



ASCOT NEWS

10th February, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

Website: www.avps.vic.edu.au

Newsletters are available online

Ph: 9370 6507

Fax: 9370 5150

Term 1 Key Dates (Please keep for future Reference)

11 Feb	Unit 1 & 2 assembly
Fri 13 Feb	Swimming Trials (Queen's Park pool at 7.45 a.m.)
23, 24, 26 & 27 Feb 2, 3, 5 & 6 Mar	2/3/4 Swimming program Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
16 & 17 Feb	Year 3/4 camp
16 Feb	School Council and Sub Committee meetings
17 – 20 Feb	Year 5/6 camp
18 Feb	Unit 3 assembly
Tues 24 Feb	Parent/Teacher Interviews
25 Feb	Swimming Carnival Unit 4 assembly
27 Feb	Parent Rep meeting/ Special Lunch Day
3 March	Author Visit AVPS– Christopher Milne Family Picnic/ Unit Information Evening
4 Mar	Unit 5 assembly
Mon 9 Mar	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
10, 11, 12 & 13 Mar 16, 17, 19 & 20 Mar	5/6 Swimming program Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
11 Mar	Whole School assembly
16 Mar	School Council and Sub Committee meetings
18 Mar	Zone Swimming carnival Unit 1 & 2 assembly
25Mar	Unit 3 assembly
27 Mar	Parent Rep meeting/ Special Lunch Day
1 April	Unit 4 assembly
3 April	Term 1 ends- 2.30 p.m. dismissal

School Assembly Wednesday mornings 9 – 9:30am

Yard supervised between 8:45 - 9:00am before school and 3:30 – 3:45pm after school

**IT'S NOT OK
TO BE AWAY**

From The Principal

As the past weekend unfolded with stories of tragedy and unimaginable family and community loss, we have returned to school, grateful we are safe, and now wondering what we can do to help others who have been affected by the widespread bushfires.

We have received news from Tina McCarthy that her mother-in-law Joan (our fairy Godmother AVPS gardener) only narrowly escaped the fire at Christmas Hills in her car. Her house has been partially burned, still largely there, but her beautiful garden has been completely destroyed. Other houses along her street have been burnt to the ground and her neighbours are without anything. Here is one community that we are personally connected to that AVPS might be able to support in a direct way. Jacinta MacDonald is collecting information around community needs and we will respond as requested, as we can. When Joan has done so much voluntarily to help us, it seems timely and good to be able to support her and her neighbours in their need.

I have been speaking to the Department about our plans to go to Camp next week. Currently, there is no fire or bushfire threat in the camp vicinity. It is located at Kyneton along the Tylden -Kyneton Rd. At this stage, we propose to go ahead as planned but will be keeping abreast of information on the CFA and DSE websites. I will also take advice from these authorities and instruction from the Western Metropolitan Region office throughout the week.

Minor problems in comparison, but the storms over the weekend have damaged our trees. We have contacted a company to check and prune the trees in the yard where necessary.

One of our undeniable strengths is our strong sense and appreciation of sharing and 'community' at this school. I know we will be able to be useful and active supporting others who do need our help. Please see the list of materials that Joan and her neighbours are requesting immediately.

Individual donations can be made in the following ways:
State Schools Relief - 98888926 - www.ssrc.net.au

Red Cross Bushfire Relief Fund

<https://www.redcross.org.au/Donations/onlineDonations.asp>

[National Australia Bank](http://www.nab.com.au) established the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund, donating \$1 million to the cause. Donations to the **Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund** can be made at any NAB branch or via internet banking.

BSB: 082-001. Account number: 860 046 797

Joanne Roberts

Principal

roberts.joanne.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Can you help the Christmas Hills community?

Donations of the following goods (No cash please) can be brought to the **School Hall** for distribution **up until this Friday 13 February: (Only new or excellent condition please)**

- Toiletry kits
- Blankets/ sheets/ bedding
- Water containers
- Pet food bowls
- Towels
- Shoes, Clothes (all sizes)

NO OTHER GOODS ACCEPTED AT AVPS AT THIS STAGE AS NOT REQUESTED

From the Assistant Principal

Prep Health Assessments – Victorian Primary Schools Nursing Program

This program offers a free health assessment for children in their first year of school. All prep students will be given an envelope with a questionnaire, to take home today. Parents and caregivers are asked to complete and return the questionnaire to the school by this Friday 13th February. Actual assessments will commence later this term.

