What a fabulous event the iPad-a-thon was yesterday. The children all looked amazing dressed in their house colours and they were even more impressive in their resolve to complete as many laps as they could so that they could raise money for iPads across our school. The weather was hot and the laps were long, but that didn’t stop our students from doing their best. A big thank you to everybody, in particular, Kathryn Soterales who organised the event and Marina Younger who stepped in on the day ensuring that everything went without a hitch. And another big thank you to all the parents that supported the event – too many to mention you all. We had parents helping with the setting and packing up, stamping proformas, water pouring, running, walking, first aiding… Such a wonderful team effort. The next job for our students is the very important part of collecting the money. The deadline to bring in the money to school is tomorrow. This unfortunately doesn’t give everybody much time. This deadline was set as we are so close to the end of the year and we wanted the children to be awarded their prizes before they finish off the year. Fingers crossed that this will be possible. Many families and friends have donated their money online. This is fantastic and we are most grateful for the support.

We had our Parent Helpers Morning Tea this morning. I can’t say enough about the support that the parent community offers to the school. We certainly can’t do all the wonderful things we do, without you. Again, thank you to all our parent helpers and we look forward to your ongoing support into the new year. Directly following on from the Morning Tea, we were magnificently entertained by the students performing in the CRE concert. It’s always a delight to see our students performing and enjoying themselves so much while doing it. Many thanks to the CRE teachers for giving our students this opportunity. We look forward to your continued support in 2013.

Some disturbing news has recently been brought to my attention. I have, unfortunately, had several reports of our parents driving reckless where the old kindergarten behind the school is, whilst picking up their children. Although this is not school property, I still must address this issue as the student’s safety and well-being is of utmost importance to us. Consequently, I have contacted Manningham Council to supervise the area. I have no doubt that fines will be issued if they see any behaviours that are not acceptable or illegal. I urge you all to exercise caution, at all times whilst driving around the school area. Our children are too precious!
And on a more positive note.....The new forward direction of Donvale Primary School has created much interest amongst the community. So much so that our enrolments have increased to the point where I can now announce that we will be structuring our classes in 2013 as follows:

Preps (Foundation) X 2 classes  
Year 1 / 2 X 3 classes  
Year 3 / 4 X 3 classes  
Year 5 / 6 X 3 classes.

This is a shift from our original plan of a straight Prep (Foundation) class and a Prep / 1. I have also now created a third Year 1 / 2 class so have moved from two to three Year 1 / 2 classes for 2013. This not only allows for low numbers particularly in these classes but also room for more enrolments. This is very exciting news for our school community as we are clearly moving in a ‘forward direction!’ As mentioned previously, 2013 will bring a broader curriculum to the students. Our strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy is unrelenting – this will always be a given.

We also work hard and pride ourselves in offering a curriculum that caters to the whole child and offers each child the opportunity to explore and develop their strengths and passions. We offer a full Physical Education and Sports program, a brilliant Performing Arts program incorporating Performing and Creative Arts and in 2013, we will be introducing the Mandarin Language. With all these wonderful happenings at Donvale PS, I am very much looking forward to 2013.

Next week is our final school week for 2012. Year 6 Graduation on Tuesday December 18th and Carols by Candlelight on Thursday December 20th are the highlights of the week ahead. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of 2012 with you all.

Lena Clark
**Basketball News**

**INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASKETBALL?**

Donvale Primary School has 7 teams playing in the Doncaster and District Primary School Basketball Association. All teams play on a Saturday - generally girls in the morning and boys in the afternoon. Training is after school on Tuesday or Wednesday at DISC. Each team has between 7 and 10 players. Registrations have now closed however we have a few places available in some age groups. No prior experience or knowledge of the game is necessary. If your child is considering playing next year, please fill in a registration form, together with $35 and leave it at the office by Monday pm. Registration fees are fully refunded if there is not a position available for your child’s age group. Any questions, please contact Marita Warner or any basketball parent!

**Grand final Game Times:**

- Dolphins DISC 1 9.30am
- Delights DISC 1 10.30am
- Daffodils Leeds 10.30am
- Dinosaurs Leeds 1.30pm

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR GRAND FINAL TEAMS!!

**BASKETBALL PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Please come along on Monday 17th December at 5.00pm in the GP room. Sausage sizzle followed by trophy presentation. Hope to see you all there. Nina

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**Carols on the Lawn**

Thursday December 20th at 6pm near the L4 building

Bring along your picnic tea, a rug or chairs and enjoy mixing with other families over dinner (6.00 – 6.45pm).

