IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

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### Martial Arts
- **Year Levels:** 3-6
- **Dates:** Feb 12, 19, 26
  - March 5, 12, 19 & 26
- **Coach:** Kael Coster
- **Time:** 3.15-4.15
- **Venue:** Drouin West P. S. (Sessions 1-6) and Warragul (Session 7)

### Swimming
- **Year Levels:** Prep-2
- **Dates:** Feb 13, 20 27
  - March 6, 13, 20 & 27
- **Coaches:** Jackie Puncher and Wendy McLean
- **Time:** 4.30-5.30pm
- **Venue:** Drouin Secondary College Heated Pool.

### Active After School Communities
**MARTIAL ARTS AND SWIMMING Programs Starting Feb 12 and 13.**
As in previous years, Drouin West has been able to secure funding from the Australian Sports Commission and offer a special **FREE** program for our students after school, promoting healthy and active life styles. All students attending Drouin West are able to participate however places are limited so you will need to get your child on the list promptly. Students new to this program are required to be registered. Parents will need to fill in a form available at the office.

All children participating in the AASC programs are asked to bring along their drink bottles each week!
Welcome back to the 2013 school year. I hope your family had an enjoyable and restful break from the busy routines and had extra time to do the special things your family enjoy.

The children all seem very refreshed and relaxed after the holidays and most are very keen to be at school, ready to continue to focus on their learning and of course, catching up with their friends.

A positive mindset for learning involves students’ having high aspirations to be all they can be in the area of school achievement. Parents have a significant influence on the social and emotional learning attitudes that children bring to school each day. By encouraging your child to do their best, showing an interest in your child’s school day and discussing any concerns that arise with the teachers will indicate to your child that you value their education. This positive attitude helps students to be actively engaged and self-managing of both their classroom learning and behaviour.

Today’s newsletter has important information for all our families. Please read this through and direct any enquiries to myself, your classroom teacher or Ann in the office.

**Extreme Weather Conditions**

In extreme weather, children will be encouraged to stay in the cool, shady areas of the playground or will be kept inside where their classroom is air conditioned.

Our physical education and sport program will also be modified to ensure children manage any extremely hot days. Should parents or others who are listed as emergency contacts wish to collect children early on extremely hot days please ensure you sign the early pick up book in the office.

**Emergency Closures-Schools**

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) website has recently been modified so that parents and carers can more readily access information about emergency closures of schools, early childhood facilities and bus services.

Previously, in some regions, parents and carers could access school and early childhood facility and bus service closure information from region-specific websites.

As of 1 January 2013, all information about closures and cancellations can now be viewed from the Department’s external website by clicking on the ‘Emergency Closures’ button at the bottom of the Department’s website home page.

**School Curriculum Days**

Staff have worked together last two days to prepare for the year ahead using two of our four curriculum days. Staff members have also put in many hours during the holidays to prepare classrooms and sort out resources in readiness for the school year.

**Strategic Plan 2013-2016**

In 2012 our school developed the Strategic Plan which outlines our goals and priorities for the next four years. The plan highlights our focus in three core areas: Student Learning; Student Engagement and Wellbeing and Student Transitions and Pathways. Copies of the plan are available from the office should you wish to read this document.

**Student Supervision**

**Mornings**

Parents need to be aware that students are not directly supervised at school prior to 8.45am unless they are attending Before School Care. Teachers will often arrive at school early to prepare for their day ahead. This may mean classrooms are not open to children or parents until 8.45am.

Students and parents are asked to wait near the Healing Garden if arriving before 8:45am. Senior students will be able to wait outside their classroom.

**Afternoons**

As with all schools, the end of the day dismissal time is busy and student safety is a priority. Staff are on duty assisting with the car line pick up or supervising students at the steps. Parents not using the car line are required to collect students from the step area and take them to their vehicle. Students will not be permitted to walk out to the front car park unless they are supervised.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance and punctuality have an impact on student learning. Our aim for 2013, is to have less than 10 days per child, per year, absent from school. There is also a recognition that having children arriving at school before 9.00am, allows enough time for children to organise themselves and briefly catch up with their friends so they are ready to focus on learning at 9.00am. Hopefully we can start the new school year working together to: encourage our children to attend school regularly; only allowing children to stay home when they are genuinely sick and ensuring children arrive at school to start the school day at 9.00am.

