Principal’s Column

It seems to be a year that has just flown by and yet again we find ourselves asking, “Where has the year gone?” It certainly has been a busy year and we have accomplished much. When I reflect on the events and happenings of 2013, I feel slightly exhausted but extremely proud of all our achievements. Our community has worked together to continue to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all our students.

Sadly, we say a fond goodbye to Mr Paul Bivolcheff who joined our school mid-year. We thank Paul for his outstanding work with our Year 1 / 2 students this year and wish him all our very best for his future endeavours. You will be missed.

We welcome Mrs Emily Wallis to our school and the 5 / 6 team. We are very much looking forward to Emily joining our school community and bringing with her youthful enthusiasm to our school. I know you will all welcome Emily, particularly if your child is moving in the 5 / 6 area next year.

We are welcoming back Mrs Bec Signorini from family leave. This time last year we were sending our farewells to Bec as she left to have her second child. Now this year, I am pleased to say that Bec is returning to our school and will be joining the Year 1 / 2 team. She just couldn't keep away from us!

We send all our best wishes to our Year 6 students who leave us this year to continue their educational journey into the secondary sector. Their Graduation will take place tonight – an event they are all very excited about. It is occasions such as these that we recognise and acknowledge the achievements of these students. It is always a very proud time for both parents and staff.

I must send out a big thank you to the many parents who responded recently to our whole school survey. It is always extremely informative and appreciated to hear our community’s feedback and suggestions for improvement. The big winners of the year were the Artist in Residence Program, Art Show, School Production, New Uniform, Mandarin language and Ipad programs – all new initiatives (except for school Production) introduced this year. Each of these areas received a high amount of positive feedback with the view to continue and/or broaden each. Whilst there are parents that may not fully agree with the iPad implementation program, or some thought that the School Production was ‘too much’, and one parent
preferred the green and gold to our new school colours, overall, the feedback with respect to the direction of our school was extremely positive. This is greatly encouraging as we have many more exciting events and programs planned for 2014.

The feedback from the survey has clearly demonstrated to me one certainty and that is, that it is an impossibility for us to all agree and have complete satisfaction on any one given thing. What one person may value, another one may not. It is as simple as that. I know that decisions I have made and will continue to make will not always be agreeable to everyone even though I always aim for this to be the case. Rest assured, that any management decision I make will always be fully informed, educationally sound and made with the consultation of all stakeholders. My decisions will ultimately always be made based on what I know to be in the best interests of all our students and our school. With this in mind, I would like to thank you and particularly all the members of School Council for providing me with the professional respect necessary for me to do my job.

I would also particularly like to thank all the staff of Donvale PS. They are an outstanding team of people who work tirelessly to provide the best they can for the students. Their commitment and dedication to the students is just tremendous. Thank you for your support and a wonderful year!

Thank you also to our community for a terrific year where our students were given opportunities that never existed at the school before. This is our forward direction and with your ongoing support, this forward direction will continue into 2014 and beyond.

On a final note; I would like to inform you all that I will be taking leave at the commencement of the 2014 school year. Mr Ian McKinlay will be taking the Acting Principal role and Mr Rick Gordon, the Acting Assistant Principal role during my absence.

I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

_Lena Clark_
DONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**LEADERSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Lena Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Ian McKinlay</td>
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**ADMINISTRATION**

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<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Ricarda Lillis</td>
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<td>Office Manager</td>
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**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>Michelle Rassias</td>
<td>MON, TUES, WED</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marilyn Gray</td>
<td>WED, THURS, FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHW</td>
<td>Alanna Hodgens</td>
<td>MON, TUES, WED</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bev Wright</td>
<td>WED, THURS, FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 SM</td>
<td>Bec Signorini</td>
<td>MON, TUES, WED THURS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ian McKinlay</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 J</td>
<td>Annie Johnston</td>
<td>FT</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 W</td>
<td>Meagan Wilson</td>
<td>FT</td>
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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 / 4 P</td>
<td>Luanda Pianta</td>
<td>FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 / 4 R</td>
<td>Peter Reiter</td>
<td>FT</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 / 4 E</td>
<td>Victoria Erskine-Behr</td>
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**SENIOR SCHOOL**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 / 6 G</td>
<td>Rick Gordon</td>
<td>FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 / 6 C</td>
<td>Lashay Cartledge</td>
<td>FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 / 6 W</td>
<td>Emily Wallis</td>
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**SPECIALIST STAFF**

