2013 – Term 1 Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 February – 8 March</td>
<td>Year 2/3/4 Swimming (no swimming lessons on Wednesdays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>No school for Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Unit 3 Assembly, 3pm Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>AVPS District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from Unit 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icy poles for sale (after school Canteen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 March</td>
<td>Fire Education incursion Prep/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher interviews, 3.45 – 7.30 pm, in Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Unit 4 Assembly, 3pm Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from Unit 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icy poles for sale (after school Canteen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Labour Day public holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Unit 5 Assembly, 3pm Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from Unit 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icy poles for sale (after school Canteen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Hot Cross Bun drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>School Photograph Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialist Program Assembly, 3pm Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Parent Rep meeting, 9am Community Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from Unit 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit 2 Special Lunch Day- Sushi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icy poles for sale (after school Canteen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Hot Cross buns delivered and distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from All Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1- 2.30 pm dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Icy poles for sale (after school Canteen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly, Hall 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Fresh Fruit Friday- parent volunteers from All Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays 12.00 noon</td>
<td>Newsletter articles must be received by this time. Please forward to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ascot.vale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au">ascot.vale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From The Principal

Thank you to all the families that attended our information sessions. I trust all questions have been put to Units and that communication between home and school will remain strong throughout the year. Please do not wait till formal meeting times if you have a matter to discuss with your child’s teacher. A phone call or email to the school can easily be used to set up a meeting as necessary. Making a set appointment time is preferred by staff so their time and attention can be provided to parents and students. We don’t seem to have any luck at all with weather for our annual picnic but half a dozen families or so did stay and enjoy some food and a chat once the sun was out again. Following the very wet start to the day, it was actually very pleasant outside at that time of the evening. Melbourne weather at its best!

I have included the parent nomination forms within this week’s newsletter again in the hope it may remind interested parents to hand in any completed forms by Friday 8 March, 4pm. At our February school council meeting our President, Cheryl Blair, announced she would be retiring from this role and School Council. She will participate in different ways within the school community during her family’s final year at the school. We will be thanking Cheryl more formally for her work over several years as our School Council President but I would like to add my personal thanks now for her enthusiasm, advocacy and commitment to AVPS as our President.

Janet is home from hospital and continues to amaze us all with her recovery. She has thoroughly enjoyed reading all her notes, poems, cards and letters from the children and families. Everyone has been very kind and understanding as our office has returned to its normal routines and functions. Kellie and Angela begin their shared role in the office this week with Christina assisting them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Congratulations to the selected 2013 AVPS Swim team! Enjoy the district carnival this Friday. I know you will be all swimming hard and trying your best. Good luck to you all!

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

From The Assistant Principal

ATTENDANCE & BEING ON TIME – Giving your child an advantage

Genuine illness, bereavement etc. are examples of acceptable reasons for a child being absent. However, every time a child is late for school or absent, the child’s learning progress is disrupted. Most teaching is sequential—what is taught and learned today is the foundation which helps the children to understand and master what is taught tomorrow. It is usually harder for a child to catch up on work missed, than to complete it when it is being taught in class. To avoid disadvantaging the student, parents and carers should minimize absences by:

* Arranging appointments out of school hours
* Develop the habit ‘with’ your child to be on time each day—no excuses
* Not allowing your child to stay home for minor reasons or birthdays

Minimum Absence +
Maximum Learning opportunity=
Student reaching their potential

What does research say?

International research demonstrates a strong correlation between students’ learning, longer-term life outcomes, attendance at school and appropriate participation in education programs. It is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age; even from the time they are enrolled in a pre-school setting. Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations. Once learners have begun to absent themselves from pre-school or school, and the initial cause of this remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern of absence will continue and escalate through the subsequent school career.

Do you know?

Do you know how many days of school your child has missed this year? Children missing more than
15 days of school a year are at risk. This is equivalent of missing 6 months of learning during their schooling.

**PREP FOR PARENTS**

Each week, I will share with you articles from DEECD that cover topics like what Preps learn at school, learning to read, understanding maths, the excitement of science, the importance of play, and learning to write. We also include links to further resources and online content to help you support your child’s learning journey.

