**Newsletter**

Drouin West Primary School

‘Nurture, Enrich, Inspire, Succeed’

**Issue 38/12**  Hours of supervision: 8.45am—3.45pm  12th December, 2012

**IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch orders and Student Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 13th</td>
<td>End of Year Concert Students will need to be seated and ready by 6.45pm for a prompt 7pm start - further details in this newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 14th</td>
<td>Last Assembly commences at 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 17th</td>
<td>Graduation Night. Please be seated at 6.45pm for a 7pm start.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 18th</td>
<td>Transition Day—Students will meet their 2013 teacher and classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>December 19th</td>
<td>Whole School Picnic Sports Day</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 20th</td>
<td>End of year class parties, End of year class BBQ for PrepA &amp; Prep/1A at Civic Park Drouin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 21st</td>
<td>Last Day of School 1.30pm finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>January 31st 2013</td>
<td>First day of school for all students</td>
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**GLOW CANDLES $2 FOR SALE AT THE OFFICE**

**Joke of the Week**

Q. Why were the elephants last to board Noah’s Ark?

A. They had to pack their trunks.

Thankyou to Abel Ferguson for this joke.
Graduates of 2012
Graduates of 2012
As this is the last newsletter for 2012, I would like to thank the wonderful individuals who have contributed in numerous ways to the school throughout the year. It has been a very eventful, productive and exciting year for our school with a positive focus on learning in all classrooms. The ongoing improvement across the school with students following the 4 B’s has been a particular highlight this term. It is such a privilege to be able to visit classrooms and talk to students out in the playground and hear about their learning achievements.

I wish every Drouin West family a safe and restful holiday break, a joyful Christmas and look forward to a fantastic year ahead in 2013!

Staffing for 2013

Our school structure and class teachers for 2013 is as follows:

Prep A  Judi Collins
Prep/1A  Shae Henzen
1/2 A   Joy Barson
2/3 A   Colleen Crookston
3/4B    Kasey Bayne
4/5 A   0.5 Leanne Johnstone
0.5 To Be Confirmed
5 /6 A  Karyn Thomas

Families may be aware that throughout 2012, Drouin West has had two teachers in the role of Mathematics specialists (Leanne Johnstone and Brendan Dawson). Funding for this project is in addition to what we are allocated for teaching staff, with both teachers continuing in this role in 2013. Mathematics Specialists will continue to work in all classrooms, co-ordinate resources and assessments across our school as well as attending and presenting regular professional learning sessions in Gippsland. This year we have focussed on improving our teaching of maths, getting children excited about learning maths and developing their deeper understanding of key concepts. We have seen some amazing improvements to students’ learning across our school and will continue to build every teacher’s knowledge and skills through this program. As our Maths Heroes tell us each week at assembly, “Maths is everywhere! Even when you are on holidays”

Our other specialist programs for 2013 will include Physical Education (Brendan Dawson), The Arts (Anne Cope), Science (Marion Proctor) and Reading Recovery (Heather Finger).

Wendy Ronalds, our school Chaplain will also continue working across the school in 2013 to support the implementation of our welfare program and provide support to families.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to four members on staff who have been part of our school community. Scott Bentley has been a valued member of the Drouin West team since July 2011 and Nicholas George and Denise Holm joined us in July 2012. These teachers have been wonderful team members on staff and have developed fantastic relationships with students.

We also say farewell to Mrs Sharon Faulds who is one of our educational support team. Sharon has been part of our school since 2010 and has supported students in a number of classes across the school.

On behalf of our school community, I wish them every success for their future plans and thank them for their contribution to our school.

School Concert - Thursday December 13th

Arrive by 6.45pm as our first concert item will be starting promptly at 7.00pm!

When the car park is full, families can use the grass area near the car line.

Our school concert is shaping up to be a fantastic evening for families to get together, relax and enjoy the performances that classes and individuals have been working on in recent weeks. Families are encouraged to bring all chairs, rugs, insect repellent, etc and dress to be outside near the 5/6 classrooms. As a reminder to all families, events at school are required to be both alcohol and smoking free. If the weather is not suitable for this event outside we will be using the Multi Purpose Room.

All children involved in an item will need to be at school by 6.45pm. Parents will need to supervise children not involved in the concert and we request that they do not use the playground during the performances. Students involved in the concert will stay with their teachers in class groups and can be collected at the end of the performances.

