What a busy and eventful week it was last week. We saw off our year 3 / 4 students as they made their way to Camp Phillip Island. Whilst there, they experienced the hottest day Melbourne has had in over 100 years. Fortunately they were by the beach and had use of the camp’s swimming pool. The children and staff all returned safely brimming with stories of fun and adventure. Camps are such a wonderful experience for children. They allow children to develop their confidence and independence and share in experiences with their friends and teachers that they don’t normally share. New friendships develop and old friendships flourish. It was wonderful to see the children’s smiling faces upon their return all keen to share their stories. A really big thank you to Ian McKinlay, Bev Wright, Alanna Hodgens, John Pianta, Nicola Colgate-Jones and Karen Durante for planning, preparing, organising and attending the camp ensuring that the children all had a terrific time. I appreciate you taking time away from your families so that the camp can go ahead.

Last Friday was a huge day for our Hooptime basketballers. After competing in a tournament that played off 723 schools, Donvale Primary School emerged victorious. Our team won the grand final stamping them as the best in Victoria. This is a massive achievement and I could not be more proud of the team including all the children in the training team. A really big thank you to Mrs Pianta who has strived for many years to achieve this victory. Also, a big thank you to Erica Thorn who has worked with the team in supporting their development. Well done to our basketballers: William C, Darcy S, Dejan K, Ben S, Stephanie W, Jesse D, Brittany McC, Elias S, Jessica S, Becky S.
Thank you to our Training team: Billy McC, Jai N, Ingrid B, Harry C, Christian L, Georgia L, Hirishi T, Chloe V and James D. Also, a big thank you to the coaching students: Lachlan H and Jamie Lee A. A magnificent team effort from all! Congratulations Donvale Devils!

This Friday is Transition Day. This is where our students have the opportunity to move into their new grade levels to allow them to begin familiarisation for their move up next year. For some, it may mean moving into new buildings blocks, for others it may mean moving to new classrooms. Parents should note that this is not the classes for 2013 nor the teachers. ‘Meet the Teacher’ morning is scheduled for Thursday morning December 20th at 10.30am. This will be the time when the children have the opportunity to meet their teachers in their classroom for 2013.

As mentioned, this time of the year is when the leadership team spends much time in determining the staffing profile of our school. This takes much careful, strategic and forward planning. Last week I employed another class teacher who will be commencing at our school next year. Her name is Lorraine Ferrugia. She is a vibrant and enthusiastic teacher who will bring much energy to her role and our school. I will look forward to introducing Lorraine shortly to our community. I know you will all welcome her to our school.

Next year, we have decided to move our Monday morning Assembly to Friday afternoons to around 3.00pm. The Monday morning time slot significantly impacts on the teaching and learning of the core curriculum area of Literacy. The best teaching and learning occurs in the mornings when the students are fresh and ready to learn. We want to harness this important time of the day to focus on our in class teaching program. The Assembly format should remain the same other than we will be looking at it as a celebration of the week’s events and informing children and parents of the coming week’s events. It is intended for Assembly to take place in the Senior school building.

A reminder of our Parent Helper Morning Tea on Thursday December 13th. It will take place in the Senior School building starting at 11.00am. For all of you that have taken the time to support our school programs, we invite you to special morning tea so that we can personally say a big Thank you. I hope that we can get as many of our parent helpers there as possible.

A further reminder to return the form indicating your preference for hardcopy or email version of our Snippets newsletter. The completed attached form is due in by tomorrow 7th December. Many thanks to the families that have already responded.

