ASCOT NEWS
22nd February, 2012
Volume 1, Issue 3
Website: www.avps.vic.edu.au
Newsletters are available online

www.twitter.com/AscotValePS
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2012 Key Dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Years 2/3/4 Swimming begins</td>
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<td>Unit 3 Assembly, 3 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Council Meeting 7.00pm</td>
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<td>29 February</td>
<td>Last day for EMA &amp; SSB applications</td>
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<td>1 March</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open between 3pm and 4pm in the Hall</td>
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<td>2 March</td>
<td>Swimming Trials @ Queen’s Park Pool 7.45-8.45am</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>Unit 4 Assembly, 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival @ Queen’s Park Pool 9.00-12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday (long weekend)</td>
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<td>18 March</td>
<td>School Council &amp; Subcommittee meetings</td>
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<td>19 March</td>
<td>Unit 5 Assembly</td>
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<td>20 March</td>
<td>School Photography</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Specialist Programs Assembly, 3 pm</td>
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<td>AVPS Camp Years 5 &amp; 6 26-28 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>AVPS Camp Years 3 &amp; 4 28 – 30 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1. Students dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
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<td>16 April – 29 June</td>
<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>16 July – 21 September</td>
<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>8 October – 21 December</td>
<td>Term 4</td>
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From The Principal
Lucky for us that the weather between last Thursday and Friday was SO different! This meant that the families that joined us on the oval for our first social event of the year could relax in fine weather and enjoy each other's company. I would like to thank the fundraising committee for organising and hosting this event. I believe we sold out of sausages cooked on our new BBQ—thank you Seina for your extra help managing this purchase. Thank you to the children who busked on the evening around the school. I hope our new families particularly were able to meet many others at the picnic and at the Unit information sessions last night.

Because we had these two events last week, we shifted the first School Council meeting for 2012 to next Monday 27 February, in the staffroom at 7pm. Finance subcommittee will meet at 5pm and Education and Community & Resources subcommittees at 6pm. This will be the last meeting of the 2011 School Council and this meeting will endorse the election timeline for the 2012 School Council. Please consider coming onto School Council if you are interested in this work and are able to meet each third Monday (usually) of the month during school term times. School Council meetings are finished by 9 pm.

I am very surprised at the amount of lost property that has been stored in the past fortnight. Please drop by the set of drawers in the corridor outside Unit 3 to look for any items of clothing you may be missing, particularly jumpers and jackets! Please name the clothes and hats that your child regularly wears to school. We do our best to return any named items to owners.

My apologies for any confusion I created in relation to the charge in lieu of attendance at a school working bee. This is a voluntary charge, suggested by parents who feel they would like to contribute some funds when they cannot come to a working bee and are, generally, not able to volunteer at the school in other ways either. School Council endorsed this voluntary charge in response to this suggestion and to cater for the diverse ways parents want to and do support the school community.

As our topic is ‘Wellbeing’, your family might like to participate in the Premier’s Active Families Challenge that runs between 19 March and 30 April 2012. I have inserted this information with contact details further into this newsletter. I think I should take a look at it myself!

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

From The Assistant Principal
BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK
Happy birthday to: Zachary U4, Musty U5, Ricky U1, Arthur U3 & Rachel U5.

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

From The Business Manager
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) & School Start Bonus Eligibility
Submission date 29th February, 2012

A reminder to parents that EMA and SSB application forms are due by 29th February and will not be able to be accepted after that date. Please bring your Centrelink card with you when applying. For further information, please refer to last week’s Newsletter or see me at the office.

Wanted – person (or persons on rotational basis) to set and print the Newsletter
Do you want to improve your computer and photocopier skills? We are looking for a parent (or parents on a rotational basis) who would like to volunteer to set and print the Newsletter each week. The newsletter is already formatted in Microsoft Word and articles are collected both electronically and in hard copy weekly. The person (or persons) must be able to commit to Tuesdays. This would be an ideal way to develop skills to re-enter the workforce. If you are interested, please contact Joanne, Michael or Janet.

Found
Two rings have been found and handed in to the office. One belongs to a child and another to an adult. If you think these may be yours, please contact me.

