IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<th>Events to Remember</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 16th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Assembly Starting at 2:45pm</td>
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<td>Class Parties</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6B class reward to attend Jump Crazy in Pakenham</td>
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| Tuesday, December 20th |
| Last day of term 4. |
| Students dismissed at 1:30pm |

| Thursday, February 2nd |
| First day of term 1 for all students. |

LUNCH ORDERS

There will be NO Lunch Orders on Monday 19th

Happy Birthday !!!!!!

Happy Birthday to the following students and staff who will celebrate their special day during the remainder of December to Sunday 29th January 2017:

From The Principal’s Office

As this is the last newsletter for 2016, I would like to thank the wonderful individuals who have contributed in numerous ways to the school throughout the year. It has been a productive and exciting year for our school with a positive focus on learning in all classrooms. To see evidence of students learning throughout the year is a real highlight for me as I’ve witnessed the achievements for all students in each classroom.

I wish every Drouin West family a safe and restful holiday break, a joyful Christmas and look forward to a fantastic year of learning ahead in 2017!

Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays
Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed. And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It’s also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students’ learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school however, that 'tap' is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while school may be closed during January a ready supply of books that appeal to children's age and interests, will help them to discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge booklists, visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx

Graduation Dinner
Our Graduation Dinner was held on Monday night. Students and their families enjoyed a delicious dinner before being entertained by the students with a number of items and our guest speaker, Joshua Ronalds. After scholarships and certificates were presented, students attended a disco set up in the classroom.

Congratulations to Christian, Phoebe, Jasmine and Grace our scholarship recipients for 2016. It was really lovely for students to be able to attend this event and be the focus of attention with members of their family. Thanks to Kasey Tymkin, Pauline Boorer and Ann Webster who organised the evening and made this a very special event for our graduating students. Thank you to the parents who assisted with preparing the photo booklets presented to each student and those that lent a hand to pack up.

Farewell to our Year 6’s
It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our year sixes and their families who no longer will have students attending Drouin West in 2017. On behalf of the Drouin West community we wish you all the very best for your future and look forward to hearing about your achievements. Thank you for your involvement and loyalty to our school community over the years.

Library Books
Thank you to those families who have continued to return all their library books.

School Accounts
It is great to have families settle outstanding accounts. Please ensure all accounts are paid as soon as possible.
From The Principal’s Office Continued

Transition Day 2016
To support all students who will be transitioning through the school we organised for students to spend time in their 2017 class groups with their class teachers for next year. We know that supporting students in this transition, helps to reduce anxiety for the start of the new school year.

It was very exciting to meet some of the new families joining Drouin West next year on Transition Day. We have a number of families moving into the area as well as families attending other local school transferring to Drouin West in 2017.

Please help us to make these families feel welcome when you have the opportunity. Some students and families will be joining us for the picnic sports event on Wednesday.

Transition Meetings 2017
Staff have put in extra time ensuring files and assessment records are all up to date and this information is passed on through the school.

Student/Teacher/Parent transition meetings will be held in February next year to enable parents to meet teachers and share information about their child/children.

Student Reports
Student reports were sent home with students yesterday. Please take the time to go through the reports with your child and acknowledge the achievements made in the second half of the school year. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress, please contact the class teacher to arrange a convenient time.

Lost Property
Parents are urged to check lost property to ensure that all items are collected before the end of the year. Lost property is housed outside Mrs Barson’s classroom.

Student Free Days/Staff Development and Planning Days
Each year, schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes.

The first three days of Term 1 will be student-free days at Drouin West which will allow for appropriate professional development and planning to take place.

All students (Prep to 6) will start back at school on Thursday February 2, 2017.

Transition Meetings 2017
Student/Teacher/Parent transition meetings will be held early in the school next year to enable parents to meet teachers and share information about their child/children.

Last Assembly
Our last assembly for the year which will be starting at 2.45pm is on Friday Dec 16.

We will have some of our regular assembly items as well as a Guard of Honour for our year 6 students. As in previous years, we would particularly encourage families of year sixes to come along and be part of this special event. This is a significant moment in the lives of our students and a lovely way to finish their last week of primary school.

A message from OSHC
Well Christmas is almost upon us and what a busy year we have had in OSHC. Accreditation took up a large part of Term 2 with us having a very successful visit and excellent feedback from the assessor. Our numbers have continued to increase and our numbers for next year will see our service expand further. If your children currently attend and you wish to continue next year you need to fill in a new booking form. If you need to add a sibling then you need to fill in a new enrolment form. If you haven’t used the service yet but will need care in 2017 can you please see Peta.

There will be no After School Care on Tuesday the 20th, Before School Care will run as normal on this day.

Tarn, Pauline, June and Peta wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.
Super ‘B’ Award Winners
Super ‘B’ award winners for week 10, term 4

F/1A Chelsea
F/1B Jessica
1/2A Rory
2A Coby
3/4A Chayce
3/4B Henry
4/5A Mikaela
5/6B William

Our Chaplain

As many of you are aware I have been running Seasons For Growth for children who have experienced change and loss in their lives. I am passionate about the benefits of this program. To be able to talk about life using the seasons as a teaching tool is extremely valuable. The Seasons For Growth Program is based on these ideas:-

- Change is part of life.
- Sometimes the change hurts.
- There are things I can do which help me in difficult times.
- It’s okay to feel sad, lonely, angry or disappointed.
- I can cope with the changes by….
- Life is like the seasons and no season lasts forever.

As our Grade 6’s prepare to leave Primary School for their next adventure to Secondary School these are some useful tips to remember. Many of our younger students will be having new teachers and friends next year. It could be helpful having these conversations at home with your children.

“If nothing ever changed there would be no butterflies”-unknown

I have found a beautiful and I think helpful article, called “Grief and loss at Christmas.” For those who are missing a loved one, Christmas can be a tough time of year. This simple article has some wise advice. Copies are available from the office if you would like one.

I would like to wish everyone in the school community a safe and meaningful Christmas.

Take care!
Wendy Ronalds
School Chaplain

If you have any questions please contact me at the school on a Tuesday or Wednesday or email me on ronalds.wendy.w@edumail.vic.gov.au. I do check emails regularly.

Acknowledgement: National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program have been funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.
Beleza Trading Hours: - December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017

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