



# ASCOT NEWS

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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)

4 Feb	Whole School assembly
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
17 – 20 Feb	Year 5/6 camp
18 Feb	Unit 3 assembly
25 Feb	Swimming Carnival Unit 4 assembly
3 March	Author Visit AVPS– Christopher Milne
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
18 Mar	Zone Swimming carnival Unit 1 & 2 assembly
25Mar	Unit 3 assembly
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 school holidays have flown by- at least the teachers think so! Staff returned to work last week preparing for class and participating in a professional learning

program focussed up personalised learning plans for each student. I thank them all for their input and commitment to this work in extremely hot weather. Together we have designed a process to allow us to better understand, assess and report individual student

learning. The processes we are investigating will increase student involvement, particularly in the senior years, and will invite parents to help us set learning goals for children. Our new strategies aim to acknowledge individual learning goals as they are achieved. Different Units have undertaken to trial different formats throughout this year and this information will be presented to parents at school Information Evening (date tbc). The Education Committee of School Council will be involved with us in evaluating any new assessment and reporting processes.

There have been no changes to the planned 2009 class structure:

Unit 1 Joanna Wilkinson, Julie Clarke 0.8/Michael Downing 0.2

Unit 2 Bev Loft 0.6/ Amanda McClure 0.4

Unit 3 Assunta Righi 0.8/Marg Blair Gannon 0.2, Alex Parsons

Unit 4 Annie Cuthbert, Poppy Thorrowgood

Unit 5 Ellen Waters, Lucy Mackinnon 0.6/Loretta Bortoli 0.4

PE Tania Crook 0.5

Art Lucy Mackinnon 0.4

LOTE Assunta Righi 0.2

Reading Recovery Marg Blair Gannon 0.5

Library/Literacy Support Tina Mermingas 0.5

Staff have welcomed Tania Crook, P.E., Joanna Wilkinson, Unit 1, and Michael Downing, A.P., to Ascot Vale PS. Please introduce yourself to them too to help them settle into our school community as soon as possible.

Over the vacation, the school exterior of the main Admin block and the Hall exterior were painted. It is looking very fresh. Signs along pathways both sides of the school and in the corridor have been erected to help families and visitors to our schools. We did suffer a bit of damage with graffiti and broken windows but, generally, our grounds were respected by the broader community. I thank Louis for all his cleaning and Alan for his work in the yard preparing the school to re-open. Both worked in extremely hot conditions! Thankfully, we did have our rainwater tanks and dripping systems installed just in time to help water our garden beds but some of the trees and potted plants are showing signs of stress from the recent heat wave. Any rescue work from volunteers with 'green thumbs' would be most welcome.

**To keep our records accurate, please ring, email the school or drop into the office if your home, work or emergency contact details have changed. It is important that these details are always up to date.**

I look forward to working with you and your children throughout 2009. It is a busy start with swimming

programs and camps in February. If there is anything I can help you with, please contact me or make an appointment to meet with me.

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

**A big welcome to our 33 Preps** that began school today. All was very settled in the classrooms very quickly. Thank you to the Parent Reps that welcomed new families with a cup of tea in the staffroom. Please note that there is no school for Prep students on Wednesdays throughout February

## From the Assistant Principal

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at Ascot Vale PS. Already I can detect the strong, positive community feel that AVPS is known for. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and hopefully add something to the wonderful school that we all are a part of. Please drop by and say hello when you next visit us.

### Student Birthdays this week

Happy Birthday to:

Lochie M - Unit 3 - who turns 6 on the 8th February

Hannah C - Unit 5 - who turns 9 on the 8th February

Rosie H - Unit 1 - who turns 6 on the 9th February

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

## IMPORTANT CHANGE to EMA

### Payments for 2009

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/](http://WWW.EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU/ABOUTSCHOOL/LIFEAT SCHOOL/EMA/)

## 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.**

## 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.

## Messages for Children

Please note that it is very difficult to pass messages to children regarding their after school activities etc. Children may be partaking in activities outside their classrooms, for example, Library, Art, Music, PE and can be hard to locate. Generally, the office is only manned by one person and the time taken to locate a child or children and be away from the office can put other children and the whole school community at risk.

Please ensure that children are informed of their after school activities before coming to school in the morning. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated. Please note however, that should an emergency arise, your messages will be passed on to the children at once.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Students yesterday were full of information about their holidays. Here are three written examples of the retelling of recreational time spent with their families and a Christmas note as well.

Marg



## 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



## Camp

Don’t forget that Camp at Campaspe Downs is approaching rapidly!!! A letter has gone home which details costs and the equipment that the children will need to take with them.

