**Newsletter**

**Drouin West Primary School**

‘Nurture, Enrich, Inspire, Achieve’

**Issue 1/16**  
**Hours of supervision:** 8.45am—3:45pm  
**3rd February, 2016**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Lunch orders and Student Banking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>Assembly will be held at 3pm in the multi-purpose room. Parents/guardians/carers and interested community members are most welcome to attend.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Saturday         | **February 13th**  
                   **Ficifolia Festival Street Parade Saturday Feb 13th**  
                   Permission forms have been sent home this week for those children who will be coming along and representing our school in the parade on Saturday February 13th. Come along and join in the fun as we join in the Ficifolia Festival celebrations in 2016.  
                   We are encouraged to use this year’s theme: “Retro Vintage”. Students are asked to wear their school uniform in the parade. Some students will have the opportunity to decorate a blower hat, handlebar moustache, monocle, trendy suspenders or hand held streamers during their art sessions.  
                   This year the parade will start at 5:00pm. We will be assembling at the football oval from 4:30pm and look forward to having all our families coming along.  
                   Please note: 2016 Prep students must be accompanied by an adult in the parade to participate in this event. |
| Tuesday          | **February 16th**  
                   **Parent Teacher Student Learning Conferences**—from 3.30-5.30pm |
| Wednesday        | **February 17th**  
                   Selected students who placed in the swimming trails held at the end of 2015 to attend the District Swimming—9:30am to 1pm.  
                   **Parent Teacher Student Learning Conferences**—from 3.30-5.30pm |
| Friday           | **February 26th**  
                   ‘Tea Under the Oaks’ - further information will be supplied in the newsletter next week. |
| Monday           | **March 14th**  
                   Labour Day public holiday. |
| Friday           | **March 18th**  
                   Whole School Photos — make sure you bring along your best smiles. |

Parent handbooks are available online or as a hard copy from the office

P.O. Box 176  
Drouin 3818  
Phone: 03 56 251971  
Fax: 03 56 252175  
535 Main Neerim Road  
Drouin West 3818

Email: drouin.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
It has been delightful to catch up with our students and families since school started last week and welcome our new families into our school community.

Everyone is looking refreshed and energised for the start of a new school year. New books, pencils, and classmates and perhaps a different teacher all make for an exciting start to a new school year. We certainly had an interesting first day on Friday last week, when all students stayed inside due to the rain during both playtimes.

Adjusting to getting back into school routines with the busyness of the start of the new school year can be a challenge after a long holiday break. It is important that adults stay calm, be prepared and encourage your children to do what they can for themselves as you establish the routines of getting organised for school each morning.

We understand and appreciate the amount of information being sent home at the beginning of the year. It is important to read this information and if the information is on purple paper you may need to also respond with your permission/non permission and return this to school. Well done, to those families who manage this efficiently, we really appreciate your prompt return of forms.

I would recommend that all families work out a process of keeping important dates and forms for excursions readily available. Jotting things on a family calendar or popping information on the fridge door may work for your family. This will ensure students and parents know what is happening at school and information, printed on Purple/Mauve Paper is completed and returned in a timely manner. It is time consuming for all involved to chase up notices and can add stress to students who need to focus on what they are learning when they come to school.

School Attendance-Every Day Counts
It is vital to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling. Research clearly shows that the students who attend school regularly and complete year 12 have better health and employment outcomes and higher incomes throughout their lives. We know from our own school data students who are late and miss too many school days are falling behind their classmates.

The message we inadvertently give our children about the value of schooling when we are late and when we miss school is significant.

Late Arrivals and Early Pick Up New processes
When families arrive late (the bell has gone and children are not in the classroom ready to learn at 9.00am) parents will need to come into the office and complete a late slip for each child in the family. Parents will be required to take their child and the slip to the classroom. Teachers will have a late slip container at the classroom door. Parents/Guardians will no longer be able to drop their children off at the car line or the front of the school after 9.00am bell.

When needing to collect children from school early we ask that parents come to the office, complete the slip, take this to the classroom and collect their children.

These new procedures will ensure we can account for the whereabouts of students at school and ensure they are safe. This process is also a strategy to encourage all families arrive at school prior to the bell at 9.00am.

We want every child to have the best opportunity to gain from educational programs at school. Let us work together to give every student at Drouin West the chance to learn by not interrupting the learning process and ensuring every day counts!

Emergencies in Schools
A small number of schools have recently received telephone threats which have been widely reported in the media.

In the unlikely event that we need to evacuate the buildings or the school we have clear emergency procedures detailed in our Emergency Management Plans and all staff are familiar with these procedures. Each term we also practise lock in or evacuation procedures to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Should we need to evacuate the school site we have two possible options depending on the nature of the emergency.
1. Take students to the Drouin West CFA across the road.
2. Take students by bus to Bellbird Park.

Parents will be contacted through Team App, SMS or by phone. Parents do need to keep us updated with any changes to contact details.

