Donvale Primary School provides students with a positive educational experience to achieve their potential in a comprehensive learning environment that is caring, secure and stimulating.

WEEKLY DIARY

Friday 9th December
- 11.00-11.45: PARENT MORNING THANK YOU TEA
- 2.30: Transition

Monday 12th December
- 8.30-9.30am: Uniform shop open
- 12.00: Parents Association end of year Christmas lunch at The Shoppingtown Hotel

Tuesday 13th December
- Grade 6 Orientation Day
- Peer Mentoring Program

Wednesday 14th December
- 5.30pm: Basketball presentation night in the GP Room

Thursday 15th December
- Student Banking Day
- Lunchtime: Junior Chef Christmas party in the GP Room

Friday 16th December
- Parents Association Christmas Stall
- Reports, portfolios, 2012 grade placements sent home
- 2.30: Transition

Monday 19th December
- 6.30pm: Grade 6 Graduation Night

Thursday 22nd December
- 1.15 Assembly
- 1.30 Dismissal

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Reminders:
- Tomorrow at 11:00-11:45am. All Parents who have helped in any way at any time around our school, please come along to our Hall so the staff can say “Thank You”, to you by providing a morning tea.
- Enrolment for 2012 Playgroup is now being taken. Call in at the office if you have a young child who would like to attend our Playgroup on Tuesday or Wednesdays next year. It is a great way to mix with other parents and provide your child with great social opportunities which are fun.
- School finishes on Thursday 22nd at 1:30pm following an assembly at 1:15pm.
New building opens

Last Monday we officially opened our new BER building. It was an enjoyable event with our 3 choirs performing “Aussie” songs along with Mrs Tierney reading a message from Canberra.

The quest for exciting, innovative, yet appropriate name, proved elusive. Thanks to those students and families who submitted suggestions. At this time, we have decided on, “the Senior Building”. Certainly not exciting or innovative, but meets the needs and makes sense at this time.

JSC power

One of our Junior School Council Reps (JSC) Nick H midyear saw a safety issue and to his credit, took the initiative to do something about it. Nick approached the school with an idea that in the DISC car park, where many students get dropped off and picked up after school, cars were parking in a certain way,

creating a very serious safety risk to Donvale PS students. Nick noticed that many cars were driving into parking spots, therefore, when leaving they had to reverse out. Nick noticed that reversing cars were often not always aware of smaller students walking behind the cars. This was creating a very serious safety concern.

Nick wrote a letter to Manningham Council requesting a meeting to discuss alternative solutions. Manningham Council arranged to come down to school to discuss this issue. Two Council employees met with Nick and I and following the meeting requested Nick, do a car survey over 2 weeks to ascertain what number of cars were creating this concern and where they were parking.

Nick diligently did this and submitted the data to the Council. They replied that they would seriously consider erecting signs advising drivers to reverse park (when children are not around) and drive out (when students are around), providing clear, unobstructed vision. Council has indicated it will install the proposed signs, as long as we can assure them that we have the support of our local School Community on this issue.

The advisory signs will apply to the parking bays located along the two western end rows between the pedestrian walkway to the southern boundary of the car park.

The safety of our students is paramount so I would commend this issue to you and ask to give it your consideration and support.

I would ask that if you have any comment could you, email, call in or write to me expressing your opinion.

The safety of our students is paramount so I would commend this issue to you and ask to give it your consideration and support.

Thanks Nick for all your efforts, you may have saved the life of a DPS student by your civic minded and persistent efforts.

Special thanks this week to:

- Brad Wolff, Murray Gerraty, Craig Yeoman and Hayden Shimmin, who came up and cleaned up around our Senior Building before the ceremony.
- Mrs Clarke who has worked tirelessly in organising and rehearsing our Senior Choir. They are performing next week at Rotary. She has run extra rehearsals after school and on weekends to get them to a very high standard of skill.