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<tr>
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<td>Bernadette Towan</td>
<td>TUES, WED ALT MON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>Anthea Keep</td>
<td>TUES, WED ALT MON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE (Mandarin)</td>
<td>Sheena Saw</td>
<td>TUES, WED ALT FRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>John Pianta</td>
<td>TUES, WED, THURS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Toni Grimes</td>
<td>MON – FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Karen Murphy</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Caroline Collins</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Rita Luccisano</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Karen Durante</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Support Officer</td>
<td>Mary Krcevinac</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Psychologist</td>
<td>Amber Kenny</td>
<td>FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSHC Program</td>
<td>Jagruti Shah(Coordinator)</td>
<td>MON - FRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT TSI (Technician)</td>
<td>Anthony Sok</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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2013 has been a big year of change and development for Donvale Primary School and I think we should all take some time to reflect on the great things that have happened around the school. There maybe only 1 or many things that have impacted your child or children but I think you will agree that the school as a whole is a very vibrant, happy and exciting environment for learning!

There are many parents who have contributed to this and I would like to make special mention of the Parent's Association and their enormous efforts with fund raising. This takes a lot of time and effort and to know that all our children will benefit in some way is so appreciated.

The Art Show was also a tremendous success and again the organisation and reward for effort was outstanding.

On behalf of the Donvale Primary School Council I would like to thank the parent community and the staff for their dedication and commitment, on an exciting year of change that has seen the school become an even better place for our children to learn, grow and develop for their futures.

Good luck to the graduating class of 2013 – your next adventure in academic and life’s learning is all ahead of you and you should take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.

2014 will see some changes in School Council and I encourage those that are interested to nominate, to be part of the parent representative that can impact that change and contribute to the continued growth of the school.

Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Kind regards
Brenda Tierney
President
Donvale School Council

General

FROM THE OFFICE

- **EMA:** If you are eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance, please read the information included in this Snippets for 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. If you are a healthcare holder, you have to apply every year.

- **2014 Fees:** Fee notices for 2014 went home yesterday with each child. NO PAYMENTS TO THE OFFICE PLEASE UNTIL THE 29TH JANUARY 2014.

- **Credit Card Payment:** The Commonwealth Bank has updated our eftpos machine and now requests us to put in the 3-digit number (at the back of the credit card). This is if you have filled out the credit card payment option on notices or phone in with your credit card details. If you are not comfortable in doing this, please make use of the BPay option for any payment to school, or you have to come in and swipe your card. If paying by BPay, please remember to let the office know what the payment is for.

- **Office Times:** The office will be reopening on the 29th January 2014, from 9 to 11am.

- **Uniform Shop:** The shop will have a special opening morning in January for pre - back to school selling - **Wednesday 29th January from 9am to 10am.** Then normal selling time will resume Friday 31st January 3pm to 4pm.

- **Absentee Line:** From the start of Term 1 we will have a dedicated line for absentees. If you listen to the prompts you will be able to leave a message if your son/daughter is going to be away from school.

- **Lost Property:** The office has a variety of lost items: Toys (Buzz Lightyear) and others, swimming goggles, children’s sunglasses, a pair of reading glasses and other bits and pieces. We will be throwing these out on the last day if they are not claimed.
Can You Help
The Jnr Chef Club are looking for a pasta maker and a rolling pin. If you have one and are going to throw it out, they would love to have it.

Free Uniform
Girls Donvale uniform (dresses, trackpants, shorts, tops, etc), size 10 and 12.

Wanted: Modern Couches, Lounge Suites, Modular Lounges
We are planning to set up a student common room in the senior building, and we need some comfortable furniture in reasonable condition, preferably black, brown or grey to match the room. We are looking for easy care, smooth fabric, vinyl or leather that is not brightly patterned, and will look neat without too much care. Please be on the lookout for anyone disposing of a suitable suite, and send a photo to me on 0411 025 412. We can arrange pick up. We have a small budget to pay op shop prices for the right pieces if necessary.

Regards,
Rick Gordon
0411 025 412

2014 Starting Dates
Tuesday 28th January: Staff commence
Wednesday 29th January: Curriculum Day (no students)
Thursday 30th January: First day of school
Monday 3rd February: Foundation students first day of school

Thank You From The SRC
A HUGE thank you to all the families who donated gifts and food for Uniting Care Connections, Child youth and Family Services.

We were overwhelmed with your support and generosity.

As well as the donations you made, we raised $220 on the casual dress day. Thanks again.

