Our Marketing Committee recently asked our current Foundation parents to respond to a survey asking for feedback regarding their experiences as new members of our community. Thank you to the Foundation parents who took the time to respond to the survey. The feedback received so far is extremely encouraging, positive and supportive of all the work we do at the school. We have a wonderful staff who very much deserve this very positive feedback.

I thought I should share some of the responses with you.

**Why did you choose Donvale Primary School for your child/rens education?**

- Location – being nestled in as it is. All the students I came across were such nice little people, polite and kind even when there wasn’t a teacher around.
- Location. Small population. Female principal with strong leadership.
- Coming from abroad, we didn’t know what to expect from the schooling system. Our aim was to pick a school small enough for our child to feel at ease and quickly become familiar.
- We live very close and I received lots of positive information about the school.
- The children we saw there on our tour seemed like children our kids could get along with and learn with.
- We liked the size of the school classes and the large school grounds.
- Close to home and the zero tolerance for bullying.
- It’s a smaller school, smaller classes, good environment, good teachers and good programs.
- Proximity, small community feel, reputation.
- Location to home. Good size grounds. Exciting programs offered. Very nice uniform. Impressed by the leadership team when we had our school tour. The classrooms are generously sized. Great senior building facility.
- Student size is small, location, friendliness and reputation.
- The school is walking distance from home and we want to encourage our children to walk or ride to and from school (especially as they get older).
• Being close to home should also foster friendships and community. We also like the ‘feel’ and culture of the school as compared with other schools we looked at. We feel it is the right fit four our children.
• Great community feel. Small school numbers. Large classrooms. Great facilities.
• Good location away from main roads and regular high schools.
• The school is fantastic.
• Eldest child attended and was extremely happy with the teachers, curriculum, etc.
• Proximity to home; small community atmosphere, involved family feel; recommendations from others.

What could Donvale Primary School do to make your transition from kindergarten to school easier?
• It was smooth enough already.
• I’m so happy with the school and how it made my daughter fit in.
• I was very impressed with the Leapfrog and transition programs. They were a great help in the settling of my child.
• The Transition was fine. The hours spent there the year prior really did help I am sure. Meeting the teachers for next year is important.
• Nothing. Was a great transition for my child.
• The Leapfrog program was very helpful in becoming familiar with the school, the transition sessions then made my child completely at home and excited about starting school.
• We found the transition fine for our child.
• Nothing I can think of. Transition was easy. Lots of transition days for kinder kids to prepare for the following year. Other schools only have 2.
• I was very happy with the transition. There were some issues with who the teacher would be but when a suggestion was made that DPS run one extra transition day, so that when the decision was made about teacher and classes, the kids could meet their actual teacher. This was kindly taken on board.

Any other comments?
• I feel very lucky to have chosen DPS. Couldn’t have hoped for a better start in Australian school for our child.
• I was very happy with the way my child settled in.
• Our child integrated seamlessly into school life, making new friends quickly despite not having friends from kinder coming to the school. We have been amazed at the rate of learning and how independent she’s become.
• I could see our teacher is working very hard. I really appreciate that she is very passionate and caring.
• We are very happy. The school is great, teachers are supportive and helpful. Feedback is very thorough.
• Very happy to be back at Donvale PS. Good to see the uniforms have changed but not the school’s values!!

As a school, we are thrilled to receive such very positive responses. Of course, we have not always hit the mark with every parent with what we do and this came through in the survey where parents made particular mention to our PE program and the lack of a ‘dedicated’ PE teacher this year. Whilst, I agree, that it would be terrific to have a dedicated PE teacher at the school, it has not been possible this year to implement due to affordability. As a small school, we are challenged to be able to implement all that we do and the fact that we
run four specialist subjects (Visual and Performing Arts, Mandarin and PE) in a school our size, is a wonderful achievement.

