



# ASCOT NEWS

24th February, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

Website: [www.avps.vic.edu.au](http://www.avps.vic.edu.au)

Newsletters are available online

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## Term 1 Key Dates (Please keep for future Reference)

23, 24, 26 & 27 Feb 2, 3, 5 & 6 Mar	2/3/4 Swimming program Ascot Vale Leisure Centre
Tues 24 Feb	Parent/Teacher Interviews
25 Feb	Swimming Carnival Unit 4 assembly
<b>27 Feb</b>	<b>Parent Rep meeting/ Special Lunch Day</b>
3 March	Family Picnic/ Unit Information Evening
4 Mar	Unit 5 assembly
5 Mar	Uniform Shop open at AVPS 3.00 – 4.00 pm (in Unit 6)
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
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
<b>Sat 21 March</b>	<b>SCHOOL FETE</b>
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

The reports from Camp from the students and teachers were excellent. I enjoyed my short visit on Thursday evening for the 5/6 disco and all day Friday. The Camp owners and operators were pleased with the behaviour and manners of our groups too and let the children know this at the camp farewell. I sincerely thank Bev and Lucy for all the planning and work they put into organising this successful camp. (They begin this work many months before we actually head off.) Thank you also to the staff that attended Camp Campaspe and a special thank you to Joanna that stepped into the schedule at the very last moment to support Julie who, suddenly, needed to be at home last week. Camp attendance was very high, around 95%, which is also excellent as the staff see Camp as an integral part of our curriculum planning and school program.

The summer swimming program begins this week with the 2/3/4 program so please ask your children about their learning at the Ascot Vale Leisure Centre.

Two important dates and activities for parents to attend are the Parent /Teacher interviews this afternoon and tonight and the combined Family Picnic and Unit Information sessions on Tuesday 3 March. These activities are designed to enable good communication and a greater exchange of information between home and school so I hope all parents will attend to help us plan their child's learning.

I wish all our members of the AVPS Swim Team 'Good Luck' for the swimming carnival tomorrow!

Joanne Roberts,  
Principal

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

## From the Assistant Principal

### It's not OK to be away

As you are all aware we want our students at school. Students who stay away from school may have their learning and friendships affected. Students who are away from or are late to school:

- miss the introduction to work
- fail to complete work
- miss revision
- miss maths, reading and spelling
- miss homework explanation
- fall behind with their learning
- develop disjointed home-reading routines
- develop inconsistent homework returns
- may lack confidence and feel embarrassed because they cannot do work the class has been studying
- feel left out from class discussion when they have missed a special class activity
- miss specialist lessons because these lessons only occur once a week and so, for example, art work is not completed or is rushed in order to

finish in the limited time available, physical education skill work is not practised, library work is not completed and library skill information is missed

- miss notices and newsletters
- miss celebrations, for example student of the week, class awards, excursions, school visitors, assemblies and special activities
- can find it difficult to break into established friendship groups and develop good friendships with their peers
- can develop a poor attitude towards school believing 'I won't miss much if I'm not at school'
- may fail to realise that the teachers and students miss them

At Ascot Vale PS we have a number of steps that we follow to ensure that we are aware of students being absent from school. These include:

1. Whole school community – Discussing with the community the school's expectations regarding attendance
2. Class teachers mark the school attendance roll twice daily
3. All unexplained absences will be followed up to explain the student's absence
4. Data tracking – staff will monitor absences regularly to track individual students attendance
5. If an absence remains unexplained for three consecutive days, the classroom teachers will make a call to the family to confirm the reason for the absence and to ascertain when the student will be returning

We encourage you to make contact with the school on the day of the absence or at the latest the day your child returns to school. It is also important that students are at school by 9am each day. The yard is supervised from 8.45 to 9.00am each day. Students are required to be here during this time.

We thank you for your anticipated support.

### Prep Health Assessments – Victorian Primary Schools Nursing Program – FINAL reminder

Please return questionnaires to school this week.

### Asthma Management

Going home with the newsletter is information regarding asthma management at AVPS. If your child suffers from asthma, please return the Action Plan as soon as possible. These must be updated annually.

