Dear Parents,

Some of you will have noticed that home readers are appearing in the children’s school bags. We also have new log books for parents to sign and there is space for the older students to write a comment about their reading.

Your child needs your support to be an independent and enthusiastic reader and I ask you to endeavour to listen to your child read every night. If your child is already an independent reader be sure to include daily reading as part of the routine, the same time every night - and ask them to remind you to sign the log book!

I encourage you also to help your child change his/her reader each day (for those reading from the levelled readers). You are welcome to do this before or after school.

Finally, some of the children will have M100W words (high frequency words) to learn for reading and spelling. Please help your child with this part of the reading program.

Don’t hesitate to come in and have a chat about your child’s reading and thanks for being involved in your child’s education in such a vital way.

Robyn 😊
EXCURSION TO DAYLESFORD

Next Friday 28th February is our first excursion for the year and this will be to Daylesford Primary School.

For new families, this means that all families make their own way to Daylesford PS (20 Vincent St Daylesford) and meet at the garden beds in between the library and the art room. Robyn Michelle and Jose will meet you there. Please see Deb on Wed/Thurs if you need any more information or a map.

If any of the Home Schooling families would like their child to attend on Friday, please let one of the teachers know before Wednesday.

Pick up will be at the garden beds at 3.20, as Daylesford PS dismiss at 3.20.

If you are unable to get your child to Daylesford PS, please let the teachers know asap so that we can see what can be arranged.

Please note that this is considered a local excursion and the permission form that was signed with the enrolment form covers this excursion. If we have missed giving you a consent form, then one is included with your Newsletter.

KITCHEN GARDEN SHARE

LUNCH

On Wednesday 26th February, Chitra and Judy have offered to prepare lunch with the children. Our garden is ready to harvest and we will work in groups throughout the morning to harvest the vegies, prepare the meal and prepare the garden for future plantings.

We are planning to do one or 2 kitchen garden days a term.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

After our first School Council Meeting for 2014, we would like to inform parents of a few things.

• Our March meeting will also be our AGM and the time that we invite parents to be a part of our Council for the next 2 years. At the moment we have 2 vacancies. For more information, please see Deb or another Councillor – Richard Pleasance, David Lewis, Sharon Treloar, Craig Sproat, Lisa Cockerall or Chitra Stern.

• We organise our first Working Bee and Family BBQ before daylight saving ends in Term One. On the form attached to the Newsletter, please indicate what day and dates you would prefer. We will then include the most popular date in next week’s newsletter.

• School Council has ratified Student Requisites for 2014 to be $130. Families who receive EMA can have their EMA allocation sent straight to the school.

Families that are not eligible for EMA can pay for the students requisites by cheque made payable to Yandoit PS or cash. But please ensure that you give this directly to a teacher. If it is placed in a named envelope, this would be very helpful. A payment plan can be arranged if families require this. Please see Deb on Wed/Thurs to arrange.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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.

To allow parents/carers to check in with the classroom teachers, we have allocated Wednesday 12th March to parent/teacher interviews. A note is included with this Newsletter for you to indicate if you would like an am or pm interview. Both Jose and Robyn will be at the interviews. Mrs R will take the class for the day.
This interview is designed for parents/carers only, students are NOT to attend. If this day does not suit, please indicate this on the form and we will arrange an interview with the classroom teachers on another occasion.

Peter Burke

**EMA 1ST INSTALMENT TERMS 1 AND 2**

**IF you have not yet returned your forms and provided a current Health Care Card for the teachers to copy to attach to your application, please do so before Wednesday 26th February.**

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 21st 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.

Please note that a photocopy needs to be taken of your Health Care Card to be attached to the application. This can be done at Yandoit PS.

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Please detach and return by Wed 26th February

Working Bee and Family BBQ in March

We are able to attend on these dates. (Please circle)

Fri 7th 14th 21st

3.30-5.00 Working Bee

Sat 15th 22nd

10.30 - 12 Working Bee

12 onwards

Families are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share

Sausages, bread and sauce provided by school

**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, 21st February, 2014.

**CURRENT FOCUS**

**Play by the Rules**

“Playing Fairly” “Being a good Winner” “Being a good Loser”