Snippets

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Website: www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au

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.

Calendar

**28th November 2013**

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**Friday 29th November**
- 3.00-3.45pm: Uniform shop open
- 12.30-1.30: Whole school transition
- 2.30-3.30: Assembly

**Tuesday 3rd December**
- SRC Casual Dress Day - Gold coin donation

**Wednesday 4th December**
- Lunchtime: Jnr Masterchef Christmas Party in the GP Room

**Thursday 5th December**
- All Day: Round Robin Sports for Level 4 students
- 2.00-3.15: 2014 Prep Transition Program
- 7.00-8.00pm: 2014 Prep Parent Info Night

**Friday 6th December**
- 11.00-11.45: ‘Parent Morning Thank You’ Tea
- 12.00-1.00pm: R.E. Concert (All parents welcome)
- 2.30-3.30: Whole school transition
- No assembly

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Principal’s Column

As we enter into a very busy time of the year, I urge parents to keep an eye on the school calendar to keep abreast of the events and happenings coming up between now and the end of the school year. Please note that the end of year student reports are due to go home on Friday December 13th. We will also be beginning our whole school transition program this Friday. This is where students from Foundation to Years 5 will have the opportunity over a period of 3 Friday sessions, to visit the classrooms of their 2014 year level. Please note that this is not necessarily their 2014 class and teacher but an opportunity for the students to familiarise themselves with their new year level in readiness for a positive start to next year. Students will be informed of their 2014 class teacher and classroom during the ‘Meet the teacher’ session which is planned for Wednesday 18th December.

We have also planned a Parent Helpers Morning Tea on Dec 6th from 11.00 – 11.45pm. This will take place in the Senior building with the annual CRE Christmas concert to follow. We would love to invite all parent helpers (and there are many of you) to attend our special THANK YOU morning tea. Hopefully parents will be able to stay on to enjoy the CRE Christmas concert also which all parents are invited to attend. Our Foundation Transition program continues with the final session being next Thursday 5th December, finishing off with an information evening that night commencing at 7.00pm in the Library. Thank you to the Foundation teachers for planning and preparing such a successful transition program.
To all our Parent Helpers

You are invited to a morning tea on

Friday 6th 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.

The Year 6 Graduation is planned for Thursday 19th December to be held at the Whitehorse Centre. The senior school team is busy preparing for this event which once again is promising to be a memorable night for our final year students. More information on this to follow.

Once again, we will be presenting a ‘Carols on the Lawn’ evening at the school. Mrs Keep is working with all our students in preparing a wonderful evening of carolling. All families and members of our community are invited to attend this event being held on Tuesday 17th December starting at 6.00pm. Bring along a picnic rug, something to nibble and drink and prepare to relax with a night of fun and festivity. A wonderful way for our school community to gather together to celebrate the achievements of the school year. You never know, a special friend may also come along to join us in the fun!

CONGRATULATIONS to our Rock Band who came second overall in the recent Battle of the Bands. Such a brilliant effort by all. Well done to Ingrid, Ben, Cooper, Ruby, Jayden, James and Emma – we are all very proud of you! And thank you to Chris O’Neil, their teacher, for the wonderful support and guidance provided.

Just like to finish off by saying a big thank you to the parents of the PA involved in planning and preparing the ‘meal deals’ that are offered to our students. Yesterday was another successful lunch provided to our students where they got to munch on sausages in bread and ice-cream. Yum!

Regards

Lena Clark
General

Library News
Borrowing finishes this week for the year. This means that all books must be returned from December 2nd.

Remember you will need to pay for the replacement of any lost or damaged books.

Thank you.
Chris Schneider
Library Technician

Education Maintenance Allowance (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 2014 school fees, please speak to Ricarda. Application forms need to be in by 28th February 2014.

SRC Upcoming Events

Christmas Food and Gift Appeal
This year we are having a Christmas Food and Gift appeal. We are collecting for Uniting Care Connections, Child youth and Family Services.

Please bring your gift wrapped and labelled for boy, girl and age group and /or non perishable foods, eg cans, rice, pasta, sauces etc. Please ensure all foods are within their use by date. Boxes will be placed under our Christmas tree in the foyer for you to leave your donations. If you have any questions please see Dylan in 3/4E. The collection ends on Wednesday 18th December.

Casual Dress Day
On Tuesday the 3rd of December, come dressed up as what you want to be when you grow up. No coloured hair, no hairspray and no makeup please. A gold coin donation will be appreciated and this will go towards the Christmas food and gift appeal. This is your chance to take a step into the future!

