In Good Hands:
I mentioned in an earlier newsletter how our new Foundation students had made a seamless transition to school life at Donvale. I said what a credit this was to their parents, kindergarten teachers and Foundation teachers. If you look at the photo below, I obviously left out another very important piece of the picture. The confidence and security that an older sibling at school can provide to a younger brother or sister is invaluable. Watching Sebastian holding his little sister Luciana’s hand as he walked her across the playground to her classroom one morning, is one of my favourite memories from the start of this year. Well done to Sebastian and all the other older brothers and sisters at Donvale who will provide such comfort and support to some of our newest students.

Parent/Teacher Interviews:
I hope parents enjoyed the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher this week. These start of year meetings are called ‘Getting to Know You” interviews and they are designed for teachers to learn as much as possible about the students in their class this year. Learning about a student’s personality, interests, friendships and family through a parent’s perspective provides invaluable information for teachers and leads to a greater understanding of that student. These meetings strengthen the already strong home/school partnership which exists at Donvale.
School Leaders:
At our assembly tomorrow afternoon we will welcome the Mayor of Manningham Mr Jim Grivokostopoulos, who will present our School Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains, Vice House Captains, Senior Choir Captains and Vice Captains and Student Representative Councillors with their badges. We extend a warm invitation to the parents of all these students to attend tomorrow’s assembly.

SRC:
Elections have recently been held for students to be their class Student Representative Councillor. Students elected on to the SRC have a wonderful opportunity to voice any concerns they may have and also their ideas for improving our school. Last year under the excellent leadership of Mrs Karen Murphy our SRC was responsible for many fund raising events and creative initiatives which all contributed to the wellbeing of students at Donvale. This year we are pleased to announce that Mrs Erskine-Behr and Mrs Wallis will be leading the SRC and we thank them for undertaking this important role. We congratulate the following students for their successful election and wish them well for a rewarding year.


Ian McKinlay

From The Acting Assistant Principal

Permission Forms
We are currently reviewing and revising the permission forms that are completed by all new students to the school. These will be sent home next week to Foundation students and new enrolments, please look out for them and return them to the school. They will cover the use of sunscreen, headlice inspections, photographs and student work on the school website, local excursions and PG movies. If you have signed one of these forms in the past and wish to change you preferences, please request one from the office next week.

Teacher/Parent Rock Band – Sax Player Wanted
We have commenced rehearsals with some talented parents and teachers for a blues/rock band to play at the school fair on Saturday 29th March. We would like to add an experienced sax player to the line-up. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP.

Rick Gordon

From The School Council President
On behalf of the School Council I would like to welcome everyone back to School for 2014. There is a lot going on in Term 1 for students, parents and families and we encourage the parent community to participate and contribute no matter how big or small.

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 the change and contribute to the continued growth of the school. Please feel free to have a chat to myself or any of the current school council members or put in your nomination (information attached in Snippets).

Kind regards
Brenda Tierney
President Donvale School Council
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<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>9.00-3.30: Foundation students</td>
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<td>9.00-3.30: Foundation students</td>
<td>19 Foundation Testing Day Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>20 9.00-3.30: Foundation students</td>
<td>21 9.00-3.30: Foundation students</td>
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<td>2.30-3.30: Magistrate visiting Level 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>10.00-12.00: Swimming Trials Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27 Summer Inter-School Sport</td>
<td>28 ‘Clean Up’ Australia Day at school</td>
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<td>Foundation students attend full time</td>
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<td>10.00-12.30: District Swimming</td>
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<td>Tennis Trials</td>
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<td>National Ride 2 School Day</td>
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FROM THE OFFICE:

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**.

STUDENT INFORMATION
Student information will come home today with every student. Please check the details and amend if necessary and return it to the school to enable details to be updated on the school’s system.

Thank you.

Clean Up Schools Day - Friday 28th February
Donvale Primary School will be participating in ‘Clean Up Schools Day’. If anyone has any buckets or tongs that they are willing to donate so that we can collect the rubbish safely, it would be very much appreciated. Please bring donations to Mrs Erskine-Behr’s room.