Students will then lead us in Christmas carols commencing at approximately 6.45pm until 7.30pm (when Santa should be arriving in his truck!)

Bring along your family and friends!

*Battery operated candles are welcome!*  
*Live flame candles are not permitted for safety reasons.*

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**Playgroup**

Yesterday the Playgroup had their Christmas party. A big thank you to Ben and Jess S who were the “special visitors”.

Playgroup will be running on Tuesday and Wednesday next year with the first group starting on the 5th February.

Please contact Rebecca on 0419119895, 9841 6885 or email rebecca@theclarke’s.biz for enquiries for next year.
Our Christmas party was a great event. The children were absolutely fantastic. They were polite, queuing patiently starting from Preps to the older grades, helping each other and sharing all the food. After all their hard work through this year, all our little chefs deserved this big treat. They sacrificed their lunch breaks to learn how to create food with us. Congratulations everyone. We used free range chicken, paper plates, minimised the use of plastic and gave the little remaining scrap food to the Frigo's chickens.

Our menus were:

A very big thank you to: Kim Merton, Kate Pascale, Marita Warner, Marina Younger, Liz Brown, Sue Goold, Ella Sneddon (aka Oma), Donna Moulton, Kim Wolff, Mrs Clark, Mr McKinlay, Mrs Thomson, Little chefs Darcy+Noah+Indi and Martin for helping tirelessly to make this big feast possible. Also thank you to all the families that donated this and that towards the party, your generosity was really appreciated by us and the children.

We are very lucky that our team helpers which are a mix of parents, grandparents, staff and siblings with different backgrounds from Housewife, Teachers, IT Support, Accountant, Retired, Office girls, Scientist, Nurse, Midwife, Hospital food services, Kindergarten teacher, Occupational therapist, Integration Aide and so on but we came together to make this program run so smoothly. Only happens in Donvale primary School, the best school in town.

This year we spent 12 Tuesdays creating food with our little chefs, and we enjoyed every session as they weren't just good but they are the best.

The 2012 DJC Cookbook are now available online, please visit our school website www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au Thank you to Kylie Glover for uploading it.

All the team helpers also would like to announce that this program will be running again next year with a menu that will be influenced by our new curriculum. If your child wants to participate and doesn't want to miss out, please stay tuned in term 1, 2013 when we will hand out the forms.

From all of us we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. Thank you everyone for all your support to this program through this year.

Have a lovely break.
We don't cook, we create food.
Liang, Jaqui and all the team helpers

BIG THUMBS UP to all our junior chefs for their effort, hard work and great creations this year. We are very proud of you all.
Dear Parents & Students,

At this stage so close to the end of the year I would like to thank the children and the families for attending OSH this year. And I would like to wish the grade 6 children all the best for moving onto high school. They are always welcome back to visit us and let us know how they are going.

Yippee we will be having Christmas party on the last day of the term and just not that we will be having something special served most of the days in the last week.

The OSH staff is wishing the families very Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the program in the new year.

OSHClub will be running from 1:30pto 6 pm on 21st December, Friday due to early finish of the school on the last day of the term

Drink lots of water and stay hydrated, remember to use sunscreen and hat to prevent heat related illness.

Online bookings for Mitcham and Blackburn Holiday Program are open. To avoid last minute rush or disappointment book in the children in advance. Blackburn holiday program starts from 2nd January 2013 and Mitcham holiday program starts from 7th January 2013.

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

Remember bookings can be made right up til 12:00 the midnight before, or you can book on the Day but there will be extra charge of $2.00. If you’re ever stuck and would like your child to attend OSH After School Care you can call me or leave a message on 0402 362 443 and I will get back to you.

Jagruti Shah

Next Week’s Activities

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<td>Japanese Christmas cake</td>
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Parent Information

OSH program phone: 0402 362 443
Coordinator: Jagruti
Assistant: Caroline and Jennifer
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
**Christmas Stall**
Friday 14th December
The Christmas stall is being held for the children to purchase a small gift for a family member or friends. Gifts range from 50 cents to $5. It would be appreciated if children could bring along their own shopping bag to take home the gifts they purchase.