The feedback from our community tells us that it appreciates that the school is smaller and that they enjoy the sense of community that this brings. This, it seems, is a reason amongst many others, as to why many families have chosen to come to Donvale PS in the first place. The community tells us that it also appreciates having smaller class sizes and the broad curriculum and programs we offer. To be able to provide all we do, as a small school we must make compromises somewhere. This year, the decision was to replace our ‘dedicated’ PE teacher with a PE program that is run by our class teachers. We did not omit PE from our curriculum. Although teaching PE is not our teachers’ sole responsibility, each one of our teachers is qualified as a PE teacher and have all been trained to teach PE. As such, making the decision to not have a ‘dedicated’ PE teacher was not entirely difficult as this model still provides a weekly PE lesson as well as weekly lessons in Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Mandarin. We are also fortunate to have the school’s Assistant Principal, Ian McKinlay, take on the role of the Sports co-ordinator ensuring that the whole school sports program continues. Other options Leadership had at the time, was to employ a ‘dedicated’ PE teacher thus requiring a cut back on our Visual and Performing Arts program by alternating this curriculum opportunity for our students from one semester to the other. As staff at Donvale PS are extremely capable of teaching PE and are also very keen and enthusiastic to do so, it made little sense to take up this option. Leadership could also have chosen the other option of having larger class sizes thus affording us the ability to employ a ‘dedicated’ PE teacher. As mentioned, our community has voiced on many occasions that they appreciate smaller class sizes where possible.

Each year, leadership needs to make decisions based on the best interests of our students. They are always fully informed decisions based on consultation with all stakeholders. The Education Department’s Parent Opinion Survey has just been completed by our selected parents. I will again look forward to receiving positive and constructive feedback from our community that supports our continuation in providing the best learning opportunities for all our students.

Hope you are having a wonderful week.

Lena Clark
From The Assistant Principal

Hooptime:

There was a hive of activity at the State Basketball Centre last Tuesday as Donvale Primary School took to the courts with 2 Future Stars teams and 6 Rookie teams. Everywhere you looked our students were running energetically up and down the courts, sharing the ball and encouraging each other along the way. It was a great sight in a State of the Art facility. All students are to be congratulated on participating so enthusiastically in this event and for the excellent manner in which they represented our school both on and off the court. Well done to the Donvale Devils for winning the All Donvale Future Stars final. A big thankyou to Peter and Cassandra Buckle for preparing our students so well and making sure everything ran like clockwork on the day. Thanks also to the many parents who helped out so ably with coaching, training, scoring and transport. A Hooptime event is a great example of our school community working together to provide our students with a memorable experience.

Ian McKinlay

August

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**General**

**Skoolbag App**

We are pleased to announce that Skoolbag is now available for Windows Phones running version 8.1 of Windows, and Windows devices running Windows 8.1 or 10 (eg Surface tablet, Laptop, PC etc).

This makes the app even more accessible than before, with the ability to receive messages directly to a PC, Laptop, or Surface Tablet running Windows 8.1 or 10.

To install Skoolbag on your Windows device, look up "Skoolbag" in the Windows Store, and install it. Once installed you can find your school, and pin it to your Windows Home Screen.

Please note: You must be running at least Windows 8.1 on your device for the app to function.

Regards,

Rick Gordon

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**Whole School Production EUREKA! (The Spirit of Australia)**

Please keep the dates for our whole school production free – Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th September – which is the last week of term. We will be requiring all students to come to the technical rehearsal at the theatre on Monday 14th September. We will also have a full dress rehearsal and photographs taken here at school on Wednesday 9th September.

Rehearsals have commenced and casting continues for different roles, and we will be looking for parents to help in a number of ways, with costuming, props, scenery, choreography etc, so let your teacher know if you would like to volunteer. A notice will come home soon with costume and prop requirements for each child.

**Performance Details**

7.30pm Tuesday 15th September & Wednesday 16th September.

George Wood Performing Arts Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School, Gate A, Kalinda Rd, Ringwood North.

Thank you.

Rick Gordon for
The Production Committee

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**Parent Opinion Survey**

Thank you to the parents who have returned their surveys. If you have not returned it, you still have until tomorrow to do so.