**Student Teachers**

We are delighted to welcome Monash University students Matthew Blair (5/6A), Jake Harper (Prep A) and Kimberly Gourley (1/2A) to Drouin West in their Advanced Practicum placement in our school during 2013. Please introduce yourself to these teachers and welcome them into our school community.
From The Principal’s Office continued

Parent Teacher Transition Meetings 2013
Class teachers will be offering parent/teacher transition meetings for parents of students in their class. Next week, teachers will be available on Monday and Wednesday after school to meet with parents of the students in their class between 3.30-5.30pm.

Parents are asked to come to their child’s/children’s classroom and add their names in a time slot that is suitable. This is different to the process we have used previously which takes many hours and several weeks to finalise. Please take up this opportunity to meet your child’s 2013 class teacher.

Parents have important information about their own children and their family context which may be vital for teachers to know.

To enable a smooth transition between each school year teachers have access to students’ prior assessments and reports. We have also developed and completed transition documents to ensure that important information is forwarded to relevant teachers to promote the smooth transitions throughout the school.

Student Leadership Team
At our assembly on Friday Feb 8, our first student leadership team for 2013 will be awarded certificates and presented with their jackets.

Lunch Order Menu
Our lunch orders will start next week on Monday February 4 and includes a range of healthy food options. Please find attached with this week’s newsletter, an updated Lunch Order price list for 2013.

Ficifolia Festival Street Parade Saturday Feb 9
In previous years we have been a part of the Ficifolia Festival Street Parade in the Drouin Township. We are planning to be part of the parade again in 2013 as it is the 25th Silver Jubilee. This year the theme is, “Farming Fun” to celebrate Drouin’s rich farming history. Parents and students are welcome to join Judi Collins, Heather Finger, Anne Cope and myself for the parade. Those in the parade are encouraged to wear farming clothing or dress up as a farm animal and bring along anything that fits into the farming theme and can be carried safely in the parade (rakes, wheelbarrows, tools etc.). Families will need to meet staff at the Drouin Football Oval at 11.00am ready to for the parade which starts around 11.30am.

Permission forms will be sent home early next week and will need to be returned to school by Friday Feb 8.

School Stationery and Curriculum costs and voluntary contributions.
School Materials and Curriculum costs and voluntary contributions are due at the start of every school year. Prompt payment is always appreciated enabling the full implementation of our curriculum programs across the school.

The state government provides funds for schools to cover staffing costs, facilities, utilities, cleaning, grounds eg lawn mowing, maintenance and schools are required to work within these budget allocations.

Essential Educational Items
Parents are required to pay for books, stationery, art materials, physical education equipment, photocopying, computer printing, tissues, etc. At Drouin West, as in previous years we have tried to keep our fees as affordable as possible for families. We bulk buy all student requisites at the beginning of the year to enable us to pass on the GST savings to parents. Our school fees for 2013 are - $120 for Prep to Year 6 students. Drouin West School Council has also invited parents to make a voluntary contribution of $10 per child which will be put towards school improvements.

Parents are welcome to contact the school and arrange to come and speak with me if they need further information regarding school materials and curriculum costs and voluntary contributions.

Families who are eligible for a Health Care card receive financial assistance through Education Maintenance Allowance and will need to ensure they apply before the closing date. Please refer to the article in this newsletter for more information.

Joke of the Week
Did you hear about the disgusting gardener?

He bites his snails
Welcome to another exciting year at Drouin West Primary School.

How does Your garden grow?
Kind hearts are the gardens; kind thoughts are the roots; kind words are the flowers; kind deeds are the fruits.

What grows in Your garden?

Don’t let those weeds (nasty thoughts) get a hold in your garden. The more you lovingly tend the kind thoughts the more your flowers will grow. Let’s all work on having the most beautiful garden with lots of lovely flowers and fruit in abundance.

If your neighbours garden is being over grown with weeds, share some flowers (kind words) with them and it may encourage them to tend their own garden.