Student Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to:

Lucy T- Unit 4 - who turns 8 on the 10th February

Liora W - Unit 2 - who turns 5 on the 11th February

Coco H - Unit 1 - who turns 6 on the 15th February

Lennie H - Unit 5 - who turns 9 on the 16th February

Michael Downing

Assistant Principal

downing.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

School and Family Finances

Please see Joanne or Michael if you require assistance to pay school fees for school supplies, swimming and/or camps costs. Payments plans can be negotiated to spread these costs if that assists family finances. **However, please note that deposits connected to these extra curricula activities with an agreed payment plan needs to be finalised with the office before children can participate in these activities.**

Please note that **Camp fees need to be paid in full or payment plans negotiated by this Wednesday 11 February** for children to attend camp next week.

Piano 2009

A limited number of vacancies are available in the piano program for 2009. Half hour private lessons are taught at the school during class time.

To enrol or for more information please contact Joshua Cowie on 0413 884 067 or cowie@iprimus.com.au

Yoga

Classes for adults will run at AVPS on Wednesdays 4pm to 5pm. Please join the staff if you are interested. Lessons are \$10.00/wk.

Free Author Visit

Following the inclusion of his *“Naughty Stories For Good Boys and Girls”* in Angus and Robertson’s prestigious “All Time Top Fifty Children’s Books”, award-winning Australian author, Christopher Milne, will be visiting our school on Tuesday 3rd March.

Chris speaks for free but there will be an opportunity to buy his books on the day. He has also won a Young Australians Best Book Award, written for and acted in *“Neighbours”* and he was invited to represent Australia at the Edinburgh International Children’s Festival and read stories on the BBC.

He speaks for 40 minutes, usually to Years 2 to 6, about writing for both books and television. For those wishing to buy (and have their book personally signed), prices are as follows:

\$20.00 for *“The Complete book of Naughty Stories”* (all 13 original volumes combined in one book)

\$15.00 for his new book *“The Western Sydney Kid”* (a Footy story about a mysterious girl and a boy from Sydney who is drafted to play in Melbourne)

\$10.00 for *“Scary Stories for Brave Boys and Girls”*

\$10.00 for a CD of recorded stories (read by Chris)

\$50.00 for *“The Set”* which is all the above discounted by \$5.00.

Could any cheques please be made out to “MILNE BOOKS”.

Chris has sold 650,000 of his books worldwide. They are included on the “Premier’s Reading Challenge List” in Victoria and New south Wales and they have gained a reputation for being **“the perfect books for reluctant readers”**.

Writing

Good Holidays. (Is there any other type?)

Here are three re-counts of very different holidays, all clearly conveying mood and excitement of the diversity of destinations. All three students, Amelia, Darood and Eddie have found their ‘voice’ which the reader can clearly hear.

Notice anything about the boy’s work?

Marg

Guitar Lessons

There are a limited number of guitar vacancies for 2009. If your child is interested in lessons please contact Danniell Smith on 0401447367”.

MVIMP

If you have not returned your MVIMP form, please give it to Bev in Unit 2. Most Tutors will be at school during this week to organize their programs and meet with students in preparation for the beginning of lessons next week.

The fee of \$600 can be paid in 4 equal instalments, or the full amount, by the end of February. A 10% discount will be given to children using their own instruments. A number of bursaries offering 50% off total fees will be available to EMA families or families experiencing financial difficulties. If you feel that you are eligible for a bursary, just make an appointment to see Joanne.

Bev

Office Hours at AVPS

As you can imagine, the office can be a very busy place and Janet has had many payments to process and staff and student administration tasks to manage. It would assist her to get money deposited safely and securely each day if families would make any payments **before 4pm** on any school day. Exact amounts of cash would also be appreciated. No cash is held on site to provide change.

