

# Snippets



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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.

**7th February 2013**

## Calendar

### Friday 8th February

- 3.00-3.45pm: Uniform shop is open

### Tuesday 12th February

- 9.00-11.00am: Playgroup
- 10.00-12.00: Swimming Trials
- Parent Information Evening

### Wednesday 13th February

- 9.00-11.00: Playgroup
- 3.45-4.45: Basketball practice Donvale Dinosaurs

### Monday 18th February

- "Tell Me About Your Child" Meetings start

## Principal's Report

Welcome back!

It's wonderful to see everyone again and to welcome so many new faces to Donvale PS. It has been terrific catching up with all the students, staff and parents and hearing about their holidays and adventures. It has been a brilliant summer which has provided us with many opportunities to relax and play. My holidays were spent doing just that. I spent a brief time in Sydney catching up with family and then the rest of my time was very much about relaxing with family and friends. I am feeling well rested and excited about 2013 at Donvale PS. We have many new students that have commenced this year as well as several new teachers. Miss Farrugia and Miss Wilson have joined us in the 1 / 2 teaching team and Mrs Erskine-Behr has joined us in the 3 / 4 teaching team. Mrs Saw is our Mandarin language teacher and will be introducing the Mandarin language into our curriculum. I know that everyone will continue to make all our new students and teachers welcome.

I am looking forward to a very exciting year which will provide many and varied learning opportunities for all our students. Our Senior students will be leading the charge in incorporating a variety of technologies into their learning. The iPads, in particular, will be the core technology the students will utilise across many aspects of their learning. We are also looking to purchase a bank of iPads which can be accessed by all our students across the whole school. Last years 'iPad-a-thon' raised a wonderful amount of \$4,487.03. With the support of this funding raised we will be aiming to either purchase or lease a bank of iPads as soon as possible. Many thanks again to our very generous and supportive community.

The 'iPad-a-thon' had our students assigned to 'House colours' – this is something I am most keen to continue and incorporate across our school. After much discussion, the staff have decided that an effective way to implement the 'House' system into our school is to link House teams with our Circles groups. In doing this, the use of Houses can not only be implemented in our PE and sporting curriculum but also across a variety of different areas within the school. Acknowledgment and rewards for positive behaviours is just one example of how we can do this. We will also be looking to select 'House Captains'. This will provide further leadership opportunities to our Senior school students. Mr Pianta will be leading this. Students will be selected through a process of peer nomination and selection and have input in the development of their roles and responsibilities. Perhaps one of the first responsibilities House Captains will take on is to implement a consultative process of naming our House teams. I know many of the staff are engaging our students already in discussions to come up with some suitable names.

Some suggestions that have been forwarded to me so far are:

Explorers- Flinders, Sturt, Cook, Tasman, Eyre, Burke, Hume...

Gems – Emerald (Green), Sapphire (Blue), Ruby (Red), Topaz (Yellow)

Australian Plants – Banksia, Boronia, Waratah, Wattle

Surrounding Streets – Cerberus, Aranga, Argyle, Darvall

I hope to be able to announce our 'House Captains' later on this term.

As mentioned in my letter home to parents earlier this week, Term 2 will see us introduce an 'Artist in Residence' Program to our school. Stephan Hitchens, an experienced Artist in his own right (more about Stephan shortly on our website) will work with all our students across the school. An element of his work with us will be the development of a large mural that showcases and celebrates Donvale Primary School. I would welcome input from our parent community for any suitable ideas for this mural. As it will be a significant piece of work that will provide a strong, positive visual impact on the appearance of our Junior area, in particular, and the whole school, in general, I am keen to ensure that we work together as a community in its development. I strongly encourage all our parents and students to put some thought into what aspects of our school the mural can represent and respond to me or Bernadette Towan (our Visual Arts teacher) in writing with these ideas. I will then present these ideas to an 'Arts Committee' with the view to developing a design that will be representative of these ideas. If you are interested in joining our Arts Committee, please feel free to make contact with me. I would welcome any support from our Parent community.

Stephan will also be working with our Senior students in the development of technologies based news program.