**IPADATHON:**
Congratulations to all students for the great effort they put into yesterday's IPADATHON. Thanks to the staff and parent helpers who assisted with the set up and running of this major fundraising event. Please remember that all money and sponsorship forms need to be returned no later than Friday 14th (tomorrow) in order for us to process prizes before the end of the term. Sponsorship forms not processed by this time will be organised early in 2013. Congratulations to the winning house!

Thank you to the following people who helped yesterday, manning the house tables and stamping the lap cards or helping on the drinks table. Jaqui Frigo, Jo Wood, Adam Robertson (Andrew Fankhausers grandfather), Marie Younger (Emily and Jesses grandmother) Kate Pascale, Donna Moulton, Marina Younger, James Clarke, Kylie Glover, David Apsey, Nicky Savage, Karin Moule, Liang and Martin Dimitroff, Simone Whaling and Andrew Miles. Apologies for any one I missed. Thanks also to the parents who came along to support their children.

Extra special thanks to Brian for his fantastic workout warm up that helped prepare our kids before the big event.

*Kathryn*

**SUBWAY LUNCH ORDER DAY:**
SUBWAY have given us the opportunity to run a lunch order day fundraiser. Lunches are only $5.50 with 50 cents from each order going directly to the school. All options are outlined on the envelope and no alterations or additions can be made to the lunches offered. If you want your child/ren to participate please fill out the order form envelope (handed out last week) and return by tomorrow morning 9am. No late orders will be taken. Additional forms can be collected from the office.

**ATHLETES FOOT FUNDRAISER:**
We are still participating in the Athletes Foot shoe fundraiser for the remainder of 2012 and continuing into 2013. For every pair of shoes you purchase the Athletes Foot will give our school $5.00 towards sporting equipment. Simply mention you are a Donvale Primary School family when you visit one of the six participating stores. Special vouchers are coming home tonight giving families $10.00 off your next pair of shoes and as a bonus you will receive a FREE drink bottle! Full details are outlined on the voucher.

**SMART STUFF ART SMOCKS:**
We are selling quality art smocks and library bags for students with a percentage of sales going directly towards our school. Order forms were sent home two weeks ago. Additional forms can be collected for the office. Samples are currently hanging in the office foyer form parents to check sizes and quality. Orders need to be back by Friday 14th (tomorrow) in order to receive the by the end of term.
For enquiries, please contact Kathryn on 0417 117 651
Happy Birthday
14th - 20th December
Alexandra B, Alex K, Darcy S, Khodi B.

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Looking for something to entertain the kids these upcoming school holidays?? Why not let them “Get Active and Have Fun” at Fitnessworx MITCHAM from Mon Jan 14 - Fri Jan 18 and Mon Jan 21 - Fri Jan 25 with fun activities such as Circus, Quidditch, Bullseye, Cheerleading & more! Visit www.fitnessworx.com.au for the timetable and more information or call 1300 668 338.

Warrandyte Carols Night
The combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards will present the Warrandyte Community Carols by Candlelight at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday 15th December at 8.00pm.
The special guest artist this year is Silvie Paladino, who is a regular featured artist at Carols by Candlelight at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, wowing audiences with her crystal clear vocals.
Come early with your picnic tea, or food and drinks can be bought on the night, and pre-event entertainment will be provided by Adam from 7.30 pm. Glo sticks and candles will be available for purchase, and donations will be accepted during the performance for the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.
If it rains, it will be held at Anderson Creek Primary School. Enquiries can be made through the Warrandyte Community Church on 9844 4148.

Wonnies School of Music are currently taking enrolments for Term 1, 2013 at Donvale Primary School.
Have you or your friends ever wanted to learn an instrument? Well what are you waiting for!?
In-school and private lessons are being offered to all students over a HUGE variety of instruments and styles! If you like to rock hard, you can even try out for our ROCK BAND!
ENROLMENT FORMS AT SCHOOL OFFICE OR EMAIL: enquiries@wonnies.com.au  p. 9812 2568
Financial Assistance - Information for New Parents

Financial assistance available to parents with children commencing school in 2013

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-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 temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16.

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

**Closing Date:** Parents/guardians need to lodge an EMA application form by 28 February 2013.


**Schoolkids Bonus:**

From January 2013, a new payment called the ‘Schoolkids Bonus’ will be introduced by the Commonwealth Government. The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid by Centrelink in January and July each year to help families with school costs.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive:

- up to $410 for each child in primary school
- up to $820 for each child in secondary school.