Swimming Program at Aqualink Box Hill begins tomorrow. Please ensure your child has their swimming needs in a named bag which they can take to and from the pool for each session. Students need to wear usual school uniform to school, including shoes (No thongs to be worn at school).

3rd Prep transition Session on Tuesday 22nd Nov. at 9:15am. Children will meet their buddies for next year. Mums & dads will meet in our library and have a discussion with Mr. Mc Kinlay about how DPS teaches Literacy in the Early Years.

Victorian State Representative from our school
In Lachlan’s own words:
Hi my name is Lachlan. I started Karate 4 ½ years ago after my mum and dad let me choose a sport to do. I got involved in Go-Kan-Ryu Karate because it teaches me self defence and it’s fun. After a couple of years I started competing in tournaments and have won a few medals and also qualified for the Australian Championships in Sydney on Saturday. There will be competitors from Australia and New Zealand.
I am excited to go on a plane as well as to compete. Karate is fun and I am now a brown belt with three more gradings till I am a Black belt. I train twice a week, once with my region for 1 hour and 3 hours with the state team.

We are all very excited about Lachlan representing Victoria in karate this weekend. On behalf of all our Donvale PS School Community we wish him well.
As the term progresses the many end of year tasks are well under way. One of these tasks is for teachers to prepare semester two reports for their students, and they have been working hard on these during these weeks. Classes for next year take a great deal of thought and preparation and this task has begun. Thank you to those parents who have written or seen me with the things they would like taken into consideration for next year. It is very helpful to have this information. All children have been asked to write a friendship list and are guaranteed to have one of these friends in their class next year, unless it is not in their best interest, determined by a teacher. However, please keep in mind that teachers know who the children work well with and will endeavour to have your children in classes that operate effectively for all.

**Literacy & Numeracy awards for 2011**

As indicated in last week’s Snippets we are introducing two new annual awards to be presented from this year to two Grade 6 students to celebrate and acknowledge excellence in Literacy & Numeracy at Donvale PS. The student winners will receive a personal trophy and a perpetual Donvale School Shield will acknowledge the winners. The shields will be hung in our school foyer.

It will be:
- Awarded at the Grade 6 Graduation ceremony each year.
- Each award is presented to a student in Grade 6, therefore allowing each student to have an opportunity to win the awards in their final Primary School year.
- The successful winners will be presented to the school community at the final school assembly each year.

Criteria for selection by teachers is:

**Literacy Award:**
- Consistent academic excellence in Literacy
- Dedication showing:
  - a positive attitude
  - independent motivation
  - inspiring others
  - passion and enjoyment of literacy
  - having high level of overall literacy skills.

**Numeracy Award:**
- Academic excellence in Numeracy
- Dedication showing:
  - a positive attitude
  - independent motivation
  - inspiring others
  - passion and enjoyment of Numeracy
- Having high level of overall numeracy skills, including problem solving and logic.

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Our new preps for 2012 have begun their transition program with 2 session already completed and the parent Info night on Tuesday evening. Their first taste of school, without their parents by their side, went smoothly with all the children settling quickly and enjoying their activities. While the new preps are beginning their school life, the parents and carers have been enjoying listening to some valuable information that will help get their children off to a flying start next year. Kath Walker, the creator of the Developmental Curriculum took a workshop and Mrs Pianta, our Maths team leader took a session on Maths this afternoon. The final two sessions are on Tuesday 22nd November at 9.15am and Thursday 1st December at 2:00pm.

I welcome all our new families to the Donvale Primary School community.

Our transition programs also extend to our current students. Throughout December all children will participate in three in house transition sessions with the children in their 2012 level. These sessions are valuable in ensuring that our children can look forward to next year with confidence.

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Student Absence — Please do not let your child have missed opportunities...

Absenteism is not a major focus at DPS. However, we must always be vigilant and aware that children NOT at school cannot learn to their maximum. The state average of absence in Primary School is 14 days per student. That means across Victoria, there are many students who are absent more than 14 days. In number of days, that equates to a day absent every 12 days. When put this way, a lot of valuable learning will not be done if this pattern is repeated. As parents we have a moral, social and legal obligation to ensure our healthy children attend school between 9:00-3:30pm each school day.