Last night, I had the absolute privilege and pleasure of watching our wonderful students perform during our Donvale PS ‘Celebration Concert’. This concert celebrates and showcases the amazing talents of our students and the absolutely brilliant performing arts program we have at the school. This program is led by Mrs Anthea Keep who quite simply is the best Performing Arts teacher ever! Both Anthea and Rick Gordon both work tirelessly to ensure that the students have the opportunity to develop all their special talents whether it be playing a musical instrument, singing or dance performance. I am just so proud of all of our children and so appreciative of the wonderful staff we had to help guide these talents. We are also so extremely fortunate to have the expert skill of Mrs Rebecca Clarke who gives so much of her time to the school in so many ways. Last night, Rebecca presented to us our School Choirs. They are just superb! Thank you so much Rebecca, for all your time and effort in supporting and developing our students’ choir singing talents. You are amazing! Thank you also to Kerry Gerraty who showed off her piano playing prowess to support the performance. You are wonderful! Most importantly, the children all had a terrific time. This is what events such as these are all about. It’s not about being perfect or the best; it is about having a go, doing your best and walking away with a great big smile on your face. I certainly saw much of this last night. Thank you also to the teachers that again gave of their time to come along and support the night – Ian McKinlay, Bev Wright, Peter Reiter, Lashay Thompson and Bec Signorini. And thank you to the wonderful community spirit that is Donvale PS. What a wonderful sight it was watching so many parents and friends helping with the packing up after the concert. I keep saying it but I am compelled to say it again; I think that I am just so blessed to have been given the opportunity to be the Principal of such a wonderful school!

Lena Clark
**General News**

**LOST ITEMS**

Student Commonwealth Bank Books - Angelina T in 34A has lost 2 bank books. Please check that you don’t have it by mistake.

School Bag - Dejan K in 56C lost his school bag last Thursday. It has his iPad inside and the family is desperate to get it back.

Bits n Bobs - We have an assortment of lost items handed in at the office. If these items are not collected by the last day of school, we will be throwing them out. We have soft toys, sunglasses, children’s jewellery, 2 hooded tops (size 14 white with blue stripes, size 9 black fleecy lined grey with stripes), lunch boxes, drink bottles and much more.

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**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Congratulations to our Future Stars Hooptime Basketball Team (Donvale Devils) who won the championship last Friday. With over 700 teams entered in this tournament which began in Term 2, 32 teams played a knock-out competition on Friday to decide the State Champions. Our team reached the Grand Final and meet St Clements (Bulleen) to decide the champions. In the Grand Final we won by one point, thus winning the title. A truly fantastic effort by the players and support group who have been regularly training three times a week. Their enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and desire to follow the game plan was outstanding.

*Mr Pianta*

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**Basketball News**

Preliminary Finals Game Times are:

- Donvale Daisies 12.00pm DISC 2
- Donvale Dinosaurs 12.30pm Leeds St
- Donvale Dingoes 1.00pm DISC 2

Spectators $1 entry.

Good luck to all our teams in the Finals this week.

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**From The Sports Coach**

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**To all our Parent Helpers**

You are invited to a morning tea on Thursday 13th December from 11.00 - 11.45 in the Senior Building

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.

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**Donvale Jnr Chef**

Tomorrow is our 2012 DJC Christmas Party, 1.30-2.30 pm (Lunch time) SHARP in the GP Room. The team helpers have been cooking and baking for this event, and looking forward to enjoying the party with all our little chefs. Some of our chefs have had a bit of taste of the party food and said yum. A few prospective families who visited our school this week had the opportunity to sample our party food, and they were also impressed with it and our school.

To our chef Callum S - hope you recover soon.

Thank you to the Wolff, Warner, Leyh, Merton, Petruzziello, Hamilton and Horton families for their donations.

We don't cook, we create food. Liang, Jaqui and all the team helpers.
CRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2012

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 2012 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 13th December 2012
Where: Donvale Primary School, Senior Building
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

From The Students

LEVEL FOUR CHALLENGE BASED LEARNING

BLUE CROSS
We are helping the Chinese Yunnan Kunming landslide, and we need some school equipment to donate to You Fang Elementary school. You Fang Elementary school has been hit by a landslide twice in the month of August. It would be good if you could donate any unwanted pencils, rulers or other school equipment. Roy has collected some donations from his mum’s shop and Rain is going to China before Christmas and will take them with him to post to the school once he arrives. We raised $60 in a stall to cover the postage cost and to buy more equipment in China.

By Rain, Roy and Billy

Petrified!!!
Our group is working on rising awareness for the Japan tsunami in the 11th of March 2011. We will raise awareness by publishing a picture story book about tsunami and the Japanese tsunami. It is called ‘The Big Wave’ and it will be in the library when we have finished it. Look out for it!

By Ryan Semmens, Marvin Chang, Peter Meyzis, Thomas Jaffer.