**Learning to read**

The way children learn to read, and to write, is like a four legged stool. ‘Talking’ is one leg, ‘listening’ another, ‘reading’ the third, and ‘writing’ the last leg of the stool. Each ‘leg’ is important as it helps to support and balance the other.

As a parent you play a vital role in preparing and encouraging your child for the world of reading and writing.

Reading stories is an enjoyable and special time that you can spend with your child. Your child may begin by ‘pretending’ to read (following the story by the pictures without really recognising the words), or by making the story up themselves.

Before your child went to school, you will have noticed the child care or kindergarten staff encouraging your child to play, to speak, and to become aware of sounds and patterns and the use of written symbols (letters and words). All these valuable pre-reading activities assists your child learn how to read.

As your child learns to read, their teacher will help them understand what the title of the book means, what the story is about and how to use the pictures or illustrations to understand the story and make sense of the words, phrases and sentences.

So what sort of books should you look for?

Generally speaking, children enjoy books about people, places and things that are just like them. Books about where you live, your culture, and your child’s interests – be it horses, princesses, warriors, dinosaurs or dogs – are all worth considering. Books that have poems or rhymes can also be fun.

If your child’s first language is not English, learning words and reading in their first language is beneficial and should be encouraged.

Here are some suggestions of things you can try at home:

When you are reading with your child, get them to turn the pages of the story for you. Encourage your child to ‘read’ stories to you. Encourage your family and friends to give your child books for their birthday or other special occasions. Then ask your child to ‘read’ out loud, draw, act out or tell the story. There is a wonderful range of books for the iPad and e-readers that your child may enjoy. After you have finished a story ask your child to tell you about their favourite part, or ask them to imagine a different ending to the story. You could even ask them to retell the story in their own words. Often this becomes their favourite story. Create a list of words that your child knows and can recognise. Keep this list in a place where they can see it and add more words as they learn them. Use magnetic letters and put them on the fridge. This will help your child recognise individual letters and words.

Every family has their own stories or ‘legends’, and telling these stories to your child helps them understand their family. These stories are often created during shared experiences like going on holidays or trips together and retelling them is one way families strengthen their connections.

Contact your child’s teacher for more ideas and suggestions about how to support your child’s learning.

**Resources / Links**


Happy Birthday this week:

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

Writing @ AVPS – from Unit 3
The writing samples published this week come from Daniel & Lucas in Unit 4.
As teachers, we know that the 'best' writing occurs when it is driven by experience, the students were given the opportunity to write about Janet, and here is what was produced by these two children. It is clear that Daniel is on the way to becoming a fluent writer, his sentence is quite easily read, we observe that he is clearly hearing sounds which are then applied in correct manner, there are spaces between words.
Lucas is a new student from Sweden. He is also on the continuum at the 'copying' stage. His English is, I would suspect, much better than my Swedish.
Marg

Road Safety is everyone’s business!
The children have been discussing road safety in Units as part of our beginning of the year routine and it is timely to remind parents, particularly those dropping off and picking up children in cars, that turning into driveways in Bank and Moonee Streets puts pedestrians at risk! This is something our school community feels adamant about so please adhere to this extra precaution. I am aware parking is difficult and these streets get congested before and after school but all parking signs and limits must be obeyed as parking officers patrol the area at our request and people will be fined.
Please do not turn into and reverse out of any driveways close to the school. This is dangerous for any pedestrians.

Fresh Fruit Friday @ AVPS
Please note the FFF Unit roster listed on the front page of the newsletter within the ‘Key Dates’ section. Due to parent availability, there have been some slight changes made to the Unit roster published last week. We only need about half an hour of your time first thing in the morning on Fridays. Volunteers prepare the fruit in the Canteen. Please help out when you can.

Fundraising – 1st meeting of 2013
The current fundraising group – Linda (mum of Barnaby), Anna (Brie and Zoe), Danielle (Samuel) and Jo (Ned and Aidan) – has set a first fundraising meeting for the year, and we’d like to invite interested parents to come along. No major commitments required...! We’re just looking for some fresh ideas and at least a few hands to help out over the course of the year. It’s a great way to meet others at the school and give back – even if you only have limited time to be involved.

The meeting will be at 8pm, on Wed 27 Feb at Jo’s house in Ascot Vale (13 Morphett Ave; phone 0422 990 490). Any questions, please let one of us know. We’d love to see you there!

