Information Evening:

Last night it was great to see so many parents of students across all levels of the school attend our Parent Information sessions. This was a great way for parents to hear about curriculum foci, planned teaching and learning programs, homework expectations, camps, excursions/incursions and the role of parent helpers in the classrooms. It also provided the opportunity for parents to ask a question or two to clarify any concerns they may have had. If you were unable to attend last night please make sure that you obtain a copy of your child’s Level Information Booklet. Well done to all staff members for presenting their Level’s information session with such enthusiasm, energy and humour.

School Fair:

At this week’s PA meeting Jo Wood was able to report that everything is well on track for our School Fair to be held on Saturday 29th March. Billboards and flyers with colourful artwork will be going up in prominent locations in the next couple of weeks. Thankyou to Danielle Churtin for her creative designs. A highlight of the Fair will be the entertainment provided with a number of local bands performing, a local dance troupe and some parent performers. With much musical talent amongst the staff here at Donvale will we finally realise our dream of ‘getting the band back together?’ Watch this space!

School Council:

Many parents have joined our school community for the first time. We extend a warm invitation to you and others to be involved in our School Council with its various sub-committees. This is an excellent way to learn about the way in which our school operates and it allows you to have a direct input into your child’s education at Donvale. It is also a great way to make connections and form friendships with other parents. I encourage all parents to read the School Council Election Process and Timetable which is included in today’s Snippets. Nomination forms will be available from the office.

School Values:

I hope you enjoyed the new Snippets format last week with our 4 School Values displayed prominently on the front page. Encouraging our students to demonstrate or live these values every day at school is given a high priority. Over the recent holiday break I read many articles in the Education section of
our newspapers that talked about the importance of students developing their social coping skills or resilience. After being awarded an Education Department scholarship Lashay Cartledge has recently completed, with High Distinction, a course in Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health. We are very fortunate that Lashay is now taking a leading role at Donvale in providing our staff with information and strategies to assist the development of our students’ resilience and emotional well-being. The article which Lashay has included in today’s Snippets offers some very effective ways in which parents can help their children develop these important social skills.

Ian McKinlay

Acting Assistant Principal

House Captain Elections

We have conducted elections for our House Captains, and are very pleased to announce the following successful candidates. All the nominees presented excellent speeches at the house meetings of Year 3 – 6 students, and we would have been very proud to have had all of them in the position. Congratulations to:

Waratah (Red)  
House Captains: Cooper M, Renee T  
Vice Captains: Sophie E, Lucas O’S

Grevillea (Blue)  
House Captains: Jared S, Kiara S  
Vice Captains: Mitchell L, Leah B

Banksia (Green)  
House Captains: Jake G, Lucy Mc  
Vice Captains: William L, Sarita N

Acacia (Yellow)  
House Captains: Lachlan S, Vanessa C  
Vice Captains: Dylan S, Hayley P

Getting to Know You Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for next Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February. If you haven’t booked a slot, please go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code to complete your booking. The booking code is LN8RT. We have allowed five interviews per hour, so if you require more than the allotted time, please make another time to continue the interview.

Uniforms

Unfortunately, we have identified a fault with the new fabric from which the sports uniform is manufactured. The company supplying our new uniforms has withdrawn the sports top from sale, and is working with us to rectify the situation. We hope to resolve the issue as soon as possible, and have them available once more for those who need them.

Car Parking

Thank you to everyone who has responded to my note about the visitors’ parking spaces. Please continue to leave them free for genuine visitors to the school, and don’t use them when dropping off or picking up students.

Rick Gordon
## February

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<td>27 Summer Inter-School Sport</td>
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<td>27 Summer Inter-School Sport</td>
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<td>29 School Fair</td>
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Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Donvale Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Thursday 20 February 2014

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Thursday 07 March 2014

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

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<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
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<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
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<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Ian McKinlay
Acting Principal
## Donvale Primary School

### School Council Election Process and Timetable 2014

<table>
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<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Thursday 13 February 2014</td>
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<td>b) Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Thursday 20 February 2014</td>
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<td>c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Monday 24 February 2014</td>
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<td>d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Thursday 27 February 2014</td>
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<td>e) Close of ballot</td>
<td>Friday 7 March 2014</td>
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<td>f) Vote count</td>
<td>Monday 10 March 2014</td>
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<td>g) Declaration of poll</td>
<td>Monday 10 March 2014</td>
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<td>h) Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
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What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
General

OLD KINDERGARTEN CAR PARK (Aranga Crescent)

PLEASE do not use the old kindergarten access at the south end of the school. It is not a car park, this is causing a traffic hazard which jeopardises the safety of our students. Council has been contacted and they will be looking at placing bollards across the entrance. We ask that all parents drive safely around the school and adhere to all the regulations. Again, the safety of all our students is paramount. We certainly do not want to have a situation where one of our children gets hurt before the message gets across to those parents who are not abiding by the regulations.