Because we will be riding horses, it is important that each child has a pair of heeled shoes (not runners). Packing should be very easy this year, as pillows, sheets and doonas are supplied...there will be none of that trying to squash a big sleeping bag into a cover that is way too small!! **Please be aware that full payment for the camp must be made by Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> in order for children to be allowed to attend.**

## Health Alert!!

A report of Threadworm has been thoughtfully reported to the office for your consideration, information and action as necessary.

## 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](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.



## Chess Coaching



### Have fun learning Chess!!

**Where:** Ascot Vale Primary School Library

**When:** Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.15pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a Bronze badge to 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the end of term. To enrol your child please make payment (per child) of **\$75 cash** or **\$85 cheque prior to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.lifecoaches.com.au)

*Forward this section with your payment to your school office.*

**Child's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Due:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

**\$75 cash:**  **or** **\$85 cheque:**

## PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL FETE MARCH 21st 2009

THEME :“OUR COMMUNITY”

Preparations have commenced for the 2009 school fete. The Committee have kicked off with some great ideas. To make the fete a big success your help is also needed. Over the Christmas period please consider how you can be involved.

Can your business help in any way?  
Perhaps a donation for our raffle or sponsorship of a ride?

Do you belong to or know a cultural community group that could perform traditional dance or music or has items that can be displayed?

Needed!

Old wrapping paper (any design):  
Please leave at the office in the new year.

Home-baked goodies (sweet & savoury):  
A plate will be coming home closer to the day of the fete.

Get Fit!  
Deliver fete notices to letterboxes in your neighbourhood.

Information in the new year.

Help your child's unit prepare their stall prior to the fete:

See the class teacher.

Offer your services at a stall:  
See your parent rep or leave a message for Cheryl Blair at the office.

Donate second-hand books:  
Leave them at the office in the new year.

Do you have a gazebo that can be used on the day?  
Leave a message for Cheryl at the office.

Next Meeting: Thursday 5 February 2009 9.15am in the Staff Lunch Room

Any other ideas are most welcome.

Contacts:

Cheryl: [wc\\_blair@tpg.com.au](mailto:wc_blair@tpg.com.au)

Maria: [mariarainone@dodo.com.au](mailto:mariarainone@dodo.com.au)

Danielle Paea: [dpaea@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dpaea@optusnet.com.au)

*Create, Connect, Learn, Enjoy!*

*Performing Arts & Occupational Therapy*

# Spring into Action



Discover Dance: 2-6 years

Creative Ballet: 5-12 years

Creative Jazz/Contemporary: 5-12 years

Dance & Create: 5-16 years

Parent-Child Dance & Play: 1-6 yrs

Boyz Drama: 9-15 yrs

Canterbury Street Stables, Flemington

Ring Lee: 9376-6396 or [leefrances@bigpond.com](mailto:leefrances@bigpond.com)

## **MINI MOZARTS is BUSKING**

### **For the REDKITE FOUNDATION**

***-Supporting children through cancer***

*(Redkite is the new name for The Malcolm Sargent  
Cancer Fund for Children in Australia)*

**OUTSIDE** Mini Mozarts School Of Music  
166 Union Rd Ascot Vale

WHEN: Saturday, 7th February 2009  
Saturday, 14th February 2009  
Saturday, 21st February 2009

Time: 9.00am to 3.30pm

**PLEASE COME & SUPPORT THIS GREAT  
FOUNDATION!**

*All Profits will be going directly to the  
RedKite Foundation*



## OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

### 'we make kids smile'



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.

Sean and the OSHC team.

### Tips for packing a fun and healthy lunchbox

*(pinched from the Herald Sun Newspaper 02/02/2009)*

1. Kids like "nibble boxes", and bite-sized fruits. Cut sandwiches into soldiers for younger children.
2. Include more vegetables by packing cold leftover pizza, corn on the cob, quiche, cold veggie burgers, coleslaw, baked beans, or potato salad.
3. If you want to give a treat ensure it has at least some nutritional value, like flavoured milk.
4. Get fruit or vegetables into every sandwich, such as grated carrot, sultanas or alfalfa.
5. Always include a frozen drink in the lunchbox to avoid food poisoning. Take care with high risk foods such as meats, dairy and cooked rice/pasta salads.
6. To deal with the nag factor, include a non-food treat such as a sticker in the lunchbox.
7. Lunches must be fun and interesting. Try alternatives to sandwiches, like noodle salads, pita rolls, wraps, or savoury muffins.
8. Instead of high fat and sugary foods, children will enjoy raisin bread, pikelets, rice crackers, popcorn, loose breakfast cereal and dried fruit.