The following is a recent article from the The Age newspaper. Please take the time to read.

Missing just one day of school has negative consequences for a student’s academic achievement, the first major study linking poor attendance to lower NAPLAN results has found. And school attendance patterns established as early as year 1 can predict how often a student will show up to class right throughout high school, according to the research. Australia is alarmingly slack when it comes to school attendance, with high school students skipping more days of school than almost any other developed country.

On Monday 4th August 2014, the harmful effects of that absenteeism will be detailed by the results of a study to be presented at the Australian Council for Educational Research’s annual conference. An analysis of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students from Western Australia found any absence of school leads to a slip in academic performance. The study dispels the common belief there is a safe level of absence students can get away with before their grades will suffer.

“We were able to show that actually every day counts and days that you’re missing in year 3 and year 5, we can detect that all the way through to year 9,” the report’s co-author Professor Stephen Zubrick from the University of Western Australia said.

“A 10 day period of unauthorised absence in a year is sufficient to drop a child about a band in the NAPLAN testing. “The most startling finding, he said, was that students arrive in year 1 “with their school attendance careers already in their pockets”. “For most children, year 1 sets the pattern for what school attendance will look like in the future,” Dr Zubrick said. “You’re learning more than reading and writing. You’re learning to show up. “While poor attendance is a problem across the socioeconomic spectrum, families in affluent areas often interrupt schooling for overseas holidays.

Dr Zubrick insists his message is not about finger-wagging or guilt trips, but says “we do need to recognise that when a child is standing on the Eiffel Tower so to speak, they may be learning a lot about the world but they’re not necessarily learning everything they’d be learning at school.

“Principal of Lauriston Girls’ School Susan Just said the school does not endorse families taking holidays during school time, and while students may take
homework on a trip, they risk missing out on the "classroom experience". She said acceptable grounds for leave could include health complications or athletic and cultural commitments sanctioned by the school. Brighton College principal Julie Podbury said the school does not consider a family holiday to be an appropriate reason for missing school, but acknowledged that overseas travel can be beneficial to children. “If the students go overseas, it impacts on their education. If they’re not engaged in any part of their education, they can fall behind the class and returning to school can be traumatic,” she said. But Ms Podbury conceded that extended family travel can be “educational and enlightening”. "There are things you just cannot learn in the classroom," she said.

In a major international survey of 15-year-olds, conducted by the OECD in 2012, almost one-third of Australian students said they had skipped at least one day of school in the previous two weeks. That means Australian students skip school more frequently than any other developed country except Turkey and Italy. In high-performing countries such as Japan and Korea that figure was less than 2 per cent. Chris Chant, the headmaster of Gardenvale Primary School, said absenteeism is a long-standing challenge of the school, with up to 10 of the 430 families withdrawing their kids during the year for travel. Mr Chant said younger students were at greater risk of suffering academically after extended absenteeism, but older kids can stay afloat by keeping a travel diary, sending postcards to their teachers, learning a new language and keeping up to date with homework. He added if parents were going to pull their kids out of school, it was up to them to ensure the trip is enriching. “If the parents just want to go to Bali to buy cheap souvenirs and sit on the beach, you have to question their logic. But if it’s a four-week-tour of Italy, that’s different,” he said. “In some cases, kids will get to see things that I and the teachers can’t provide.

Lena Clark

Illustration: Matt Golding.

August

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<td>2.15-3.15: Gymnastics for Level 5/6</td>
<td>Jnr Chef Club—Group 4</td>
<td>Meal Deal Day—Hot Potato</td>
<td>Author Sheryl Clark Incursion</td>
<td>Grandparents/ Special Person Day for Foundation</td>
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<td>9am: Parents Ass. Meeting in Library Book Week Activity Day</td>
<td>Jnr Chef Club—Group 5</td>
<td>2.15-3.15: Gym for Level 1 &amp; 2 9.00-4.00: State Schools Spectacular Rehearsal</td>
<td>Before &amp; After School: Scholastic Book Fair</td>
<td>Before &amp; After School: Scholastic Book Fair</td>
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<td>9.00am-1.00pm: Working Bee</td>
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<td>Jnr Chef Club—Group 6</td>
<td>2.15-3.15: Gym for Level 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>3.30-5.30pm: State Schools Spectacular in Rehearsal in Snr Bldg</td>
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**General**

**Book Week Correction**

Please note that the date for the Book Week dress up day is **Monday the 18th of August**, it was incorrect in last week’s Snippets.