SRC
CAROLS ON THE LAWN 2013
On Tuesday evening of this week, Donvale Primary School celebrated Christmas and the end of the school year by holding a ‘Carols on the Lawn.’ What a wonderfully relaxing evening it was with a terrific number of students, parents, friends and teachers attending. Throughout the evening we were entertained by our amazing student carollers and enjoyed the finale where some of our teachers braved the stage and performed a joyous rendition of ‘Joy to the World.’ Later on, the local fire brigade brought Santa to join us in the fun. A great night was held by all. A big thank you to Peter Gray who helped us out with the staging, sound, lighting etc. He always makes it look just so fabulous! Also a thank you to Anthea Keep for preparing the students for their carolling and to Rick Gordon for leading the way. Many thanks to the teachers who stayed on to not only be entertained but to also be a part of the entertainment! Merry Christmas everyone!
From The Sports Desk

Congratulations to Ashley W who represented her Swimming Club last weekend in the State Championships. Ashley competed in two events during the competition. This is a fine achievement, well done Ashley.

Following the fantastic effort of our Grade 3/4 Hooptime Team in the State Finals last week, McDonalds has donated $1000.00 towards the installation of new basketball back boards for our school. As a follow up to this donation Samara Sherwin has donated from Nike, 10 Nike basketballs in celebration of the teams achievement. Thank you very much Samara, your kindness is much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have kindly assisted in the many sporting activities the children of Donvale Primary School have been involved in this year.

Finally I wish all children, parents and families of Donvale Primary School a safe, enjoyable and relaxing time over the coming holidays.

I urge all children to be extremely careful during the holidays especially when in/near water, travelling cars or riding bikes/scooters.

Mr Pianta

Basketball

A very exciting finish to the Year! Grand Final results were three wins and two losses but we still bought home 5 Flags!! Give yourselves a big pat on the back. As parents we are so very proud of our players. Our Donvale players play with respect, determination and with superb sportsmanship. One mention of a very close finish was our under 9 Daffodils who came from behind to level the scores at the final siren only to go into time on. Unfortunately the other team scored a shot on the buzzer to win but such an amazing effort!

We bid farewell to three players who are moving on to new schools. Jessica G and Ingrid B moving on to High school and Elise H moving to a new primary school. All three girls have played with such enthusiasm and joy for all of their primary school years. We wish you great success at your new schools.

On behalf of the Committee we wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas!!!

Uniforms:

We are changing our uniforms to a new design to keep in line with our new school uniform. Much like the picture here but matched with the school colours. 6 of our 8 teams will be changing to the new uniform. We need one size 14 old style uniform and maybe some others. If anyone would like to sell an old uniform. Can you please Call Diana on 0434027144

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

“I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed”

----Michael Jordan
Dear Parents & Students,

At this stage so close to the end of the year I would like to thank the children and the families for attending OSH this year. And I would like to wish the grade 6 children all the best for moving onto high school. They are always welcome back to visit us and let us know how they are going.

The OSH staff is wishing the families very Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back at the program in the new year.

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

OSHClub will be running from 1:30pm to 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

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**Parent Information**

OSH program phone: 0402 362 443  
Coordinator: Jagruti  
Assistants: Caroline, Jennifer and Lekky  
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000  

*All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at [www.oshclub.com.au](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.*
I would like to thank all the amazing members of the Donvale Primary school community who have helped support the parents association in 2013. Together we have organized many fund-raising activities that have been very enjoyable and rewarding.

As president I have made many great friendships and realise how lucky Donvale Primary is to have such fantastic community support.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays. Thank you Jo (BBQ queen) Karin, Stacey and all the other amazing parents (too many to name) who are always there to lend a helping hand.

Looking forward to doing it all again in 2014.

Kim Merton

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**Coming in 2014**

**Donvale Primary School Community Fair**

29 March 2014

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
PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

DESCRIPTION OF ROLES

MEMBERS: President / Vice President / Secretary / Snippets/Promotions

General

The role of President involves……..
- Chairing the monthly meetings and co-ordinating the committees business.
- Liaise with the Principal and Business Manager

The role of Vice President involves……..
- Assisting the President

The role of Secretary involves……..
- Compiles and distributes the minutes from the monthly committee meetings

The role of Snippets/Promotions involves……..
- Compiles and distributes the weekly P.A update in conjunction with committee, Principal and Business Manager, to be included in the school newsletter “Snippets”. Design promotional material for flyers to advertise P.A events.

The role of General member involves……..
- Attending monthly meetings and assisting with /co-ordinating organised events when you can.

If you would like to be a part of the Parents Association for 2014, please nominate yourself.

Nomination forms can be handed into the office before the end of term, or Term 1 next year, by Wednesday 5th Feb.

Alternatively, you can attend the AGM and nominate on the day.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

NOMINATION FORM

Please tick your nominated role.