For those parents who were randomly selected, we appreciate you taking the time to participate. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and please be assured that responses are completely confidential.
Recently, a student that spent time with me in the Chaplaincy Program suggested I place a notice in Snippets to inform parents of what Donvale Primary School can offer their children through this program.

School Chaplains are in the prevention and rescue business through a holistic approach. We’re helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness, to grief, stress and anxiety. We provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis… and those who just need a friend. Chaplains have a passion to improve the lives of young people and their families. When you have a Chaplain, you always know there’s a soft place for kids to fall.

At Donvale Primary School, I see over 25 students either on a regular basis, or on a ‘as needed’ basis and these numbers continue to grow almost weekly. It has been extremely rewarding to see your children developing skills and strategies so they can become resilient young people ready to take on what life throws at them.

Donvale Primary School strongly values and works to focus on developing student resilience. Our involvement in the ‘KidsMatter’ initiative which is now supported with the recently received grant of $5500 from the Education Department - ‘Building Resilience in School Communities’ all supports our work with this.

I have also had the privilege of connecting with parents and staff, as my role is open to the Donvale School Community. My office is just opposite the OSH club room (where the old uniform shop used to be). Please feel free to drop by on a Monday or a Wednesday, or you can contact me through the school office and via email.

Have a great week!

Chantelle Olafsen
School Chaplain/Welfare Officer
chantelle@cccvat.com.au
AFL MULTICULTURAL ROUND

Join the festivities as celebrate the AFL Multicultural Festival on August 8, at Yarra Park. The festival will run from 11.30am - 5.30pm and include loads of free and fun activities for the entire family.

Explore many wonderful cultures with traditional dance performances from around the world, a great selection of delicious multicultural food or get the kids to practice their goal kicking at the AFL playground - there’s something for everyone. The festival will also host a range of live entertainment including SBS PopAsia, Hip Hop dance, African drummers, Bollywood and many others.

Proudly presented by the Victorian State Government.

When: 11.30am – 5.30pm, Saturday August 8 2015
Where: Yarra Park, MCG – Outside Gate 3
Collingwood v Carlton match commences from 1.45pm


DRAGON PARADE

This Sunday 9th August Melbourne Football Club will face North Melbourne Football Club at the MCG. A special event will take place before kick-off though! For more information, please see Melbourne FC’s website at http://www.melbournefc.com.au/dragon

In partnership with the Melbourne Dai Loong Association, Chinese Precinct Association and the Chinese Museum, Melbourne Football Club is excited to be hosting a Dragon Parade on Sunday 9th August as part of our match celebrations and as part of the AFL’s Multicultural Round. This will be the first time Melbourne’s Dai Loong (Big Dragon) will have left the CBD as it walks to the MCG. We encourage you to join in the parade and follow Dai Loong to the home of the Melbourne Football Club. The Dragon will also make a spectacular entrance onto the MCG prior to the game starting.
Junior Chef Club

This week's chefs were very good and kind. They knew exactly what to do, and even did all the steps before I told them. Still the wrapping technique was not easy to do but they did it. Sharing the food equally is always our attitude, so before I said anything the little chefs agreed that they only take extra food if there is enough for everyone. They chose soy sauce to flavour their fried rice. Some boys also tried hot chilli sauce and ended up drinking a lot of water. The senior girls volunteered to stay behind to help us out with the cleaning up too. Wow... well done boys and girls.

Thank you to Pavit K 56G and Bani K 12W for donating corn kernels and delivering them on time for us to use. Also thank you to Jaqui Frigo, Kym Wolff, Barbara Hoglund, Jass Kalsi, Wanan Valentine, Mr McKinlay and Martin for helping with the program. Next week is the turn of group 4 to be busy with us in the kitchen. Ingredients we need are tomatoes, spring onion and cucumber.

We don't cook, we create food.