FROM THE OFFICE:

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 (we will be updating our credit card payment option on notices). 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.

Please DON’T use the Direct Credit payment method, our preferred method of online payment is BPay. Your BPay number is on your statement or if you do not have it, ring the office. Please remember to let the office know what the payment is for.

Statements: Statements will be coming home next week.

EMA: If you have a healthcare card you are eligible to apply. Application forms are available from the office. You can utilise the EMA to assist with the 2014 school fees. If you are a healthcare holder, you have to apply every year. The closing date for applications is 28th February.

2014 Fees: If you still have to make a payment of school fees, please note the Reading Eggs is only for Foundation to Year 2 students.

UNIFORM

Sports Polo’s

You may be noticing that your sports polo is not wearing as expected. Our production department is investigating on going fabric issues that will be resolved shortly. All the garments will be replaced but please continue to wear the polo’s. Once new stock arrives we will arrange a recall and replacement. A notice will be put in the newsletter to advise a date.

From Lisa and Jenni in the uniform shop

GROWING HEALTHY MINDS

Now that the first couple of weeks of a new school year are over, it is a good time to reflect with your child to further help them settle into their new environment. They may be in Foundation and have just started school for the first time, or may have just moved to our school, or just changed classrooms or buildings. I believe that while change is a good thing, it can be difficult for many. 'People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing'. – John Porter

The article included, from KidsMatter (http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/), is an interesting read on children's emotions. Specifically, why they matter and how you can help support your child's emotional development through this time of transition and into their future school years.

Happy Reading!

Lashay Cartledge
Music Matters—Performing Arts

The year is off to a great start and already we are preparing students for our first performance! (More of that in a moment!)

Classroom music, drama and dance

Each class has a Performing Arts lesson once a week. These usually involve singing, games, playing instruments, dance and drama activities.

This semester our FOUNDATION students will be learning about our classroom instruments, pitch, beat and tempo. They will also have their new alphabet sounds reinforced through songs.

LEVEL 1 and 2 students will be exploring rhythm & beat and pitch & melody, learning new songs on the marimbas and creating sound scapes.

LEVEL 3 and 4 students will be learning about rhythms, raps and rhymes, playing ukuleles and marimbas and next term creating dances in groups.

LEVEL 5 and 6 students will be exploring musical styles – Reggae, Celtic, Latin etc. and next term creating dances for our Asian Studies unit. Some of these will be performed at our Asian Cultural Day on June 25th.

The whole school will also enjoy an incursion in May by a group called “Brass Bedlam”.

Choirs

At Donvale we offer students the opportunity to participate in one of three choirs. These are non-auditioned and every child is welcome!

Junior Jammers (for students in years 1 and 2) meet fortnightly on Mondays from 2.30 -3pm.

Music Makers (years 3 and 4) meet fortnightly on Monday from 3.00-3.30pm. However when we have performances coming up we add an extra rehearsal on Tuesday lunch times.

Our Senior Choir (years 5 and 6) meet on Tuesday lunch times and have extra after school rehearsals from time to time when necessary.

Marimba Band

All students have the opportunity to play our marimbas during class lessons. However we offer our senior students the chance to play in a band that meets on Wednesday lunch times. This band tours the local kindergartens, plays at special school events and also at local festivals.

Up and coming Performance

Our school has been invited to participate at the annual Tunstall Square Festival on Saturday March 1st. This will involve our Music Makers Choir, our Senior Choir and the Marimba Band. Notices have been sent out with details for those students this week.

You are invited to come along and support our students at 4.30pm on March 1st.

Instrumental lessons

If you wish your child to learn an instrument through the school then private or small group lessons can be arranged. Please see the office for information regarding voice, drums, keyboard, woodwind, guitar, brass instruments or dance lessons.

End of year Celebration Concert

Many of our students will be showcasing their work throughout the year but the highlight will be our concert in term 4. We trust your child has many enjoyable Performing Arts experiences on their way through Donvale Primary School.

