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.

Snippets

**Calendar**

**Friday 8th March**
- 3.00-3.45pm: Uniform shop open

**Monday 11th March**
- Labour Day - Public Holiday

**Thursday 14th March**
- 10.00-12.00: Level 1 & 2 Excursion to Tunstall Square

**Principal’s Report**

Last Saturday’s Tunstall Square Festival gave our students the opportunity to showcase and celebrate their remarkable performing arts prowess. Parents, Staff and visitors to the festival were treated with performances by our Marimba Band and our middle and senior school choirs. A very big thank you to Rick Gordon, Anthea Keep and Rebecca Clarke who work tirelessly ensuring that our students continue to have these wonderful opportunities available to them. I would also like to thank Peter Reiter who supported the choir performance with his guitar playing and Bernadette Towan for her much needed moral support. Such a great team effort. It was wonderful to share in the pride that was felt by so many of our parents as they watched their children performing. Their performances were outstanding. The community at large also certainly enjoyed being entertained by our very talented students. Also a huge thank you to the many parents, too many to mention, that supported us on the day. A roster of parents worked hard in setting up stalls, distributing school leaflets, talking to prospective families and selling up storm at our sausage sizzle stall. As always, a huge community effort that only serves to benefit our students.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity of taking our School Captains and Vice Captains to the Melbourne Convention Centre where they participated in the annual ‘Young Leaders Conference’. Our School Captains; John, Georgia, Ashley and James were inspired by presentations made by some outstanding and successful ‘Leaders’ in our community. The focus on the presentations was ‘What makes a good leader?’ Our student captains all thoroughly enjoyed the day and the learning experience taken from the presentations. Our Captains will be presenting their reflections of the day at our school Assembly on Friday. We look forward to hearing from them in particular, their thoughts on ‘what makes a good leader’.

In further celebration of the achievements of our young leaders, I have invited the Manningham Mayor, Cr Jennifer Yang, to attend our special School Assembly on Friday March 22nd. Cr Yang will be presenting badges to the young leaders of our school; in particular our School Captains, newly appointed House Captains and members of the Student Representative Council (formerly Junior School Council). It is going to be a wonderful Assembly acknowledging our students. If you are available, we would love to see you there.

Thank you to the parents who have provided me with suggestions and feedback regarding updating our school uniform. To further allow parents to provide feedback / suggestions on this, I have placed a ‘Suggestion Box’ in the school administration area. I encourage all parents to continue to provide us with feedback and suggestions as this is what will support and drive our decision making process. Also, please feel free to email or come and discuss with me any concerns or suggestions you have. At this stage, the only decision that has been made is that we will be making some changes. What these changes actually will look like, is yet to be decided. As such, your feedback is very much valued and appreciated.
Our wonderful Arts Committee continues to meet regularly to work towards the design of the new murals in the junior area of the school. The team is a terrific bunch of parents and teachers that are very excited and enthusiastic about the project. With the help of Stephan Hitchens, our Artist in Residence, the design, planning and preparations are in full swing. We will be designing three murals that encompass the theme of the ‘Past, Present and Future’ – more specifically; ‘Respect the Past, Acknowledge the Present and Create the Future’. Some wonderful ideas and designs have been formulated and the Committee looks forward to sharing the end result with you all. The students will most certainly enjoy the opportunity of being a part of the development of these mural walls. Our Arts Committee is meeting again today at 3.45pm in the Staffroom. If you are available, please come along and join us. We would value your input.

Our Buildings and Grounds Committee have organised a Working Bee for Thursday 21st March commencing at 4.00pm and going through to 7.00pm where we will finish off with a sausage sizzle and a drink. Thank you, as always, to the wonderful Parents Association that work hard in providing the food to feed the weary workers. There is much work to be done; in particular, we would like to begin preparing the walls for the murals in the junior side of the school. We are looking for parents that can help us with painting so if you have some rollers, paint brushes and some enthusiasm, we can supply the paint to begin the preparation. We are also looking at a general tidy up around the school including cutting back some trees and bushes, spreading some mulch and tidying our vegie gardens. We would love to see as many parents join us as possible. The Working Bees are a terrific way to bring our community together and as they say; ‘many hands make light work’.

Below is an article from last Sunday’s Age. I thought it was excellent. I hope you are able to find some time to read it.

MELBOURNE researchers have proven what parents have intuitively known all along - the more often you read to your children from an early age, the greater the positive effect on their reading and thinking skills.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research has not only proven a causal effect between the frequency of reading to a child and his or her development, but have also for the first time measured the benefits.

