Newsletter
Drouin West Primary School
‘Nurture, Enrich, Inspire, Achieve’

Issue 1/17

Hours of supervision: 8.45am—3:45pm
8th February, 2017

Important Dates

Events to Remember

Mondays
Lunch orders and Student Banking

Fridays
Assembly will be held at 3:00pm in the multi-purpose room. Parents/guardians/carers and interested community members are most welcome to attend.

Thursday
Fundraising Meeting 1:30pm in the music room.

Saturday
Ficifolia Festival Street Parade Saturday Feb 11th
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 11th. Come along and join in the fun as we join in the Ficifolia Festival celebrations in 2017.

We are encouraged to use this year’s theme: “Story Time”. Students are asked to wear their school uniform in the parade.

This year the parade will start at 5:00pm. We will be assembling at the football oval from 4:45pm and look forward to having all our families coming along.

Please note: 2017 Prep students must be accompanied by an adult in the parade to participate in this event.

Tuesday & Wednesday
Parent Teacher Student Learning Conferences—from 3.30-5.30pm

Friday
Selected students who were placed in the swimming trails held at the end of 2016 to attend the District Swimming—9:30am to 1pm.

Friday
“Tea Under the Oaks” - further information will be supplied in the newsletter next week.

Sunday
School ‘FAIR’

Friday
March 24th
Whole school photo day.

Extra Curriculum Activities

Activities that are available to students during recess or lunch time.

Mondays
Lego Club P-6 in the Multi Purpose Room

Tuesdays
Fun and Games - All students are welcome to attend the music room during lunch time.

Wednesdays
Beginner Recorder Group - At first play students in years 3 to 6 are able to join the Beginner Recorder Group.
Advanced Recorder Group - At lunch time students in years 3 to 6 are able to join the Advanced Recorder Group.
Recorders are available to purchase at the office for $10.

Fridays
Choir - Students in years 3 to 6 are welcome to join the choir with parent written permission. Permission forms are available from Mrs. Brown.
From The Principal’s Office

Welcome to a new and exciting school year. It has been delightful to catch up with our students and families since school started last week. We have welcomed many new families into our school community and have been able to accommodate new enrolments taken during January.

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.

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.

These first days of a new school year can be exhausting for children, parents and staff. For some families many after school activities also start when school begins. 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 consistently late and when we don’t attend regularly, is significant.

Arriving at school
We do encourage families to arrive at school from 8.45-8.55am. Students who arrive before 8.45am are now required to wait in the Healing Garden area with their bags. Classrooms are also accessible from 8.45am. Teachers often arrive early to attend meetings or prepare for their class before school. We provide supervision of students from 8.45-9.00am in the morning. We also ask that students do not use the playgrounds until the first bell at 8.45am.

If families need to leave their children at school early in the morning then they are encouraged to register and book into Before School Care.

Late Arrivals and Early Pick Up
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. This ensures that we know exactly who is at school at any time. It is not appropriate to drop children off at the car line or the front of the school after 9.00am bell.

This year we are striving to improve our late arrival data in every classroom. Classes will be competing to give their class a big green tick each morning. To support your child’s classroom to be able to put up their tick, parents are asked to contact the school via Dojo, phone message and through a sibling to let classroom teachers know of absences.

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 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!

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 3.00pm depending on how many items and announcements we have on a particular week.

We have reflected on our assemblies and are working to improve them this year. To help us retain the attention of our students we ask for your support. Parents wanting to chat during assemblies can do this outside the M.P.R. rather than throughout assembly. Students and staff sitting at the back become distracted when parents are talking. We also ask that toddlers stay with parents rather than sit with their school siblings as the students are unable to concentrate and sit still.
From The Principal’s Office continued

Emergencies in Schools
A small number of schools have recently received telephone threats which have resulted in evacuations. 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 buildings or the school site we have three possible options depending on the nature of the emergency.

- Take students to the undercover area near the carline
- Take students to the Drouin West CFA across the road.
- 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 2017. While parents of Foundation level will come in on a Wednesday in February, all other parent/teacher/student interviews will be held on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15th February from 3.30-5.30pm.

Class teachers have placed 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.