Another calculation which shocked me was if your child is late each day (1 hour), they would miss 16.6 days of school a year. No student can afford to do this. Even if they are 15 minutes late on a few days a week, the cumulative time they will miss adds up significantly.

It is in everyone’s interest to make that effort to have your healthy child at school on time each day.

Special thanks this week to:

- Liang & Martin Dimitroff, Stacey Browne and Jacqui Frigo for providing a fantastic cooking experience for over 100 students this year. Each student has learned a lot, and very much enjoyed the opportunity. We look forward to extending the opportunity in 2012.
- Ellemarie Hawkins for maintaining our school fish tank in good swimming order.
- The Krstic family for providing some super games for our OSHP use.
- PA Mums for running our Buy1 get 1 free Book fair this week.

Have a terrific week.

GARRY BRIGGS

The Assistant Principal

A new start:
The prep information session in the school library on Tuesday evening saw both new and familiar faces from our school community here at Donvale. Whether it is your first child starting school or your last there is always something special about the prep year. The parents were thoroughly informed of what to expect next year in terms of routines and curriculum. Mr Briggs and the prep teachers all spoke entertainingly and enthusiastically about various aspects of school life in the prep year. It was great to hear the variety of questions asked by parents at the end of the session. Already you can sense there is a strong bond being developed between the 2012 prep parents. Over the holidays I’m sure our new prep students will be giving their lunchboxes and school uniforms a solid workout as they prepare for their big adventure. For them the new year cannot start soon enough!

Ian McKInlay

General News

FRUIT NEXT WEEK: 2J

PLEASE NOTE

To those parents who are on the google and mailing lists to have their snippets emailed or posted:
As of next year we won’t be mailing or emailing ‘Snippets’. You will find snippets and up-to-date information, notices, forms, school diary, etc. on our website at www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au
Thank you.

BER OPENING

The BER official opening will be held on Monday 5th December at 3pm (not earlier as previously indicated).

2012 TERM DATES

Term 1: 1 February (teachers start) to 30 March 2 February (students start)
Term 2: 16 April to 29 June
Term 3: 16 July to 21 September
Term 4: 8 October to 21 December

ED ALIVE

Don’t miss your chance to order software from the EdAlive Monster Warehouse Clearance Sale. Leaflets were handed out the other week.
The closing date for orders is Friday 18th Nov. Please return your orders to the office tomorrow so that we can send them off. (Late orders must be lodged directly with EdAlive and will incur extra postage and handling charges).
Swimming Program begins tomorrow for those children participating. Please have your child fully prepared and ready to start Friday. Please follow the guidelines that went home yesterday. The first session begins with grouping the children into suitable levels - then the water familiarisation, water confidence, water safety and stroke development is developed. Some children will be using the outdoor pool for their lessons. With the temperature predicted to be 33°C on Friday, sunscreen will be provided (you may supply your own if you wish).

Round Robin Sports Day for Level 4 children is Thursday 1st December. Donvale and 5 other District schools will be involved. Basketball, Soccer Rounders, Softball, Newcombe, Cricket and Netball are played on our school grounds and Donvale Reserve.

If any former students would like to help, please contact Mr Pianta.

Bike Education for Level 3 children will begin once the swimming program finishes. 3PH - Mondays, 3SG - Wednesdays and 3W - Thursdays.

Congratulations and good luck to Lachlan S (3PH) who is competing this weekend in the National Karate Competition in Sydney. Great effort Lachlan.

Mr Pianta

Advance warning
There are only a few more weeks left for borrowing. After the end of November, all books will need to be returned to the Library. Please check that you have no overdue books at home or in your school tub – return them straight away to avoid being on the overdue list!!!