Mrs Keep
From The Art Room

Dear Parents,

This Semester students will be focusing on Asian Art and culture including calligraphy, Ming patterns, dragons, lanterns, Chinese & Indian celebrations and artworks.

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 keep artworks to display in the art room as well as around the school as I feel it is important for the 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 throughout the year so do look out for bits and pieces, especially when they are doing construction.

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 art smocks are excellent but anything will do to give some protection. Dad’s old t-shirts or business shirts are great, so look around and see what you can find.

This year we are having some renovation work done in the art room, so we will have to move sometime, possibly, in Term 2 to another room. This will require an enormous amount of effort to literally remove everything out to another area so the builders can move in, do the work, then we can move back! Looks like a working bee on the horizon! More news to follow…

Kind Regards, Bernadette Towan.

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

Chinese Proverb
Mandarin

Welcome Back! The students enjoyed The Languages Curriculum (formally called LOTE) last year and I am honoured to continue the Mandarin Language teaching for the second year in Donvale Primary School.

The Mandarin programme for this year will be focusing on drama and role play activities. This semester children will be learning to perform a play in Mandarin for our coming Asian Cultural Day at the end of term 2.

We started this term's Mandarin lessons with the culture awareness of Chinese New Year because it was the Chinese New Year (The Year of Horse) on Jan 31, 2014. Traditionally, Chinese New Year is celebrated for 15 days. The 15th day of the celebration is called the “Lantern Festival” in which people celebrate it with the Lantern Parade, making paper lanterns, folks dancing, lion dances, and eating 湯圓 (pinyin: tāngyuán). They also enjoy a family reunion on this last day of celebration. Therefore children will do a lot of activities that are related to Chinese New Year during the first few weeks of Term One.

Ms. Saw (苏老师)

Junior Chef Club

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to all the new families at our school.

Forms went home yesterday, please send it back to school ASAP if your child wants to participate in this program. Our resources are limited so once we have enough numbers we can't take any more children.

Also this year we are planning to have a smaller number of children in each session. Each group will be a mix of children from Grade 6 down to the Foundation level.

The children are only creating a sample of the food so they also need to bring their lunch along. In each session children get an equal amount of food. Some will eat all of it, some may prefer to take it home.

Every child who wants to participate in this program must pay $10.00 a year to help with the cost of the ingredients. We still rely on extra donations (some families prefer to donate ingredients throughout the year and some families have previously donated cash with the form, either way is always welcome, thank you for your support).

Please note that the team helpers have been subsidising this program and unfortunately we can't keep up with the increasing groceries prices any more.

Sessions start in term 2, term 1 we are doing all the preparations such as forms, receipts, writing the cookbook, printing and binding it, etc.
Basketball

5 wins and 3 loses were this week’s results pretty impressive!

Daisies won their first game this week and boy it was a hot one! The girls put in 100% they had “Jelly Legs” with still 13 minutes to go! Great effort.

Delights played their first game with a slightly different line up. Special mention to Sarita N for scoring three great goals this week and her little sister Zoe scoring the two goals for the Diamonds.

The Daffodils would like to welcome Pavit to their team she played her first game on Saturday.

We would like to make a big warm welcome to Jayden who has volunteered to coach the Dragons. The big boys are very excited and Jayden is very motivating. The Dragons are a brand new team competing against other teams that have played together for many year. They had so much fun well done Dragons!

The U9’s Demons had a smashing win for their first game! While the U9’s Diamonds were learning the rules as the game was in action. Their parents said they were so cute and they were very proud of their girls.

The Dinosaurs welcome Oliver P who also played his first game on Saturday and a welcome back to Iszaiah R. The Dinosaurs had a win with a special mention to Jaymes M who may be a bit younger than his team mates but when he gets the ball he makes good use of it.

Well done to all our players!!

GRADE 3 & 4 GIRLS NEEDED

The Daffodils have only 6 players ideally each team should have 8 teams please come join Kate B, Scarlett H, Abbey G, Ella M, Lily V and Pavit for some good fun and exercise!
GRADE 1 & 2 BOYS URGENTLY NEEDED TO START PLAYING THIS SATURDAY!!!

The DEMONS have only 12 players!!!! So they can be split into two teams so we NEED more players. If you haven’t started yet then START this Saturday. They had so much FUN so come in and join the fun!