Thank you.
SRC
CRE

You might have heard already some news of the CRE Christmas Concert this year. But just in case your house is as hectic as mine, it is our pleasure to announce that the CRE students will be performing a special Christmas Concert – The Sparkle Box – Friday 6th December this year. The year 5/6’s have been through the audition process and the cast have been rehearsing. All the year levels have been practicing their songs and learning their hand movements. Lots of excitement is in the air.

The Sparkle Box is written by Jill Hardie. Jill Hardie and her family began to place a gift for Jesus under their Christmas tree as a way of bringing more meaning to the holiday. The first time they opened His gift, the commercialism of the season melted away and they felt a profound joy and peace. Jill hopes that The Sparkle Box will spark a new Christmas tradition, bringing light into thousands of lives.

So mark your calendar Friday 6th December @ 12pm to join your children celebrate Christmas as they perform their part in – The Sparkle Box.

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Have a great week!

Shirley Mantfeld
CRE Teacher

Junior Chef Club

Our Christmas party is next Wednesday 4th December 2013 at Lunch time in the GP Room, please send the form back to school if your child wants to come.

All DJC members are invited, food and drinks are provided.

The team helpers have been busy doing the preparations, and definitely all the children's favourites will be on the table.

Thank you to the Loccisano, Smith (Tania), Horton-Wickam, Hamilton and Pascale families for their donations. Also a big thank you to Mavis and Adam Robertson (the Fankhauser's grandparents) for their generous donation towards the party.

Looking forward to enjoying the party with all our little chefs.

We don't cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

GREEN THUMBS UP:

- Mrs E and the gardening club children for cooking Spanacopita (layered spinach pie, Greek food) using fresh vegies from our own school veggie garden.

It tasted absolutely yummy, Mrs E only had to buy cheese and the pastry as the rest were freshly picked by the children on the day. Nothing can be fresher than that.
Basketball

Last Saturday our teams had three wins and two losses. Last Saturday was the last of the games and the finals start next week. Spectators need to pay $1 entry to cover the cost of extra refs for finals. However we would love to see some Donvale students “cheering on” our teams (see times below). Delights had their first lost in as long as we can remember but boy did the girls have a great time! Having 3 of our 4 star players away meant that all the other girls were thrilled to have more than usual court time. This proved that whether you are on the court or on the bench everyone must bring their “A” game at all times. The Dreamers would like to thank Abby, Ella and Kate for coming to the rescue when they had to start the game with only 4 players a great game played by all.

Times for this week are as follows:

Dinosaurs: v Bev Hills Bull Ants @ 12.40 pm Leeds St (under 11 Boys)
Daisy’s: v Donburn Dynamites @ 10.10 am Leeds St (under 11 Girls)
Delights: v OLOP Flames @ 9 am Disc 2 (girls open)
Dreamers: BYE
Daffodils: v Serp/St.Ch Sapphires @ 11am Disc 2 (Under 11 Girls)

Player Profile – Kathy S - Daffodils

Q How long have you been playing?
A. 1 year

Q. What is your favourite subject at school?
A. Maths

Q. What is your favourite food/drink?
A. Sausages and Juice

Q. Where is your favourite place to holiday?
A. an Island

Q. What do you love doing as a family activity?
A. Craft activities

Dates and RSVP’s:
• Registrations for next year due by 29th November. Current players to return to managers. New players return to the school office. All paid registrations go into a draw to win a prize.
• Medal presentation and BBQ Monday 16th Dec 4pm BER building. RSVP to your team manager by 12th December.

Information & updates
For more information or general enquiries please contact Diana on 0434 027 144 or email dianamcn@tpg.com.au. Also contact Diana if you have basketball news for the snippets.

Quote of the week

“There are only two options regarding commitment; you’re either in or you’re out. There’s no such thing as life in-between.”

-Pat Riley
Dear Parents & Student,

Remember we are in Term 4, so need to follow ‘No Hat, no play’ Policy. Please bring your hat with you every time you are at OSH. Drink lot of water and stay hydrated. OSHClub is missing the spare hat. If anyone comes across a hat with OSHClub written on it can you please get it back to the OSHRoom.

Donation of spare clothes for our Dress Up area will be appreciated.

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 until 12pm the night before, or you can book on the day by calling or leaving the text message but there will be an 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. For some reason if you need to cancel the child from attending the after school care session you can cancel online if it is before 24 hours or leave a text message on the program phone(0402362443) if it is on the day.

