



ASCOT NEWS

10th March, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 6

Website: www.avps.vic.edu.au

Newsletters are available online

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Term 1 Key Dates (Please keep for future Reference)

10, 11, 12 & 13 Mar	5/6 Swimming program Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
16, 17, 19 & 20 Mar	
11 Mar	Whole School assembly
Sun 15 Mar	Working Bee 10 a.m.- 12 noon (BYO tools please)
16 Mar	School Council and Sub Committee meetings
18 Mar	Author Visit
18 Mar	Zone Swimming carnival Unit 1 & 2 assembly
Sat 21 March	SCHOOL FETE
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

I'd like to begin by thanking you for the wonderful phone trees that went into action last Tuesday when the weather alert necessitated us cancelling the planned picnic and Unit Information nights. I'm hoping everyone was phoned in time. Some families received a few calls when everyone was so willing to help out! Thank you. We've had wet weather and hot weather days and timetables in schools but in my 30+ years in the job I've never had to keep children inside before because of wind and dust storm alerts in Melbourne. We are certainly experiencing extremes in weather and this is something we will be discussing more as we plan

events and camps for the children. Isn't the rain welcome though and hopefully filling up our tanks?

This leads me to some news schools have received regarding Commonwealth money to upgrade school facilities. All schools are to receive funding under the National Schools Pride scheme and a school of our size is entitled to \$125,000.00! This funding can be used on shade, shelter, refurbishment of buildings, grounds or green products. Staff have been discussing options and ideas and your opinions are welcome too. Please catch me in the yard or give me a ring if you would like to add to our 'wish list' to put forward a suggestion for this

funding. Timelines for decisions and proposal writing are short so please get in touch soon. (Please note we are already in the process of applying for the National Solar Grant of \$50,000.00 for all schools. We plan to purchase a solar panel for the roof, meters, usage monitors and software and cabling to allow us to turn off all appliances/ computers while not in use with the easy flick of a switch.)

Beyond these initiatives, schools may also apply for Primary Schools for the 21st Century funding to build or refurbish libraries, Halls or reconfigure/ extend facilities that they will open to the Community. As you know, we have been researching and designing our Learning Studio concept over the past 18 months and we have a design already drawn up to convert our existing Library into a multi-disciplinary learning space that would be opened for community access during the day and out of school hours. We are ready with our plans for this one and will put in an application by the end of March. Our school can apply for up to \$2million to do facilities refurbishment. I believe this is a competitive process for funding but I do feel we will have a good chance of securing this money given our recent research in this area and the fact that we are ready to move on our plans. Fingers crossed for this one!!

There has been a delay securing a truck to transport the goods we donated for Christmas Hills so we have changed our plans and a caravan of cars will leave from here tomorrow morning and take all the boxes to Christmas Hills PS. CHPS is one school in a cluster of 5 small schools in the area and your donations will be distributed to these families. I will meet with Greg, Principal of CHPS, to begin an ongoing conversation between our school communities to continue our support to meet their immediate needs. The news of the arrival of the boxes was very welcome and Greg's thanks expressed to me, for you all, was heart felt and genuinely appreciative.

Joanne Roberts,
Principal
roberts.joanne.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

From the Assistant Principal

Take the Premier's Active Families Challenge

Have you signed up yet? If not, it's not too late. Register for the Challenge and you will receive 15 free family visits to YMCA and 15 per cent off at Rebel Sport stores. Complete 30 minutes of activity a day for 30 days between 8 March and 19 April for the chance to win some fantastic prizes plus the chance to win your school up to \$3,000 in sports gear.

It's easy, fun, free and a great way to be healthy and active with your family. Register now!

<http://www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au/>

Student Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to:

Josh S - Unit 1 - who turns 11 on the 10th March

Lucy S - Unit 2 - who turns 8 on the 14th March

Izi I-Z - Unit 1 - who turns 6 on the 15th March

Have an enjoyable and 'active' week!

Michael Downing , Assistant Principal
downing.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Library A Reminder

Borrowing from the library has started with a vengeance, our students love to go to the Library, browse through the shelves and then take home a book of choice to be shared with family members.

Teachers spend much time, before students borrow, explaining the library system and how our Library is a communal resource, intended to be enjoyed by everyone at our school.

While the children are primarily responsible for the return of books, (well, Preps might need some help) I would urge all Parents to also help in ensuring borrowed books are returned to school. Over the last two years we have 'lost' almost \$1000 worth of books, which is quite a staggering amount. The entire budget for the Library for one year is not much more than this, so it is impossible for the school to replace these books.

Remember, it is **never too late** to return a book, and if you receive a notice about an unreturned book, payment for the lost book would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to the cost of replacing books, it also takes time to cover & catalogue these books, in the long run it is just easier if they are returned.

Thank-you to the Families who have paid to replace lost books in the past.

Tina.

Writing @ Ascot Vale P.S.

This week there were two very exciting events that gave students in U2 cause to take up their pencils.. The first was THE WEDDING, This was part of the developmental play sessions that occur regularly in U2 All students embraced the wedding, children took up their roles enthusiastically, then most students wrote about it in clear detail. This is one of the aims of DP.

The other event which was perhaps less fun, but very necessary was the tree lopping that occurred on Friday. Another great stimulus which incited writing, and U2 is in prime position to see (and hear) all the action.

These are two pieces of fine work from Celia & Phoebe. Marg.