### Student Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to:

Liam W- Unit 1 - who turns 11 on the 27th February

Rachel L - Unit 4 - who turns 8 on the 28th February

Michael Downing, Assistant Principal

[downing.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:downing.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## School Council Elections

We are seeking nominations for parent reps on School Council. Nomination forms can be collected at the office and the closing date for parent nominations has been extended to this **Friday 27 February 2009 at 4 p.m.**

## Family Picnic / Unit Information Evening Tuesday 3 March

To welcome new families to the school and to have a school community 'get together', all families are invited to pack a picnic tea, spread out a rug and join others in a shared meal on the oval next Tuesday 3 March. The picnic will begin at 5 p.m. and, throughout the evening, Unit information sessions will be announced. Families are able to attend at the following times:

Unit 1 – 5.30 pm

Unit 2- 6.00 pm

Unit 3 – 6.30 pm

Unit 4 & 5- 7 pm

Unit information sessions will be held in the respective Unit classrooms.

## From Tania Crook

Hi Guys,

My name is Tania Crook and I have taken on the role of the new PE teacher. I am very excited about this role and hope that I can inspire many children to join in and increase their physical abilities over the next 12 months and beyond.

Many programs have begun at AVPS already this year with **swimming** starting this week for the 2/3/4's and in two weeks time the 5/6's will attend. The swimming program is said to be inspiring and diverse, to ensure it caters to all children's needs around the water.

This Wednesday we have our **swimming carnival** at Queens Park Pool and Michael and I will be escorting 18 of our swim team members to the pool to try their best in their events. They have done well to make it into the team and we wish them the best of luck and enjoyment at the carnival.

Last Saturday 4 of our students were selected for the Essendon Football clubs jumper presentation...how exciting for Essendon supporters. This is part of the **Multicultural program** we have joined up with through the Essendon Football Club and the children in grades 2 to 6 will work on team work skills, cooperation, participation and developmental skills over the next 18 weeks during their Phys Ed times with players and officers from the club. Some course work will be administered in class and each fortnight J-LO will be here to develop the physical aspects of the program. I am really enthusiastic about this program and plan for it to encourage all students to enjoy their physical activities.

**ZONE TRYOUTS:** If any student participates at a high level in a sporting program from netball, golf, hockey, etc outside of school and wants to try out for the zone team and then go on to State teams please let me know your name and sport ASAP.

If any parents can sew I am after someone to run edges around some material I have purchased for dance and movement activities.

One last thing if anyone knows of a Square dance caller I would love to make contact with them.

Looking forward to working with you all.

Tania Crook

## Writing from Unit 3

Here we have 4 examples of writing from students in Unit 3. These four, Nick Kilty, Nicola Iezzi, Emma Hyland and Karmen Hardy are all standing, poised, for some spectacular Literacy development to take place this year. Marg.

## Prep Parent 2010 Information Session

At 7 p.m. on Thursday 30 April, AVPS will be holding an information evening for prospective Prep parents for 2010. Please let your friends and neighbours know of this event or come along yourself if you have another child ready to begin school in 2010. To enrol in school, children must turn 5 on or before 30 April of the year in which they request enrolment.

**Schools Clean Up Day** is this Friday 27 February. The children at AVPS will undertake to clean our own school yard and along Moonee and Bank Streets as their contribution to this community action event. We will be issuing gloves and metal tongs for this work as needed.

## Christopher Milne

Due to our busy schedule of events the visit by popular author Christopher Milne has been postponed to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Please note.

## Working Bee Sunday 15 March

We have a LOT of leaf debris around the yard, within boundary gutters and along fence lines that needs to be cleared. I am in the process of arranging tree trimming and the removal of some dead trees from the yard and this work should take place shortly. Generally then, on the 15th, we will need some assistance sweeping up leaves, tidying up garden beds and the back block generally. This will ensure all is ready for the School Fete on the following Saturday. **Please come along to help, even for an hour, if you can. Volunteers will need to bring their own gloves and gardening tools.**

**YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.**

Joanne

## Head Lice Health Alert!

A case of headlice has been reported to the office so ALL parents are asked to be vigilant checking their child's hair on a regular basis and treating headlice when found. Once hair has been treated, children may return to school.