Book Fair
We still have time to borrow all the new books that we were lucky enough to earn from our commission from the Book Fair held last term. These books are now ready to enjoy and will be on display in the Library. We were also able to get multiple copies of several books for Level 4 reading circles.

Damaged or lost books
If books are definitely lost they will need to be paid for. Let me know if this is the case and I will issue you with an official 'Lost book form' so that payment can be made. Don't forget to check at your local library if you borrow there – you may have returned the book there by mistake. If you are sure that you did return it but you are still on the overdue list, come and see me and we will check the shelves first. Quite a few books are being returned in a damaged condition. They need to be kept in a library bag or plastic bag so that your drinks don't spill on them in your school bag. They need to be kept safe at home so that the dog doesn't chew on them, or little ones in the family don't rip or colour on the pages. Please remember that you are responsible for what you borrow and, again, you will be asked to pay for replacing a damaged book.

Thank you for your co-operation
Chris Schneider
Library Technician

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
19th–24th November
Zaliah R, Elise H, John G, Julia H, Natasha B
**Basketball Presentation Night**

We will be having our Basketball presentation night on Wednesday 14th December from 5.30 pm. We will have a free family BBQ followed by the presentation of trophies. Keep the date free, hope to see all players and families there.

*Kym Wolff*

*And the Basketball Committee*

**Wanted Basketball Players**

Have you ever thought about playing basketball and representing your school. Every Saturday approximately 60 children represent our school playing basketball in the Doncaster & District Primary School Basketball Competition.

It is a great introduction to basketball. Have fun, play with your friends, learn a new sport.

We are having an open training night. Come along after school on Tuesday 22nd or Wednesday 23rd November to the Disc sports centre and find out what it is all about. No prior skills needed to play and every child who participates, gets a free icy-pole.

Registration forms available from the school office or at Disc next Tuesday and Wednesday. **Registrations close on Friday the 25th November 2011.** Money and completed form must be handed into the school office by this date.

*When do the teams play?*

Girls generally play Saturday mornings, Boys play Saturday afternoons at either Disc or Leads St Doncaster.

*Cost!*

$35.00 registration and $50 each term. Total $135.00 per season. (There is two seasons per year, Winter Terms 3 & 4 and Summer Terms 1 & 2).

*Training!*

Tuesdays or Wednesdays after school 3.45 to 4.45.

Thank you to all the helpers this year. A special thank you to players, coaches and parents who are leaving our school. A small group of parents organise the school basketball competition. We are looking for new parents to help on the committee. The jobs range from registration, treasurer, the scoring rosters and team lists, organisation of trophies and end of year presentation night. If you can help next year, please let me know.

If you would like any further information please ring or email me. *Kym Wolff* Ph: 0418 551 684 Email: elisbyelectrie@optusnet.com.au

*From the Basketball Committee.*

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**Canteen Newsflash**

**REMINDERS:**

**Lasagne**

Lasagne has been discontinued.

**Pizza**

Unfortunately pizza margarita will be out of stock until further notice. Both lasagne and pizza are supplied through Enrico’s Kitchen and there has been a lot of issues in that “kitchen”. Due to this inconsistency, I will be looking for a new supplier. Otherwise I will also look into making pizzas in-house.

Thank you.

*Keep Healthy, Keep Cool, Keep Hydrated*

Angie (cookie) - Canteen Management Services

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**STORIES FROM THE STUDENTS**

**Made my Teacher Lunch**

When I made my teacher lunch
I made him barf up his brunch
The 1st meal was flaky skin salad
Then two men came and sang him a ballad
The salad made dizzy the same goes with his wife
Lizzie

2nd meal was lizard blood soup
The whole thing looked like goop
The main was pigeon with dog slobber gravy
I have a feeling he liked it, maybe
The drink was stomach acid from a cat
He decided not to touch that
For dessert he had a large bowl of worms
In that bowl there lots and lots of germs
We have a feeling he liked it
But does not agree
**NOT ONE BIT!!!!!!!**

By Gaby and Phoebe
Maths Fun For Everyone

Seven Billion and Counting
By David Shaw

Sometime around now, the seven billionth living person will be born. It might already have happened – the United Nations estimated it would happen on 31 October. Other experts think it might happen next year. We’ll never know for sure when or where the seven billionth person was born, but one thing is certain, the Earth’s population is growing.