Growing Healthy Minds
This week’s tips are about bouncing back from rejection. Everyone experiences rejection at some point in their life. The trick is knowing how to manage it when it happens. The article I have included has some simple strategies to help your child.

Happy reading!

Lashay Cartledge

Every day counts – school attendance
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.
From The Sports Coach

Our Swimming Trials (18th Feb) were most successful. A District Swimming Team has been selected for the District event on Monday 24th Feb at Aquarena Doncaster. Children involved have been notified. I encourage all children to practice their event/events as often as possible. All events are 50 metres. Permission/payment forms need to be returned by Friday 21st Feb.

Summer Inter-School Sport
Our first round of Inter-School Sport is Thursday 27th Feb for our Level 5 & 6 children. The sports are Bat Tennis, Cricket, Rounders, Softball and Basketball. Children playing Cricket and Basketball will travel by bus to their venues. Permission/Payment forms must be returned by Wednesday 26th Feb. Bat Tennis and Rounders will be played at D.P.S. Softball will be played on Donvale Reserve.

Fundamental Motor Skills
The role of Physical Education and Sport in the school curriculum is to help students develop the competencies and beliefs necessary for incorporating regular physical activity into their lives. An important part is the instruction in Fundamental Motor Skills (catch, kick, run, jump, throw, ball bounce, dodge and hitting). All these motor skills form the building blocks which underpin the learning of more complicated sport skills. Fundamental Motor Skills competence has been shown to influence students in many ways. Students who have achieved fundamental motor skill competence have been found to successfully participate in a range of sports movement activities and maintain involvement during childhood and adolescence. Regular involvement in sport and movement activities leads to gains in health-related physical fitness. How students feel about themselves can be influenced by their physical skills. Students who have achieved fundamental motor skill competence have been found to perceive themselves as being competent, socially accepted and to have a positive attitude towards physical activity. In essence, fundamental motor skills and competence assists in preparing students for a healthy lifestyle.

Sequence of Instruction:
During the early primary school years (Foundation - Level 3) students are given the opportunity to learn the essential motor skills upon which later learning is dependent. They include the throw, catch, kick, hitting, ball bounce, run and jump. During the later years (Levels 4 - 6) students are taught a range of transitional, or lead-up motor skills/activities. Examples of skills and activities include basketball dribble, netball, tennis, cricket …) During these years, students receive physical education that enables and encourages them to further develop their motor skills such as throwing, catching and hitting learned earlier into the more complex and specific sports common to the community.

A Modified Tennis Environment
With the arrival of modified tennis equipment from Tennis Australia, all students at Donvale will be introduced to tennis as part of their Physical Education this term.

Foundation
Students are introduced to tennis through learning basic Fundamental Motor Skills which will assist them in grouping the key skills required to play tennis.

Years 1-2
Students are introduced to the general principals of tennis through participating in a range of challenging activities.

Years 3 - 4
Students will learn the basic strokes, volley and serve skills required to rally the ball and play games.

Years 5 - 6
Students will refine their skills through games which focus on tactics and court play. Activities that will promote these outcomes may require modification. These modifications commonly involve adapting equipment (eg. Smaller racquets, low compression balls, court size and tennis skills (eg. Substituting a drop and hit for an over arm serve) to promote greater success.
Junior Chef Club

This year 110 children are participating in the DJC program. Group numbers filled up in 2 days, so we had to open an extra group. Thank you to all the team helpers for always being ready to lend a hand.

Our budget is very tight so there is NO Refund if you decide to withdraw during the program. Unfortunately there are many children on the waiting list (your form & payment will be returned), but we will let you know ASAP when a spot is available.

We are going to divide the children into 6 groups, each group is a mix of children from Foundation to Grade 6. If your child is away on the day they are supposed to do the session, we will arrange for them to join in with another group so they won't miss out. (This doesn't apply for children who are at school but decide they just don’t want to come to their session).

We will contact the class teachers just before lunch to remind the children to come to the DJC room as soon as they finish their lunch, or they can bring their lunch with them into the room.