Ficifolia Festival Street Parade Saturday Feb 11th
Permission forms have been sent home on Monday for those children who will be coming along and representing our school in the parade on Saturday February 11th. Come along and join in the fun as we join in the Ficifolia Festival celebrations in 2017.

We are encouraged to use this year’s theme: “StoryTime”. Staff have decided to promote the story of Possum Magic by Mem Fox. Students are asked to wear their school uniform in the parade. Some students will have the opportunity to decorate a possum mask, take along a puppet, or hold up a poster.

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: 2017 Prep students must be accompanied by an adult in the parade to participate in this event.

Car Park Routine
As with all schools, the end of the day dismissal time is busy and student safety is a priority. At Drouin West it is particularly busy at 3.15 p.m. with all our families using private transport. It is very important for safety and efficiency in delivering and picking up the children that all parents follow the established routine. Please make sure cars are parked in the appropriate areas and do not block the exit of other cars. Please also note that the road around the school is one way with the entrance from Main Neerim Road on the north east boundary.

Staff are on duty at the car line collection point or supervising students at the front of the school until 3.30pm. Parents not using the car line are required to collect students from the front of the school and take them to their vehicle. Students will not be permitted to walk out to the front car park unless they are supervised. I would encourage all parents of younger children to hold their hand.

Head Lice Alert
As in previous years, we will be organising Head Lice Checks across the school at the beginning of each term.

By checking hair at the beginning of the school term our school community can prevent an epidemic. This approach has been very successful approach in our school with only a few cases of head lice detected at our school. Let’s hope our combined efforts will help us to manage this community health problem and prevent ongoing outbreaks.

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, which is very time consuming process, reduces the chance of the cycle continuing.

School Website
Have you missed the newsletter? Do you want information about the school? Please take the time to visit: www.drouinwest.vic.edu.au
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 2017.

Sun Smart

All students are required to wear a hat when playing or being involved in activities outside during term 1 and 4. Parents are asked to ensure children also have sunscreen applied in the morning. Students are encouraged to bring along their sunscreen to school (roll on application seems to be easier for children) so they can reapply as needed.

Parents/Guardians are invited to purchase THRASS charts for home use. They are available from the office for $8 each or can be ordered on QKR.

KIDS FARMERS MARKET!

Warragul Farmers Market and Warragul Primary School are planning a KIDS FARMERS MARKET! Schools and kids are invited to grow produce, bring and sell it on Friday 24th March 2017! Growing Healthy Kids! Start planting now!
Welcome back everyone! It’s been so nice to see you all again. It’s a busy start to the year for families. The lazy summer days of holidays have disappeared and we are back into the routine of life—juggling school, work, children, elderly parents and after school activities. Back to making school lunches, having tea prepared and organized before tired children get home and need to be ferried to sport, music, CFA or whatever extra activity they do after school. Try and enjoy these special days. There is so much to do; it can be quite exhausting. It’s often hard work and demanding. Children who have tried hard to be good all day can come home and be quite disruptive; because it is such a huge day to hold it all together and when they get home they can relax and be themselves (the good and not so good version of themselves). It’s still very early days. Be extra patient. Life is not a sprint. There is no race. Each child will develop and mature at their own rate. Every child has been uniquely and wonderfully made. Occasionally children will need some extra support from outside the home. You know your children best and can ask for help if you think they need it. Talk to someone you trust. There is so much to learn in life. Enjoy supporting your youngsters in this journey. It’s a very special time.

Take care!
Wendy Ronalds
Tuesdays and Thursdays
School Chaplain
If you have any questions please contact me at the school on a Tuesday or Thursday 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.

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 24th February, 2017 for full year payment. Late forms will be held over to term 2 for payment.

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

Please collect an application form from the school office. Forms must be returned by March 3rd.