This includes the setting up of a live streaming green screen edition studio which operates like a news broadcasting studio. The students will be trained to use the studio professionally and produce news broadcasts for the school. They will take on the roles of Film Crew, Script Writers, Editors, News Readers, Studio Anchors, Mixing Desk Operators, Special Effects etc. It is planned for the weekly broadcast to be included on the school website where it can be viewed by all the community. Students will also take on the roles of Producers, Team Leaders, Directors and Roaming Journalists who will find the weekly stories for recording. This is a very innovative project which the Year 5 / 6 team is extremely keen and excited in bringing to our students.

A reminder that Subway lunch orders commence this Friday. Subway lunches are now available to our students every Friday. \$5.50 is the price for each lunch with 50 cents of each lunch going towards the school. As always, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Our Parents Association first meeting for this year is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February – 9.00am in the school library. Our Parents Association is an amazing team of parents that plan and prepare the various fund raising events held across the school during the year. This includes events such as Trivia Nights, Fetes, Chocolate Drives, Walk-a-thons, Mothers and Fathers Day stalls, Halloween Disco.... and much more. Their work is invaluable. If you would like to be a part of a wonderful team of parents, support our school and have fun along the way, I would encourage you to attend the meeting. I know that the Parents Association is always looking for new members, so if you have some time, please come along and be a part of it.

Thank you to the parents who have opted for our newsletter to be received electronically rather than hard copy.

Wendy Cheeseman, our Office Manager, is currently developing the process to allow this to happen. Hopefully this will be in place shortly. Until then, our newsletter will be distributed to all families as a hard copy and online on our website. If you are a new member of our community and would prefer to have the newsletter emailed, please let Wendy know your email address and we can add you to the list.

Our first Friday Assembly is this Friday. As mentioned earlier, we are looking to further develop the leadership capabilities of our senior students. As such, we will be supporting our senior school leaders in taking responsibilities for the presentation of the Friday Assemblies. Staff are currently working with our students in developing these roles, responsibilities and expectations. I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible attending the Assembly. It will be held in the Senior building starting at 3.00pm.

A reminder that **Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup> is a Curriculum Day.** This is a student free day where our teachers will be spending the day participating in intensive professional learning. Our focus on this day will be the effective teaching of Spelling. We are fortunate to have Lorraine Edwards – Literacy Consultant – present to us on this day. Please ensure that you diary this date.

The Department is currently involved in enterprise bargaining with the Australian Education Union, the Community and Public Sector Union and United Voice in relation to their respective logs of claim covering employees in the executive class, the principal class, the teacher class, the paraprofessional class and the education support class.

As part of their industrial campaigns, the unions have called on their members to stop work for 24 hours on 14 February 2013. Staff are required to notify me of their intentions of whether or not they will be stopping work by 12 noon Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. I will inform all our parents of the intentions of my staff, as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have and are most appreciative of your ongoing support with this matter.

**Lena Clark**

And some reading of interest for you....

### **The Arts and Learning**

Because so many of a child's early years are devoted to acquiring skills of language and mathematics, children gradually learn, unconsciously, that the normal way to think is linear and sequential. They learn that the pathway to understanding moves from beginning to end, from cause to effect. Students learn to trust mainly symbol systems, such as words, numbers, and abstract concepts, that separate the experiencing person from what the person is experiencing (National Art Education Association, 2007).

Learning in the arts requires whole brain thinking when participating in the arts, the student must jump between the intuitive and the analytical. The arts require not only an active mind, but a trained one. The arts require us to do more than acquire information and organise the facts. They are conceptual by nature. And the conceptual age is here! Gone is the informational age and focus on acquiring and applying theoretical and analytical knowledge. Lawyers, accountants, engineers, and executives will be expected to design and conceptualize. Successful individuals will be able to make qualitative judgements, see ideas in multiple perspectives, and know that neither words nor numbers can give them the full picture of their own understanding.

*(Lori Phillips, EdD, Director, Pacific Centre for the Arts and Humanities in Education, PREL)*

## GENERAL

### IMMUNISATION/BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Just a reminder to prep parents about immunisation and birth certificates.

Schools require an immunisation certificate when children start school so we know which children are not immunised. If there is an outbreak in school, the children who are not immunised may be required to stay home to prevent them catching and spreading the disease.

We also require a birth certificate, so if you have not presented it please do so as soon as you can.

### Emergency Contact Details

Parents could you please let the office know if you have changed any of your contact details (work, home and mobile) or address. It is in your child's own interest that we have our records up-to-date at all times in case of an emergency, etc.

