### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Lunch orders and Student Banking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Parents are very welcome to come along to school assemblies. <strong>Assembly will commence at 3pm this Friday 11th December.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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| December 11th | Friday | **Thank you morning tea**
We look forward to serving all parents who have assisted with programs and activities during the year at our special morning tea on Friday December 11 at 11.00am.

Please come and join us so we can highlight your contributions to our school in 2015.

Invitations have been sent out but if you haven’t seen yours and you have assisted this year in any way you are invited!
Second transition day for year 6 students to Drouin Secondary College |
| December 14th | Monday | Guard of Honour Assembly for year 6 students at 3pm.
Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6:55pm. |
| December 15th | Tuesday | Transition Day. Students will spend time with their 2016 teachers and class mates.
School Council meeting 7:30pm in the staffroom. |
| December 16th | Wednesday | Class parties and a visit from Santa |
| December 17th | Thursday | Picnic Sports Day. 9am until 1:30pm |
| December 18th | Friday | Last Day of term 4. Students finish at **1:30pm.** |
| December 19th | Saturday | 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. |
| January 29th | Friday | 1st day of term 1 2016 |

**Ficifolia Parade February 13, 2016**

Drouin West Primary School will be participating in the street parade in 2016. The theme of the parade is “Retro Vintage”.

We have some ideas to get you started on thinking about how to dress up in the theme.

- Maypole for students to dance around and hold onto bright coloured streamers
- Girls to dress wearing a shower cap and apron
- Boys to have grand curled moustaches to use as masks to hold up to their face, wear a peaked cap, wear shorts with shirt and braces.

Any other ideas are very welcome and any parents who would like to assist in preparing the Maypole next year are asked to contact the office. The parade will start at 5:00pm
From The Principal’s Office

Staffing for 2016
Our school structure and staffing for 2016 is as follows:

Prep/1A  Mrs Joanne Farr
Prep/1B  Ms Joy Barson
1/2A    Mrs Courtney Heath
2A      Mrs Shae Forster
3/4A    Miss Christine Winter
3/4B    Miss Alesha Bills
4/5A    Miss Cathleen Ryan
5/6B    Miss Kasey Bayne

Specialist Programs for 2016
Our specialist programs for 2016 will include Physical Education (Mrs Marion Proctor), Visual Arts (Mr James Van Maanenberg), Science (Mrs Danielle Rendall) and Literacy Intervention (Mrs Heather Finger). Students in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 will also have Mr Jamie Collins for Japanese in 2016.

Wendy Ronalds, our school Chaplain will also continue working across the school in 2016 to support the implementation of our welfare program and provide 1:1 support to families as requested by families.

Audra Claves, a Social Worker specialising in Mental Health, will also continue to work in our school next year. Audra works in partnership with parents and teachers to support students to achieve and be their best. Families thinking of accessing Audra’s services in 2016 can contact Wendy or myself to obtain the referral documentation required to access this service.

Farewells
We wish Judi Collins a most enjoyable retirement from full time teaching and look forward to catching up with her as a Casual Replacement Teacher at Drouin West in 2016. We also say farewell to Matt Suter who has been our Physical Education teacher as well as assisting with organising our Sporting Schools programs throughout 2015.

Transition Day 2015
To support all students, we will be conducting a transition session on Tuesday Dec 15. This will enable students to meet their 2016 class mates and teachers. New families transferring into Drouin West, have also been invited to attend our transition session. Students will be given a letter to take home regarding class placement for 2016 on Tuesday Dec 15 with their child’s report.

Transition Meetings 2016
Student/Teacher/Parent transition meetings will be held early in the school next year to enable parents to meet teachers and share information about their child/children.
Super ‘B’ Award Winners
Super ‘B’ award winners for week 9, term 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F/1A</td>
<td>Chloe W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/1B</td>
<td>Georgia S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2A</td>
<td>Sienna M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3A</td>
<td>Grade 2/3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4A</td>
<td>Kasey W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Evelyn Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Shelby T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>James N</td>
</tr>
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Vocabulary Connectors Openers Punctuation

PENNY PUNCTUATION
Soon after a long day, we woke up from our deep sleep and all I could see was black!
(I thought the power was off).
So I walked over to my bedroom light, nothing happened.………
By Mikaela T 3/4B

