Absenteeism and lateness is not OK…

Lost opportunities through lateness or continual absence really add up over the period of your child’s expected school life (P-12). A student who is half an hour late each day misses the equivalent of 16.6 days of learning each year. If your child attends for an average of 90%, which equals 20 days absence a year, this equates to 1 years absence in their P-12 school life. No student can afford to miss all those opportunities.

We all need to make that effort to ensure our healthy students attend school, take those opportunities and maximise their learning.

Research has shown the things that are at stake are:

- Maximise student learning
- Support community values of punctuality and attendance
- Attendance provides opportunities for connection and socialisation
- Need for connection to school communities for student and family health.

It has been shown that absenteeism and lack of punctuality can lead to:

- Disengagement
- Mental illness
- At risk behaviour

We all need to make that effort to be on time, be role models and ensure our children are as punctual and attend as much as possible. At Donvale PS our attendance data is good compared to the state averages. However, we still can do better. Also we continue to strive to urge all families to make that “big effort” to have your child(s) at school between 8:45am - 9:00am.

Soiree a huge success…

On Tuesday evening over 120 students performed at our first Soiree. The BER building was overflowing with families, the performing was exceptional and the behaviour exemplary. Thanks to all the families who came along, to the teachers who were pivotal in organising and running the evening. Mrs Keep, Mr Gordon and Mrs Clarke.

It was a wonderful celebration of our Music Program and the skills and talents of a large proportion of our students. Great evening.
A personal invite.....

We would love to see parents attend our BER building opening NEXT MONDAY at 2:50pm in the BER building. Our 3 choirs will perform, student school leaders will participate, Mrs Tierney and Mrs Rubens will speak, and we will officially open our building by cutting a ribbon and validate a plaque commemorating the official opening.

Have a great week.................

GARRY BRIGGS

To all our Parent Helpers

You are invited to a morning tea on Friday 9th December from 11.00 - 11.45 in the G.P. Room.

The staff looks forward to this opportunity of saying a personal thank you for all your assistance during the year in supporting the many wonderful programs and activities that Donvale Primary offers its students.

General News

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

LOST
Lost bomber jacket (size 6), with Zoe T on name tag. Please return to Zoe in 2CM. Thank you.

FREE TO GOOD HOMES
Jack Russel X Pups.
Looking for homes.
FREE
Will be ready for Xmas.
If interested, please call Shaya on 0433 005 884

Wesley Mission Melbourne
Food for Families Appeal 2011
Christmas is approaching fast this year and as a school community we aim to gather groceries again to support many families who will be in need at the end of the year.
You can support this food appeal by purchasing non perishable items such as

- Rice
- Teabags
- Small jars of vegemite, honey, peanut butter, nutella & jam
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Toilet paper
- Soap and deodorant
- Small bottles of shampoo & conditioner
- Face washers
- Tinned tuna, salmon, sardines and ham
- Tinned spaghetti, backed beans, soup etc
- Two-minute noodles, instant noodles
- Pasta sauces and pasta
- UHT (longlife) milk
- Baby food and nappies
- Breakfast cereals, muesli bars
- Biscuits
- Tinned fruit and vegetables

The food appeal boxes will be located in the school foyer.
If you have any questions about this appeal, please don’t hesitate to ask.
Thank you for your support.
Lisa Watters
Tomorrow our “Future Stars” Basketball Team play off in the State Finals. These children have been regularly training during lunch times showing fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork co-operation and skill development. We wish them all the best and congratulate them on achieving such an elite result. Several hundreds of schools would have started off in this competition with less than twenty teams left in the competition.

Level 3 children will continue their Bike Education program for the next two weeks at least. The response from the children this week was excellent.

Thank you.
Mr Pianta

Music Matters

Congratulations to all our wonderful participants at Tuesday’s Soiree. The commitment to rehearsals has been very pleasing and the results show for themselves that we have many talented students! Special thanks goes to Mrs Clarke for leading our senior choir so passionately and for her many hours dedicated to our level 4 students. Thanks too to Mr Gordon for a superb job of compering the evening. To all our musical students, well done and we are all very proud of you!

Anthea Keep

Basketball

Saturday Games
10.00 am  Donvale Dolphins v OLOP Vikings  Disc Crt 1
12.00 pm  Donvale Dingoes v Ser/ch Spiders Disc Crt 1
11.30 am  Donvale Daisys v Milgate Fillies  Leeds St

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
2nd-8th December
John Z, Liam W, Joy Z
Donvale Primary School

CRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
2011

Invitation to Parents

Dear Parents

Thank you for the opportunity of teaching your children in Christian Religious Education at Donvale Primary School this year. We have had a great year together.

To celebrate Christmas with the children in CRE for 2011 we are holding a CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT:

The Visit of the Wise Men

All parents and family members, including younger siblings, are invited.

When         Thursday 8th December 2011
Where         Donvale Primary School in the BER
Time          12.00pm – 1.00pm

Please come and enjoy the Celebration with your children as they have been very busy preparing items for this occasion.

Looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you this year!

God Bless

Donvale Primary School CRE Team
Cheryl, Judith & Shirley
FOR SALE

I have various pieces of the girls MULLAUNA College uniform for sale. The uniform is in MINT condition, as was worn for less than six weeks.

- size 14 jumper (not VCE jumper)
- size 10 summer dress
- size 10 winter skirt
- college tie

These pieces new total in excess of $210, but I would be happy to recoup $100 which is a bargain. Anyone interested could call my mobile 0417 315 349.

Cedar Holiday Unit, BRIGHT available for holiday rental

- 2-storey, 2 bdrms - each bedroom has a QS & single bed
- Fully equipped kitchen, spacious lounge/dining with private patio overlooking gardens
- HDTV, DVD/CD player, books, CDs and games supplied
- Reverse Cycle heating/air conditioner, electric blankets
- All linen supplied

Features: Undercover heated spa, free BBQs, table tennis, serene gardens, children's playground, off street parking, 5 minute stroll to shops, Rail Trail bike track - one minute ride away!

For rates/bookings: Contact Gail on 9434 988 098

Discounted rates for Donvale Primary families!

More information on the following advertising is available from the office:

School Holiday Fun at the RSPCA

Calling all animal lovers aged 5-14yrs! If you go crazy for cats, dote on dogs or want to have some fun with farm animals, then the RSPCA School Holiday Program is the place for you!

Career Ready!

For students aged 14-18yrs we have some great careers based sessions for people wanting to work in the animal industry. Sessions include Animal ER, Pet Paramedics, Inspector for a Day and Animal Attendant for a Day.

Visit www.rspcavic.org for more information. Call Penny on 9224 2286 to book a place.

Nestoras College

Enrol for the 2012 school year at the Greek College.

Get Active Sports

Tennis for Juniors - At Donvale Primary School Hall, morning sessions. Starts Sunday 5th February. Places are limited so register early to avoid disappointment. Registration form at office.
Financial Assistance
Parent Information

Financial assistance for parents/guardians with children commencing Prep or Year 7 in 2012

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 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.

For more information about the School Start Bonus and the EMA, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/

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.

For more information about the Education Tax Refund, visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/