News from the Learning Studio
Volunteers needed - Throughout the school year there are a number of tasks such as shelving books, covering and repairing books and more, to be carried out in the learning studio so that we can optimise our students’ enthusiasm and love for reading.

Parents who can assist by volunteering in the Learning Studio please contact Tina kountouri.tina.t@edumail.vic.gov.au or Michael downing.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au via email or in person.
Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Library Bags** - In 2013 library bags have been introduced to all our students. Students are expected to bring these library bags on their library days. These bags are to be used to transport all library books to and from the library. Please note that Children will not be allowed to borrow books without a library bag.

Thank you for your support in looking after our library resources.

Thank you. Tina

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE (EMA) FORMS DUE AT THE OFFICE

**this week!**

Have your forms into the office by Thursday 28 February or you will miss this six month payment period.

**HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?**

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children's education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

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**Ascot Vale Primary School**

**OSHC phone:** 0423 795 247

**Coordinator:** Dee Seneviratne

**REMEMDERS**

**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**

We had record numbers on most days last week with many children attending and a very small group on Wednesday. Anyway, all our planned activities went according to plan and the children enjoyed the aerobics on Tuesday and all the children participated. The activity on Thursday was very interesting too and we are fortunate to have Pauline as a coach that works with
Melbourne Storm. Many thanks go out to Pauline who made her session very active and very interesting. She had the children engaged throughout the session. This week as well, we look forward to aerobics, a multi-skills session and a cushion filling competitions! Most of the children have started making Dolls and Bears and they are getting to the sewing stage which is a little difficult for some but staff will assist them with this activity. Last but not least, it was good to see Janet making excellent progress. She was very happy to receive the Get Well card from the children of OSHC. Our most sincere, best wishes go out to her for a speedy recovery. Looking forward to another hot but fun filled week and wishing everyone good health and much joy.

Dee and the OSHC team.

Flemington Junior Football Club

Flemington Junior Football Club is your community based club competing in the WRFL.

We are part of the Kensington Flemington Junior Sports Club and are based at Holland Park in Kensington.

Our club conducts North Melbourne Auskick.

Registration is open for the 2013 season for Under 9 through to Under18 age groups.

Training for Under 11 &12’s is Mon and/or Wednesdays at 5:30pm

(Thursdays until cricket finishes)

and U16 and U14 Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30pm.

U9’s and U10’s start Wed 20th March

For more information please contact

Bil Johnstone Mob: 0418 175 782 or Rob Moore Mob: 0403 659 659

or go to www.kenflemjuniors.com

WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK AT OSHC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>Group Games/ Craft</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Aerobics Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Constructing an igloo</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>Multi-skills &amp; Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Cushion Filling Competition</td>
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Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop will be open next year on Tuesday 5th March, 2013 in the School Hall between 3pm and 4pm. 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 Closed, Tuesday-Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm.
NOMINATIONS INVITED
SCHOOL COUNCIL POSITIONS 2013 – 2014

Parents/ Guardians, if you are interested in being on School Council please complete the form below and return it to the general office by 4pm, Friday 8 March 2013.

I would strongly urge people to nominate for School Council. The School Council has a most important role in developing the future direction of our school, especially in the areas of Finance, Education, Community policy and Grounds development. The Council (usually) meets each third Monday of the month from 7 – 9pm, at least 8 times a year. Some months the dates are changed after negotiation with members. Councillors are assigned to one of the four subcommittees: Education, Community & Partnerships, Grounds and Finance. Please contact me for further information,

Joanne Roberts
Principal

________________________________________________________

PARENT MEMBERS
NOMINATION FORM FOR 2013 -2014 SCHOOL COUNCIL

NAME: ________________________________________________

YOUR CHILD’S NAME: ______________________________ UNIT: ______

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

____________________________________________________

SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________

☐ 2yr ☐ 1 yr (casual parent vacancy) (Please tick your preference)

SELF NOMINATION (please circle if using this option)
OR

NOMINATOR’S NAME: ________________________________

NOMINATOR’S SIGNATURE: ______________________________

I am most interested in the (Education, Finance, Grounds or Community & Partnerships) ______________ subcommittee work of School Council.