Thank you to the McDonald, Younger, Hong, Cowell, Raftopoulos, Leyh, Chan, Frigo, Sinclair, Farrell, Smith (Kate), Loccisano, Motamedi, Shuen, Poppes, Alexander, Denton, Nunn, Coops, Alexander, Rahimi, Schneider, O’Sullivan, Smith (Tania), Fraser (Ellen), Livanopoulos, Wallbridge-Hall and D-Biggs families for their donations. Special thank you to Jaqui Frigo, Marina Younger, Christine Cowell, Alisha McDonald, Alfie H and Angelica F (34R) for helping with the preparations.

And thank you to Jenni Raftopoulos who bought us 3 brand new rolling pins.

We don’t cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

Basketball

4 wins and 4 losses were this week’s results. Approximately a 1/3 of all our students are playing primary school basketball!! We have gone from 5 teams last year to 9 teams this year! It is great to see so many kids enjoying basketball.

We have 15 players for under 9 boys so we have created a second team! Zac T and Connor D have signed up so welcome boys. Tonight at training the boys will be sorted into two teams “The Demons and The Dolphins”. The Dreamers welcomed Hayley P into the team who played her second game scoring a fantastic 7 points for the team. The Dreamers are also very happy to welcome Ruby B back to the team. The Delights are doing well under the coaching of Renee T and Becky Sinclair giving the all the girls equal court time keep up the good work!

Times for this week are as follows:

Dinosaurs: 1.30pm Disc 1
Daffodils: 11am Disc 1
Delights: 8.30 am Disc 2
Dreamers: 8.30 am Disc 1
Daisies: 9.20 Disc Leeds st
Diamonds: 11 am Leeds st
Dragons: 3:10 pm Disc 2
Demons: 12:40 pm Disc 1

Training Roster for Tuesday

Most players already know that the Disc do not have enough available courts for us to hire for training so one team each week will be rostered to train at the school. This Tuesday is “The Daisies” turn to train at school. Please meet straight after school by the door of the GP room.

UNIFORMS: For any questions about uniforms speak to your team manager or contact Charmaine at charmaine.neal@bigpond.com

CONTACT: For Information and registration forms please contact Diana at dianamen@tpg.com.au or 0434 027 144
Helping children learn positive friendship skills

Importance of children’s friendships

At any age, having friends provides support and promotes mental health and wellbeing. Children’s friendships are also very important for their social and emotional development. Through friendships children learn how to relate with others. They develop social skills as they teach each other how to be good friends.

Most children want to have friends. Children who have friends are more likely to be self-confident and perform better academically at school than those without friends. When children have difficulty in making friends or in keeping them, it often leads to feeling lonely and unhappy with themselves. Feeling rejected by others may lead to significant distress. Learning positive friendship skills can help children socially so they feel happier and more confident.

How friendships develop and change

Friendships require give and take. By sharing toys, time, games, experiences and feelings, children learn that they can have their social needs met and can meet the needs of others. Since friendships develop through this kind of mutual exchange, close friendships are usually based on well-matched needs.

Children’s friendship needs and skills change as they grow. Similarly, children’s ideas about friendship change as they develop. This is reflected in the different kinds of activities that children like to spend time doing with their friends at different ages. The table below indicates the ways children tend to describe close friends and the kinds of skills that support positive friendships as they develop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate age</th>
<th>A friend is someone who…</th>
<th>Friendship skills include…</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1yr</td>
<td></td>
<td>• looking, smiling, touching, imitating</td>
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<tr>
<td>1–2 yrs</td>
<td>• plays with you</td>
<td>• identifying friend by name</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• has good toys</td>
<td>• playing well in a twosome</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• can do fun things</td>
<td>• approaching others to join in</td>
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<td>3–5 yrs</td>
<td>• does something that pleases you</td>
<td>• taking others’ feelings into account</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• you know better than other people</td>
<td>• seeing others’ viewpoint</td>
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<tr>
<td>5–7 yrs</td>
<td>• helps and looks after you</td>
<td>• talking and listening to each other</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• you help</td>
<td>• forming groups with similar interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>8–10 yrs</td>
<td>• plays fair – follows the rules</td>
<td>• sharing confidences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• talks and shares interests</td>
<td>• negotiating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–12 yrs</td>
<td>• trusts you and is trustworthy</td>
<td>• respecting one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–18 yrs</td>
<td>• understands you and who you understand</td>
<td>• talking about personal and social issues</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• you can talk to about feelings or problems</td>
<td>• supporting one another</td>
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Program Update