### Sick Bay

The school has a sick bay and a number of Level 2 First-Aid Staff. The school is not equipped to look after students who are sent to school already unwell or re-dress old wounds. Sick bay is simply there to deal with children who fall ill or are injured during the course of the day.



We would like to remind all families of their responsibilities in regards to their sick children. If your child is ill or has been ill, please be responsible and do not send them to school until they are fully recovered. Too often students present themselves at the sick bay, quite unwell and on investigation, indicate that they have been away sick or were ill in the morning but the parent/carer decided to send them along, hoping they would improve or be alright. This is not fair to your child and not fair to us. These students need to be cared for by their parents. Thank you for your cooperation in regards this matter.

### Medication at school

If your child has to take medication forms are at the office as well as on the website. Any medication that



comes to school has to be kept at the office and not with the student (except ventolin).

Please note: Wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside the school hours, e.g. medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day: it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

Asthmatics should have their medication with them at all times.

Anaphylactic students have their medication kept at the office in their named individual bags.

### Personal goods brought to school

Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. We therefore do discourage students and visitors from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

### Uniform

**Please note new time and day for uniform sales:**

The uniform shop is open every **Friday from 3.00—3.45pm.**

If you are unable to attend, you may place an order by completing an order form and forwarding this together with cash or credit card details. Orders will be delivered to your child. Order forms are available from the office.

### Visitors to school

If you are a parent helper, working in your child's classroom, working around our school on Parents Association or other tasks, **YOU MUST** report to the office and sign in our visitor's book and wear a visitor's lanyard. We ask your full cooperation in regards to this procedure.

### Subway Lunch Orders

Subway lunch orders are available every **FRIDAY.**

Order envelopes will come home every week.

Orders need to be at school by recess on **THURSDAY.** (Envelopes are collected from Subway).

**NO LATE ORDERS** will be accepted.

Please do not ring Subway as they cannot process your order, it has to be through the school.



### Annual Fees

The School Council Annual Fee Notice was distributed to students in the last week of Term 4 2012. If you have not received any of the notices below, they can be found on the website or ask at the office for a copy.

The 2013 fees are made up as follows:

**MATERIALS AND REQUISITES** per child \$207.00

**MATHLETICS AND SPELLING EGGS** per child \$20.00

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION** per child 40.00

Notices for Christian Religious Education and the Maintenance Refundable deposit were distributed last Monday

**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** per child \$7.00 (please sign the permission notice attached)

**MAINTENANCE REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** per family \$50.00

**GRADE 6 ANORAK** (grade 6 students only) \$42.00

(Anoraks will not be distributed until all payments are received)

### Bulk Billing

Bulk Billing notices for this terms activity will be coming home next week. Bulk Billing has to be paid before the excursion or incursion for your child to be able to attend. If you have any concerns please speak to Ricarda.

## EMA

If you are entitled to EMA, application forms are at the office. An application form has to be filled out every year and handed in to the office with a current copy of your Centrelink Card. Please read the enclosed information to the changes for 2013 EMA payment.

## Bulk Billing

Bulk Billing notices for this term activity will be coming home next week. Bulk Billing has to be paid before the excursion or incursion for your child to be able to attend. If you have any concerns please speak to Ricarda

## Envelopes

**ALL** payments need to come to school in a sealed and clearly labelled envelope. We have attached for your use payment envelopes to our notices, they are printed with prompts for the information we need to keep your payments safe.

Payments can be made in a variety of ways: cash, eftpos, and credit card (either through eftpos at the office or fill in the details on the notice or envelope).

## Statements

Family statements will be sent home from time to time. This is a reflection of the current balance of your family account, if you have any concerns please ring the office.

Please speak to Ricarda in the office if you have any questions regarding the 2013 Annual Fees, or Bulk Billing.

Ricarda Lillis

Business Manager



## From The Art Room

Dear Parents,

This term, students will be focusing on 'Mark Making and Drawing Techniques' such as line, shape, pattern and contrast as well as painting with watercolour and developing a better understanding of primary, secondary and complimentary colour.

In the past I have kept the students artworks here at school rather than send them home each week as a lot of the artworks take more than one lesson or need time to dry, etc. I also like to display all children's artwork in the art room as well as around the school as I feel it is important for students to see that their artwork is highly valued and worthy of display. However, all students get to eventually take their work home as part of their yearly art folio. Occasionally, individual pieces will come home during the year so do look out for bits and pieces, especially when they are doing construction work.