About 12 years ago, in 1999, the population reached six billion. Roughly 12 years before that, it reached five billion, and 13 years before that, four billion. The world’s population has been growing fast, but at a very steady rate.

As the world’s population increases, the number of mothers increases – which means even more children. Over time, you might expect the population to grow faster and faster. At times in the past this has happened. However, things have been changing during the past fifty years. Since the 1950s, women have been having fewer and fewer children on average. In 1950, women had an average of five children each. Recent figures suggest women are now averaging two and a half children each. If this number drops below two, then the world’s population will eventually start to fall.

Current estimates suggest that growth will now start to slow. The eight billionth person on Earth is expected to be born in 15 years time, and the world’s population will reach 10 billion around 2100. Some estimates even have the world’s population reaching a peak around 2050 and declining to six billion before the end of the century.

More information:

‘Seven Billion and Me’ -
http://www.7billionandme.org/about.php

‘Why Population Milestones Aren’t Very Accurate’ –

Brainteaser question

Here are four dots, arranged in a square:

● ●

● ●

Without lifting your pen, draw three straight lines, pass through all four dots and finish up exactly where you started

Hope you find this as fascinating as I did!

Luanda Pianta – Numeracy Co-Ordinator
Parents Association News!

**Annual Christmas Stall**
I am looking for helpers to sell our lovely gifts to the students on this day.
If you can offer your time from 9am – 1pm I would love to hear from you.
Please let me know by filling out the bottom section of this form and returning to school as soon as possible or contact me at Soterales@optusnet.com.au

**Trivia Night Preparations**
We are still looking for a few more helping hands to assist with the running of our very popular Trivia Night to be held next year.
Please let me know if you can help in any way.
Kathryn

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**
Thank you to the following parents who gave up their time for our “Buy One Get One Free” book fair this week.
Thanks to Karin Moule, Vicky Cassidy and Marina Younger for assisting with the afterschool time slot.
We will open again tomorrow morning from 8.45-9.30

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**Annual Christmas Stall 2011**

I ______________________________________ Childs class ___________________

Can help at this year’s Christmas Stall.
More information on the following advertising is available from the office:

**BAYSWATER STREET PARTY** - (supported by Bayswater residents, traders, schools and community groups) Saturday 19 November, 10am-2pm at Macauley Place. Market stalls, sausage sizzle, live music, kid’s activities, and much more...

**EXTEND ADVENTURES** - School Holiday Program.


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**Financial Assistance Parent Information**

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to low-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is split evenly between the parent and the school, and is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The parent portion is often used for uniforms and excursions, while the school portion may be used for expenses such as textbooks, stationery and special programs. You can elect to have the parent portion of the EMA paid into your nominated bank account or receive a cheque.

In 2012, the total annual amount is $235 for primary students and $470 for secondary students – these amounts are split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

**School Start Bonus:**

The School Start Bonus is provided by the Victorian Government to assist low-income families with the costs associated with their child starting Prep or Year 7 at a government or non-government school.

If you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a foster parent, and you have a child starting Prep or Year 7, you may be eligible to receive this one-off $300 payment.

The School Start Bonus will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) into your nominated bank account in late January 2012. The School Start Bonus is separate, and additional to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

**How to Apply:** Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA/School Start Bonus.

**Closing Date:** Parents/guardians with prep or year 7 children commencing in 2012 need to lodge an EMA/School Start Bonus form before 15 December, 2011. For late enrolments, applications will be accepted up until 29 February 2012.


**Education Tax Refund:**

The Education Tax Refund is a Commonwealth Government tax refund to help with the cost of educating primary and secondary school children. Eligible parents, carers, legal guardians and independent students can be reimbursed for half the cost of items such as computers, educational software, textbooks and stationery.