## Single parents and child support

Participants are sought for a Deakin University research study. This study will explore the social, health and financial impact of single-parents receiving or not receiving child support. It will involve completing a questionnaire every nine months and a financial logbook each month for 18 months.

In appreciation of your time, you will receive a \$20 Coles Myer voucher each time you complete the questionnaire.

If you are:

- a single-parent over 18 years of age
- eligible to receive child support
- receiving Centrelink benefits
- have a child at primary school
- are interested in participating

please contact (local call) 1300 760 809 or email: ruth.heading@deakin.edu.au for further information.

## Calling all parents and guardians – 2009 Fundraising Volunteers needed!

AVPS relies on much needed funds to help maintain our school, purchase the latest technology for our children and valuable library resources. To do this, we hold events and activities throughout the year. However, to hold these events, we need a team of volunteers who are willing to implement a 2009 Fundraising Action Plan. The team of volunteers can meet either during school hours or as an evening activity, giving parents who work, the opportunity to help participate in this area. If you are interested, could you please contact Cheryl Blair (Jessica & William U4) on 0410 312228 or via email on [wc\\_blair@tpg.com.au](mailto:wc_blair@tpg.com.au) by Friday 27 February. Also, let me know whether you prefer to attend meetings during or after school hours. I'll then co-ordinate a meeting in the first week of March.

Many thanks to all parents who have offered to help out at the Fete, which will be held on Saturday 21st March. We would love to hear from more parents! Any offer of assistance will be greatly appreciated.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

If you believe you are eligible for the EMA payment, please collect a form from the school office and return the completed form by close of business on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.**

**NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

## Walking School Bus

Last year, with the help of regular volunteers, we were able to operate a Walking School Bus three days a week. Without any volunteers in Term 4 last year, the bus did not run and left many families without this safe option of getting their child(ren) to school. Can you volunteer for this work? Even just one regular session? Each pair of volunteers means one run for the Walking School Bus. Please let Joanne or Michael know if you can be involved. It would be great to offer this service to families once again.

## Uniform Supply

The next date for the Uniform Shop is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. To order online, use the PSW website, [www.psw.com.au](http://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.



## After School TENNIS programme.

**When:** After school every Wednesday 3.45pm till 4.30pm (45 mins)

**Where:** on the school oval.

Start Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**Cost: \$ 45.00**

The programme is recommended for Grades 1 to 4 (Ages 6 to 9 yrs)

Lessons are conducted under the Instruction of Mr Peter Hubble (Buckley Park Tennis Club)

If there are any questions you can call **Martine Baillon on 0416 038 432.**

**Registration : Name:** .....

**Unit No:.....Money Enclosed \$.....cash/cheque.**

**Parents name & Phone Number**.....

## The Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre

The Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre has vacancies in the following courses in Term One:

Beginner Computers, Office Skills, Multimedia, Face Painting, Sewing, Mosaics and Active Exercise.

For further information contact [info@fslnc.org](mailto:info@fslnc.org) or 9376 9088.

## Found

Kid's bike. To claim contact Susie 9372 6702.

# OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

## 'we make kids smile'



Monday - Cricket

Tuesday - Soccer

Wednesday – Yoga (AAP)

Thursday – Chinese Walls

Tennis – (AAP)

Hello everybody – We had a bit of a quiet week due to the school camp, but this week things will be back to normal.

We have our “Active After School Program” on this week, with yoga on Wednesdays and tennis on Fridays. These sessions are run by professional coaches, so come along and get involved. It's sure to be a lot of fun and you may find a new sport that you like.

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.



## Campaspe Downs Story

### By Erin Grierson

I was standing waist deep in the water with the goeey mud squelching through my toes pushing along our raft.

Georgia, May, Mary and I had built a raft out of a wooden crate, some rope and four empty water containers. We had strapped the containers to the bottom of the raft. We were supposed to row but the boys took all of the oars. So we were forced to push.

It was a race to the other side of the dam and back. We got to the other side with no trouble, but then Mary got on. We walked the raft back to the other side while Mary was on top screaming that it was tipping, I found humour in this. About half way across, Khalil and Daniel grabbed on to our raft to slow us down. So I decided the most effective way to get rid of him was to sit on Khalil's arm until he let go. Fortunately it worked and we won the race!