The Wiggles
Our group is studying the Nadi floods in Fiji. At the moment we are looking for a school that was affected by the floods. When we find one, we are hoping to get in touch with a student there and talk about becoming e-mail pals. We will e-mail them weekly and tell them that we are here for them, would like to support them.

By Lachlan H, Jesse D and Brittany M.

The Bushrangers
In our C.B.L group we’ve been doing a website that has lots of photos and information about the Black Saturday bushfires.

By Alex K, Jake S and Luke N.

Just Heaven
We are going really well on our project on Hurricane Katrina and Sandy. We are selling Scoobie bracelets for 50 cents each. The money we raise will go to Oxfam who is running a fund to help the victims of the hurricanes. We hope that you can help with our challenge by buying a bracelet.

By Hannah, Antonia, Vicky and Emily

Disaster Busters
Hi we are the DisasterBusters CBL team, and we’re around to help the Brazilian floods and mudslides last year. We plan to raise awareness by putting up posters, creating websites and making an ad. If possible, please take your time to research and realise the true horror of living after a natural disaster, not necessarily ours, but in general.

Harry C, Chris W and Christian S.
**AWESOME FOURSOME**  
**Supporting the East African Drought**

Guess how many lollies in the Jar  
20c entry  
Prize... The Jar of Lollies  
Raffle  
$1 per ticket or 10 for $7  
Prizes... Gangnam Style T-shirt, Moustache Flat cap, iTunes voucher  
We will be selling raffle tickets and guesses at the Drop Zone afterschool on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with another group selling Scoobies.  
The stall will also be open every recess and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes.  
The Raffle will be drawn under teacher supervision on Friday 14th December.

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**Level 4 Challenge-Based Learning Advertisements**

**ARTS AND CRAFTS DONATIONS**  
Darcy, Stephanie, Nick, Adam, Trivina, Matthew, Billy and Shadia are supporting a geriatric hospital in Numurkah that was affected by floods in March and October. If you have any spare wool, knitting needles or knitting patterns can you please deliver them to the 5/6C or 5/6A classroom in the BER building to support this cause.

**Donate a Footy**  
Hello, our names are Alex, Alexzondra and Christian. We are planning to donate footballs to Maryville Football Club who were affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. So if you have any footballs, still in good condition, which you don’t use, could you please donate them to us to give to the footy club? Please bring them to Grade 56C in the Senior building.

We are asking the community of Donvale Primary School if they could donate picture storybooks and junior literature books for Tully State School who was affected by Cyclone Yasi. We have a box in 5/6C that’s will be accepting any donation that you have.  
Thanks—Jessica S, Liam, Georgia, Daniel H., Brenton & Elizmare.

A group of students in Level 4 have organised a concert for some children affected by the Marysville bushfire. The group is called ‘Ash’. The children are aged from 10 to 14 years old. They formed this band as part of their recovery and hope to raise enough money to purchase more sound equipment for their band. Their performance details are:

- **Date:** Monday 10th. December  
- **Time:** 1.30 pm  
- **Place:** Senior Building  
- **Cost:** Gold coin donation  
- **Hoping to see you there!**  
- Dejan, Rylie, Elias, Nick, Stephanie, Ben, Abdurahman

**Thank-you to all the families who have donated towels and blankets to Wildhaven Wildlife Shelter.**  
We have sent them to Wildhaven and they have been very useful so we were hoping we could collect more blankets, towels and rolled oats so we can make another donation in the next week or so.

**Could you please bring these to 56C in the Senior building?**

Ingrid, Brittany, Christian. Abbey, Cody & Lucy.

**What is Challenge-based Learning?**  
As a method of studying natural disasters, our students have been challenged to form into teams, research recent natural disasters and learn how the communities have been affected at a personal level. Their challenge is then to find a practical way to assist the local communities in the area, create an action plan, and enact their plan to help the community to recover. This is an exciting new method of learning which will give the students a real understanding of other people’s needs, and a sense of achievement when their plans have been realised. It’s all about ‘making a difference’.

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Program Update

Dear Parents & Students,

My goodness just two more weeks to go before the end of the term. Children are busy decorating Christmas tree and enjoying Christmas activities.

