**Newsletter**

**Drouin West Primary School**

‘Nurture, Enrich, Inspire, Achieve’

**Issue 40/15**

**Hours of supervision:** 8.45am—3:45pm

16th December

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### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 17th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Picnic Sports Day, 9am until 1:30pm. Family and friends are welcome to attend. Bring along your picnic lunch and a rug or chairs. Please be SunSmart, wear a hat and sunscreen. Parents are asked to please ensure that students wear clothing that covers their shoulders and that sunscreen has been applied. As it will be a hot day you will need to bring your refillable drink bottle.</td>
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<td>December 18th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Last Day of term 4. Students finish at <strong>1:30pm</strong>.</td>
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<td>December 19th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Choir students save this date please. Drouin Carols by Candlelight at 7:30pm. Please return your permission notes if you haven’t already done so. For those planning to attend the DROUIN CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT JACKSONS ON ALBERT are offering Fish &amp; Chips and Burger packs which you can pre-order and collect on your way to the Carols between 5pm and 7pm on the night. * You can also order anything else you may like if the packs don’t suit you or your family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1st day of term 1 for students in 2016.</td>
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As this is the last newsletter for 2015, 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 2016!
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, Preppie, 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 their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn’t be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge booklists, visit:

Christmas Raffle
Our Fundraising Committee has organised a fantastic raffle at the end of the year with a range of different prizes. Thank you to the families who supported this raffle. Congratulations to all the winners!

Coffee machine - Glenda, Phillip Island pass - Chloe, Gumbya Park passes - Pans and Annette, Drouin Golf Club passes - Ferguson family, Mounsey family and Shelby W, Santa photo voucher - Jack S, Skate Pass - Trudy H and the Bundooa Golf pass - Jaison

Chaplain’s News
Hello everyone.
It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas! 9 days to go!
How times have changed. When I was a little girl I would faithfully write to Santa each year and always receive a letter of reply. It was my most treasured Christmas possession and I think I still have one or two letters stored safely away...

Now there is a Santa app. We found the app which is perfect for young children but we thought we should try it out first! It was lots of fun last night seeing my big kids have a chat with Santa and answer the questions about whether they have been naughty or nice. Just as well Santa didn’t want to talk to me!! I am sure my young niece and nephew would love the app! Kids grow up so quickly, enjoy the precious time you have with them now.

I wonder what your family traditions are? We like to put up the Christmas tree early, catch up with neighbours, attend a church service with a Christmas theme, sing some carols, catch up with family, give some presents and have the presentation for our annual footy tipping competition! It’s a good chance to have the presentation because my extended family are all together! I try not to get swept away with the commercialism of Christmas. The very first Christmas was a very simple affair.

Whatever your Christmas traditions, I trust it is a special time.
I wish you all a peaceful, happy, fun, restful Christmas and holiday season with those you love.
Look forward to seeing you all next year.

Take care! Wendy Ronalds (School Chaplain)
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Happy Birthday !!!!!!!

Happy birthday to the following students and staff who are celebrating their special day during the weeks of Monday, 14th December to Sunday 31st January 2016.
We wish you all a very happy, fun and enjoyable birthday while you are on school holidays.


Don’t forget to come to the office and collect a birthday sticker.
The Staff would like to wish all the students and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a safe, happy and fun filled holidays.

Enjoy the chance to rest and be full of energy for the 2016 school year.