DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY
Friday 28th
- Gr 3-6 House Swimming Sports
- Closing date for EMA & Conveyance Allowance (see last page for info)
Tues 25th 6.30pm School Council

MARCH
Monday 10th Labour Day Holiday
Tues 11th & 12th Parent-Teacher Interviews from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Tuesday 25th 6.30pm School Council (AGM & Elections)

JULY
Monday 14th July – Pupil Free Day

Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays during Term 1.

Term Dates 2014
TERM 1 30th January – 4th April
TERM 2 22nd April – 27th June
TERM 3 15th July – 19th September
TERM 4 6th October – 18th December

Office Hours: 8.30am – 4.00pm
School Banking Every Friday


CENTRAL HIGHLANDS ZONE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Congratulations to the following children and good luck for 23rd February….Manny Nichols, Jaida Berridge, Finlay Loft, Jonas Paar, Rohan Clay, Lachlan Taylor, Anna Santurini, Ben English.

Current Focus
Play by the rules
“Playing Fairly” “Being a good Winner” “Being a good Loser”

We are Playing by the Rules
By Grade 1W

Sung to the tune of Twinkle, twinkle, little star….
Here are rules for you and me
See how important they can be
Always be honest, kind and fair
Do your best and be willing to share
These are rules we all should know
We follow the rules wherever we go.

EMA 1st Instalment Terms 1 & 2
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with the cost of essential educational items for their children, which they would otherwise be required to purchase. If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is: $200 for prep students and $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
Your card must be current on 29th January, 2014 and applications must be submitted to the school before Friday 28th February, 2014. All applications must be in the name of the main card holder.

Late applications cannot be accepted. Please contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Term 1 2014 No.4 Friday 21st February, 2014

Current Focus: Play by the Rules (Honesty and Trustworthy)
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Parent Newsletter Week 4 T1

The swimming program has been a great success. The positive attitude of all the grade 3-6 students has resulted in improvement across all the age groups. Children are swimming distances they have never swum before. This is partly due to their persistence at sticking at something that is challenging and hard, but with a lot of good quality practice, change is occurring.

I have challenged all the 3-6 children to take this positive approach that they are displaying in the pool into the classroom and persist with their learning of maths, reading, writing and working with others.

Well done to all the parents/carers who have organised the children’s swimming gear for nine straight days to enable the strong outcomes we have witnessed.

We are looking forward to the House Swimming Sports on Friday 28th. All parents are welcome and if you wish to help out on the day, simply approach Mr Kiellerup.

I would like to wish all the students, competing this Sunday at the Eureka Swimming Pool in Ballarat, at the Regional Swimming Event all the best. Thank you to Mr Kiellerup and all the parents who are supporting the children this weekend.

Next week we start a new timetable, this is to accommodate our Family Groups Program on Monday afternoon, the commencement of the Kitchen Garden Program, CRE and Buddhism.

To allow parents/carers to check in with the classroom teachers and our specialists, we have allocated two nights to parent/teacher interviews. Have you put aside time on either Tuesday 11th March or Wednesday 12th March? The parent/teacher interview booking sheets have been circulated with this newsletter. We ask you to action this ASAP to avoid disappointment.

This early interview is designed for parents/carers only, students are NOT to attend. Also only ONE timeslot per child can be offered, we are unable to accommodate two interviews per family, per child, and therefore we welcome shared interview communication. Alternatively please arrange an interview with the classroom teacher on another occasion.

Finally, the Department of Education is having a big push on school attendance, which I thoroughly agree with and support. Can I therefore refer you to the back two pages of our newsletter and ask you to strongly support the notion that ‘Every Day Counts’.

Peter Burke

Are you eligible for CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
For students to be eligible for a conveyance allowance they must:

- Be aged over five by 30th April
- Live more than 4.8km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest bus stop, and
- Be enrolled at the nearest government school.
- Parents who applied last year will need to reapply for 2014 by Friday, 28th February, 2014.

GREAT NEWS! Our Kitchen Garden program is about to begin for 2014. 5/6 M & 5/6 F will be in the kitchen, and the 3/4’s will be gardening in week 5. Please remind your child on their kitchen day about clean hands, hair tied up, no nail polish and suitable, covered shoes. Suitable shoes or better still, boots, really make a difference in the garden.

If anyone coming to the kitchen- either students or volunteers- wishes to bring in their own apron to wear, this is most welcome.

Donations of any of the following items for our pantry are always needed. If you can help by sending a bottle or packet of something, that would be fantastic.

Olives/vegetable oils
Plain flour
Castor sugar
Dijon mustard
Maple syrup
Balsamic/white vinegar

Eggs are also always useful if your chooks are laying well and you have any to spare.

Needed for the garden:
Manure for our compost

CANTEEN DUTY TERM 1 2014

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<th>Wed 26th</th>
<th>Thurs 27th</th>
<th>Fri 28th</th>
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<td>Carolyn May</td>
<td>Sue Davis</td>
<td>Anna Parsons</td>
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C A N T E E N - H E L P A L W A Y S N E E D E D
Please contact our Canteen Manager, Bev Adkins, on 5348 1839 or 0423 357 191 if you can assist. Thank you

AN ADDITION TO OUR CANTEEN MENU
BASIC SALAD WRAP $3.50

RE-USABLE LUNCH ORDER BAGS $10
Available via the Canteen – order through your lunch order OR directly through the Canteen. Available only in Black with blue trim.

PARENT/CARER VOLUNTEERS TERM 1 2014

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<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SICK BAY</th>
<th>WASHING</th>
<th>BANKING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 28th</td>
<td>Katrina Allen</td>
<td>Michelle Cowan</td>
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<td>March 7th</td>
<td>Kerry Haby</td>
<td>Sally Armstrong</td>
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<td>March 14th</td>
<td>Rebecca McCahan</td>
<td>Michelle Cowan</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21st</td>
<td>Debra Mifsud</td>
<td>Sally Armstrong</td>
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<td>March 28th</td>
<td>Dianne Rouse</td>
<td>Michelle Cowan</td>
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<td>April 4th</td>
<td>Christine Gilligan</td>
<td>NO BANKING – LAST DAY OF TERM</td>
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Dear Parent,

At Daylesford, Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools we are committed to providing your child with an excellent education.

The building blocks of a great education begin with all students coming to school each and every day.

Regular school attendance is vital and missing school days can have a big impact on a child’s future - 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.

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 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.
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Every Day Counts

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

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.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years 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.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

- “Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school 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 as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

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.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development