Children four to five years old who are read to three to five times a week have the same reading ability as children six months older (who are read to only twice or less a week).

Reading to children six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to. It was also found that reading to small children has a positive effect on the development of numeracy skills.

"It does appear to be the case that children who are read to more often keep doing better as they age than other children," said Professor Guyonne Kalb, director of the institute's Labour Economics and Social Policy Program, and co-author of the study.

The research - which was funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - found the positive outcomes occurred in children regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. That is, children with poor backgrounds or parents of limited education or ability have the same benefit of being read to frequently.

"We wanted to try and determine whether reading itself is leading to better outcomes, or do parents who read to their children have other things going on," Professor Kalb said.

"We worked with children representing a whole range of families, from all different backgrounds and economic circumstances. We found it doesn't matter if a child is from a poor or rich family, or if the parents are highly educated or not, doing this basic thing of reading to them leads to better developmental outcomes."

The longitudinal study followed the reading skills of more than 4000 children, aged four to five years in 2004, through to age 10 to 11.

Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the research was "an exciting step forward" in understanding the importance of reading to young children.

"These findings send a clear message to parents, grandparents, teachers and carers that the benefits of reading go way beyond a shared bonding experience."

Lena Clark
**General**

**Notice of School Council Elections**
As the nominations received matched the number of vacancies for Donvale Primary School Council Elections 2013, a ballot will not be held. Congratulations to the following parents who will be joining the DPS School Council for 2013/2014:

Loula Tarenidis  
Kylie Glover  
Marita Warner

Thank you to Brad Wolff and Diana McNaughton who will not be returning for another term on School Council. Your input to meetings and efforts to make this school wonderful are appreciated.

The following staff will be joining DPS School Council for 2013/2014 is:

Ian McKinlay  
Ricarda Lillis  
Victoria Erskine-Behr

Thank you to Rick Gordon for all his efforts on School Council and Education Committee over the years.

*Lena Clark*  
*Principal*

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**Alert - Slapped Cheek**

Last week we had a confirmed case of slap cheek in the Junior Building. Slapped cheek is spread by touching or breathing in the coughed or sneezed fluid drops from an infected person. "Slapped cheek" is a viral infection caused by a virus called parvovirus B19. It is also called 'fifth disease'. Slapped cheek usually affects children between the ages of four and 10 but can happen at any age, even in adulthood. Most infections do not have any symptoms. Six out of ten people in the population have had the virus by the time they are adults. It is not life threatening and complications are rare.

**Signs and symptoms**

- Symptoms can take between 4 to 14 days to appear after getting the virus.  
- The symptoms are usually so mild that many people don't even know they have had the virus.  
- The first symptoms can include fever, headache, stomach upsets, aches and pains. This is the time when the virus can be spread to others, mainly through saliva.  
- A bright red rash appears on the cheeks three to seven days after getting the virus. The cheeks look like they have been slapped, hence the name Slapped Cheek.  
- Your child may also have a different rash on the chest, back, arms and legs. The infection looks like a pink lace pattern on the skin. The rash can come and go for several weeks, especially if the skin is exposed to sunlight or after exercise.

**Treatment:** Most children do not need any treatment except for resting and allowing the body to fight the infection. Fever may be controlled with paracetamol. Antibiotics will not work because slapped cheek is caused by a virus.

**At home care:** Once you can see the rash on the face, children cannot spread the infection to others. Children can keep going to school or daycare.

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**Twilight Working Bee**

Remember to lock in the 21st March as our **Twilight Working Bee** (4.00-7.00pm) followed with a sensational sausage sizzle. Tasks will include general clean-up of asphalt, paths, garden beds and grass areas.

Bring your own mower, whipper-snipper, hedge trimmer and paint rollers/brushes if possible. A major task will be the painting (under-coat) of the Art Room outside wall in preparation for our Artist in Residence mural program.

*Resources Committee*
Thanks to all the families who made a special effort to attend the Tunstall Twilight Festival last Saturday. I believe we made a big impact on the event, both with our performances and our presence!

The Marimba Band and two choirs did a superb job! I was extremely pleased with how our students kept going considering the sound and weather issues we contended with.

We have a busy year ahead: The Marimba band is currently working on extending their repertoire ready for our annual kinder tours. The choirs will be gearing up for our Open Day performances in May and the Senior Choir will be working hard for an eisteddfod and the State School Spectacular.