CONNIE CONNECTIVE
If kids are warmer they can learn better because they are not cold and shivering.
By Bonnie H 1/2A

VINNIE VOCAB
Mrs. Ware is a superior teacher and fearless. Miss Trunchball is horrifying and very scary!
By Sienna M 1/2A

OLLIE OPENER
I’m sure that salt and vinegar chips are magnificent because they are salty, sour and crunchy.
By Seth R 2/3A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>9/10 Year Boys</th>
<th>9/10 Year Girls</th>
<th>11 Year Boys</th>
<th>11 Year Girls</th>
<th>12/13 Year Boys</th>
<th>12/13 Year Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freestyle</strong></td>
<td>Patrick Griffin</td>
<td>Lexie Nicholson</td>
<td>Brock Walsh</td>
<td>Lanaea Bone</td>
<td>Riley Griffin</td>
<td>Sharnee Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Walsh</td>
<td>Eve Thorpe</td>
<td>Brock Roden</td>
<td>Ashla McMaster</td>
<td>Trent Fritzlaff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Backstroke</strong></td>
<td>Patrick Griffin</td>
<td>Lexie Nicholson</td>
<td>Brock Walsh</td>
<td>Lanaea Bone</td>
<td>Riley Griffin</td>
<td>Grace Thorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Walsh</td>
<td>Mikaela Trimble</td>
<td>Ashla McMaster</td>
<td>Declan Thomas</td>
<td>Sharnee Willis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breast stroke</strong></td>
<td>Patrick Griffin</td>
<td>Kailey Bone</td>
<td>Ayden Narayan</td>
<td>Lanaea Bone</td>
<td>Riley Griffin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Butterfly</strong></td>
<td>Kailey Bone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Riley Griffin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relay</strong></td>
<td>Patrick Griffin</td>
<td>Lexie Nicholson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Riley Griffin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Freestyle)</td>
<td>Jack Walsh</td>
<td>Eve Thorpe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trent Fritzlaff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relay</strong></td>
<td>Kieren Willis</td>
<td>Dakota Roden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wade Murphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Medley)</td>
<td>Cailean Thomas</td>
<td>Kailey Bone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Declan Thomas</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relay</strong></td>
<td></td>
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On Thursday the 3rd of December students from Drouin West Primary School attended swimming tryouts at the Drouin Secondary College Pool. They competed in a number of trials to qualify for next years swimming team. Thankyou to everyone who tried out on the day and congratulations to all of those who have qualified for our 2016 swimming team.

A big thankyou to the parents and family members who attended the event and a special thankyou to those who volunteered to help with the event. Thanks to Janine Bone, Catherine Thorpe, Joanne Griffin, Emma Nicholson and Julie Thomas for helping transport the students to and from the pool. Thanks to Simon Griffin, Joanne Griffin, Julie Thomas and Vanessa Walsh for helping with time keeping, Catherine Thorpe for recording results and David Nicholson for being the photographer. Congratulations again to all the students who tried out for the team and those who qualified for next years competition.

Thank you Matt Suter  Physical Education

### Out of School Hours Care

The end of term is fast approaching, so we look ahead to 2016. OSHC has enjoyed a very successful 2015 with our numbers remaining healthy especially in Term 3.

A booking form for 2016 will be sent out next Monday with final accounts for 2015. Please fill in and return before the end of term to secure your booking. To any parent looking at care next year you can pick a form up from the office. Please ensure you provide us with your email and I will send out the new enrolment forms over the holidays. Tarn, Pauline, June and I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

### Happy Birthday !!!!!!!

Happy birthday to the following students who are celebrating their special day during the week of Monday, 7th December to Sunday, 13th December.

Sophie B 1/2A, Cooper S F/1B and Alex B 1/2A

Don’t forget to come to the office and collect a birthday sticker.
Chaplain’s News
This is a beautiful article that maybe helpful for some families.

Take care! Wendy Ronalds (School Chaplain)
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.

Coping with grief at Christmas

Christmas can still be special

Memories of Christmases past can still be sweet but the reality of the empty chair at the Christmas lunch, or not having the person squeeze your hand during the mid-night Mass is painful. Christmas will never be the same after the death of someone dear to you. By acknowledging your loss and sometimes changing the way things are done, that is, the rituals around this time, surviving the Christmas season may be made easier.

