Today, our students had the opportunity to meet their teachers and visit their classrooms for 2013. We welcome several new teachers to our school; Sheena Saw – Mandarin Language Program, Meagan Wilson – Year 1 / 2, Lorraine Farrugia – Year 1 / 2 and Victoria Erskine-Behr – Year 3 / 4. These new teachers are very excited about their roles next year and very much look forward to getting to know their students and being a part of the Donvale PS community. Each of these teachers has written a little something about themselves as a brief introduction to you. These introductions are immediately following my report. Please take the time to read them and briefly acquaint yourself with the new members of our teaching team.

Sadly, tomorrow we will be saying goodbye to several members of our staff. Three teachers, Bec Signorini, Nicola Colgate-Jones and Lisa Watters will all be leaving us to have their babies. All of these teachers are extremely valued members of our staff and have been wonderful team members and teachers to their students over the time they have been with us. We know that this is not goodbye so we give our best wishes to you Bec, Nicola and Lisa – we are all very much looking forward to meeting your babies very shortly. We will also be saying a goodbye Laura Annakin, Jane Petty and Samantha Briggs – all members of our Education Support staff. Laura and Jane have both successfully gained positions at other schools. Laura will continue her role as an Integration Aide at Ainsely Park PS. Jane will be taking up a school administration position at Mullauna SC and Samantha Briggs is looking to pursue her other interests and passions. Laura has been at Donvale PS for 7 years, Jane and Samantha for 8 years working as an Integration Aides. During this time, they have worked with many students that have benefitted from their expertise, care and compassion. They have also committed to roles above and beyond what is expected of them. They have been absolute assets to our school and we will miss them enormously. We wish them only the very best in their new ventures and know that they will be a success at whatever they put their hands to. We thank all of our leaving staff for their wonderful contributions to the school; they will all be greatly missed by us all. We wish them all the very best with the next chapters of their lives.

By now you will have noticed that several teachers will be moving to new teaching levels next. I believe strongly that teachers should move teaching levels several times throughout their careers to ensure that their own professional learning is continually broadened and developed. All Primary school teachers are generalist teachers and there is an expectation that they should be able to teach in any area of the school. This can only happen effectively if teachers have the opportunity to teach in all areas of the school so that their skills and capabilities can be developed across the curriculum. Further this year, I have had several teachers requesting to move to new areas as they feel
they would appreciate the opportunity to experience different year levels and different teams. I very much appreciate this professional approach to their practice and have worked to accommodate these requests where possible. I feel that it should also be mentioned to our parent community that moving areas across the school has certainly nothing to do with demotion or promotion. Teachers teaching in the senior school are not any better teachers than those teaching in the junior school. If a teacher moves from year 6 to Foundation, it is not a demotion and conversely if a teacher moves from Foundation to year 6, it is not a promotion. Movement to different areas of the school is quite simply, an expectation of our practice.

On Tuesday night of this week, we celebrated the achievements of our Year 6 graduating students. The Graduation ceremony was a wonderful evening filled with much excitement and celebration and also quite a few tears. We are so proud of all our graduating students. Their achievements throughout their time with us have been outstanding. End of school year is often a bitter sweet experience for teachers. We are always so thrilled to see our students grow and develop and move on into their next year levels or new schools but this is also often tinged with some sadness as we say goodbye to children we have developed strong relationships with and gotten to know their families well. We wish our graduating students all the very best as they continue on to the next phase of their learning journey. I know that they will continue to make us all proud in every way. A very big thank you to all the staff and parents that worked tirelessly in the planning and organisation of the Graduation Ceremony. Such a huge team effort that resulted in a most memorable evening for our students. Well done, everyone!

I am looking forward to our Carols On The Lawn this evening. The end of year celebrations kick off at 6pm going through to 8.30pm. I ask all parents to act responsibly to make this evening a time for us all to relax and enjoy a positive end to the year with our children and staff of Donvale Primary School. A reminder that parents will be responsible for their children, not the teachers.

As the 2013 school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful support I have been given during my first 2 terms as Principal of Donvale Primary School. It has been such a whirlwind but I have enjoyed every moment of it. I look forward to welcoming new families to our school community and getting to know everyone one of you a little more. I am very excited about next year and continuing my journey with the school. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy the holiday break, stay safe and we will see you all in 2013.