Have a wonderful week………………

GARRY BRIGGS
Assistant Principal

Full Circle:
Under an almost cloudless sky and with the sun shining brightly yesterday our 17 Circles groups sat mostly in circles on the school oval and ate their lunch. Teachers and ES staff also sat with their group and chatted, some relaxing on favourite family picnic rugs. This informal gathering was our final Circles group meeting for the year. This year our Circles program has endeavoured to not only promote the school’s values but also to play a welfare, counselling role with the students. At Circles sessions we have encouraged students to share their feelings and emotions about any school related issue, academic and social. Yesterday it was great to see and feel the bond that has quickly developed over 2 years between the students in these multi-age groups.

Ian McKinlay

General News

FRUIT NEXT WEEK: 1P/1S

End of Term Reminders from the Office
2012 Fee Notices were sent home last week. If you have not received a notice, please call in at the office for a copy. Payment can be made by sending cash or cheque in the attached envelope to the office, or fill in the credit card details on the payment form. We have EFTPOS facilities at the office. There is also the option of paying at the CBA Tunstall Square or internet banking. If paying directly into the schools bank account, make sure the details are your family name and number of children in the family eg Jones 2. If you are in receipt of EMA and wish to use it, please speak to Ricarda at the office.

EMA If you are eligible to receive the EMA. You have to fill in an application form, and give this to the office with a copy of your Health Care Card every year. Forms for 2012 EMA are available from the office. Prep 2012 parents who have a Health Care Card need to fill in the EMA form and return it to the office by Monday 12 December for processing for the School Start Bonus. See attached notice for more details.

Level 4 Camp 2012 Instalment 1 of $49.05 and Instalment 2 of $70.95 for the Level 4 camp in Term 1 2012 should have been paid. If you require a copy of the notice please contact the office. The final instalment notice will be sent home at the beginning of Term 1. Full payment is due by the 19 February 2012.

Payment in Envelopes Too often money is just being handed in to the school loose. All payments need to be placed into a sealed and labelled envelope. The school provides envelopes with all Bulk Billing notices for this purpose.

Office timetable for the last week of Term. Money to the office will only be accepted until the end of the day on Tuesday 20th December. We would appreciate if payments are sent to us as soon as possible. Wendy and I have many end of year tasks to complete, so we appreciate your assistance with this. The office will be open until 1.30pm on Thursday the last day of term. Ricarda and Wendy

MISSING
From Grade 1 & 2 Camp Activity Day. Red 2-3 man dome tent, named “Smith” (serial number CF40613). If you have seen it or taken it by mistake, please return to Mrs Watters. Thank you.

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

POLICIES
Included in snippets is our Assessment and Reporting Policy and Digital Portfolios Appendix for your information and comments.
Rick Gordon

LOST WINDCHEATER
Montserrat P in 2 J has lost her windcheater, it is labeled. Please return. Thank you.
Bike Education will continue next week for our Level 3 students. Again, the response from these children this week has been fantastic. Well done Level 3 children.

Hooptime Report. Last Friday our “Future Stars” basketball team played in the State Finals. The team displayed tremendous skill, enthusiasm, co-operation, team work and a never give up attitude.

The team finished 8th in the State - a fabulous result. To put this in perspective, 652 teams from 500 schools started in the competition with 32 teams playing last Friday in the State final. Excellent achievement children, we are very proud of you. Well done again.

Mr Pianta

Basketball

Congratulations to all our great Basketballers on a very successful season on the court. All our teams made it through to the semi finals, an amazing achievement!

Good Luck to our teams playing this Saturday in the Grand Finals.

10.00  Donvale Dolphins V Bev Hills Crystals DISC
10.30  Donvale Delights V Milgate Midgets DISC
11.30  Donvale Daisy’s V OLOP Bumblebees LEEDS ST
12.00  Donvale Dingoes V OLOP Magic DISC
2.30  Donvale Devils V OLOP Lightning DISC

Reminder: BBQ and Trophy presentation night for all Basketball families in the GP Room on Wednesday 14th December at 5.30. Next seasons team lists will be available on the night to view. Team contact lists and scoring rosters will be emailed to all players at a later date.