Complete and return this Nomination to the general office by 4pm Friday 8 March 2013
ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2013 – 2014

The Ascot Vale School Council will be made up of the Principal and 12 elected representatives as follows:

8 PARENTS (up to 2 may be Department of Education employees) 2 year tenure with half retiring on alternate years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Expires Feb 2013</th>
<th>Offers Expires Feb 2014</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Blair</td>
<td>George Baillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynette Menton</td>
<td>Martin Grubb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Thompson</td>
<td>Nicole Edwardes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Blakiston</td>
<td>Susie Lauer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 EMPLOYEES of the Department of Education (not Parents) 2 year tenure with half retiring on alternate years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offer Expires Feb 2013</th>
<th>Offer Expires Feb 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie Clarke</td>
<td>Michael Downing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Stewart</td>
<td>Assunta Righi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elections are held in February/March each year. The timeline for the 2013 School Council is as follows:

- Call for nominations: 20 Feb 2013
- Closing date for nominations: 8 March 2013, 4pm
- List of candidates and nominators displayed: 11 March 2013
- Ballot Papers distributed: 11 March 2013
- Close of ballot: 15 March 2013, 4pm
- Vote count and declaration of ballot: 15 March 2013, 5 pm
- First School Council meeting for 2012: 18 March 2013, 7 pm

Therefore, positions up for election this year are:

4 x Parent Representatives (4 x 2 year tenure)

2 x Employee Representatives

The school Principal works as Chief Executive Officer of the School Council without voting rights but the Principal is able to veto a School Council decision giving reasons in writing. The Assistant Principal (unless elected as an Employee representative) usually attends but without voting rights. Business Managers and representatives of parent groups at the school are also able to attend meetings but do not hold voting rights. Parents as visitors to any School Council meeting are most welcome.
Apps for iPads

Great for all Students but Especially to Provide Support for Struggling Students.

Mary Delahunty and Pat Minton will be presenting.

We will show you some of the best and most useful apps we have discovered for literacy and help you choose the best ones. Suitable for Dyslexics, Early Years (such as phonics, sentence writing, reading) to the Secondary Years.

We will compare dictionaries, talking word processors and other information sources both for primary and secondary students.

We can also show some useful ways of using iPads with other technology, particularly useful for older primary and secondary students.

Please join the Dyslexia Support Group West on hearing about these great apps to help our children and bring your iPads.

And please let us know if you are coming via the below email address or mobile number.

Details:

Date - Saturday 16th March

Time - 3pm - 5 pm

Venue - Wembley Primary School Yarraville

Presenters - Pat Minton (9589-4901 for any additional information) and Mary Delahunty

Cold Coin donation

- cleaver.rebecca@gmail.com (0425771357)
- martinj@newslifemedia.com.au (0418657749)
Open Days
1. Sunday, 24 March & 21 April 2013 at 10.30am. Meet in the college car park off Mt Alexander Road (Old “Soundhouse”). Tours of the college’s facilities with current parents & students. This is during the Farmer’s Market (9am to 1pm), so come and buy some wonderful fresh organic produce too!

2. Every Wednesday during the year prospective parents are invited to meet at the main office at 9am sharp to be taken on a tour of the college. Jane Wignell, Assistant Principal will conduct the tour with plenty of opportunity for questions and so you can see the college in operation.

Enrolment enquiries at any time:
Phone: 9376 1622
Email: mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au

ROSEHILL SECONDARY COLLEGE
STEP- SELECTIVE TALENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
STEP - Information Evening Wednesday 20 March 2013 - RSPV 15 March 2013
STEP - Application due Friday 19 April 2013
STEP - Testing Friday 26 April 2013

Information is also available on our website:  http://www.rosehillsc.vic.edu.au/
Joan we

Wet Works with

Lucas W.
Seeking volunteers
Help teach newly arrived migrants and refugees to drive

We are seeking fully licensed and experienced drivers to supervise 1 hour driving experience sessions. All volunteers will receive RACV driver instructor training, access to safe vehicles and reimbursement for expenses ($10 per lesson).

Supporting partners:
- Wingate Community Centre
- New Hope Foundation
- Moonee Valley Legal Service
- RACV
- Victoria Police

To register your interest or for more information contact
Flemington Neighbourhood Renewal on 8325 1800 or email pjordan@mvcc.vic.gov.au