Parents please note the following Term 1 2013 school dates:
Tuesday January 29 - First day of school for teachers only
Wednesday January 30 - Curriculum Day (Student free day)
Thursday January 31 - Students begin Term 1 (School office opens)
Wednesday February 27 - Curriculum Day (Student free day)

Lena Clark

Moving Forward:

What an exciting time for our school. Mrs Lena Clark is to be congratulated for the wonderful work she has done in a short space of time bringing in new ideas and putting new programs in place to make our great school even better. It seems there is hardly a day go past now where there is not a new family touring our school. The word is spreading! For me it has been a pleasure to have been the Acting Assistant Principal at Donvale this year. Thank you all for your support, it is much appreciated.

I wish all families a Happy Christmas and look forward to working with you all again in 2013. All the best to our wonderful group of Graduating students. I have very fond memories of teaching some of them in grade 2. They will be stars at Secondary School.

Ian McKinlay

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Ian McKinlay
**Some messages from our new staff...**

Hello, I am Meagan Wilson. I am so excited to be joining the team at Donvale Primary School next year! I come from a family of five (eight if you count my two cats and dog) and have two younger brothers. I have worked as an integration aid for the last two years whilst completing my study at Deakin University. One of my greatest passions is music! I have music around me whenever I can. I play the guitar, sing and play a little piano! In my spare time I love hanging out at the beach, water skiing and watching blues during footy season!

Hi my name is Lorraine Farrugia. I am the youngest of three siblings. I have two older sisters and an older brother. My interests are cooking, gardening, hanging out with family and friends and most of all being outdoors. Most people would describe me as an energetic individual that is always up for an adventure or challenge, no matter how big or small. In 2010 I was lucky enough to jet set across the world to America and sail the seas of the Caribbean, Mexico and Chile. I hope that one day I will be lucky enough to explore other parts of the world as part of my adventures.

I look forward to the opportunity, of becoming part of the Donvale Primary School Community in the year 2013.

My name Victoria Erskine-Behr, but that’s a mouthful, so you can call me Mrs E. I have 2 beautiful daughters; Josephine is going into year 5 and April is starting year 8. I also live with my music loving husband, our 4 year old black dog who acts like a crazy puppy and 2 squeaky guinea pigs. I am a sports fan (Carn the Saints!), and have a penchant for art and travel. On the holidays I plan to take road-trips around the Australian countryside in search of new amazing places. Last year I was lucky enough to go on a family holiday to Europe and Thailand. We climbed the Eiffel Tower and spent time admiring the Golden Buddha. I also enjoyed a wonderful vacation in Viet Nam recently. I love to find out about different cultures and lifestyles as there is so much we can learn from others. I’m looking forward to a fun and interesting year in 2013 as we get to know each other and build on our experiences.

Donvale Primary School has a great community vibe and I look forward sharing it with you.

Hi my name is Sheena Saw. I am very excited to take up my new role as the language teacher (Mandarin, Chinese) at Donvale Primary School. I am sure I will be very happy working here. I have been working in the IT industry for almost 18 years both in Australia and Asia Pacific regions. However, I love children and hence recently changed my career into my hobby to work with children.

My family and I moved from Sydney to Melbourne about four years ago. We love it here and will not move again to live anywhere else in the world (after staying in seven countries in the past!). We think Melbourne is the best city to live! In my spare time, I like spending time in my garden, go for a brisk walk in the nature surrounding (such as Warrandyte), spending time with my family and friends, listening to music, and doing some sports such as badminton, ping pong and Zumba. And exploring Victoria.

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**General News**

**FROM THE OFFICE**

**EMA**
If you are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance, please read the information included in this Snippets for full details. Application forms are available from the office. If you would like to utilise the EMA to assist with the 2013 school fees, please speak to Ricarda.

**2013 Fees**
**Amendment:** Fee notices for each child will be coming home today with snippets, for payment at the start of term 1. **NO PAYMENTS TO THE OFFICE PLEASE UNTIL THE 31ST JANUARY 2013.**

Notices for RE, Maintenance Levy and Grade 6 Anorak will be sent home with the Term 1 Bulk Billing.

**Student Supplies**
There will be **NO BOOK PICK UP DAY** in 2013. Teachers will be distributing stationery to the students through the classroom.