The Basketball Committee

Next Thursday 15 December is our Christmas party. Food and drink provided. Please RSVP if your child wants to come as we need to know so we can start to organise everything. Thank you to everyone who has already RSVP and offered their help and donations. Don’t forget to bring your invitation for your chance to win 1 of 3 “Donvale Junior Chef Cooking Class Cook Book”.

There have been many enquiries about buying this book from the children. So we have decided to sell the book for $3.00 each. if you want to order please send the money in an envelope (with your child’s name and grade on the front) to the office. All the money raised will go to the school.

Thank you to Lachlan S and Emily Y both 3PH for picked lots of spring onions from the vegie garden for our party food. They have lots of imagination about what they can create with this vegies. Some children have said noodles... fried rice ... spring rolls...

They want to keep the menu a secret, so all I can say is there will be a 12 course buffet meal. Remember there is no need to bring your own lunch.

We don’t cook, we create food.

Liang and Jaqui (Stacey is away... )
C.R.E.
Christian Religious Education

We are finishing our CRE classes this year with our concert. We hope the children and the parents that were able to attend, enjoyed it!! I know the children always enjoy performing for their families!
Shirley, Judith and myself have had another fantastic year teaching your beautiful children!! We really enjoy seeing them every week and the staff are always very supportive!
We hope and pray you all have a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year !! We look forward to returning next year and seeing all those smiling faces!!
May God Bless you all!
Cheryl Shanks.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
9th -15th December
Sophie L, Anthi P, Dylan L, Pearl D, Saba K, Nick K

JSC SHOPPING

Thank you to all students who participated in our Free Dress Day, last Friday. As a school, we were able to raise $214. On Tuesday, the JSC were able to go shopping at Coles, on behalf of our Donvale Primary School community. They bought a trolley load of non-perishable items for the ‘Wesley Food Mission’. We have filled four boxes of supplies for the Mission, and are currently filling our fifth box. If you would like to contribute by giving extra grocery items to this cause, you will find the boxes located in the school foyer.
Mrs Watters
Dear Parents and Students,

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather, we have been using the opportunity to have lots of time outside. This week we have enjoyed creating chalk drawing murals, treasure hunts, soccer tournaments and playground fun outside. Everyone has had lots of fun bringing the Christmas spirit into our room, hanging tinsel and decorating our fantastic Christmas tree. In the last two weeks of term we will be doing lots of Christmas activities so come and join in the fun!

Just a reminder that the OSHClub Holiday Programs are coming up quickly, so if your child/ren require care during this time, although we do not run a program here, you can visit the website which has all the information that you need.

If you have yet to fill out an authorization form please be sure to come in and see me and fill one out.

Please make sure all enrollment forms are up to date and all medical action plans have also been checked and changed if needed.

Remember bookings can be made right up til 12:00am the night before, or you can book on the day but there will be a charge of $2.00. If you’re ever stuck and would like your child to come into OSH after school you can call me or leave a message on 0402 362 443 and I will get back to you.

Hannah

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**STAFF**
Coordinator – Hannah Gibbs (replacing Cassie while on leave)
Staff: Kim, Lee, Stephen
Program Phone: 0402 362 443
OSH Club – 8564 9000
Admin: admin@oshclub.com.au

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

**ROAD TO BETHLEHEM** - Monday 12 Dec to Thursday 15 Dec. FREE ADMISSION. Walk the journey of the Christmas story. 1/2 tours every 6 min from 7pm and 10.30pm. 141 Central Rd, Nunawading.