It is extremely important that all students have their own art smock, especially for messy work as it will save their expensive school clothes from unnecessary marks. The plastic smocks are excellent but anything will do to give some protection. Dad or Mum's old t-shirt or business shirt are great, so look around and see what you can find. Please continue to send along newspapers, magazines and cardboard boxes. I also have an Art Room Wish List,

So if you have any of the following that you might like to donate to our Art Room, please send along...

Blender (for paper making)/Iron

Magazines, magazines, magazines

Cardboard roll of any kind/Yarn (any kind or colour for knitting, weaving & artworks)

Fabrics, bright colours

Plastic containers, ice-cream, butter/margarine

Aluminium foil, wax paper, paper towels, facial tissues/Beads/Ribbons

Pliers - any kind – hand tools

Old Calendars

Fascinating still life stuff (hats, artificial fruit and flowers, odd saucers, cups, bottles, glasses, vase, etc.)

Old coffee table art books/Sea shells

Old jewellery

Old kitchen utensils

Magazines from hairstylists (good for full frontal faces & facial features)/Sponges

Old store manikins/Any leftover outdoor paint, all colours (we want to do an outdoor mural)

If there is a remote possibility that we can do something with it, then send it along... we can be very creative.

If we can't use it, we'll either find someone who can or we will toss it lovingly with a "Thank You".

Thanks to all the people who have already been sending along some fantastic odds and ends from home that have been and will continue to be very useful in the Art Room.

Kind regards, Bernadette Towan



*Marie-Denise Villers, Young Woman Drawing, 1801, thought to be her self-portrait, and her most famous and finest painting.*



## From The Sports Desk

Welcome back to all parents and children for 2013.

### Swimming Trials

Our school Swimming Trials are on Tuesday 12th February at the Carey Sports Centre, Bulleen. Please return permission forms and payment by next Monday. The trials are open to children who turn 9, 10, 11 or 12 years this year. Children may choose all events (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly) or part of. The trials are in preparation for the District

Swimming Carnival on Monday 25th February. Please indicate on the form if you are able to assist, e.g. timing/ recording results at our trials. All events are 50 metres at the Trials and the District event.



## Performing Arts

At Donvale Primary School we offer a wide range of Performing Arts experiences. In addition to weekly whole class lessons your child has the following opportunities:

### Choir:

Grade 1/2 Junior Jammers meet Monday afternoons 2.30-3pm

(Fortnightly due to time table constraints)  
Grade 3/4 Music Makers (meet Monday afternoons 3.00 – 3.30pm, Fortnightly)

Grade 5/6 Super Seniors (meet Thursday Lunch times, Weekly)

These are non-auditioned choirs and we welcome everyone to join a choir!

Please see Mrs Keep for a Choir Contract form.

### Marimba Band:

This is an opportunity for our senior students in grades 5 and 6 to be part of a band that rehearses each Wednesday lunch time. This band performs at various functions in the community and also at local kindergartens and our own school events.

### Instrumental lessons:

Private instrumental lessons are available through the Wonnie's School of Music. Your child may be interested in learning the drums, saxophone, keyboard, strings, guitar etc. If so, please ask for an information brochure at the office.

We hope your child enjoys a rich performing arts experience this year!

*Anthea Keep*



## Basketball News

Welcome to a brand new season of basketball for Donvale Primary. Our games kick off this Saturday (see times below). The Donvale Basketball competition is all inclusive and about our kids getting some exercise while socialising with their friends. It is a great introduction to the world of sport.

I would like to thank our many volunteers who have nominated to help as Team Managers, Coaches and our Committee. It's our parent volunteers that make it all possible.

Committee Members: Marita Warner, Diana McNaughton, Sue Goold along with Team Managers.