Thanks again for your support!

Anthea Keep  
(Performing Arts)

State Schools Spectacular is back for 2013 and this morning saw some very dedicated and excited grade 5 and 6 students queuing from 8am to make sure they got a place in this years show! More news on this exciting event coming soon.
From The Sports Desk

Level 5 & 6 children participated in the final rounds of our Summer Sports today (Cricket, Bat Tennis, Basketball, Rounders and Softball). Again a big thank you to the parents who assisted today and last Thursday. Congratulations to the children on their enthusiasm, skill development, co-operation and sportsmanship.

Don’t forget to get involved and register in the “Premier’s Active Families Challenge” online at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge. It would be fantastic to have 100% of our children registered, so let’s get registered if you have not done so yet.

Ride/Walk to School Day is on the 22nd March. Again, let’s all get involved and participate in this annual event.

School Houses: All children have now been placed in one of four school houses with all sibling of families together. We are now in the process of selecting names for the 4 houses. Level 6 children can nominate as a house Captain (Boy/Girl), and Level 5 children can nominate as Vice-captains (Boy/Girl). Elections will be held soon with the Captains/Vice-captains being presented with their badges at our final assembly this term.

Mr Pianta

Basketball

Hi Basketballers,

Well the hot weather has not stopped our Donvale Basketballers! Everyone is playing with passion and enthusiasm which is very exciting for all the spectators to see. We would like to welcome Tommy W. who has just joined the Dinosaurs as a new player well done Tommy. Also Alfie received a head injury during last week’s game we are all wishing you a speedy recovery. Well done to Sophie E. (Dreamers) scoring her personal best last Saturday shooting 4 goals. Well Done Sophie!!

All teams have a bye this weekend due to long weekend. Have fun everyone!

Want to find out more about our basketball? or any contributions or news for snippets we would love to hear from you. Contact Diana 0434 027 144 or email dianamcn@tpg.com.au

Regards Basketball reporters Stacey Browne and Diana McNaughton

Player Profile - Jessica C - Donvale Dreamers

1. How long have you been playing?
   This is my second year of playing basketball.
2. What is your favourite subject at school?
   Reading
3. What is your favourite food/drink?
   Chocolate
4. Where is your favourite place to holiday?
   Yarrawonga
5. What do you love doing as a family activity?
DPS Playgroup

Do you have children that are too young for school? Do some days seem long at home? Why not come to playgroup on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning! Our sessions run from 9:00 – 11:00am but some families with younger children don’t last all that time and that’s OK! We also realise that some people can’t commit to every week and that’s OK too! Over the next few weeks we are running some craft sessions leading up to our Easter Egg hunt days in the last week of term two. We will also be having our regular play times and library story, song and borrowing times. We would love to see more families from our school at our playgroup. It gives the younger kids a real sense of belonging to the school too! For more information, please contact Bec on 98416885 or 0408127357.

Donvale Junior Chef

The timetables, DJC Room rules and The 2013 Cookbook will be handed out soon. The first session will be start on the first Tuesday back to school in term 2. We added 1 extra group for this year so we can take more children, we did our best but our resources are limited so apologies for children on the waiting list. We will contact you ASAP when a spot is available.

This year’s group leaders are:
- Group 1 : Emma W 34M and Jackson C 12W
- Group 2 : Sophie E 34P and Ben P 12W
- Group 3 : Chris W 56C and Abbey G 12J
- Group 4 : Emily Y 56G and Darcy B FH
- Group 5 : Christian L 56C and Indi M FRG

Term 2 theme menu is: Crispy Dumpling. The children will have the opportunity to create and taste their own home-made spring rolls or wonton or money bag or other styles of dumplings. Also they will be doing their own restaurant style food presentation using fresh vegetables as a garnish.

Thank you to the McDonald, Younger, Fraser, Meyzis-Cassidy, Horton, Mangonis, Jaffer and Zheng families for their very generous donations. To our chef Thomas J 56R, we hope you have a speedy recovery.

We don't cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

BIG THUMBS UP: - Emma W 34M for collecting lemons and kitchen appliances, and delivered to the DJC Room in time for us to use. Thank you Emma.

Advertising Material

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

MPACC - Learning to cope with worries. Information and support seminars for young people and their parents.
MATHS SPECIALIST - Teaching and Tutorial available.
SUZANNE PETERSEN - Singing lessons in Nunawading.
GARRY’S BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU - Build confidence, discipline and strength for your child.
Parents Association

CADBURY CHOCOLATE DRIVE
Thanks to everyone for assisting us with this fundraiser. Can all families who have sold their chocolates, please return money to school by the end of term. For those who would like to sell more, there are some boxes still available.