QKR by MasterCard—Safe, Secure, Easy! and Fast
QKR (pronounced Quicker) is the schools preferred method of payment. Families can pay for Hats, OSHC, Recorders, THRASS Charts, Icy poles, Stationery, Fundraising Activities and Excursions. Permission notes and order forms can also be completed on QKR.
SPORTS NEWS

What a busy term of sporting activities we have ahead of us. Grades Prep-2 have sport on Tuesday and grades 3-6 have sport on Wednesday and Thursday. It would be appreciated if children could wear or bring shoes suitable for participating in physical activities. Gumboots, slip on shoes and sandals tend to fall off and make activities difficult and dangerous. If your child has an injury or is not feeling 100% please send a note explaining what they can and can’t do so that they can be catered for during activities. Children will be expected to participate unless they have a note. Children are encouraged to bring water bottles to sport sessions and hats are a must in term 1 and 4.

Interschool sport
Children in grades 3-6 and who turn 9 years or older this year have the opportunity to compete in interschool events. These events are swimming, athletics, cross country and winter sport round robin; (football, netball, soccer, and hockey). Children compete within our own school and then individual performances are used to select our school teams. These teams/children compete at district level. From these the best 2 children in each event are selected to compete at division level, children then progress to zone, state and national level competitions. Children can also try out for a variety of state sports teams, such as football, cricket, netball, soccer, basketball. Children need to compete at a high standard to try out for these teams. They would need to be competing in interleague or district squads. If your child is in grade 5 or 6 and fits into this category and wishes to try out for a team please let me know. Applications are done online and have to be signed by the school. There is a cost to the family.

Sporting dates for term 1 (dates may change due to weather)
Tuesday 21st February: Hockey clinic which involves grades Prep/1A, 1/2A, 2A, 3/4A, 3/4B, 4/5A and run during the normal school day.

Thursday 16th March: Senior school athletics which involves years 3-6 starting at 9am until 1:30pm. This event is held at school. We will be asking for parent helpers so please save the date. More details will be provided in later newsletters.

Sporting Schools: Softball/T-ball sessions for Grades 3-6 each Wednesday these will be run during the school day.

Interschool Sports Dates (dates may change due to weather)
Friday 17th February from 9:30am - 12:30pm – Tarago District Swimming. Notes have already been sent out to the students involved. Parent help is requested.

7th March: Division Swimming at Drouin Outdoor Pool

Tuesday 28 March (all day) – Tarago District Athletics at Geoff Watt Track in Warragul. More details will be provided closer to the date, after our own senior school sports have been run. Parent help is requested so please save the date.

16th May: Division Athletics at Joe Carmody Track Newborough

26th May: Cross Country at Chairo Drouin

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am at Drouin West Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Regards Marion Proctor
Sport teacher
PIANO/ KEYBOARD TUITION

Hi everyone, my name is Karen Thomson and I would like to offer piano/keyboard lessons to all students within Drouin West Primary school. I have been teaching piano/keyboard lessons at Drouin West Primary School for many years. I have been teaching students for over 25 years and I am also qualified and registered with the Australian Guild of Education. Thus giving me the opportunity to take students through grade levels so they progress with grade examinations when they are ready to do so. These lessons are on offer to all grade levels in your school.

LESSONS ARE:
$12.00 PER 15 MIN LESSON (one lesson per week of term).
PLUS MUSIC BOOK supplied by myself if required.
LESSON MONEY SHOULD BE PAID TO MYSELF ON THE DAY OR CASH OR CHEQUE CAN BE MADE OUT TO COVER THE FULL TERM AMOUNT IF PREFERRED. CHEQUES ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO KAREN THOMSON THANK YOU. TO BOOK IN YOUR LESSONS WITH ME PLEASE CONTACT ME ON 56 299 268.

PLEASE DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL TO MAKE BOOKINGS  THANKYOU  Karen Thomson.

The Drouin Dragons Soccer Club are looking for Junior Players for the 2017 Season commencing in March. Age Groups are U6’s, U8’s, U10’s, U12’s and U14’s. DDSC are a family focused club that encourage both boys and girls to play and have fun. There is an Information Day scheduled for 26th February at 11am at the DDSC Clubrooms at Bellbird Park in Drouin. Training commences on Tuesday 28th February. Mini Roos and Juniors play on a Sunday morning.

More more information and contact details, please refer to the DDSC Facebook page or Website.
Alternatively, you can email the club at ddsc.vicepresident@gmail.com
Happy Birthday !!!!!!!

Happy Birthday to the following students and staff who will celebrate their special day during the week 29th January to Sunday 12th February 2017

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