**BUBBLE DOME** - Holiday workshops.

**TABLE TENNIS AT MANNINGHAM DISC** - Holiday program starting Wed 18 Jan.
FOR SALE
PROGEAR GIRL ' S BIKE
$50.00
- A 20 " SKY BLUE GIRLS BIKE
- Hand and foot brakes.
- Streamers on the handles.
- Carry pouch in front of handle bar.
- White wheels and a white seat with purple and silver stars.
Almost brand new - very good condition.
Ring Rita Lucisano on 0405 326 758

Battle of the Bands
11.12.11

Donvale’s Expressions Band will be competing this Sunday 11.12.11 at the inaugural ‘Battle of the Bands’ held at Anderson’s Creek Primary School. Bands start at 4pm! There are 6 local schools which have entered this year’s event. We are hoping that by attending this FREE event and supporting your school band, they will bring home the winning prizes!
Bring your family, friends and cameras!
Assessment and Reporting Policy

Policy Statement

All aspects of assessment and reporting must be clearly directed towards improving teaching and learning strategies and enhancing student learning outcomes.

Accurate and comprehensive assessment of student performance aids in establishing open communication, helps to improve student learning, assists in establishing future direction, and helps to identify all areas of performance, including high achievers as well as those students in need of support and assistance.

Rationale or Purpose

The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student performance. Assessment should be based on an understanding of how students learn, and should be an integral component of the curriculum. Assessment should provide useful information which forms the basis of reports to parents on student achievement. It involves giving feedback to the student and also allows for reflection.

Implementation

In order to improve student performance and provide accurate student reports, the school will:

- include a variety of assessment strategies in teaching programs to provide multiple sources of information about student achievement. These may include tests, projects, portfolio assessment tasks, Ultranet Learning Tasks, performance observations, discussions and involvement in national standardised testing processes such as NAPLAN, the online Assessment On Demand tests and school entry assessment tests.

- use a schedule of standardised tests and observations and keep ongoing records that will provide evidence of student learning.

- use the data collected to make evaluations and report on student achievement in relation to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) twice yearly.

- provide information for parents on assessment, and the NAPLAN tests.

- provide the opportunity for parent/teacher interviews (including specialist teachers) twice yearly following the issuing of written reports and portfolios, as well as encourage parents to contact teachers at other times as required to discuss their child’s progress.

- assess the achievements of students on the Program for Students with Disabilities in the context of VELS (where deemed appropriate). Students for whom English is a second language will have their progress in English assessed in relation to the stages of the ESL Continuum.

- provide all required performance data to the Education Department and the community by means of an annual report.

- encourage the use of self evaluation as an important component of assessment

- prepare individual learning plans for ‘at risk’ learners which will be planned in consultation with parents and students

- make digital portfolios available on Ultranet for all students, however students in years Prep – 3 will also keep work samples in a written portfolio

Evaluation and Review

This policy and the attached document are to be reviewed every three years or following referral by School Council.

References


Appendix

DPS Assessment Schedule

DPS Portfolio Guidelines

This policy was ratified by School Council on 14th December 2011
Digital Portfolios

The digital portfolio on Ultranet will include: Wiki, Reference Library, Image Gallery and Slide show.
The Wiki will have four sub-pages, one for each level. Each level sub-page will have four more sub-pages –
Academic Me, Social Me, Physical Me, Creative Me.
The Reference Library will have four sub-pages, one for files from each level.
The Image Gallery will have four sub-pages, one for photos from each level.
Students will add files and photos to their Reference Library and Image Gallery and write reflections and comments
in each of the four sub-pages (Academic Me, Social Me, Physical Me, Creative Me) during their time in each level.
Academic Me – Literacy, Numeracy, Integrated Studies, Excursions
Social Me – Friends, Working in teams, Camps, Sleep Over, etc
Physical Me – Physical Education, Sports Clinics, Interschool Sport
Creative Me – Art, Music, Drama, Productions, Choir, Instrumental Music, Dance, Marimba Band

Please note:
Students in Years Prep – 3 will add items to the digital portfolio where appropriate, but will still keep hard copy
samples of their work in a portfolio folder.

STORIES FROM THE STUDENTS

Ernie's Day

My name is Ernie, I am an earthworm and I live underground with my family. My family has 3,100 worms – I can't remember all their names.

This is what I did on Sunday.

It was the first day of Summer and the grass was really warm. I was really hungry and was thinking about food.