Take care!
Wendy Ronalds
Chaplain

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.

Happy Birthday !!!!!!!

Happy birthday to the following students/staff who celebrate their special day during the weeks of Monday, 31st December to Sunday, 3rd February:


Don’t forget to come to the office and collect a birthday sticker.
Extra curriculum opportunities — Private music Lessons
Each year our school is able to offer a number of private music lessons. Below is a list of music teachers available in 2013. Parents can contact individual musical teachers to arrange private lessons.

Please note that Peter will now also be available for guitar lessons.

Drum and Guitar Lessons— Peter Brown. Monday afternoons. Phone: 0437 595 490 or email: monkeydrum@live.com.au

Piano Lessons– Karen Thomson. Mondays 11am onwards Phone: 0356 299 268

Singing Lessons— Tammy Patrick Thursdays 9.15am. Phone: 0356 233 948 or 0428 233 948

Flute Lessons - Anne Bridgeman Tuesdays 0418 356 020.
Icy Poles

Icy Poles are available for the students to purchase during term 1 and 4 at a cost of 50 cents. Please make sure you put the correct change (where possible) and your name on the order sheet in your classroom’s icy pole tub. The leadership team will collect the orders and money from the classrooms at recess and they will deliver the icy poles to the classrooms at lunchtime. Any profit raised from the icy pole sales will go into our child sponsorship fund.

We will introduce our sponsored children to you in the next school newsletter.

Story Time and Baby Rhyme Time on now at your library

Warragul Library
75 Victoria St, Warragul
Story Time—Fridays @ 10.30am
Baby Rhyme Time Thursdays @ 10.30am

Drouin Library
136 Princes Way, Drouin
Story Time—Wednesdays @ 10.30am

Free Pancake Breakfast
Bring a friend and enjoy free pancakes and coffee for breakfast.
From 7.45am until 10am on Tuesday, February 12th.
Warragul Community House
138 Normanby St, Warragul.
Bookings are essential. Ph. 0356 236 032

Drama Classes
Acting Up School of Performing Arts in Neerim South
Fee per class: $7.50 per student
Siblings: $5.00 each
Junior classes: 7 to 11 year olds
Senior classes: 12 to 16 year olds
Please phone 56299582 or 0466391112 to ascertain availability

Free Home Bushfire Advice Service

Book the home bushfire advice service to receive expert fire safety advice without stepping past your front gate.

Our experts take into account your location, time and level of risk to give you tailored advice on:
- Managing vegetation around your property
- Maintenance options to protect against ember attack
- Practical planning to stay safe on fire risk days
- Making sure fire trucks can access your property
- Water supplies, tank fittings, pumps and other practical concerns
Take the opportunity to have a fresh set of eyes look over your fire plan or get help with starting a new one.
This is a free service available all year round.
Contact Rachel Allen: 0400 696 382

Student Banking for 2013
Banking day will be on Mondays. Please remember to put your bank book in your classroom red bag each Monday morning.
Remember each time you make a deposit you will receive 1 token which you can save for a wonderful prize.
Bonus prize:
Please can each student taking part in student banking during 2013 put all their saved tokens in their bank book for checking. We need to make sure that the amount of tokens available for you is correct on the banks system.
Each student that has this information ready on the first banking day on Monday 4th February will receive a special prize.

Make lunchboxes fun!
(Alternatives to ‘treats’ in the lunchbox)
If ‘treats’ are packed everyday they become a staple - often children may eat the treat first and not have time or the appetite to eat the more healthy foods.
Encourage kids to eat their lunch by making it fun:
- Cut sandwiches into shapes with cutters or simply allow different coloured bread in a sandwich and sliced into fingers, squares or triangles
- Make pinwheels sandwiches by removing crusts from bread and flattening with a rolling pin. Spread with a filling or use cheese. Roll up like a Swiss roll, wrap in cling film overnight and sliced into wheels.
- Pack a nibble mix into a decorated snap-lock plastic bag.
- Make healthy muffins, biscuits and slices and wrap in leftover Christmas or birthday paper.
Include non-food “surprises” such as a joke, a sticker, a flower, a small card, a pencil, a photo or a note from Mum or Dad.