The dress up can be something you work on together with your child or if you are stuck for ideas, time or creativity, remember that lots of children’s books have children who are playing at the park, attending school, going to family gatherings etc. So if all else fails let your child just wear his/her everyday clothes and choose a book to refer to. The main aim is to have fun and celebrate reading.

**Working Bee Term 3**

We invite all parents and families to attend our Term 3 Working Bee on Sunday 24th August from 9.00am - 1.00pm, finishing with a bbq and drinks.

Tasks will include general tidying up of garden beds, preparation of vegie garden, cutting back of bushes near buildings/gutters, small amount of painting and general cleaning out of some storage rooms.

“Many hands make light work” as Confucius says.

If anyone knows how or where we can get rid of paint tins, please see the office.

Thank you

*John Pianta for Building and Grounds Committee*

**From The Office**

**Term 3 Bulk Billing:** A reminder that the following payments are due:

- $4 for Book Week Incursion (Friday 14th Aug) and $25 for Level 1 & 2 Gymnastic Program (20th Aug).
- Instalment 2 for Level 3 & 4 Camp.

Thank you.

**Sustainability News**

What a great start to our “Rubbish Free” school this week!

Thanks to all those families who have made an effort to send along rubbish free lunches. You’ll probably find that you save money by not buying individually wrapped items, and I bet you’ve sorted out your plastic container cupboard now, too!

Now that there are SO MANY reusable containers coming to school, it is important that you name all containers and lunchboxes – just like so many things, they all look the same. We’d hate for all these items to end up in lost property.

Sadly we are still seeing quite a few wrappers and bags in the yard…. Please remember that any rubbish that comes to school MUST be taken home again.

Thanks again for your support in this, the first step in our vital sustainability plan.

*Sustainability Team*
Nature Play at Donvale

We have commenced a new, creative program during recess and lunchtimes called Nature Play. We have formalised an activity that the students have developed naturally, where they would build huts from materials that were lying around the perimeter of the school ground. Nature Play is program that is encouraged through our local council, and activities have been conducted in several local parks and at festivals. Research and experience have shown that children need to develop physical and social skills through imaginative play outdoors, and that cognitive development occurs when they are given the opportunity to interact creatively with their environment.

We have arranged for one of our parents, Cam Donaldson, of Silverbirch Landscaping and Garden Maintenance, to deliver loads of tree cuttings and branches to our forest area. Guidelines have been developed by the staff to ensure that the program runs as smoothly as possible, and all students have fair access to the materials. The guidelines are as follows:

• Build huts safely, sensibly and creatively
• Invite others to join in as hut builders and work co-operatively with them
• Try to make a whole village of huts in the forest area
• Use the materials available for building huts, not as weapons
• Huts are temporary, and materials can be used again to build another hut next week
• Each year level is rostered for one week in order for everyone to have access

We hope that Nature Play continues to be an enjoyable activity that gives the students a special opportunity to continue their development.

Rick Gordon
Year 5/6 Teacher

From The Sports Coach

Division Finals: Congratulations to our Mixed Netball and Tee-Ball teams who played their games yesterday. Although both teams were beaten, they all played to their best and gained valuable knowledge from the experience.

State Swimming Champion: Congratulations to Ashley W (Grade 6 student last year) who is now the Under 12 Girls State Swimming Champion in the 200m backstroke. Ashley was also placed 4th in the 100m backstroke. Ashley will now compete in the National titles later this year. We wish her all the best.
Playgroup
(at Donvale Primary School)

Did you know that Donvale Primary School runs a Playgroup every Wednesday morning from 9.00am – 11.00am (during school terms) in the GP Room? Our Playgroup is made up of families from within the School community as well as families from outside the school, who do not have any children attending our school.