My grandma was cooking in the kitchen. We ate roasted fruit scraps with bread.

After lunch, my cousins and I went to the park – it took us 2 hours to get there because we don't have any arms or legs.

When we got there, I played on the swings with my cousin Elizabeth.

While we were talking, we noticed our cousin George was crying because a big bird tried to eat him and dropped him back on the ground with a big smack.

It is a dangerous life being a worm, especially when we are around birds in the park.

When we got home, we had more food – this time we munch on some cardboard and it was very very yummy.

I ate so much that I went to sleep.

Elise H

2-S
Parents Association News!

Annual Christmas Stall
Thank you to the many parent helpers who have volunteered their time for our annual Christmas Stall on Friday 16th December from 9am – 1 pm.
A wide range of small gifts will be available for the students to choose from for their family and friends. Gifts will range in price from 50 cents to $5.00.
For further details please contact Kathryn on Soterales@optusnet.com.au

Trivia Night Preparations
Thank you to the parents who volunteered to join the Trivia night Subcommittee on Monday to assist with next year’s trivia night. Preparations are now in place to ensure the night is a huge success.

We still need a few more parent helpers to coordinate a number of small trivia related jobs both before the event and on the night.

Any parents wishing to help out can contact Kathryn at Soterales@optusnet.com.au to receive further details.
Your support in our major fundraiser for next year will be most appreciated.

Parent Association Christmas End of Year Lunch
Monday 12th December at the Shoppingtown Hotel @ 12.00pm.
Children joining us eat free!!!
(When an adult main is also ordered)

All parents are invited to join us to celebrate another successful year in the Parents Association.
Please let Kathryn know if you are coming by phoning 9891 6746 or via email at Soterales@optusnet.com.au
Hope you can join us!!
Toy World School Benefit Cards!
Here is an easy way for our school to raise extra funds.

Simply visit your local Toyworld (Forest Hill) and ask for a benefit card. Let them know you are from “Donvale Primary School”. For every purchase you make our school receives 4% of the total cost. Twice a year the overall total in sales from parents of Donvale Primary is calculated and our school receives gift vouchers to purchase items for our students from the shop.

In addition, Parents receive 7% discount including sale and catalogue items, when their accumulated purchases goes over $100. This discount continues each year.

Happy shopping everyone!!!

School Rewards Program!
The Athletes Foot doesn’t just stock runners! You’ll also find an extensive range of walking shoes, school shoes, thongs and sandals. And the School Rewards Program ensures that every time someone from our school buys any shoes from their wide range, our school will reap the rewards!!

**Our school is now registered!!**

Every time a student, family or staff member from Donvale Primary purchases a pair of shoes from the store, $5.00 goes back to our school in the form of sporting equipment.

*Only valid at The Athletes Foot Southland, Chadstone, The Glen, forest Hill, Knox City and Eastland.*

Fundraising and Special events 2012
The Parents Association is already planning for next year’s fundraising events. Below is a list of the major fundraising activities and special events planned for 2012:

**Cadbury Chocolate Drive – February/March**
**Easter Raffle – March**
**Kids Discos – March and October**
**Mothers Day Stall – May**
**Biggest Morning Tea - May**
**Scholastic Book Fair – August**
**Trivia Night – August**
**Christmas Stall – December**

In addition, a number of smaller fundraising activities will be proposed throughout the year.

Chocolate Drive continues……..
We have a number of assorted chocolate bars left over from the Mars Chocolate Drive earlier this year. All bars have been reduced in cost to just $1.00 each. Bars can be purchased from the office. For large orders please see Kathryn.

**Also…**
We have a number of the “Billy G’s Cookie Dough” company tubs for sale in assorted flavours. The Parents Association has reduced the cost to $10.00 per tub. Each tub makes approximately 50 cookies. They are currently in the freezer ready to be made. Please let Kathryn know if you would like to purchase a tub on 9891 6746 or via email at Soterales@optusnet.com.au.
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 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.

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/