Jagruti Shah

Next Week’s Activities

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<td>Before Care</td>
<td>Ocean mobile &amp;</td>
<td>Ocean sponge</td>
<td>Water cycle-word</td>
<td>Underwater volcano &amp;</td>
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<td>Painting &amp;</td>
<td>Scramble &amp; Balloon</td>
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<td>Guess who</td>
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<td>After Care</td>
<td>Octopus &amp;</td>
<td>Microscopic Creatures in</td>
<td>Water environment</td>
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<td>Activities</td>
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OSH program phone: 0402 362 443
Coordinator: Jagruti
Assistant: Caroline and Jennifer

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.
Performing Arts Activities

Our students have been kept busy with this term’s activities:

The Music Count Us In special assembly. The entire school sounded wonderful singing this year’s song “Keep On”.

Congratulations to our Expressions band at achieving second place at last weekend’s Battle of the Bands.

Our Senior Choir is performing twice today – firstly singing carols at a local retirement home during school hours, then at 4.30 they will be performing at Tunstall Square. If you are free call in to see them this afternoon!

Carols on the Lawn. This event is for the entire school community on Tuesday December 17th. At 6pm families are invited to bring along a picnic or take-away to eat on the lawn near the senior building. At 6.30pm our carols program will begin, where each level will combine to sing a couple of songs. Our three choirs will also perform before Santa arrives!
Another great lunch was provided yesterday. 195 children had the choice to order 1 or 2 sausage’s in bread, a vanilla choc top ice cream and juice. By all accounts it was YUM. Thanks to all those on deck to help cook and serve.

West Heidelberg Warehouse Sale

Scholastic Warehouse
9 - 11 Northern Rd, West Heidelberg

**Teacher-Only Day:**

Wed 27 November: 8.30am to 5.30pm

**Open to Public:**

Thurs 28 & Fri 29 November: 9.00am to 6.00pm

**P.A Christmas lunch Monday 9th December, from 12noon**

Bucatini Italian Restaurant & Bar 454 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham

This is a social event for all parents who would like to attend. We will chill-out and celebrate another great year of fundraising for our school.

It is also an unofficial way to get to know other parents and enquire about being a part of the Parents Association Committee for 2014.

R.S.V.P to Kim Merton kimmerton22@optusnet.com.au

All committee positions are “vacated” at the end of each year. Our first meeting back next year will be our AGM and all vacated positions will need to be filled.

Parents Association AGM Monday 10th February, 2014

If you are interested in nominating for a position on the P.A committee for 2014, info packs will be sent home summarising position descriptions and will include nomination forms.
Coming in Term 4

- Christmas Stall, Friday 13th Dec
- Christmas Carols at School, Tue 17th Dec

Coming in 2014

Donvale Primary School Community Fair
March 2014

Update

Preparations are well underway for an exciting school fair so please make sure you note the date in your diary.

Rides to suit all ages have been booked and entertainment and stalls of all types are currently being organised.

Any ideas, skills or contacts that you have that can help make the fair a success would be appreciated.

The following people are coordinating the different aspects of the fair and can be contacted either out in the school yard or by email:

Stalls: Kim Merton; kimmerton22@optusnet.com.au
Entertainment: Kym Wolff; kymwolff@optusnet.com.au
Rides: Kelly Gray; marciepeanutis@hotmail.com
Finance/Admin: Jo Wood; jo@pizeng.com
Marketing: Marita Warner; maritawarner@live.com.au
Cleaning/Security/First Aid: Liz Waycott; ebeth.waycott@bigpond.com

Regards
Fair Committee

2013 Parents Association Contacts

President – Kim Merton (Abby 56R, Ella 12J & Indi FRG)
Vice President – Jo Wood (Katrina 56C & Dan 34MP)
Secretary – Karin Moule (Holly 34P)
Promotions/Snippets – Stacey Browne (Ruby 56R & Maggie 34E)

Stacey Browne
P.A

Birthday Wishes To
Celebrating from the 29th November to 5th December
Amanda H, Joshua F, William S, Jesse Y
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent's bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.

Victoria as a Learning Community
Financial Assistance - Information for Parents

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 you 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 installments, 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 2014, the annual EMA amount per student 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*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx
HUGE GARAGE SALE
43 Astelot Dve, Donvale
Saturday 7th December 8am-4pm
Sunday 8th December 8am-1pm
LOTS OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- Kids toys and books
- Clothing and shoes
- Furniture
- Electrical goods
- Clothes dryer
- Chest freezer
- Electric lawn mower
- Air compressor
- HEAPS MORE!

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HOLIDAY PROGRAMS:
- BUBBLE DOME - Workshops Minecraft/Lego/Model making/App building/Fashion.
- EXTEND - For timetables, activity descriptions, and to book visit extend.com.au