Piano Students

Piano students in grade 4-6 will be performing at the concert on Thursday. Piano student in grades 1-3 will perform at Friday’s assembly this week.

We will be announcing the raffle winners at the end of the night and look forward to seeing who the winners of all the hampers will be.

Our Sponsor Child - Gift

Over the last couple of years our school community has been sponsoring a little girl called Gift. Gift lives in Rwanda and has been supported through an organisation known as Children’s Restorative Care Centre (CRCC). Gift had a very sad start to life with both parents dying of aids. Gift was found surviving on a rubbish dump until she was placed in a home and raised with a local family who had plenty of love to share but no means to feed, clothe and educate an additional child. We have learned that the CRCC is no longer directly involved in Rwanda and are unable to continue to visit this village to ensure funds are used appropriately. Some of the funds we have raised for Gift in 2012 has been returned to the school.

School Council has approved for our school community to continue to sponsor a child. This gives our students an understanding and capacity to build empathy for children who live in another part of the world who live in poverty. We have been able to research and find an organisation that ensures that the recipient benefits from all funds raised. This organisation also has local connections which will help us to monitor and follow up on our new sponsor arrangements.

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**From The Principal’s Office continued**

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<th>Library Books</th>
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<td>Schools spend considerable time and resources with the transition processes for Kindergarten students and students heading off to Secondary College each year. At Drouin West we have been discussing our processes within the school to ensure a smooth transition for students as they prepare to work with different teachers. Teachers will provide information about each student learning needs as well as any particular medical needs to the 2013 class teachers. Student files which include copies of reports, meeting notes, work samples and assessment results will also be passed on to the next teacher. Teachers have put in significant time into allocating students to class groups across the school. We have considered requests from parents and students as well as using our own knowledge of the students to place them in class groups for 2013. Thank you to those parents who have come in to see teachers or myself in recent weeks so we can consider your requests in this complex process.</td>
<td>Students are asked to return all library books to school by Friday Dec 14th at the very latest ready for our stocktake. Wouldn’t it be fantastic if our stocktake shows no books have been lost and all have been returned in 2012!</td>
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<th>Farewell to our Year 6’s</th>
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<td>To further support all students, we will be conducting a transition session on Tuesday Dec 18. This will enable students to meet their 2013 class mates and teachers. New families transferring into Drouin West, apart from our new Prep families who came along to school yesterday, have also been invited to attend our transition session. Students will be given a letter to take home regarding class placement for 2013 on Tuesday Dec 18.</td>
<td>It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our year sixes and the families who no longer will have students attending Drouin West in 2013. On behalf of the Drouin West community we wish you all the very best for your future and look forward to hearing about your achievements. The: Boskell, Burrows, Cook, Craig, Crampton, Earl, Glasscock, Henderson, Honey-Coustley, Kift, Marsh-Inrin, McLean, Nikua, O’Bradaigh, Sikorski, Taylor, Wayman, Whiteside and Woods families will no longer have siblings attending Drouin West. Thankyou for your involvement and loyalty to our school community over the years.</td>
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<th>Graduation Dinner</th>
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<td>Student/Teacher/Parent transition meeting will be held in the <strong>second week of school next year</strong> to enable parents to meet teachers and share information about their child/children. All teachers will be available on Monday February 4 and Wednesday February 6 from 3.30-5.30pm. Appointments will be for around 10 minutes. Parents will be able to arrange an appointment time from the first day of school, by filling in their name on the timetable outside their child’s classroom. Parents will be responsible for coordinating their times if they have more than one student. This is different to how we have organised interviews at the start of the year in previous years and will be a trial for the beginning of 2013.</td>
<td>Our Graduation Dinner will be held on Monday 17th December. This is a formal event for the year 6 students and their parents held each year marking the end of Primary School.</td>
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<th>Final Assembly for 2012</th>
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<td>Student reports will be sent home with students on Friday December 14. Please take the time to go through the reports with your child and acknowledge the achievements made in the second half of the school year. Due to the Australian Education Union work bans most reports will not have any comments from teachers. Should you wish to discuss your child’s progress, please contact the class teacher to arrange a convenient time. Interviews will be conducted during normal working hours.</td>
<td>Friday December 14 at 2:30pm we will have our final school assembly for the year. We hope to have a couple of performances as well as saying farewell to our year six students. As in previous years, we would encourage families of year sixes to come along and be part of this special event. This is a significant moment in the lives of our children and we look forward to making a guard of honour. Unfortunately, many years ago, we have had Secondary school students make irresponsible choices creating a dangerous situation for our students, staff and parents. To ensure everyone’s safety and enjoyment we request that only parents of our year 6’s, staff and students who are part of our current school community join in this event and follow our 4 B’s. We ask all parents to support the school to make the event a safe and positive experience for all concerned.</td>
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<td>Our annual picnic sports day will be held on Wednesday Dec 19th starting at 9.15am and finishing around 1.00pm. The events have been organised by our year 5’s with the support of Mr Nick George. To enable students to get to know new friends for 2013, students will be grouped into 2013 groups. Students are encouraged to wear colourful clothes in which they can join in a range of physical activities and will have the opportunity to have a picnic lunch in the school grounds with their families. Parents and extended family members are welcome</td>
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Chaplains News

