednesday* Auslan (our LOTE program taught by Mr Morton).

Students from our unit have also had the opportunity to be involved in choir, recorder and the “*Jump Rope for Heart Team*”.

The homework tasks for the week were sent home on Monday and are expected to be completed and returned to school by the following Monday. While it is the student’s responsibility to complete the tasks we would ask that parents support the students as required and sign the work when completed at the end of the week. Some concerns have been raised with why the books are not lined. If necessary rule half the page for your child or cut some lined paper and glue it into their book. One of the reasons for having a blank page is to encourage students to organise their thoughts in their own way and some of the tasks require visual imagery to be created. If this is still a concern please make an appointment to see your teacher as we are more than happy to find a balance with your child’s individual learning needs.

Rotations have commenced this week. This allows the staff to use their particular expertise across the unit. For this term the areas of study will be: digital arts, science, social competencies and geography.

The value being investigated this week in social competencies is “*assertiveness*”: assertiveness means to act in a positive and confident way. It means to stand up for yourself and what you believe in. We encourage you to discuss what this means for your family and our local community.

Please remember to keep staff informed of any special needs for your student/s in these trying times.

Colin, Anna, Anthony and Cherie

PREP, 1/2 NEWS

Prep Interviews-almost all are completed. Thank you for establishing this important Home-School Partnership in your child’s learning. Please organise another time with your class teacher if you were unable to attend the interview.

Healthy Food Eating Time – please ensure your child has mostly healthy food for their lunch and snack, this could include 2 or more pieces of fruit or vegetables, such as carrot or celery sticks, cut up cheese or meat. These foods are needed for optimum energy and concentration levels. Please minimise fatty and sugary treats.

Grade Prep and 1 P.M.P Program- parent helpers are needed -please refer to your class timetable for dates and times.

KOOLtime- please assist this program by sending along any recyclable items such as boxes-all sizes, cardboard cylinders, egg cartons, plastic containers etc.

PREP

Prep Literacy Focus- next week’s letter is “*m*” and high frequency word is “*a*.”

Parent Information Night- Thursday 19th February from 6pm to 7.30 pm in the Library. Please return all Baby Sitting forms.

GRADE ONE & TWO

Goal- Setting Interviews- Monday February 16th, Tuesday February 17th and Wednesday 18th February.

Interview forms must be returned by tomorrow so a timetable can be arranged across all classes.

Spelling Homework- all books must be completed and returned tomorrow. This is an expectation and all children who do not complete homework will stay in during some of their Lunchtime to complete any unfinished spelling homework.

Grade 1/2 Literacy focus-last week we looked at the consonant blend “*bl*” and the short “*a*” vowel sound. This week we focus on the consonant blend “*br*” and the short “*e*” vowel sound.

Grade One Pizza Night/Grade Two Sleep Over- Friday 27th February. More details to follow.

Simon, Tina, Sharna, Carolyn, Cheryl and Judy

YCDI AWARDS

Braydan R, Bailey E, Zak McD, Allira W, Olivia C, Sarah M, Phoenix D, Bridgitt B, Cooper B, Zac W, Elley L, Bailey B, Toby H, Meghan W and Heather K.



LIBRARY NEWS

Everyone is back into the swing of things and working hard. Don’t forget to return your books on time and if there is a particular book you might like for our library please come and let me know.

Reading can take you anywhere!

Liz Davis



VISUAL ARTS

If anyone has decks of cards at home not being used we would really appreciate them in the Art room. They don’t need to be a full set.

Many thanks

Bekki and Sue



SPORTS NEWS

PMP Helpers

We would really like some more parents to assist with PMP. Times are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you are interested, please talk to your child's teacher asap.

House Captains

Congratulations to the House Captains of 2009. All will do a fantastic job of leading their teams. They are:

Miller – Darby I -H and Carly O'N

Truscott – Oscar M and Leah Ds

Thorn – Tyler McM and Nicole

Williams – Ged H and Nikki P

Brett Gilligan

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you are eligible for EMA and *haven't* completed an application please call into the office with your Health Care Card before **Friday February 27th**.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ***Centrelink Pension Card as at January 28th 2009.***

Ricky and Katrina



CANTEEN NEWS

An updated Canteen menu is included with the newsletter.

Anita Pilling

Community News

1. ***Training grants for parents returning to work*** are available to assist with covering expenses. To find out more information and eligibility criteria contact Makenna Bryon at BRIT on 1300554248.
2. ***White Hills Junior Football Club*** will hold their Registration Day on Sunday February 22nd at the clubrooms in Scott St White Hills from 10am to

12pm. Phone Helen on 54483404 or contact the office for more details.

3. ***Crime Scene Discovery Challenge*** will be held at the Discovery Centre on Saturday February 28th from 10am to 4pm. Phone 54444400 for more information.
4. ***Eaglehawk Junior Football Club Junior Registration Day*** will be held on Sunday February 15th at Canterbury Park Eaglehawk from 11am to 1pm. Registration is payable on the day. Single player \$100, Family \$180 and Under 10 \$50. Proceeds of a sausage sizzle on the day will be donated to the fire victims.
5. ***Eaglehawk Soccer Club Junior Registration Day*** will be held on Thursday February 19th from 4.30pm to 6pm at Truscott Reserve. For more information phone Mark on 0429949631.
6. ***Falcons Baseball Club*** will commence training at Albert Roy Reserve on Thursday February 19th from 5pm. All new and existing players are welcome.
7. ***Central Victorian Lion Team*** will hold a Come & Try evening on Monday February 16th at the Quarry Hill Community Hall in Hamlet St. FU Wa girls dance team from 4pm to 6pm and Lion & Dragon teams from 6pm to 7.30pm. Phone Garry on 0438590318 for more details.
8. ***Golden City Soccer Club Registration Day*** will be held on Saturday February 28th. Phone Nicole on 54353542 for more details.
9. ***After School Tutoring and Homework Help*** is available at the Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre at 2 Humboldt Drive. Phone Michael on 0413116096.
10. ***Hip Hop for Bushfire Appeal*** will be run at Sharon Saunders Dance Studio on Wednesday February 18th from 5.30pm. Cost is \$8-50. Phone 0418309639.
11. ***Found after the bushfire*** in the Noy Court Myers Flat area a brown male and a black and white female pup (possibly staffy x). These dogs have now been taken to the RSPCA in Bendigo.

Do you require babysitting of children whilst attending the Information Session?

Prep Information Session Thursday February 19th

Family Name.....

Number of children.....

Please return this slip to the office by February Monday 16th.