Dear Parents & Student,

Welcome to week 5 of term 1. Last week we were busy with the AASC sports-Cricket and Tennis. 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>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Chocolate Cake</td>
<td>Make your own Play dough</td>
<td>Maths Quiz &amp; Bat tennis</td>
<td>Summer stained Glass craft</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&amp; Summer Word search</td>
<td>&amp; Silent ball</td>
<td>&amp; Twister</td>
<td>&amp; Guess who</td>
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<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Summer Collage</td>
<td>Summer sun &amp; Simon says</td>
<td>Summer pool Scene</td>
<td>Summer butterfly Fan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&amp; Cricket (AASC)</td>
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<td>&amp; Cardboard car/ truck</td>
<td>&amp; Library day</td>
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OSHC program phone: 0402 362 443,9842 2261
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 To
Ava H, Michael W, Nadia S
Parent’s Association

Put this in your calendar!!!

sushi sushi

MEAL DEAL DAY - Wednesday 5 March

Choice of 4 different Hand roll flavors,
a delicious Choc Chip cookie
(gluten free option available)
& a lemonade icy pole!
Hand Roll Flavors –
  Avocado & Cucumber
  Cooked Tuna with Cucumber
  Crispy Chicken
  Teriyaki chicken

ORDER FORMS TO COME HOME MONDAY
  24 FEBRUARY

Extra forms available at the Office

Class Friendship List Notices went home today.

THE COGS ARE TURNING.........

STALL COORDINATORS
DPS FAIR MEETING

3.30pm – Friday 21 February, IN THE LIBRARY

Fair general info packs to be sent home
to all families soon

COMMUNITY FAIR
March 29th 11am – 4pm

RIDES food PETTING ZOO stalls
MUSIC dancing FUN family day out

Donvale Primary School, Elata St or via DISC on Springvale Rd.
This is an alcohol-free event.
The Department of Education & Training, Donvale Primary School its Management, and teachers do not endorse the products or services of any advertiser listed in this publication. No representation, warranty or undertaking is given or made in relation to the accuracy or completeness of the information presented in this publication, or any claims made by the advertisers.

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


Donvale Magpies Auskick and Junior Football Opens for 2014

The Donvale Magpies welcome all players looking to enjoy learning AFL football skills in Auskick or starting their junior football career. We will field junior football teams from u9’s through to under 17s available. Children turning 8 or 9 this year can enrol in u9s, those turning 10 in u10s and so forth.

The Donvale Magpies is your local football club located at Donvale Sports Club Noonan Way Donvale Melways Reference 48F3. The Donvale Magpies Auskick Program covers children from Kinda (As long as they turn 5 this year) to Grade 3. If you are interested you can contact Andrew Gilmour on 0402 894 782 or Happygilmour23@optusnet.com.au for further information. You can also go to the Auskick website (http://www.aflauskick.com.au/) and enter your postcode to find our Auskick Centre and the Donvale Magpies Junior Football website (www.Donvalefc.com.au) for further details. We look forward to an enjoyable and fun year of AFL football at your family friendly local football club.

Auskick Program Starts: April 26th 2014
Donvale Junior Football Training Starts: Late February / Early March 2014
Donvale Junior Football Club Season Starts: April 6th 2014

If you require more information on mouthguards, please contact Elisabeth Waycott (Michael, FRG) 0433 109 505

FIVE GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD WEAR A MOUTHGUARD

1. Cushions teeth against impact.
2. Protects against jaw joint injuries.
3. Protects against soft tissue injuries.
5. May help reduce concussion.
Aussie Kids at risk of long term oral damage

An increase in the number of Australian children playing high intensity sport is contributing to an increase in oral trauma emergencies, yet more than half of Aussie kids don’t wear a mouthguard when training or in matches¹.