Parent Teacher Student Learning Conferences
Parent/teacher/student learning conferences are a great opportunity to meet your child’s classroom teacher and share important information about your child, their learning or medical needs.

All parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment time to meet the child’s classroom teachers for 2016. While parents of Foundation level will come in on a Wednesday in February, all other parent/teacher/student interviews will be held on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17th February from 3.30-5.30pm.

Class teachers will place an appointment booking page on their classroom door and parents are asked to slot in a time to meet with the teacher/teachers. If these times do not suit families, please arrange a mutually suitable time with the teachers.

If parents/guardians have any questions or concerns we urge you to contact the school and speak to the class teachers or myself. I am on Yard Duty before school each Monday, Tuesday and Friday and this can be a good time to catch up if there is something on your mind.
As in previous years, we will be organising Head Lice Head Lice Alert extra curriculum activities. and Excursion Fund to assist with the costs of these Health Care Card will be entitled to a Camps, Sports elect to use Centrepay. Families who have a valid costs and voluntary contributions. Parents may also information regarding school materials and curriculum to come and speak with me if they need further improvements.

There are a number of payment options: QKR (information on how to use QKR is available at the school), Direct Deposit, Cheque, Cash and Eftpos at the school office.

Parents are expected to regularly check and treat their child for head lice before children return to school. Thorough and a repeated treatment (around 7 days) of all family members is usually necessary to ensure this is not an ongoing problem for families. Removing all eggs, which is very time consuming process, reduces the chance of the cycle continuing.

School Council Elections 2016
All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally formed bodies that set the key directions of a school within Departmental provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

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, 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 G.S.T. savings to parents. Our school fees for 2016 is $120 for all students. Drouin West School Council has also invited parents to make a voluntary contribution of $20 per child which will be put towards school improvements.

There are a number of payment options: QKR (information on how to use QKR is available at the office), Direct Deposit, Cheque, Cash and Eftpos at the school office.

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. Parents may also elect to use Centrepay. Families who have a valid Health Care Card will be entitled to a Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund to assist with the costs of these extra curriculum activities.

Head Lice Alert
As in previous years, we will be organising Head Lice
Happy Birthday !!!!!

We had a number of staff changes during the January holidays. Parents of students in F/1A will know that we have appointed Mrs Catherine Clerks as the class teacher for 2016 we have also appointed Miss Christine Winter as the class teacher for 3/4A.


Don’t forget to come to the office and collect a birthday sticker.
Welcome back everyone. Trust you had a wonderful holiday with your families. It was lovely that we had some beautiful weather over summer. Our family enjoyed some time at the beach. It was so nice to see the sun shine brightly. We did however experience 6 inches of rain over 24 hours! Camping gets a little more challenging in the wet!

Choir
Drouin West Primary School received a lovely letter in the mail over the holidays from Keith Pretty, who helps organize Carol by Candlelight on behalf of the Drouin Combined Churches Committee. The committee thanked the DWPS choir for their contribution and in the letter it said...“contributions by young people always bring pleasure to the audience” Thank-you to the families who were able to come along, to Mrs Ware for all of her encouragement of the group and to Mrs Brown for preparing the students to sing so tunefully and with such happy enthusiasm!

Parenting Courses
On another note I have become aware of some fabulous parenting courses being run over the next few weeks. We are spoilt for choice in this area. The flyers are attached but here is just a summary.

Confident Parents, Confident Children. Warragul Primary School.
Starts Thursday 18th Feb for 5 weeks. 1:30-3:30 Can leave early to pick up kids. Run by Parentzone
Last year Anglicare ran Confident Parents Confident Children at Drouin West Primary School and those who came along gave some very positive feedback about that particular course.

Parenting with Intention. Community Church Warragul.
Starts Monday 8th Feb, every 6 weeks. 9:15am Run by CCW Mums for Mums. Child minding available. I am hoping to attend the “Parenting with Intention”, so if you would like to come along we could sit together.

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.

Take care!
Wendy Ronalds
School Chaplain-Tuesday and Wednesday

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.
This program will be facilitated by Parentzone Gippsland. The sessions will cover things that are of interest to you and could include any of the following topics:

- Ways to deal with problem behaviour
- Positive ways to get along with each other
- How to get through the day without losing your cool
- How to increase the chance of kids listening to you
- How to get kids to do what they are told most of the time
- How to help your kids feel good about themselves

This group will provide parents with the opportunity to meet with other parents in a safe and confidential environment.

- There is no cost to attend
- Children are welcome to attend the session
- Registration is essential
- Transport may be provided – discuss this with your allocated worker.

For more information or to register please contact: Your Worker or Parentzone 5133 9998

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**2016 DATES:**
Monday mornings for 6 weeks...
15th February
22nd February
29th February
7th March
14th March
21st March

**TIME:**
10.30am - 12.30pm

**VENUE:**
Warragul Uniting Church
210 Sutton Street,
WARRAGUL