**Office Times**
The office will be reopening on the 31 January 2013, at 8.30am.

**Uniform Shop**
The uniform shop will be open for uniform sales on the 31 January, at 8.30am

**Thank You**
Thank you to Brad Wolff, Garry Wolf, Matt Goold, Craig Yeoman and Steven Cowell for giving us their time and filling up the skip with rubbish that had been dumped behind the music room. A big thank you to David Frigo for supplying the skip.
CONNECTIONS
FOOD AND GIFT APPEAL

A HUGE thank you to all the families who donated gifts and food, we were overwhelmed with your support and generosity. As well as the donations you made, we raised $259 on the casual dress day. With this money four members of the JSC went to Coles and purchased more gifts and food. (Coles also donated $20)

Thanks again.
Junior School Council

Transition Program

Over the last four weeks, your child or children have been participating in a whole school transition program. They’ve had the opportunity to socialise with students who’ll be in their level next year, as well as become acquainted with their new classroom environment. As part of our cybersafety research at Donvale Primary School, we’ve found that studies to show that students are more likely to bully or experience bullying during times of transition. As a proactive measure, our 2013 level three, level four and our exciting grade sixes have all participated in various, age appropriate cybersafety sessions. Each session has been designed to equip them with healthy cybersafety practices as well as empower them should they experience any negative activity being online. Level 2 children will have their training early in the new school year.

Please feel free to check out some of following websites over the school holidays.

www.budd-e.staysmartonline.gov.au/primary

Lisa Watters

Carols on the Lawn

Tonight 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.

From The Sports Coach

May I take this opportunity to thank all the children who participated in our Phys Ed/Sporting Program this year. A special mention to our Grade 6 children, I wish you all the best as you begin your Secondary Education.
Thanks to all the parents who have assisted in our Sports Programs in so many ways.
All children, please take care during the holidays especially when near water, riding bikes and travelling in cars.
A very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday to everyone.

Thanks.
Mr Pianta

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December/January:
Maths Fun for Everyone

Try this: Christmas Octohedra

You will need
- Drinking straws
- Scissors
- String or yarn
- Tapestry needle (optional)

What to do
- Cut 8 short pieces of straw, each 4 cm long.
- Cut 4 long pieces of straw, each 8 cm long.
- Cut a piece of string about 2 m long, and thread it through your needle (if you have one).
- Thread four short pieces of straw onto the string. Pull them into a tight loop and use a knot to hold the straws in a square. Thread two more short pieces onto the string, and tie the string to the opposite corner of the square. It will be too long to lie flat.
- Feed the string through one of the straws in the square, so you end up at a different corner.
- Thread a new short straw onto the string, and then tie this between the most recently added short straws.
- Thread on the final short straw and then tie this to the far corner – the only corner that doesn’t already have three straws going to it. Once you have tightened everything, you should have a pyramid shape.
- Turn the pyramid upside-down.
- Thread on two longer straws and then tie the string to the opposite corner of the original square.
- Feed the string through one of the straws in the original square.
- Thread on another long straw and tie it in between the two other long straws.
- Thread on the final long straw and tie this to the remaining corner.
- Thread the string through one of the short straws to the top of the original pyramid. Use this string to hang your decoration!

More information:
Christmas polyhedra nets:
http://mathtricks.org/polyhedron-nets/regular-polyhedra-christmas-ornament-nets

Wishing all the families and students of Donvale Primary School a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Cheers,
Luanda Pianta
Numeracy Co-ordinator
LUNA PARK'S 100th BIRTHDAY
On Thursday December 13th, we went to Luna Park. We were one of the families who won a free pass to go there. Luna Park turned 100 years old on the 13th. First we went on the Scenic Railway which was fun and awesome.
By Nash D (34B)

GRADUATION NIGHT
Principal Award Winners
Jess and Alexzondra

The Graduation singers were accompanied by Mr Reiter, Tam and Mrs Clarke

Grade 6 students performing on stage

Graduation Bears

Mrs Clark handed out certificates
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.

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.

On behalf of the OSHClub I would like to thank the school staff for their continuous support and wish them all very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

OSHC will be running from 1:30pm to 6pm 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

Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0402 362 443
Coordinator: Jagruti
Assistants: Caroline, Jennifer and Lekky
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.

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

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMS:**
Yarra Valley Railway
Monash University Science Centre
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.