Premier's Reading Challenge

It is time again for the PRC. The Challenge is an initiative from the Premiers Office, designed to encourage children to read widely and regularly, students who complete the Challenge will have their names published in THE SUNDAY AGE after Challenge is finished.

As the Challenge generates vast amounts of paper, this year I am going to try a new way of registration for students at AVPS.

I am encouraging Parents to contact me via the internet if they wish their child to participate in the Challenge. To do this, I need permission for them to be involved in the Challenge and also permission for their name to be published in the paper.

Publishing of names is certainly not obligatory, just advise me when you write to me if you don't want your child's name published.

The traditional method of registration, ie, paper, will also be available, however I would prefer to do it on the computer, it is far more efficient and does save quite a bit of paper.

Thank-you,
Marg
blairgannon.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Working Bee Sunday 15 March

Please come along to help, even for an hour, if you can. Volunteers will need to bring their own gloves and gardening tools. Blowers may be useful too.

The main task for the working bee is to clear the yard of leaf debris and to generally tidy garden beds. As we have just taken delivery of the new fridge and freezer for the canteen it has been suggested that some of the working bee effort be devoted to cleaning up and reorganising this area too. We therefore need gardeners, grounds people and cleaners on the day!

YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED as we are getting the school grounds ready for the Fete on the following weekend.

Joanne

Camp DVDs

Alex has put together a film about our recent 3, 4, 5 and 6 camp at Campaspe Downs. DVDs are now available for families to take home for \$5. If you would like a copy see Alex in Unit 3.

Attention All Musicians

Our fete is just around the corner. All bands and individual musicians are invited to perform either on stage or be roaming buskers. If you are interested please contact Maria on 0402 017 178. This is open to all present and former students of AVPS.

Cross Country Training

There will be three cross country training sessions run by Susi Strasser at Aberfeldie Park starting from 3.45 to 4.30pm on the following dates:

Thursday the 19th of March

Tuesday 21st of April

Thursday 23rd of April

Due to the holidays breaking up our training we encourage children to practice for a 10 to 20 minute run at least twice a week over the holidays.

All students are encouraged to attend training as it is a great opportunity to improve their fitness and run the track prior to the event. Parents will be in charge of taking their children to training. Please meet on the Boulevard near Poynton's Nursery at 3.45pm.

Any queries for this event please call Susi on 0401037919 or Tania at school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Uniform Shop

The next date for the Uniform Shop is **Thursday 2 April** between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. 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.

Ascot Kindergarten

Parent Information Night

We have been lucky enough to book in Lynne Kennedy, who is a kindergarten teacher and trainer. Lynne's focus in early childhood education is to promote awareness of the research into resilience and ways to foster these skills in children.

The main topics of discussion for the evening will be

- Developing Resilience in your child
- The benefits of an indoor/outdoor program
- Supporting children in their play
- School readiness

When: 7pm-8pm, Tuesday March 17th, 2009

Where: Ascot Kindergarten

Cost: \$10 per couple/family, \$7.50 per person

RSVP: Friday 13th March 9375 3548 or

ascot.vale,kin2kindergarten.vic.gov.au

We hope many of you will be able to attend this session and gain a greater knowledge, awareness and understanding of the program that is offered at Ascot Kindergarten. Lynne's sessions are always informative and fun!

Kensington Community Recreation Centre
April Holiday Program

April Program Includes:

- Bowling & Movies
- Swimming & Sports
- DJ & Jumping Castle
- Drama Classes & Dance Classes
- World Sports Day

Registered with CCB, we are fully registered with Family Assistance Office. Below is an estimate of what you will need to pay.

Full Day Fee		CCB
1 Child	\$35.00	100%
	= \$6.35	
2 Children	\$70.00	104.50%
	= \$10.14	

For more information feel free to contact us on 9376 1633



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**ST BRENDA'S PARISH SACRAMENT PROGRAM
FOR CHILDREN WHO ATTEND GOVERNMENT AND
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

FIRST COMMUNION is for children in grade 4 upward who have made their First Reconciliation. It is an eight weeks program beginning at 10.a.m in St Brendan's School on Sunday 14th June to Sunday 21st June and resumes after the holidays on Sunday 19th July to Sunday 23rd August,

INFORMATION NIGHT for parents and children will be held on Tuesday 9th June at 7pm in St Brendan's School.

R.S.V.P Thursday, 4th June

*SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION IS SUNDAY 30
AUGUST AT 10.15AM*

1ST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM is for children in grade 3 upward. It is an eight weeks program beginning at 10.a.m in St Brendan's School on Sunday 6th September to 13th September and resumes after the holidays on Sunday 11th October to 22nd November.

INFORMATION NIGHT for parents and children will be held on Tuesday 1st September at 7pm in St Brendan's School. R.S.V.P Thursday, 27th August

*THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION TUESDAY, 24
NOVEMBER 7PM*

If you wish to enrol your child in the above programs; or if you require more information, please contact: Carol Harris, Pastoral Associate, at St Brendan's Presbytery on 9376 7378 (Tuesday to Friday); or Mobile 0438 576 743 or by Email: carolharris@iprimus.com.au

OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

'we make kids smile'



- Monday – Chinese Walls
- Tuesday - Soccer
- Wednesday – Yoga (AACP)
- Thursday - Soup
- Friday – Basketball (AACP)

We have been having lots of fun at "after care" and now our active aftercare program has started, there is even more fun. On Wednesday we have yoga and on Friday we have basketball, but we will be doing tennis later in the term. So come along and join in the fun and games.

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.