Kind regards,
Janet Coward
Coward.janet.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Help Wanted in Library / Learning Studio
Can you help? We need some parent help between 9-10am weekly on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Jobs would include book covering, returning books to shelves, and general organisational tasks. If you can help please contact Tina via email on kountouri.tina.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
Writing @ Ascot Vale PS
In Unit 5 we have been learning about writing persuasive pieces. We are working hard at explaining our own point of view. We need to see if we can convince our audience to agree with us. We have been working on writing our point of view and evidence in one single paragraph. Sometimes it is hard to choose a side to support so we ‘sit the fence’. That is okay but we still need evidence to support our ideas. Our most recent topic was, ‘Cats are better than dogs.’ What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? Here are some of the pieces of writing we came up with...

Dogs are better than cats
I think dogs are better than cats because dogs are more playful and they run around a lot. You can take them for walks but cats just laze around being cuddled. (Rachel)

I think cats are better than dogs because dogs need to have a big backyard and lots of space when cats don’t. Dogs seem to have caused more harm to human beings than cats. I know that cats bite, but dogs seem to bite more. I know that you can pick up and cuddle cats but you can’t with most dogs. (Sebastian)

Dogs are better than cats, I know this because I have two cats and all they do is eat, sleep and make mess. Dogs love you and will never leave your side. They may even save your life from a burglar or a thug. Cats will only meow and run away. They will only use you for food. (Musty)

I think dogs and cats are equal because even though dogs are loyal, cats are house pets. Cats are small and dogs are active. I say it depends on the owner. An active person may want a dog whereas someone who has a small house may want a cat. (Craig)

Cats are better than dogs because they look after themselves and are safer for kids. Cats are very easy to look after. They clean themselves and probably never need a bath in their lifetime. All they need to eat is some cat food each day. During the global financial crisis, they are very economical pets.
Recently, a child was mauled to death by a dog. There have been many other dog attacks but luckily the victims have been saved by ambulances. Cats rarely attack people and when they are provoked it is little more than a mere tickle on the hand.
Some people think that dogs are more active and keep us fit but it is rather sad that some people need animals to keep them fit. So, because they are dangerous and expensive to look after, dogs are not better pets than cats. (Freddy)

Choir News
The Ascot Vale Primary Choir has recently been accepted to perform at the ‘Warm Winter Voices’ Choral Festival – an event involving a range of local primary schools at Moonee Valley Racecourse on Tuesday June 19. This is a great honour, as an audience of close to 1000 is expected to see choirs perform two songs each about the theme ‘Nature’.

Any students who are interested in becoming involved in the Choir to prepare for this performance are encouraged to attend rehearsals every Friday lunchtime in the Music Room – please feel free to bring along ideas for songs!

More details about this exciting event will become available closer to the date!
Katherine Anderson
Woodwind, Choir and Classroom Music Teacher

2012 Premier’s Active Families Challenge
The 2012 Premier’s Active Families Challenge provides a great opportunity for all Victorian families to get fit and enjoy the benefits of an active lifestyle. So grab your family and friends and register today to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days between 19 March to 30 April. It’s free to participate, and you’ll get:

- 20 free YMCA passes per family or team
- 15% discount at Rebel Sport
- one free child entry to the Melbourne Aquarium
- one free child entry to the National Sports Museum

You’ll also:

- have a chance to win heaps of great prizes, including iPads, Rebel Sport vouchers and coaching clinics with high profile athletes! Sign up before 5 March for even more opportunities to win.
- get regular tips and ideas on ways to keep your family active throughout the Challenge
- nominate your school to receive prizes as part of the new Challenge School Reward Program.

Sign up for the Challenge at: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1300 463 684
Walking School Bus News

The AVPS Walking School Bus walkers are well and truly walking to school twice a week. Walking resumed the first Tuesday of this term. It is great to see the children eager and keen to walk. Currently, we only have one route (we can have more if there is interest and volunteers to walk the kids) going twice a week. Our walking mornings are Tuesday and Thursday (changed from last term).

This route starts at Cnr of McPherson & Thomas Street, head south on McPherson, McNae and then west along Addison street towards Mount Alexander Road. We will head down south on Mt Alexander Road towards AVPS.

This walks takes the children only 25 minutes. This walking school bus starts at the first stop at 8:25am on Tuesday and Thursday. We have a couple of ‘bus stops’ on enroute. So if you are on our way or can meet us on our way, we will be more then happy to create a ‘bus stop’ for you. If you are interested in your child joining the school bus, please contact me or leave your details with Janet in school office.

VOLUNTEER WALKERS NEEDED
If you have 30 mins to spare one morning a week and you come from the south side of AVPS, please consider being a volunteer for the Walking School Bus. In order to get the second route started from Wingate community centre to school, we need at least two more volunteer. If there are more volunteers we can do this route on multiple days. Again, please contact me if you require more information.