The frequency of children presenting to emergency departments with oral trauma has increased by 21% between 2000 to 2010² and with more than 60 percent of Aussie kids aged 5 to 14 participating in sport, up 43% over 11 years, the Australian Dental Association (ADA) is urging all parents to have their children fitted for a custom mouthguard.

The ADA’s Oral Health Committee Chairman, Dr Peter Alldritt, said sporting accidents are one of the most common causes of dental injury and result in thousands of trauma presentations each year, many of which could be avoided or minimised with a protective mouthguard.

“More than half of Australian children who play a contact sport do not wear a mouthguard, and just 36% of children aged 5 to 17 years who own a mouthguard actually wear it during matches, games and training sessions³,” Dr Alldritt said.

“The risks associated with not wearing a mouthguard when playing a contact sport are serious and range from cuts to the lips and mouth, to broken or knocked out teeth and broken jaws.”

The ADA strongly recommends a mouthguard fitted professionally by a dentist to ensure maximum protection during high intensity sport.

A custom fitted mouthguard reduces the risk of sports injury as it cushions the teeth against impact, decreases the likelihood of jaw dislodgement and neck trauma common with heavy knocks, and can minimise the risk of concussion.

Adults are also at risk of oral trauma as a result of not wearing a properly fitted mouthguard with some of Australia’s most popular professional sports the most dangerous when appropriate caution is not taken.

Aussie Rules Football, rugby league and union, soccer, hockey, basketball and cricket account for approximately 75%⁴ of all sports-related injuries in Australia,” Dr Alldritt said.

“Aussie kids worship our sporting heroes, so it’s extremely important that wearing a mouthguard becomes the standard across the board and the professionals lead by example.”

¹ Newspoll National Telephone Omnibus, „Children 11-17 who play contact sport“, December 2010
² Clapperton, A „Unintentional (Accidental) hospital-treated injury Victoria“, Melbourne, Monash Injury Research Institute, 2010
³ Newspoll National Telephone Omnibus, „Children 11-17 who play contact sport“, December 2010
Which type of mouthguard should I wear?

There are many types of mouthguards available in Australia, ranging from cheap, over-the-counter types to professionally custom-fitted mouthguards.

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) strongly recommends wearing a custom-fitted mouthguard to ensure maximum protection. These are available from your dentist.

Over-the-counter mouthguards do not provide enough protection against injuries to your teeth, mouth or jaw. Dental injuries can be very costly, so it is worthwhile investing in a custom-fitted mouthguard.

Custom-fitted mouthguards

Custom-fitted mouthguards are made by your dentist, who takes an impression and creates a plaster model of your teeth. Custom-fitting allows your dentist to accurately assess your mouth and provide the best fitting mouthguard for you.

Custom-fitted mouthguards provide a better fit than other varieties, as they are made to suit your individual needs. When made by your dentist, a custom-fitted mouthguard is:

- Comfortable
- Well-fitting
- Allows you to speak clearly
- Won’t shift or fall out
- Won’t restrict your breathing

Over-the-counter (boil and bite) mouthguards

Over-the-counter mouthguards are less effective than those that are custom-fitted. These mouthguards include stock mouthguards that do not require fitting, and mouthguards that can be placed in hot water and then self-fitted by biting into the mould.

How long will my mouthguard last?

It’s important that you have your mouthguard assessed by your dentist at your regular dental check-up to ensure it still fits correctly for maximum protection. You may need a replacement if your new, secondary adult teeth have come through or if your mouthguard has been damaged.

How do I care for my mouthguard?

- Rinse in cold water after use
- Store in a rigid plastic container
- Keep out of direct sunlight - mouthguards will change shape in high temperatures
- Occasionally rinse your mouthguard in a mouthwash
- Have your mouthguard assessed by your dentist at your regular dental check-up
- Replace your mouthguard if it gets damaged

For more information on mouthguards and protecting teeth, visit: www.mouthguardawareness.info


**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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<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>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

School Council Elections 2014

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.
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.

________________________________________________________________________

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:

________________________________________________________________