**Who's who of our volunteers and the games times for this Saturday are as follows:**

U11 Boys - **Dinosaurs**: Coach Penny Keaghan & Team Manager Donna Moulten - Court 1, Dsc **1.30pm**

Open Girls- **Delights**: Coach Den Merton & Team Manager Nina Vasiliades – Court 1, Dsc **9.20am**

U9 Girls – **Daffodils**: Coach Kim Merton & Team Manager Charmaine Neal – Leeds St, **11.00am**

U11 Girls – **Daisy's**: Coach John Terenidis & Team Manager Stacey Browne – Court 2, Dsc **10.10am**

U11 Girls – **Dreamers**: Coach Liz Brown & Team Manager Amanda Ehlert - Court 1, Dsc **10.10am**

### **Basketball info:**

Uniforms: if you would like to order a uniform see your team manager who will organise for you

All Girls teams training at DSC every Tuesday 3.45-4.45. Boys training Wednesdays in the GP room 3.30.

Reminder that all children at training must be supervised by an adult other than the coach. (Coaches are unable to attend to children missing or hurt during training)

\$50 First term fees due at this Saturdays game to be given to the manager

All players required at games 10mins before start time.

For any enquiries please contact Diana McNaughton on 0434027144 or [di-anamcn@tpg.com.au](mailto:di-anamcn@tpg.com.au)

Registration forms are available by contacting Diana or on line via our website [www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au](http://www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au) under extra curricula

## Parents Association

### PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Come along to the first parent association meeting for 2013!

Find out what activities are planned for this year. New year, new ideas and lots of enthusiasm! There is even a new name for our group being discussed. If you are interested in being part of the parent association, having some input, or are just wanting to quietly listen to what we do, feel free to come along and join in. Our Principal, Lena Clark will also be attending.

New parents welcome, everyone welcome!

When: Monday, 11th February, 9.00am, straight after drop off.

Where: In the library.

Hope to see you there!

### CADBURY CHOCOLATE DRIVE

We will be running our annual Cadbury chocolate fundraiser in the coming weeks.

This is a large fundraising activity for our school, and we would love you to consider selling a box (or maybe two) of chocolates. The items for sale this year are different flavoured Freddo Frogs.

Money raised will go towards supporting the 'Artist in Residence' Program scheduled for term 2.

Chocolates will be coming home by the end of the week.

If you have any questions please contact Kim on 0407447434.

Thank you.

## Advertising Material

*The Department of Education & Training, Donvale Primary School its Management, and teachers do not endorse the products or services of any advertiser listed in this publication. No representation, warranty or undertaking is given or made in relation to the accuracy or completeness of the information presented in this publication, or any claims made by the advertisers.*

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

**DONVALE FOOTBALL CLUB:** 2013 Player Registration Day - Sunday February 10, 10am - 1pm. Auskick & U9's to U 15's.

**TOOLBOX PARENTING GROUPS:** Parenting Course - The Middle Years (ages 6-12). Wednesdays Feb 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20. Ringwood Community Church, 7.30-9.30pm.\

**SIMPLY NATURAL THERAPIES:** Tunstall Square - To heal and enlighten.

**DEANNE FORDHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE:** Ballet, tap, jazz, pre-school dance.

**PEE WEE TENNIS:** Specially designed for 4-7 year olds. Nunawading Tennis Club. Come and try FREE Saturday 2nd Feb.

**LION BUSHIDO KARATE ACADEMY:** Martial Arts classes.

**STEPHENSON SPORTS CENTRE:** Learn to swim.

**TOP TAPS DANCING SCHOOL (parent from the school):** New dance school opening in Mitcham.

**BEVERLEY HILLS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB:** Family Day Sunday 10th February, 10am - 1pm. Zerbes Reserve.

**CHILDRENS PERFORMING COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA:** Build talent and skills for life.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:** Wednesday afternoons 4.15-5.15pm. St Johns Catholic School.

**FREE BMX CLINIC:** Did you know that BMX Racing is an Olympic Sport? Learn the basics of BMX Racing. For all ages, genders and riding abilities. When: Saturday 16th February 9:00-11:00am (8:45 registration). Where: Park Orchards BMX Club, Stintons Reserve Park Orchards. For more information go to [bmxaustralia.com.au](http://bmxaustralia.com.au) or [popbmx.com.au](http://popbmx.com.au)

# Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

## Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including **textbooks, stationery, uniforms** and **excursions** for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of \$150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, \$62 million over four years will be redirected to the State's most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

## New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account **or**

Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**

Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

## Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**

be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*\* **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a temporary foster parent.

\* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at **29 January 2013** (Instalment One) and **15 July 2013** (Instalment Two).