All children younger than school age are welcome. Our Playgroup currently has children of varied ages, from kinder age to young toddlers and babies. We aim to provide a fun and supportive environment for children and their parents / carers. Playgroup can be a great stepping stone for children before starting kindergarten.

Playgroup fees are kept low and activities are organised by the playgroup co-ordinator on a weekly/fortnightly basis. We ask all families to join Playgroup Victoria, which is an additional cost.

Children have the opportunity throughout the year to get involved in craft activities, sports days, dress ups and theme days as well as cooking activities. We also have visits to the school library so the children can enjoy stories and book borrowing.

Joining a playgroup is a great way to meet new families and make new friends. The children get to socialise, play and have fun while learning basic routines in readiness for kinder. It is also a good introduction for children to learn about sharing with others and taking turns. For families who do not attend our school, it’s a great way to get to know Donvale Primary from the inside, and to learn about all the wonderful things our school has to offer.

Our Playgroup is warm and friendly and we welcome anyone who would like to come along and try an introductory playgroup session (no obligation). If you have any friends or neighbours who have younger children who don’t already attend our school, please let them know about our Playgroup. All enquiries can be directed to the playgroup co-ordinator, Kylie Gray on 0404 455 237 or to Amanda Ehlert (playgroup helper) on 0417 569 721.

Our Playgroup needs your help!!

We are very thankful for the new improved GP Room, which is home to our Playgroup. Unfortunately a lot of the toys/games which we use at Playgroup are becoming old and worn out. As we do not have funds to purchase new equipment for our Playgroup, we wondered whether the Donvale Primary School community might be willing to donate any unwanted toys/dress-ups/games/puzzles or small play equipment items (in good condition) for use by our Playgroup. If so, we would be very grateful for any contributions. Should you have any queries regarding donations, please feel free to contact either Kylie or Amanda.

We thank you for your support and look forward to meeting you at Playgroup.

Amanda Ehlert
I'm so proud of all our little chefs, especially the foundation children. They were not just willing to learn about curry which many had never seen or heard of before. But also cooking and eating curry is just so amazing, it's great what they can do if we give them the opportunity. The roti bread, coconut rice and pickled vegies were also a very big adventurous culinary journey for them. Well done boys and girls.

Thank you to the Merton family for donating a few platters. Also thank you to Jaqui Frigo, Niki Savage, Moira Edwards, Georgia Loccisano. Mrs E, Ms J and Martin for helping with the program. Next week is the turn of group 4 to join us in the kitchen.

Ingredients we need are: lettuce, spring onion, potato and red capsicum.

We don't cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

BIG THUMBS UP:
- Jared S and Aaron R both 56W for helping us out, thank you boys.

FROM THE CURRY HOUSE:
- Sebastian K 56C: Easy to cook and good to eat.
- Christopher A 34R: I think I would die for this food.
- Aaron R 56W: One of the best curries I ever had.
- Rayan R 56W: Should be in the meal deal menu.
- Jared S 56W: Absolutely divine.
- Riley E FRG: The bread was spectacular.
- Ethan C FHW: Cooking curry is easy and I ate my first curry.
- Noah L FHW: I love it so much.
- Christopher N FHW: It was delicious, the best kind of bread.
- Peter T FHW: The best chicken curry ever.
- Ryan A 12S: All good.
- Lucas C 12S: It's so yum and easy to cook.
- Daniel W 12S: Good food and I like to cook.
- Karli M 12S: This is scrumptious.
- Indi M 12S: I like it and not spicy at all.
- Cameron D 34R: I love cooking, I love Thai food.
- Alfie H 34R: Tasty and hot, a bit too spicy for me.
- Lola S 34E: It's 10 out of 10
Dear Parents & Student,

The children enjoyed scrambled eggs for their breakfast and Sushi for their afternoon tea one of the days this week. It was good to see all the children making sushi and putting in the veggies of their choice.

