CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
Feb20th, 21st, 27th & 28th: Swimming Program
Mon 24th: 6.30pm School Council
Tues 25th: Closing Date for EMA & Conveyance Allowance
Fri 28th: Gr 3-6 House Swimming Sport
Closing Date for EMA & Conveyance Allowance

MARCH
March 6th & 7th: Swimming program
Mon 10th: Labour Day Holiday
Tues 11th: Parent – Teacher Interviews 3.45 - 5:15pm
Wed 12th: Parent Teacher interviews 3.45pm – 5.15pm
Tue 18th: School Council AGM & Elections 6.30pm

JULY
Mon 14th: Pupil Free Day

Preps do not attend school on Wednesdays during Term 1

Pupil Free days: July 14th and Nov 19th.

Term Dates 2014
TERM 1  30th January – 4th April
TERM 2  22nd April – 27th June
TERM 3  14th July – 19th September
TERM 4  6th October – 19th December

Office Hours: 8.30am – 4.00pm

Principal’s Report
We are looking forward to the House Swimming Sports for grades 3-6 on Friday 28th. All parents are welcome and if you wish to help out on the day, simply approach Dianne van Baalen before the event.

To allow parents/carers to check in with the classroom teachers, 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 is displayed in our entrance area. We ask you to action on 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

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 by Tuesday.
25th 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.

**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.

---

Nadine will monitor word knowledge on Fridays, testing the children on what they know and send new words home as necessary.
I hope you find this new program as exciting and enriching as we do.
Nadine & Dianne 😊

**Parent Volunteer Program**

Thank you so much to our wonderful parents for volunteering to assist the school. We will publish a roster in due course.

**Classroom Cooking**

Jodie Zillig has volunteered to assist with our school canteen. She shall be involved with classroom cooking and also making food for our lunch orders on a regular basis. Once our freezer stock is finished, we will no longer be providing commercial pies and sausage rolls. We plan to stock our freezer with school made lunches, using our kitchen garden produce. Yum Yum!!
Next Tuesday, Feb 25th, we shall be cooking Zucchini Fritters for our lunch. The surplus shall be frozen for future lunch orders.
*Lunch orders will be available on Mondays and Fridays only.*
More details will be sent home next week.

---

**Kitchen Garden**

**GREAT NEWS!** Our Kitchen Garden program is about to begin for 2014. 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 welcomed.
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.