Please note that the school office is open from 8.30 – 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. Beyond these times the front counter is not staffed and Janet needs to work at her desk to finalise all monies and accounts for the day.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

Payments for 2009

Parents, Guardians or Foster Parents receiving a Centrelink Pension may be eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance. The first EMA instalment will comprise 70 percent of the total EMA and will be paid from March 2009. The second instalment will comprise the remaining 30 percent and will be paid from August 2009.

If you believe you are eligible, please collect a form from the school office and return the completed form by close of business on Friday 27th February, 2009.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commencing in 2009, if you receive the Education Maintenance Allowance payment you will have the option to receive your payment directly into your own nominated bank account. For more information, ask at the office or visit:

WWW.EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU/ABOUTSCHOOL/LIFEAT SCHOOL/EMA/

Canteen New Refrigerator and Freezer

New appliances have been purchased for the school canteen with money raised by the school community in 2008. They will be in use well in time for the March fete and replace the unreliable equipment currently in use. Many thanks to Parent Rep group for initiating and overseeing this purchase with particular mention to Maria and Jacinta who went out last week to actually buy our new fridge and freezer. Other 2008 fundraising funds will be put towards air-conditioning the remaining non air-conditioned classroom- Unit 2.

Uniform Supply

Uniform orders can be placed on line or from the Primary School Wear representative who will be at the school (Unit 6) each first Thursday each school month (3.00 – 4.00pm). Online orders will be posted to customers. Order forms can be completed and dropped into our office for us to fax to PSW just prior to their day at school. To order online, use the PSW website, www.psw.com.au and follow the prompts.

The PSW shop in Deer Park is located at 58 Westwood Drive, Deer Park. Telephone: 9363 8458. Opening Hours are Monday-Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

'we make kids smile'



Monday - Tiggy
Tuesday – Free Play
Wednesday - Soup
Thursday - Tennis
Friday - Popcorn

Hello again to all the OSHC children and their parents. We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

We have some great activities and fun lined up again for the first term, including running the very successful active after school program, but more on that in next week's Newsletter.

Please ensure that all cancellations are made before closing (6pm) the day before. Cancellations made after this time are charged at the normal rate. Cancellations or bookings can be made through the school office, the program (9326 0936) or through Camp Australia Head Office on 8851 4160. All enquiries in regard to invoicing, payment or CCB (Child Care Benefit) should be made to the OSHC administration team on 8851 4160.

Peter and the OSHC team.

Reading At Home

Isn't it wonderful to be back at school? Our days assume some order that might have been lacking during the lazy month of January and it's time to **DO SOME WORK**. After-school activities start up again..... no more watching 'Days Of Our Lives' and a couple of old episodes of 'Frasier' before dinner.

Listening to your child read, especially parents of Preps, 1's & 2's, now becomes part of the nightly routine. This time of **LTYCR** is intended to be a pleasant time of sharing, allowing your child to show-off what a fabulous reader they are, and how familiar they are with their current take-home book.

The Take-home book is a book with which the reader is very well acquainted, and not necessarily the Level that they are reading with their teacher during instructional reading sessions in the classroom. Reading is 'taught' at a higher level than the take-home book.

Reading at home (ALMOST) every night is time for sharing and caring, a time of quiet interaction between reader and listener.

Enjoy this time with your child, bearing in mind that the hard work of reading is being done with their teacher.

If you have any questions about the Reading process, please come and see me.

Marg.



Chess Coaching



Have fun learning Chess!!

- Where:** Ascot Vale Primary School Library
When: Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.15pm
11th Feb to 25th Mar 2009
Cost: **12% discount** for **Cash** Payments -
\$75 Cash or **\$85 Cheque** - per child.
Benefits: Strategic thinking, improved self esteem,
attention span in class, lateral thinking,
team work, analytical skills.

We cater for **all skill levels!** Each week different lessons are taught & games are played. A trophy is awarded to the "Best & Fairest" player, and a Silver badge to 2nd place and a Bronze badge to 3rd place at the end of term. To enrol your child please make payment (per child) of **\$75 cash** or **\$85 cheque prior to Wednesday 11th February**. Cheques made payable to "Hooton Consulting Pty Ltd"

For more information contact **Phil** from
Checkmate Chess Coaching on
9598 2006 or **0421 901 530**
www.lifecoaches.com.au