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.

Please remember to update the contact details (Especially the phone numbers and address) on the enrolment form if there is any change. You can do so online.

Jagruti Shah

Next Week’s Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td><strong>Before Care Activities</strong></td>
<td>Loom bracelet &amp; Red letter</td>
<td>Recyclable tank &amp; Octopus</td>
<td>Lego building Competition &amp; Evacuation procedure</td>
<td>Batman light Projector &amp; Scarecrow tiggy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>After Care Activities</strong></td>
<td>Loom bracelet &amp; Celebrity head</td>
<td>Recyclable tank &amp; Badminton (AASC)</td>
<td>Zoob building Contest &amp; Indoor mini soccer</td>
<td>Our reflection Journal &amp; Baseball (AASC)</td>
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OSH 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](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.
DIM SIM RECESS!

Was a great hit, with over 250 dimi’s munched!

A big thanks to Liz Brown for a great idea, and Marina Younger for her cooking expertise. Thanks also to the team who supported, served and squeezed soy sauce to many happy little customers.

Hot Potato Meal Deal Lunch - Wednesday
13 August
Order form attached – get yours in before Monday!

PA have scheduled some exciting events & would love your help!

If you would like to help in the preps or at the event, contact the Coordinator listed below:

Scholastic Book Fair, Wednesday 20 (setup), sales Thursday 21 & Friday 22 August - Karin Moule 3/4P (0419 583 990)
Fathers Day Activity Night, Thursday 4 September – Liz Brown 1/2SM
Meal Deal Day, Wednesday 10 September – Kim Merton 5/6C
Walk-a-Thon, Friday 19 September – last day of school – Marina Younger 1/2J,

More info posted closer to each event.

COME & HAVE A CUPPA AT THE NEXT PA MEETING – MONDAY 18 AUGUST 9AM
Birthday Wishes To

Armani K

Who is celebrating a birthday from 8th - 14th August

Advertising Material

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

Are you a member of Parents Victoria?

Find out how to run a successful parents club and hear about the latest digital technologies and online resources at this year’s Parents Victoria Annual Conference. This year’s Parents Victoria Annual Conference will be held at the Melbourne Zoo on 29 and 30 August. Parents Victoria is a statewide democratic organisation representing parents of students in Victorian government schools, and provides parents with a voice, presenting an organised parent perspective to State and Federal Governments, educational bureaucracies and institutions, community organisations and the media. The theme for this year’s annual conference is Education for Everyone – let’s engage! Find out more information about Parents Victoria at: http://www.parentsvictoria.asn.au/

Junior Cricket

Join Donvale Cricket Club with coach Peter Redford, ex Victorian cricketer and Brownlow medallist for the 2014/15 season

Junior Grades:
Under 10
Under 11 - Friday Twilight & Saturday Morning
Under 12 - Friday Twilight & Saturday Morning
Under 13

Selling Baby Budgies

Two beautiful baby budgies for sale.
Both are 5 weeks old and ready to find a new loving home.
Both will be wormed before going to new homes.
Grey/black is a female.
Blue with dark back is a male.
Both perfect age to be hand tamed, and will make great lil pets.

Price: $25.00

Contact: 0413583714 (Aimee Lillia) or see Mrs. Lillia in the office.
Hot Potato Meal Deal Day
Wednesday 13 August, 2014

$5.00
includes a Hot Potato with your choice of toppings
Kids add their own (with help) ...........
- choice of butter, cheese, sour cream, corn, & or coleslaw
  plus a juice or water.

Please return the form below, with correct payment,
before Monday 11 August.

__________________________________________________________________________

Hot Potato Meal Deal Day - Wednesday 13 August 2014
$5.00 – Potato, toppings & drink.

Child’s Details:

Name:.......................................................  Grade: .....................

1 X Hot Potato, plus delicious toppings.

Please circle drink of choice:
□ Apple j  □ Orange j  □ Apple & Blackcurrant  □ Water

$............................................... enclosed (correct money please).
(EFT available at the office - )