CONTACT

Information and registration forms can be emailed please email dianamcn@tpg.com.au asking for basketball info and the details will be emailed to you.

Times for this week are as follows:

Dinosaurs: 12.40pm Disc 2
Daffodils: 9.2am Leeds st
Delights: 8.30 am Disc 2
Dreamers: 8.30am Disc 1

Daisies: 11am Disc 2
Diamonds: 10.10 am Leeds st
Dragons: 3.10 pm Disc 1
Demons: 11.50 am Disc 1

UNIFORMS

Some of our teams played with their new uniforms and they looked very smart (as modelled here by Zoe N). We are trying to get a set of tops for Clash games when two Donvale teams play against each other. If anyone has old green tops to donate we would be very appreciative. For any uniform enquiries please contact dianamcn@tpg.com.au or 0434 027 144

Level 5/6 News

There was a great deal of excitement and hysterical anticipation (not unlike a One Direction appearance) when the Year Six Hoodies were distributed yesterday. The new design matches perfectly with the new uniform, and the students look and feel very smart in them.
Dear Parents & Student,

Welcome to week 4 of term 1. This week at OSH we were excited to see all the new preps settling down. We will be picking them up after school and dropping them off to their class before school throughout the term as they are very precious.

This week children enjoyed the yummy chocolate cake.

Next week we will be working on The Sustainable Living activities.

Remember we are in Term 1, 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.

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 (0402362443/98422261) if it is on the day.

Jagruti Shah

Next Week’s Activities

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<td>Nature collage</td>
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OSHC program phone: 0402 362 443
Coordinator: Jagruti
Assistants: Caroline and Jennifer
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

Birthday Wishes This week To
Rowan S, Zoe C and Lucas O
Parent’s Association

DELICIOUS mmmm!

MEAL DEAL DAY

Wednesday 5 March
Details coming home soon
Its gonna be good!

DPS Fair
Saturday 29 March
11-4pm
All hands on deck needed
THE Major fundraising effort for 2014,
$$ raised will work towards putting aircon into the Senior building
Information packs coming home soon on how you can get involved

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:

FAMILY ZONE - Sunday 23rd February, 3.29pm at 37 Taunton Str, East Doncaster

What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.

Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.

Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.

Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.

Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au
Donvale Primary School is committed to providing a range of options to parents to make the payment of School fees as easy as possible. As well as cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS payments we are pleased to advise that BPay is now available as another payment alternative.

Full details are available on the Family Statements enclosed. Please use the reference on your statement to make a payment using BPay. A current statement is attached to this letter. It will currently show any fees or bulk billing that is still outstanding. If you have made a payment this week, or are on an instalment plan, or have nominated EMA towards the annual fees these amounts will still be showing. If you have any queries regarding your family statement please call the office. Reminder statements will be sent home from time to time as required throughout the year.

To ensure the correct allocation of payments, parents are asked to forward the remittance advice from their statement, with the charges being paid marked, as shown below. Or the bulk billing notice with BPay indicated and the charges that are being paid indicated on it. If the School does not receive this advice within two (2) days of the payment being made, the funds will be allocated at the School’s discretion.

Please feel free to contact the School if you wish to make special arrangements for the payment of your account.

Ricarda Lillis
Business Manager
**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 instalments, 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.

GET YOUR SNIPPETS BY EMAIL

Currently, our Snippets newsletter is available to our families in two forms; hard copy which is printed at the school and sent home weekly to each family; and online via our Donvale Primary School Website. We are very keen to cease sending home the hard copy version of our newsletter. The administrative costs and environmental issues in printing copies each week are our justifications in wanting to do this. However, in our Parent Survey, many parents indicated that they really enjoy flicking through the hard copy and appreciate it being sent home in this format. Some families also do not have access to the internet so communicating via hard copy email is their suitable option. So to support all members of our community, we would like to make it an option for parents to choose whether or not they would like to have their Snippets Newsletter sent home as a hard copy.

We also have had many new families join our school community this year. We ask that all our new families as well as other families who wish to add their name to our data base, to please consider these options and reply by returning form ASAP.

We thank you for your consideration and hopefully, in doing things this way, we can minimise the cost to our school and environment.

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DONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Name:___________________________________________________________

Name of eldest student and class: _________________________________________

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

☐ I would like to receive my Snippets Newsletter online via our website.

My email address is: _________________________________________________