Are you getting tired before Christmas? It feels like there is so much to do. For people who live in Australia we finish school and all of our activities for the end of year as well as prepare for Christmas! End of year parties for Swimming Clubs, Work gatherings and so many other breakups - the list is endless... carols... school concerts... class parties... coffee with friends. It’s a really busy time of year.

What was it like for the very first Christmas over 2000 years ago? Christians believe, according to the Bible that Mary and Joseph had to travel far to have baby Jesus. They had to leave their home and travel to another town. Mary was 9 months pregnant and would have been very exhausted by the long journey. There was no room in the town for a nice place to have the baby, but some kind inn keeper found a stable. It would have been far from ideal, but Mary and Joseph were full of a hope that only their God could give. As they stayed faithful to what was promised they were blessed with their new baby called, Jesus.

That very first Christmas was full of chaos and tired, weary and frightened people but in it all there was hope. This Christmas may you cling to hope. Hope that there is something bigger than what we can see. And may this hope help you endure the tiredness and busyness that the end of year brings. We really are so blessed in Australia.

We can eat food that doesn’t make us sick; we have homes to live in, expert medical care and family and friends to support us.

May you all have a Christmas full of hope.

Wendy Ronalds
Chaplain available Wednesdays and Fridays

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.
### Super ‘B’ Award Winners

Super ‘B’ award winners for week 9, term 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PrepA</th>
<th>Daniel Hemphill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1A</td>
<td>Emma Burdon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2A</td>
<td>Shayne Stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3A</td>
<td>Jack Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4B</td>
<td>Brydie Allan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5A</td>
<td>Jaime Lilleyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6A</td>
<td>Samantha Coates</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Kye McLean</td>
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**Female Guinea Pig**

- **Description:** Black medium length hair
- **Condition:** Ready to go to a nice home.
- **Contact:** PH. 0488 255 381
- **Cost:** $12

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**Drama Classes**

- **Location:** Acting Up School of Performing Arts in Neerim South
- **Details:** Starting soon and continuing in Summer Holidays
- **Fees:**
  - **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

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**Christmas Celebration on the Hill**

- **Date:** Sunday, 16 Dec
- **Location:** Warragul Church of Christ, 155 Bowen St, Warragul
- **Activities:**
  - Picnic Tea: 5.00 - 7.00 pm
  - Craft
  - Face Painting
  - Jumping Castle
  - Nativity Scene
  - Family Photos
  - Christmas Carols: 7.00 - 8.30 pm
  - Carol Singing • Song Performance • Drama
  - Delicious Supper: 8.30 - 9.30 pm
  - BYO Picnic Tea
  - Also Available:
    - Baked Potato + Drink $4 (incl. coleslaw, bacon, sour cream)
    - BBQ Sausages $1
    - Hot Chips $2.50
    - Soft Drinks $1
    - Frog in Pond $0.50
    - Free tea & coffee
  - Suggestion: Bring a gift (suitable for a child) to place under the Christmas tree. Gifts will go into hampers for families in need.
The show will start Thursday, December 13th at 7pm on the decking of the grade 5/6 rooms.

Students will need to be seated at 6.45pm for a prompt start at 7pm.

Bring your rugs or fold up chairs to sit on while you enjoy the show.

You may bring along NON ALCOHOLIC drinks. Please be respectful of our environment and place all rubbish in the bins.

Hamper Raffle drawn at the end of the night.

Students will be seated in their grade groups with their teachers, non school siblings are to be seated with and supervised by their parents. As our students will be performing non school siblings will not be able to play on the play equipment, please ask them to sit and enjoy the show.