I would also like to take this chance to introduce our Focus of the Fortnight, which is a key component of our social competencies program and Student Engagement and Wellbeing initiative. These foci provide our school with a common focus and language around our social behaviours each fortnight throughout the year. They become part of our everyday language, and are also referred to in each newsletter and at each assembly on Tuesday morning which enables them to become part of your dialogue with your children at home.

Regards,
David Garner

**Current Focus**

**Good Manners – (Be respectful)**

Daily life provides us with many opportunities to demonstrate our manners. In many ways it is simply extending a courtesy to others. Some examples include the use of saying, “please, excuse me, thank you”. The use of good manners lets other people know that they’re appreciated, respected and valued. We can use good manners in a variety of settings: at school in the classroom or in the playground, at home, down the street, when visiting family and friends, etc. Waiting for others to pass before we move or holding a door open for someone else are other ways of using our manners. Use your manners with community members of all ages!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to the Daylesford Primary School community as Assistant Principal. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of Chris T within the school community and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. His impact has been far-reaching, and we will no doubt see Chris around this year. I look forward to getting to know all the students and families over the coming weeks as we settle into the year. Please come and say hello if you see me in the classroom or yard and introduce yourself.

**LATE ARRIVALS**

If arriving after 9.00am, can parents please sign a late notice located in pigeon holes before attending class. Thank you.

**ABSENCES**

If your child is absent, please notify the school by telephone or send a written
Welcome back to school, for what I am sure will be an exciting and eventful year.

I would like to offer a warm welcome, to all our new students and families in Prep and our new students and families across the school.

A lot of work has been completed over the break at Daylesford Primary School, including painting, watering (thank you to the parents who assisted), installing of sounds systems, work on our grounds, and staff working within their classrooms.

I would like to introduce our new staff. Firstly, David Garner has been appointed into the position of Assistant Principal and his main roles will be Student Wellbeing and Curriculum across the school. We welcome David and I ask parents to introduce themselves to David over the course of the term. Also we welcome Emily Joyce who will be teaching in Grade 1 and Tom Powell who will be teaching Grade 5/6. Nadine Jankowski has joined the team at Drummond PS and we welcome her.

The school community was shocked and saddened by the news of Ivor Bowen’s death. Ivor, a member of U3A, volunteered his time to all three schools for over a decade. Ivor will be remembered for his gentle approach with the children, for his mentoring and as the Grandfather of DPS, as we so affectionately referred to him. Our sincere condolences and a tribute of his contribution have been passed onto his family.

Due to lower numbers of enrolments in Prep than we were expecting, we are calling for enrolments into that level. Also due to the spread of children across the school we have put a thirteen class structure in place. This however places considerable strain on our funding and therefore a few adjustments are required. Firstly, LOTE will not be delivered by a specialist teacher at Yandoit and Drummond and choir is under review and may not be able to be offered this year. We await the outcome of our Census at the end of February and funding model that we will receive for 2014.

Peter Burke.

A Message From Dianne

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families for the 2014 school year. This year, we have 11 students enrolled from Grade Prep – 3. I hope you have all come and introduced yourselves to Nadine Jankowski, our new teacher. Nadine shall be teaching at Drummond on Thursdays and Fridays and every second Wednesday.

During the holidays Bee has given the school an excellent summer clean, while Richard has worked hard to maintain the garden. Mark and Natalie have worked tirelessly setting up a stage and beautiful seating and our water channel continues as a work in progress. Many thanks to you for all your efforts.

I would especially like to welcome our new students and their families – our new preps; Angus and his parents, Tanya and Andrew, Montana and her parents, Jodie and Andrew. In Grade 1, we have Alice and her parents Nicole and David.

We hope that you love being part of this wonderful small community.

RETURN NOTES
When we attach coloured notes to the Newsletter we call them “Boomerangs”. This means they need to come back. We have a pigeon hole in the library where these notes can be placed. We really appreciate when all notes are returned by the date indicated.

**PIGEON HOLES**

Each family has a pigeon hole where notes are placed if students are absent when notes go home. Please check this on a weekly basis.

**Nude Food & Fruit Break**

We would like to encourage all students to bring unpackaged food. It is so wonderful that so many of our children regularly bring healthy, rubbish free lunches at this school. During our first teaching session, the children will have the opportunity for a fresh fruit or vegetable break. Something quick and easy to grab and eat in class, such as an apple, banana, carrot or celery. It’s hard to concentrate when your tummy is rumbling. The fruit break is designed to provide some brain food. We also encourage the children to regularly drink water from their class water bottle.

**Take Home Readers & Library Borrowing - Every Tuesday**

All children will receive new take home book bags and a reader record book next week. Beginning readers borrow 5 “readers” – one for each night of the week, while independent readers are encouraged to borrow a range of reading material.

We would like all children to bring their book bags and reading record books each Tuesday.

Parent & students keep a tally of how many nights the children read and award certificates will be given for every 100 nights.

Some children will need parental assistance with their library borrowing.

All children are encouraged to borrow interest books to read at home each week from our library.

We have an honesty system. We ask borrowers to write what they have borrowed in our library borrowing book and date it when books are returned.

**EMA 1st Instalment Term 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
- $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.

**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.

**Swimming 2014**

In week 4, we shall begin our swimming program at The Kyneton Aquatic Swimming Centre.

We shall be participating in 6 sessions over 3 weeks – February 20, 21, 27 & 28 and March 6, 7.

We will once again be calling on parent volunteers to drive and all children under
145cm will need the correct booster seats.
The cost of the program will be approximately $50.00 per student. This will be partly subsidised by our Drought Relief Funds. A more precise costing will be provided in next week’s newsletter.

Frozen Fruit Sticks

During hot days, we have Frozen Fruit Sticks available at lunch time for 50 cents.

Bushfire Information for parents

Please read the attached note and remember to come into the school on Total Fire Ban Days and write your name, availability and location. The book is located in Entrance Foyer.

Photos of New Students

Due to low enrolments and a shortfall of funds, sadly the Annexes will not have a specialist LOTE teacher for 2014

LOTE

be respectful - be a responsible learner - be honest - be caring and compassionate - be a good citizen
Montana having her height measured