Liang Dimitroff

FROM THE ORIENTAL KITCHEN:
- Pavit K 56G: It's delicious and easy to make.
- Rose W-H 56W: I'll definitely make it again.
- Archie E 12S: It's really good, I keep asking for more, I like junior chef very much.
- Luciana K 12S: I think the food is great.
- Emily M 12S: It's easy to make and it tastes delicious.
- Indi M 12W: I liked the yummy wonton and the yummy rice, very nice.
- Allie E 12W: It's really yummy. I like the rice and the crunchy wonton.
- Scott M 12W: It's easy to make, very tasty and delicious.
- Spencer P 12W: Very easy to cook, I'll make them for my family.
- Bani K 12W: The wonton is really good because of the flavour of the chicken and prawns.
- Amelia S 12W: It was delicious, I love the texture of the fried rice.
- Emily B 12C: It was awesome and really tasty.
- James T 12S: I like the flavour of the fried rice.
- Nathalie L 56W: I loved it, I'll definitely make this at home.
- Manu P 56W: I think this food is amazing.
- Aaron R 56W: Better than buying the food from the shop.
- Dylan S 56W: They are really nice.
- Laura V 56G: It was delicious, it tasted better because I made it.
- Jessica C 56G: It was nice.
Dear families,

This week we have been exploring Japan through various craft activities. Some of the highlights have been making ninjas, kokeshi paper dolls and koi fish!

Note to parents:
- **Fill in coordinator:** I will be on study leave from August 17th – September 18th to complete my teaching placement. Next week will be my last week at Donvale OshClub until I return in Term Four. Whilst I am away, Joyce from Tinternvale OshClub will be coordinating the program. Joyce will be orientated to the program next week and we look forward to meeting her then.
- **Medical forms and enrolment details:** As there have been a few changes in staff this term it is important that all parents ensure that their children’s enrolment details are up to date. This includes any medical information as well as contact details. Thank you to the parents who have already done this.
- **Cancelling a session:** Just a reminder that if you have booked your child into OshClub and no longer need your children to attend a particular session (e.g. due to illness or change of plans) please leave a message either via text or phone on 0402362443 so we can remove them from our list.

Thanks,

Kate

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.
Parent’s Association

**Wednesday 12 August - $5.00**
**Don’t miss out on your slice of heaven.**
**You still have time to put your order in.**
**Order forms due Friday 7 August**

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**Be the next big designer!**

**The 5 cent Design Challenge - Design a new 5 cent piece.**

Send your entry in by **Thursday 13 August**. One winner in each year level announced at assembly **Friday 14 August**.

Winner will be grinners – receiving a block of Cadbury ‘Marvellous Creation’ chocolate for their marvellous creation.

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**Buy some happiness at the Scholastic Book Fair.**

**Thursday 20 & Friday 21 August** – **Before & After school sales**

If you can help please contact Karin Moule 0419 583 990

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**The 5 cent challenge.**
**Keep ‘em coming!**

**Challenge closes Wed 16 September**

Weigh In & winners announced Fri 18 September - last day of Term 3.

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**We did! Ivan’s Pies!**

**Get your Pie order form in.**
**– we’ll get back to you about the lattes.**
Birthday Wishes To

Bardia M

Who are celebrating birthdays from 7th to 13th August

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:

Carrington Health - FREE Dental treatment for children. 43 Carrington Road, Box Hill. The Child Dental Benefit Schedule is up to $1,000 free dental treatment for eligible 2-17 year old children bulk billed by Medicare.

Park Orchards Basketball Club - Mini-Steelers - Fun introduction to basketball.
Pizza Meal Deal
Wednesday 12 August 2015 - $5.00
includes 2 square slices of pizza & a prima drink.
Please return the form below, with correct payment, before Monday 10 August.

Pizza Meal Deal Day - Wednesday 12 August 2015
$5.00 - Pizza & prima drink.

Child’s Details:

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

Please circle pizza flavor choices - 2 square slices

☐ Margarita   ☐ Aussie   ☐ Ham & Pineapple

Please circle drink of choice:

☐ Apple J   ☐ Orange J   ☐ Water

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

APPROVED