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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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Before Care Activities</td>
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<td>Christmas gift Box</td>
<td>Christmas Biscuit Decoration</td>
<td>Brown paper Christmas Stocking</td>
<td>Origami Christmas tree</td>
<td>Sparkly Christmas spiral</td>
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<td>Weighing fruit</td>
<td>Balloon fun</td>
<td>Counter movement</td>
<td>Number group game</td>
<td>Acrobat letters</td>
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<td>After Care Activities</td>
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<td>Christmas handprint angel</td>
<td>Christmas tree Bell</td>
<td>Christmas letter to Santa</td>
<td>White Christmas</td>
<td>Christmas Pop stick tree</td>
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<td>Karate (AASC)</td>
<td>Fruit salad</td>
<td>What’s the time Mr Wolf</td>
<td>Horse or pig</td>
<td>Card Games</td>
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Parent Information

OSH program phone: 0402 362 443
Coordinator: Jagruti
Assistants: 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.
Parents Association News!

Parents Association Lunch
There will be a parents association lunch held on Monday, 10th December 1200pm at the Shoppingtown Hotel.
All parents welcome!

Christmas Stall
Friday 14th December
There will be a Christmas stall held for the children to purchase a small gift for a family member or friend.
Gifts range from 50cents to $5.
Please send along a bag for children to take their purchases home in.
Parent helpers needed.

iPad a thon!
Wednesday 12th December
9am to 11am
Sponsorship forms were sent home last week with a letter outlining the details of our fun run.
Money raised is going towards the purchase of a class set of iPads.
We have applied for online fundraising and should have this up and running by the end of the week. This will allow your family to get friends and family members to easily sponsor your children and pay directly into the schools account.
Students can register themselves on line to go into the draw to win a Nintendo Wii.
Simply go to www.schoolfunrun.com.au and click on the student’s section. Students who raise $10 or more can also go into the draw to win a trip to Disneyland valued at $8000!!!!
We encourage students to participate in this fun event by asking friends and family to sponsor them over the next few weeks in preparation for the big event.

Parent Association Upcoming Events
Here are a few dates to put into the diary.
December
10th PA Lunch.
12th iPad a thon.
14th Christmas stall.

Advertising Material

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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 the program is postponed due to bad weather, it will be held the following night, Sunday 16th December. Enquiries can be made through the Warrandyte Community Church on 9844 4148.
Donvale Primary School are holding a concert to raise money for a band called Ash. They are a music group comprised of three children, aged from 10 to 14 years old, who formed a band after the Black Saturday bushfires. They started this band as a part of their recovery plan to relieve the horrific pain and loss they went through before and after Black Saturday.

As a method of studying natural disasters we have been given a challenge to form into teams and research recent natural disasters and learn how the community has been affected at a personal level. This is an exciting new method of learning which should give us a good understanding of other peoples’ needs. At the end of this project we should have made a difference in at least 1 person’s life.

Gold coin donation for entry

Currently, our Snippets newsletter is available to our families in two forms; hard copy which is printed at the school and sent home weekly to each family; and online via our Donvale Primary School Website. I am very keen to cease sending home the hard copy version of our newsletter. The administrative costs and environmental issues in printing copies each week are my justifications in wanting to do this. However, in our recent parent survey, many parents indicated that they really enjoy flicking through the hard copy and appreciate it to be sent home in this format. Some families also do not have access to the internet so communicating via hard copy email is their suitable option. So in an attempt to support all members of our community, I would like to make it an option for parents to choose whether or not they would like to have their Snippets Newsletter sent home as a hardcopy. I would appreciate it if families could please complete the form below and send it back to school no later than Friday 7th December. If you are happy to read the Snippets newsletter online, then we will not print one for you. If on the other hand, you would appreciate us to continue to send you a hard copy home, then we will do so for now. I am also keen to create an email distribution list so that we can readily email families any school information as needed. We would also appreciate it if you could please add your email address to the form below. I would like this to begin in 2013. I thank you for your consideration and hopefully, in doing things this way, we can minimise the cost to our school and environment.

Lena Clark

DONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2013

Name:

Commencing 2013:

I do wish to continue receiving my Snippets Newsletter as a hardcopy.

I do not wish to continue receiving my Snippets Newsletter as a hardcopy and am happy to read it online via our Donvale Primary School website.

My email address is: