Writers' Festival: Our very first Writers' Festival took place this week where all students wrote about their 'treasured possession'. The Festival was a glorious event where we were all able to celebrate the wonderful writing of our students. I thoroughly enjoyed reading their stories where very often they evoked a real emotional response. This is what good writers are able to do… take us to the moment and allow us to feel the emotion. Thank you to the staff who always work so enthusiastically with our students in developing their skills as great writers. And a very big thank you to our Literacy Curriculum Team who have worked tirelessly throughout the term in preparing for the Festival.

Thank you to everyone who provided us with such positive feedback. I'd like to share just one from a very supportive parent.

Hi Lena,

Just wanted to let you know that I was blown away with the display of writing from our students today. What a great experience for us as parents and I am sure for you as educators. It left me wondering what will be the future for these kids? Great things I am sure! A couple of standout presentations for me was Annie Johnston saying how she had learnt something from this method of teaching. Also Emily Wallis who spoke so well and taking snippets from some of her students stories.

My daughter has been accepted into the High achievers Literacy and Maths programs at her high school for next year and I want to say I believe this is a due to her superior education at Donvale Primary school. I credit the teaching staff for this. The teachers have always encouraged her to have confidence and to extend herself along with developing her thirst for knowledge. I have loved seeing how the curriculum has progressed throughout the years and am constantly amazed at the work the kids are able to produce.

Well done to all the staff at Donvale.

Hooptime Basketball: Last Friday, our Senior Students attended the Hooptime Basketball competition held at Kilsyth Sports Centre. Two Future Stars teams and four Rookies teams competed on the day. Our two Future Stars teams emerged triumphantly with both teams making it to the Grand Final—the ‘Donvale Donkeys’ succeeding and making it to the Regional finals to be held in October. This is an outstanding accomplishment by our students, one we are extremely proud of. Congratulations to all our students who competed on the day and continue to represent our school so positively.

Many thanks to the parents supporting our teams, particularly Tania Smith, Kim Wolff, Liz Brown, Peter and Cassandra Buckle. Your time and expertise is very much appreciated.
State Schools Spectacular: I had the great pleasure of attending the State Schools Spectacular held last Saturday at Hisense Arena. Thirteen of our students represented Donvale PS with their participation in the mass choir. With over 3000 students involved, the State Schools Spectacular is indeed an extraordinary event. It is such an amazing opportunity for our students to be a part of. Many thanks to Kerry Gerraty and Peter Reiter for all their work in supporting our students’ involvement. The time and effort that goes on behind the scenes to allow our students to be a part of such a wonderful event is enormous and very much appreciated. If you have a moment, please take the time to view the you tube link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vETKWiqyXLA&feature=youtu.be

Australian Flag: A big thank you to Liang and Martin Dimitroff who have knocked on Kevin Andrews’ (Federal Member for Menzies) door to receive a new Australian Flag. Our old one had deteriorated considerably and was in desperate need of replacement. A brand new flag now flies proudly at the front of our school. You may have also noticed the Victorian flag flying in the Junior playground area – thank you again to Martin for also setting this up for us.

Ricarda Lillis: We wish a fond farewell to Ricarda Lillis who is finishing up with us tomorrow. Ricarda has worked as the Business Manager at Donvale PS for the last eight years. She has shown absolute commitment and dedication to the job during her time with us and she will be very much missed. I’m sure you will join me in wishing Ricarda the very best at her new school. A new Business Manager for our school has now been appointed. Samantha Browne will commence at Donvale PS at the beginning of Term 4. I’m sure you will all make Samantha very welcome when she joins us directly after the holidays.

End Term 3: As we prepare for the end of another very busy term, I’d like to reflect on the events and achievements of Term 3. Our students have engaged in a plethora of incursions and excursions, sporting events and visits. We have celebrated Book Week, conducted a Curriculum Day, attended State Schools Spectacular, held a Working Bee, a Book Fair, a Writers’ Festival and a Walk-a-thon (tomorrow). Our students have participated in gymnastics, Athletics, ‘World of Maths’, walked with Dinosaurs, been visited by their Grandparents or special friend, and attended Sustainability Young Leaders’ Day. We’ve had Hooptime, meal deals, Father’s Day fun and free dress days. I could go on….. but can’t finish off without saying a huge thank you to the staff and community of Donvale PS who continually work tirelessly to provide these wonderful learning opportunities to our students. I wish you all a very well deserved break enjoying the time to recharge and get ready for a very exciting Term 4.

Lena Clark

PS See you at the Walk-a-thon tomorrow!

Assistant Principal’s Report

Premier’s Reading Challenge:

Congratulations to all the Donvale students who joined thousands of other children around the State in completing the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Like last year we had a very enthusiastic response. All the books read by our students have now been recorded and submitted online. We look forward to being able to present these students with their official Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate in term 4. I would like to say a huge thankyou to Marina Younger, Liang Dimitroff and Liz Brown for kindly donating their time to record our students’ books online. We really appreciate your efforts.

Happy Reading!

Ian McKinlay
Year 7 transition discussion panel

At Donvale Primary, we place a strong emphasis on successful progression throughout the primary journey. As a school, we put a lot of effort into transition across our whole school to ensure a smooth start in each new level. Next term the whole school transition process will begin, with more information to follow in next term’s Snippets.

Our current year 6’s only have one term left with us and they are getting very excited about what their future holds. Naturally, along with this excitement, a little bit of anxiety about the unknown usually surfaces.

On Monday, we invited four excellent role models, and past students of ours, along to sit on a panel for the current year 6’s. Abby W, Christopher W, Vikky M and Christian L spent an hour explaining their successful transition into year 7. They talked about what the students can expect, how to prepare themselves and spoke of some of the worries and fears they had before embarking on their new journey.

There were many valuable lessons I think our year 6’s learned. One that stood out for many of the students, when reflecting afterwards, was that although there is a settling period, there are many lovely people to help you through it, and overall, that year 7 is really quite fun!

The presentation the year 7’s gave was a wonderful opportunity to see past students acting in such a mature and responsible manner. The four students are a real credit to their parents and the teachers and staff who were a part of their lives at Donvale Primary.

Please read below to see what some of our students thought of the discussion.

Lashay Cartledge, Rick Gordon and Emily Wallis

On the 15th of September Abby W, Christopher W, Vikky M and Christion L came to our school to talk about Year 7 transition.

Mr Gordon asked them some questions about the homework, like how long does the homework take you to complete it. Christopher said it took him about an hour. Some of us are scared to go to high school and scared to make new friends. They told us in high school the teacher will put the students into groups, so they all have a chance to get to know each other.

This information has been very valuable to me. It will help me to be prepared for next year.

Jessie L

On the 15th of September we had four former Donvale students, who are now year 7’s, talk to us about the transition from year 6 to 7 and just what to get prepared for.

The thing that was extra helpful for me was that Abby W actually goes to the school I am going to next year (Our Lady of Sion). They talked to us about diaries and what happens when you do and don’t use them. They also talked about the timetable and all the different teachers they have. I also learnt that at Lady of Sion they have two different timetables because there are two different weeks. I thought that this talk was very helpful and the information was very valuable to me. I hope the teachers keep on doing this in the future because it’s very helpful.

Vanessa C

Yesterday we had lots of fun at the Year 7 Transition Forum. Former Donvale students made us feel less anxious about starting High School by telling us that the teachers were very helpful in settling us in over the first term. We also found out that we would have many teachers taking us for a range of subjects. That sounds like fun. Detention may be given to someone who is not wearing the correct uniform or has not completed a homework task. Of course that won’t be applying to any of us because we will be keeping our diaries up to date and visiting the Level Coordinator if we have any worries. It was great to hear past Donvale students talking about their favourite High School subjects. Science sounds great!

Karaj and Jonathan
**From The Office**

Level 3 /4 all camp payments should be paid to the office by the end of term 3 (due 19 September 2014)

Term 4 Bulk Billing notices are going home this week

Thank you.

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**Junior Chef Club**

DONVALE JUNIOR CHEF

Good bye curry house and welcome PASTICHERIA (pastry shop in Italian) I can't wait to explore more about our own style of TIRAMISU with the little chefs next term.

Thank you to the Sadler family for their early bird donation towards our Christmas party.

We need lots of lemons for next term, please send them to the school if you have any spare.

Have a lovely break everyone.

We don't cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

BIG THUMBS UP:

- Christopher A 34R : For picking lemons from his garden and giving them to us, thank you.

FROM THE DIMSIM PLACE:

- Ella M 34P : The best dimsim ever ...
- Indi M 12S : I can taste the cabbage inside them.
- Abby M 56C : Tastes better than the shop bought ones.

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**From The Sports Coach**

**District Athletics:** Congratulations to those children who competed in the 2014 District Athletics on Tuesday. Every child either ran, jumped or threw to the est of their ability and ought to be very proud of their effort, enthusiasm and support they all gave to each other. Special thanks to the parents who attended and supported our children. Special mention to Ruby B (12y.o) and Madison H (11y.o) who both won their individual event (Discus) and will progress next term into the Regional Athletics. Good luck, girls!

**Whole School Swimming Program:** Could parents please return their child’s expression of interest (will / will not) to attend this program in late Term 4. To assist with planning. Thanks to the families that have already done so.

*May I take this opportunity to wish all children and families a safe and enjoyable break from school and see you all in Term 4.*

*John Pianta*
Basketball

On Friday the 12th of September many Year 5/6 students travelled to Kilsyth Basketball Stadium, to participate in the Victorian Hooptime Competition. We had 4 Rookie teams, which consisted of students who may have never played basketball before, or students who were just having a go and trying a new sport. We also had 2 Future Stars teams and they were very successful in their pools. The Donvale Devils, coached by Renee made the grand final, but unfortunately they lost by 8 points. However our other team, the Donvale Donkeys won their final by 12 points, and thanks to the coaching of Peter Buckle, our Donkeys are going to the Regional Hooptime tournament.

Although the rookie teams didn’t have a finals competition every single rookie played amazingly well and enjoyed the day very much. The most important rule of the day was to have fun, and that’s exactly what happened.

In the words of the students the day was filled with happiness, laughter, fun, exhilaration and joy.

Overall everyone had an amazing experience and many of us had a chance to try something that we hadn’t tried before.

From Renee 5/6C and Jake 5/6G

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Education Maintenance Allowance

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

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

How is it paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

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

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions. It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

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

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

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

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

The students who will benefit the most
Dear Parents & Student,

Yippee we are in the last week of the term. Enjoy the short break and we will see you all next term.
Children are very excited with the new furniture and the soft toys. It is so good to see children helping us to rearrange the room especially assembling the tent and the book shelf. We had bit of party food and we went with massive clean-up on Wednesday.

**OSHClub will be operating from 2:30 to 6 pm on last day of the term due to early finish of the school.**

Online bookings for Mitcham and Blackburn Holiday Program are open. To avoid last minute rush or disappointment book in the children in advance.

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

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.*
WALK-A-THON

Friday 19 September
9am to 11am.
Great prizes, great cause, great fun.
Fundraiser for shade sails

Wear your house colors.
Great prizes, great cause, great fun,
Icypoles for all participants
Thank you to all the budding green thumbs who have responded to the Garden Design Challenge. Your designs are soon to be submitted to School Council for the final decision. Watch this space!

Last Friday, our Sustainability Students had a fabulous day at Currawong Bush Park as we attended the Young Leaders Sustainability Conference. Thanks to the teachers and parents who allowed their children to take part. They all behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic contributors. Even other teachers from other schools commented on how wonderful they were!

The children took part in round robin activities around sustainability with representatives from 12 other Manningham schools. They learnt about the local Wurundjeri people, the importance of choosing tap (water), to shop ethically, recognise water bugs, about solar power, to appreciate and care for native animals, what happens to recycling and much more. Some were run by local secondary students, which was a great chance for our older students to make positive connections with high school.

At the end of the day, all of the students were asked to make a pledge as to what small changes they would make towards a more sustainable future. Symbols of these were etched into individual clay tiles which will be fired and mounted as a mural at Currawong. The park is open on weekends and holidays, we will let you know when the mural is up.

The day was abound with smiles and engagement, thanks to the combined initiative of Manningham council and the Education Department’s Sustainability focus.

The Sustainability Team.
Tree planting day

Last Friday 12J were lucky enough to be involved in the “2 million trees” project at Westerfolds Park in Templestowe. We joined in a waterwatch activity to discover how clean the river water was, hunted for minibeasts, and of course, planted lots of indigenous trees.

All together we planted over 1300 trees for the day. (Ok, we had a bit of help from Templestowe Heights PS as well...)

We were tired but happy little Loraxes at the end of the day.

September

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<td>2.15-3.15: Gym for Level 1 &amp; 2 Writer’s Festival</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 3: 9-11am: Walkathon</td>
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<td>Term 4 resumes Walk To School October begins</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 3: 12.30-1.30: Lunch</td>
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<td>9.15-10.30: Foundation 2015 Transition</td>
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<td>4.00-9.30pm: Whole school disco</td>
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<td>9.00am: Parent’s Association meeting</td>
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<td>Foundation Farm Excursion</td>
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<td>2.00-3.15: Foundation 2015 Transition</td>
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<td>31 Assembly: Music Count Us In - whole school song</td>
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FYI - HUGE BOOK WAREHOUSE SALE
50-90% OFF EVERYTHING!
Thousands of fantastic children's books will be on sale including paperback novels,
picture books, chapter books, activity items and much more!

Fill a box for $40 section!

Friday 19 September 8.00am - 5.00pm
Scholastic Warehouse 9-11 Northern Road West Heidelberg VIC 3081
You can pay by cash, EFTPOS or credit card. www.scholastic.com.au

sushi sushi TUESDAY lunch orders
Term 4
We need helpers on Monday's to process the orders
If you are able to help for an hour on a roster please contact Georgia Loccisano 0410 439 826.

NO SUSHI ORDERS FIRST WEEK TERM 4
LUNCH ORDERS FROM TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Don't forget to hand in the DPS vouchers if you go to Croydon Cinemas during the school holidays.
Croydon Cinemas offer CHEAP movie tickets!
Check out the website for movie times – www.croydoncinemas.com.au
Next PA meeting Monday 13 October in the Library.
Come & chat about Term 4 activities. New ideas & faces needed.

Birthday Wishes To
Milly S, William L, Karli M, Christopher M, Jackson C and Nathan G
who are celebrating birthdays from 19th September to 9th October

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Student Exchange - Would you like to host an overseas student?
The Salvation Army - Family Zone. An hour of family, faith, and fun... followed by refreshments.
Cho’s Taekwondo Academy Australia - Learn taekwondo Korean traditional martial arts.
Zumba Fitness - Party yourself into shape. Licensed instructor Tuesday nights opposite Tunstall Square.