IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Lunch orders and Student Banking</th>
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Do you have a healthcare card?
Please read the section in this newsletter regarding Education Maintenance Allowance.

Remember to use our 4 B’s everyday.

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535 Main Neerim Road
Drouin West 3818
Email: drouin.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
From The Principal’s Office

It has been delightful to catch up with our students and families since school started last week. We are all adjusting to getting back into routines of the week. I can appreciate the challenge it can be, to keep up with all the information, particularly if you are involved in Kindergarten, Secondary College or other clubs.

I would recommend that all families work out a process of keeping important dates and forms for excursions readily available. 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 to replace notices, sent home during the year. Let’s all aim to improve this at Drouin West during 2013.

Parent Teacher Transition Meetings 2013
Thank you to the families who were able to come into school to assist with smooth Transitions between the 2012 and 2013 school year.

If you missed this opportunity please arrange another time with your child’s teacher.

Ficifolia Festival Street Parade Saturday Feb 12th
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. Come along and join in the fun as we join in the Ficifolia Festival celebrations in 2013.

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 G.S.T. savings to parents. Our school fees for 2013 is $120 for all 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 information in last week’s newsletter for more information about eligibility.

Head Lice Alert
As in previous years, we will be organising Head Lice Checks across the school at the beginning of each term. We started checks yesterday with no cases of Headlice detected in any of the senior classes. Well done to all families!

By checking hair at the beginning of the school term our school community can prevent an epidemic. This approach has been very successful since 2010 with only a few cases of head lice detected at the beginning of each term. Let’s hope our combined efforts will help us to manage this community health problem, for which we all need to take responsibility.

Parents are expected to regularly check and treat their child for headlice 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 is an important step in irradiating headlice. We understand is very time consuming process.

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.

Swimming
Year Levels: Prep-2
Dates: Feb 13, 20 27
March 6, 13, 20 & 28
Coaches: Jackie Puncher and Wendy McLean
Time: 4.30-5.30pm
Venue: Drouin Secondary College Heated Pool.
School Council Elections 2013
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.

There are three possible categories of membership including elected parent category, elected Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (D.E.E.C.D.) employee category and an optional community member category. Parents on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

How can you become involved?
Consider standing for election as a member or encourage another person to stand, and if nominations exceed vacancies cast your vote.

What is expected of a School Council member?
Attend School Council meetings throughout the year (generally two meetings per term) and actively participate in sub committees. (Finance, Policy and Development, Fundraising, Out of Hours School Care, Chaplaincy and Grounds)

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape our school's future.

More information regarding the nomination process will be included in next week’s newsletter. Please contact me if you would like further information regarding involvement in our School Council for 2013.

School Assemblies
Parents are very welcome to come along to school assemblies. These are held each Friday afternoon in the Multi Purpose Room from around 2.55pm depending on how many items and announcements we have on a particular week.

Chaplain's News
Hi everyone!
It’s been lovely to catch up with many families, even if it’s been for a quick hello!
This year it was exciting to have such magnificent weather over the holidays which meant we could all enjoy beautiful sunny days. We didn’t go away after Christmas but we did enjoy catching up in the garden and doing lots of walking and bike rides and catching up with family from overseas.

As we start back at school I have been thinking about what I can do to give my kids a positive start back to school. Here are some ideas.

Morning Routine

Have a good morning routine. Some ideas that maybe helpful are a set time for children to be up, dressed, have breakfast by, jobs done and bags packed.
Decide when is the best time for your family to listen to readers and sign reading logs and try to keep to this time so the children know when to expect this.

In our family we always try and get our jobs done in the morning like piano practice so after school is a little more relaxed.

Routines in the evening can also be a great idea for families. Have tea, a shower, clean teeth and have a bedtime routine.
Still try and incorporate some family time during the week. A game of uno, cricket or doing some cooking together can all be a way we can relax and play. What does your family like to do together?
Be positive about the school year yourself.
Keep in contact with the teachers, because working together we can achieve so much more.

Our family really appreciated the time we spent meeting our children’s classroom teachers. It was a great opportunity to share about our kids, so their teachers could get to know them a little more.
If you or your children need a little extra support or a listening ear, you are welcome to come in for a chat.
Take care!

Wendy Ronalds (School Chaplain)
Generally available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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 who celebrate their special day during the week of Monday, 4th February to Sunday, 10th February:

- Georgia Foti 0/1A
- Brock Walsh 1/2A

Don’t forget to come to the office and collect a birthday sticker.

Extra curriculum opportunities.

Parents can contact individual musical teachers to arrange private lessons.

**Drum & 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.

Student Banking News

Welcome to a new year of saving. Each time you make a deposit into your school savings account you will receive a token. Collect your tokens during the term and then redeem them for one of these prizes. We will have our prize order day for term 1 on Monday, March 18th.

Prizes available for term 1 are: Wallet, Ball, Knuckles Game and Money Boxes. You are able to look at these items at the office.

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0414 363 439
www.kwikkerb.net.au/bydodge
Welcome back to another exciting year of science. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing break. This term all grades will be doing a variety of experiments. Children will be predicting (hypothesising) what they think will happen. Children in the upper grades will be learning how to write up an experiment and record results.

The Herald Sun newspaper has a promotion, if you buy the paper you can purchase a dinosaur model to put together for an extra $2.00. I have collected the first few and they are fun to build. You also get a small fact sheet about the dinosaur. There are 14 to collect/buy.

We presently have quite a few boxes in the science room, so please do not send any along. I like to collect bottle tops (plastic or metal) cardboard rolls from inside lunch wrap (no toilet rolls due to hygiene problems), bubble wrap, corks and any other little bits and pieces children could use for building and decorating models.

Marion Proctor

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**Science News**

**Education Maintenance Allowance**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29th January 2013, which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (15 July 2013).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013 for the first instalment and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $200 for primary students in grade Prep and $150 for students in grades 1 to 6 and $300 for year 7 students and $250 for all other secondary students 16 years or under and is paid in two instalments. This amount is paid to the parents/guardians. Students turning 16 years in 2013 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

**Payment Amounts**

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will form the basis for calculating the amount payable to parents and schools.*

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2013 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2013 and prior to or on 2 August 2013, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**Contact:** School Office for application form and further information.

**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**

Conveyance Allowance is payable to families who live 4.8 kilometres or more from their nearest school. The distance is measured from the families’ home gate to the school via the shortest possible route. This payment is provided by the Government for families where a bus is not available.

Forms are available from the office. A form only needs to be filled in once for the whole of time that the student attends their chosen school. If your circumstances change then a new form must be completed E.G. you have another child start at the school.

Forms must be completed and returned to the school no later than 28th February, 2013 for full year payment. Late forms will be held over to term 3 for second half year payment.

If you have any questions please come to the office or phone Ann on 0356 251 971.