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT
The Parents Association have been invited to visit the Cadbury factory shop to purchase Cadbury products at wholesale prices. This invitation is only open to 25 people. Monday 18th March has been set aside for this and the first 25 people to contact Kim Merton on 0407 447 434 will be attending. You will need to make your own way to the Cadbury factory, Canterbury Road Ringwood, for a 9.30am shopping experience.
Must wear covered shoes. No heels

EASTER RAFFLE
Raffle Tickets came home last week. More tickets are available at the office or from Karin Moule (Holly 34P). Please have all money back to school by Monday 25th March.
Don't forget donations are needed for prize baskets

TUNSTALL SQUARE TWILIGHT FESTIVAL
It was great weather and the Donvale community came out in droves. We were all there to support our wonderful school and our very talented children who represented our school so well. Our sausage sizzle was very well received and the profits made will come in handy for some of our “wish list items”.
Thanks to those many parent helpers who assisted during the event: Charlie, Claire, Karin, Jaqui, Stacey, Andrew, Loula. Christine, Georgia, Liz, Fotina, Libby and special thanks to the 2 Ian’s and James for helping with clean-up.

KIDS DISCO – MARCH 22ND
Foundation, grade 1 and 2 – 5.30pm – 7pm
Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 – 7.30pm – 9pm
Ticket orders went home last week and all orders need to be back at school by Wednesday 13th March

MEAL DEAL DAYS
The Parents Association have decided to treat the kids every term this year, by providing MEAL DEAL DAYS. The parents don’t have to make lunch that day – the P.A will do that for you!

Our first MEAL DEAL DAY of the year is planned for Wednesday 27th March.
If your child/ren wishes to take part they will receive Sausage in bread (more than 1 can be ordered)
A piece of fresh seasonal fruit (of their choice)
A lemonade icy pole
Order forms will be home shortly.

We have planned more of these days through the year……other days suggested are Asian day/Footy Day with Pies.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the lovely morning tea for this week’s P.A meeting and the new faces who attended. Join other parents of the school and discuss various issues including fundraising, and promoting our lovely school in the wider community while meeting new people with common interests and goals. We are always looking for parents to assist with various activities, So please join us – toddlers are welcome **P.A name change has been postponed to allow for consultation with all families who would like to have an input**
“So, you think you can tip?”
Donvale Primary School Footy Tipping Competition

Rules Sheet and Fixture included this week and also available from “downloadable forms” on the website. Fixtures need to be clearly named, with losing teams crossed out and placed in an envelope with money. Mark envelopes to the attention of Soraya Van Eyk.

- A Footy Tipping Competition has been organised for this AFL season.
- The comp is open to all families (as individuals or groups) and staff.
- $30 per entry in a marked envelope.
- All entries must be IN and PAID by Friday 22nd March
- Tips are done for the whole season up front – that’s where the fun comes in 😊
- CROSS OUT LOSING TEAM
- Any blanks or illegible tips will be allocated to the away team
- If a draw occurs, no point will be awarded
- A bonus point will be awarded to those who tip all 9 winners
- 50% of the total money taken, goes to the PA and the remaining 50% will be the prize money
- Prize money will be allocated as follows
  * 55% 1st place
  * 25% 2nd place
  * 15% 3rd place
  * 5% last place
- If there are multiple winners for any place, the prize money will be pooled and split
- Weekly results will be published in Snippets
- NO RESULTS will be published for the last 4 rounds
- Winners will be announced at an end of season social gathering to be advised
- Extended family and friends are welcome to join in
- Extra entries and fixtures will be available via “downloadable forms” on the website
- Try and beat the MYSTERY TIPPER ???????

Any queries you can speak with Soraya Van Eyk (staff) and Stacey Browne (PA)

GOOD LUCK!!!!!!
Dear Parents & Students,

Children enjoyed making chocolate cake for Leo and Sophie’s birthday. It was so good to see most of the children going with the whole session of yoga. Good work boys and girls.

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.

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 $3.00 for bookings within 24 hours. 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><strong>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Easter egg Painting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lego house building</strong></td>
<td><strong>Badminton game</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Bookmarks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>After Care Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter bunny bag</strong></td>
<td><strong>Matchstick Easter basket</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Yoga (AASC)</strong></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](http://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.