I am contactable on thampotter@bigpond.com or 0412023688 or 93842448. I am keeping my fingers crossed that I will hear from some of you either as participants or volunteers.

Keep on walking!

French Club Update

Bonjour! Due to staffing issues the 2012 commencement of the French Club has been delayed. Please watch-out for updates in the upcoming newsletters.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform shop opens in the School Hall on the first Thursday of every Month. The next scheduled opening is Thursday 1st March 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.

Please Note: The store will be closed between Wednesday 21 December 2011 – Monday 2 January 2012 (Inclusive) for Christmas and will re-open from Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

Ascot Vale Primary School

OSHC phone: 0423 795 247
Coordinator: Dee Seneviratne

REMININDERS

How to get started before using our programs you must register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaustralia.com.au. Once registered you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online. Keep in mind we are able to take bookings at short notice to help busy families. Save on Care You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

OSHC NEWS

Last week was a very busy one for us, with so many children attending.

The Zumba lesson was great last week, and all the children who attended participated. This week too, we will have Zumba on Thursday and Kelly Sports will conduct Soccer on Tuesday. Our younger OSHC kids enjoyed making jelly and we also made flowers on Valentine’s day which was, unfortunately, not a very popular activity. This week we will be doing scratch art photo frames for craft.

Once again, a very warm welcome to all our new families of OSHC. They are all wonderful people and I am delighted to get to know them better and I also thank them for the enthusiasm and the co-operation to get all the medical and administration requirements in order.

Wishing you all a happy week.
Dee and the OSHC team.

WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK

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<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Kelly Sports - Soccer</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Board Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Zumba</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>A Cricket Match</td>
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MOONEE VALLEY FUN RUN
March 4 2012, in conjunction with Moonee Valley Festival

For more information go to: http://mvcc.vic.gov.au/mvclassic

In addition, free training (6 training sessions a week) is being provided by both Windy Hill Fitness Centre and the East Keilor Leisure Centre to help everyone prepare for the run in a safe environment. Qualified and experienced running coaches will provide valuable advice.

The Royal Children’s Hospital...

is conducting research into the cognitive, behavioural and social outcomes of young children who underwent surgery for congenital heart disease as neonates. If you are able to help this important research, please call Ms Louise Crossley on 03 9345 6590 directly or email her at louise.crossley@mcri.edu.au  Heart defects are the most common birth abnormality in Australia, affecting 1 in 100 babies.
The Play Group at Ascot Vale Primary School has commenced for 2012 and all parents/families are invited to join in. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and younger siblings to make friends within the school community.

The playgroup is a casual gathering and families can come on a week by week basis, without any long term commitment. It has been initiated with the idea of creating a cohesive school community and to encourage the development of friendships.

Other than the gold coin donation of $2.00 per session, there are no other costs attached. So please come and join us!

**Time:** 9 - 11 am Fridays

**Venue:** Community Room in the New Building

**Cost:** $2.00 per session (to cover tea/coffee/snacks/ materials)
Are you a mum or a dad on a Centrelink payment and need training to get back to work?

CRS Australia can help by connecting you with training programs that meet a diverse range of needs. Courses are nationally accredited and cover a broad range of industries.

To be eligible you must be:

- A person with the care of a dependent child aged less than 16 years of age
- In receipt of a Parenting Payment Single, Parenting Payment Partnered Newstart, Youth Allowance (other) or Special Benefit
- A person with a disability, injury or health condition*

Our Brunswick office is conveniently located at suite 106, first floor, 601 Sydney Road, Brunswick. Contact Sue Boell or Chris Thompson on 9241 4777 or visit www.crsaustralia.gov.au to find out more.

*Eligibility criteria apply
Train with us

Do you have a disability, injury or health condition and want a job?

Are you a parent on a Centrelink payment?

Do you have limited time due to child care responsibilities?

CRS Australia can help by connecting you with training programs that have flexible participation requirements and meet a diverse range of needs:

- face to face and self-paced training options available (a minimum of 15 hours per week)
- no classes during school holidays
- books, training materials and tutoring supplied free of charge
- programs can be tailored to suit your language, literacy and education levels.

To be eligible you must be:

- a person with the care of a dependent child aged less than 16 years of age
- in receipt of a Parenting Payment Single, Parenting Payment Partnered, Newstart, Youth Allowance (other) or Special Benefit.*

*Additional eligibility criteria may apply