‘Coping with Christmas’ has much to do with challenging your expectations of the ‘perfect’ Christmas. It is important to acknowledge that you are not totally responsible for others’ happiness, but also that they cannot assist you if they are not aware of your pain or concerns. Be gentle with yourself, trying not to expect too much of yourself or those around you makes good sense, but often needs planning.

Christmas is traditionally seen as a time to spend with family and close friends. This can highlight the fact that a special person is not there. The traditions of Christmas such as, Christmas carols and gift giving, family and partner togetherness, Christmas parties and functions and church services can give the impression that everyone else is happy except you. You may need to challenge the ‘Brady Bunch’ vision of families at Christmas and find a way of experiencing Christmas that has meaning for you... for some it may mean not celebrating at all.

Christmas and the holiday season for people who have experienced the death of someone they love, is often far from a time of peace, happiness and goodwill. People who have not experienced a significant bereavement may not understand the incredible yearning, sadness, and anger that can intensify around significant anniversaries and rituals such as Christmas.

In our community, there is a strong sense that all grief and feelings of loss should be put aside over this time, that you are letting the side down, spoiling it for everyone else if you let people know how you really feel.

The ‘enforced joyousness’ can cause even more stress and heartache, as the grieving person feels a failure because they can’t just put on a brave face. Most people who are grieving cannot simply shake off their grief. They may be able to hide their true feelings but at what cost? Often this added stress is the last straw and depression can set in, or as a number of bereaved people have said they ‘explode’.

For many bereaved people, Christmas is a time of heartache and stress as the realities of their new life become painfully obvious. For those who are grieving, their loss is often denied to avoided in the attempt to make Christmas perfect for others. The pressure of playing happy families with families that are far from happy can be extremely distressing.
Coping Strategies

✦ Do something special in memory of the person who has died
✦ Light a special candle to burn during the day or during the Christmas meal.
✦ Make or buy a special decoration to hang on the tree in memory.
✦ Make a toast to the person, share anecdotes. Don’t be afraid to laugh as you remember some of the good times.
✦ Play a special song or music.
✦ Write a letter or card to the person who has died, don’t be concerned if you want to talk out loud to them... do it.
✦ Some bereaved parents buy a small gift for the age their child would be had they lived and put it under the tree at one of the charity, church or supermarket trees.
✦ Some people like to visit the graveside or a special location to sit and remember.
✦ Plan your time so that you are under as little stress as possible. Plan you ‘escape’ if need be, don’t over commit. Rehearse a simple explanation of why you may not attend a function.
✦ Ask for some assistance with preparations including going shopping – many people experience panic attacks in supermarkets. If this is a problem for you, learn some simple breathing techniques to assist with the panic and take someone as support when you go out—the panic will settle with time.
✦ You may need to change the routine and the traditional way you do things. Perhaps have a picnic lunch, go bush, go to the beach, change the venue, spend it quietly, go to a different church service, help out at a charity lunch.
✦ Let you friends and family know that you need to take things slow and that may mean taking each day as it comes.
✦ Share the memories with someone else, the photos and the stories. You may cry, you may laugh, it is much healthier for you to express your feelings than push it all down.
✦ Seek professional help if needed. Counselling and help phone lines are in the White Pages and on the internet.
✦ Do something special for yourself. Treat yourself to a massage, indulge in a favourite food, buy yourself a present.
✦ Ensure some quiet time. If you want to you can simply sit with your memories and grieve.

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GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015

Congratulations and best wishes from all the students and staff at Drouin West Primary School
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
$1 per ticket
PRIZES INCLUDE:

Electrolux Expresso Machine, Milk Frother & Pods

Family pass to Phillip Island Penguin Parade, Koala Conservation Park & Churchill Island

Family Entry Ticket to Gumbuya Park Tynong (x 2 prizes)

4 x 18 holes of golf at Drouin Golf & Country Club (x 3 prizes)

$35 voucher for Drouin Country Charm Santa Photos

Family Pass to Stadium 34 Skating Centre Moe

Mini Golf Family Pass Latrobe Golf Park Bundoora

Tickets available at junior & senior school concerts or at office.

Drawn at Assembly Friday 11 December 2015