President ☐
Vice President ☐
Secretary ☐
Snippets/Promotions ☐
General ☐

Your Name: __________________________________________
Your Contact Details: ___________________________________

Thank you for your nomination. We look forward to seeing you at the Parents Association AGM to be held in the school library, Monday 10th February 2014

Donvale Primary School  Parents Association
Stacey Browne
P.A
Birthday Wishes To
Celebrating from the 23rd December 2013 to the 6th February 2014


Birthday Wishes To
Celebrating from the 23rd December 2013 to the 6th February 2014

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:
MANNINGHAM BLUE LIGHT DISCO - Friday the 20th December, 7-9pm (Grade 4-6). Cost $6 at Ted Ajani Reserve, Lower Templestowe.
NUNAWADING VIKINGS BASKETBALL CLUB - Girls and Boys are welcome.
STARLAB SKYWATCH - Information on how to find and when to find major stars by using Orion as a celestial guide.

Looking for a Great Motel
Recommended by a Donvale Family who stayed there

Motel Marengo, 26 Great Ocean Road, Marengo, Apollo Bay 3233.
www.motelmarengo.com.au
Family friendly small motel with a swimming pool, spa, BBQ area, 2 minutes walk to the beach and much more.
Contact James on 52376808 or info@motelmarengo.com.au and mention Donvale Primary School for best price.
Exam results reflect a wide cultural divide

As a third-generation Irish Australian, I don't want to admit it but, checking out the smiling faces in the paper and on television of Victoria's top VCE students, it soon becomes obvious that our best-performing students are no longer named Patrick or Mary.

The University of Melbourne's list of the 68 highest-achieving students is dominated by surnames like Chen, Lee, Tan, Foo, Ng and Kwong, with only the occasional Anglo name like Tooley and Gau.

The fact that Balwyn High, with its high percentage of Asian students, achieves outstanding results, with 25 per cent of its 307 students gaining an ATAR above 95 per cent, also proves that there must be something special about how Asian students and their families view education.

Add that the latest Program for International Student Assessment test results for 15-year-olds in literacy, mathematics and science place Australian-born students third behind foreign-born and first-generation students from migrant families, and it's clear that homegrown Aussie students are failing to perform.

What's to be done? Education begins in the home and there's no denying that Asian cultures and families value learning and children are taught to work hard at school and to respect teachers.

While it's dangerous to generalise, the same cannot be said for many Australian families where parents indulge their children, raise them to think that they are always right and that teachers don't have to be obeyed.

Just look at how widespread the "angry parent syndrome" is and the fact that so many schools now ban parents from entering the school's grounds because teachers are abused and threatened.

Australian parents have also swallowed the share, care, grow approach to children's self-esteem in which children are not criticised or failed, unlike the tiger mums who criticise their children and to push them to succeed.

Kevin Donnelly

Tell Australian parents that their child is slack and not up to scratch and they'll say it's the teacher's fault — tell Asian parents and there's no doubt that the child will be blamed.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that Asian parents work hard to get their children into selective secondary schools such as Melbourne High and Nossal High School, where the focus is on rigorous, academic studies and ensuring that students achieve their best.

It also shouldn't surprise anyone that after school and on the weekend, many Asian parents are paying for extra coaching in programs like Kumon instead of letting their children veg out in front of the plasma TV or computer screen.

Investing in real estate in the enrolment zone of highly successful schools such as Balwyn High is another way that Asian parents work hard to make sure their children are a step ahead.

The attitude of "she'll be right mate" is still very much part of the Australian character and because so many Australian children are indulged always get what they want, don't have the same drive and motivation to succeed.

Asian students, on the other hand, want to compete and to excel at school and, when asked if they can do better, they always say "yes" while too many Australian students, even though they don't perform as well, say that near enough is good enough and that they're doing the best they can.

As anyone who has travelled in Asia will appreciate, it's also true that in places such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, the culture is one that respects hard work, getting ahead and relying on one's own abilities and talents.

That is unlike Australia, where what Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey has described as an entitlement mentality reigns supreme — we have a situation

Education begins in the home and there's no denying that Asian cultures and families value learning.

where everyone seems to want a government handout or leg-up and where there are always excuses for not getting ahead or for failing to perform.

Too many Australians also suffer from the tail poppy syndrome in which, unlike sport, where we love to win and where we admire high achievers, those who excel academically are labelled nerds and made to feel as if they don't belong.

To say that Asian students are doing so well doesn't mean that locally born Australian students are destined to underperform.

Listed among Melbourne University's list of 68 top performers are students with Anglo names from schools such as Xavier, St Kevin's, St Patrick's, Sacré Coeur and De La Salle.

While not in the majority, the example of such students proves that where schools are academically focused, where teachers set high standards and expectations and where parents motivate their children to excel, then it's possible to succeed.

Dr Kevin Donnelly is Director of the Education Standards Institute and a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University.