Upcoming Key Dates...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>17 February</td>
<td>Finance Sub Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>Parent Rep meeting- Staffroom</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
<td>School Council and Sub Committees</td>
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<td>21 February</td>
<td>Grade 2,3,4 Swimming commences (21 Feb – 4 March – not Wednesdays)</td>
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<td>School Council – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Unit Information night / Picnic (after school hours)</td>
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<td>25 February</td>
<td>Swimming trials for district carnival (grade 4,5,6) 7.45am Queens Park Pool (notes home later this week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Student Interviews (after school hours up to 7.30pm)</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Young Leaders Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly- Oval (weather permitting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival 9-1pm @ Queen’s Park Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>18 March</td>
<td>Parent Rep Meeting- Special Lunch Day</td>
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<td>21-25 March</td>
<td>School Camp Lorne (grade 5/6 Mon-Wed, grade 3/4 Wed-Fri)</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
<td>Finance Sub Committee</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>School Council – 7 pm</td>
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<td>29 March</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>AVPS Open Day &amp; Olden Day Fair</td>
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<td>2 April</td>
<td>125th/ School Reunion Celebrations</td>
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<td>8 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1- Early dismissal 2.30 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Wed</strong> 27 April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
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<td>Sun 1 May</td>
<td>Working Bee- 10 – 12 noon</td>
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<td>4 May</td>
<td>Prep 2012 Parent Information Evening</td>
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From The Principal

Well, well, well! Can you believe the weather we have had? I feel as if it has been quite an extraordinary vacation period this year- it certainly has been for me! I have been dealing with the various building projects, the slate roof and valleys have been repaired (thank goodness!), trees in the front removed, repairs made to our fire services. Then, on and off, I was involved helping my family in Swan Hill and Cairns deal with the distressing floods and cyclones. I’m happy to report that they are all well and feeling, overall, very fortunate. This, of course, is not the case for many other families this summer.

The school welcomed 56 new Prep students on Monday and the children were assisted by the older children in the Units and they did settle quite quickly into their morning activities. I enjoyed the surprise visit to my office from Unit 4 students on their school tour. I’d like to thank the Parent Reps for providing a lovely morning tea for new families. It is wonderful to have a chat with other parents and to make contact with parents who know the school and its routines well. If the weather lets us, we will hold a Family Picnic on the oval on Wednesday 23 February, 5 pm onwards. Units will schedule their Information Sessions throughout the evening to share their planning with you too. You will also have some time to meet our four new staff members. Please take some time to greet and get to know Rachel (Unit 1), Lucy (Unit 2), Emily (Unit 3) and Sarah (Unit 5). Currently, we have 237 students enrolled across Years Prep – 6.

From Tuesday 1 – Thursday 3 February, the staff worked through a professional development program to prepare for the school year. We focussed upon teacher strategies to improve literacy and numeracy programs, spent some time planning our semester 1 topic ‘Times They Are A-changing’ and its associated School Reunion events (April 1-2) and our School Concert booked for 9 June. We had a tour and some initial discussion around learning in the Learning Studio. (Michael has placed some pictures of the renovation on the TV screen outside the office if you are interested in its progress…)

As you will have noticed, the classroom reading nooks have not been completed as expected. They were constructed off-site- in Mildura actually- and transportation to Melbourne was delayed due to flooding in that area. The arrived on site today and the installation will take place outside classroom teaching times so learning in Units is not disrupted.

Sadly, I must inform you that our BER Project Manager, Graham Bolton from Woodhead Architects, died suddenly in the last week of term 4 2010. Understandably, work on the new building has been delayed. Necessary contractual work was on hold until Woodhead could re-appoint a new Manager for AVPS. That has now happened and you should see the Music/community room begin to take shape shortly. The school community has sent sincere condolences to Graham’s family and thanked them for his genuine commitment and enthusiasm for our building project. Graham was involved right from the start in the design phase and he helped us greatly throughout our application process for funding. It is such a pity that he will not see it completed. His work with us will be missed.

I wish all students, parents and staff a happy and productive year. I think it will be an exciting one as we celebrate our history and then move into our new spaces designed for 21st century learning and teaching.

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

From the office...

I’d like to introduce Lola Stubbs to everyone. Lola will be replacing Janet in the office for the month of February. Janet was involved in a car accident early January and she is now on sick leave with a badly broken right foot/heel. She has been wonderful, helping us get the year underway administratively from her sick bed and hobbling in here to roll over our finance system from one year to the next when she really needed to have her leg fully elevated. Thank you Janet!

As Lola has only just begun her work with us, parents may experience some delays while we organise for her to be able to access our finance and computer systems. As soon as possible, parents will receive receipts for fees already paid. I know you will make Lola welcome and help her where you can. As Lola is able to work on Wednesday due to family commitments, Christina will manage the reception and desk on this day. It would help us greatly if parents would use Lola’s work days to pay fees/money into the office.

Joanne

From The Assistant Principal

Walking School Bus

Come on now don’t be shy
The sun is shining from the sky
Today is such a lovely day
Girls and boys lead the way
It’s for me, you and all of us
There’s happiness on the walking school bus.
By Robert Dunne
(Commnunity volunteer walker for AVPS Walking School bus)

Welcome back everyone!
Robert’s poem sums up the feeling we have as we walk to school. AVPS Walking School Bus (WSB) recommenced on Monday. We hope that more of you will be able to join us as you settle in into the term. For the benefit for new families, the WSB at AVPS is currently a walk to school program along a safe and enjoyable set route. Students are accompanied by a minimum of two adults for every 16 students. Students may join WSB at the start or along the way of the set route. Current WSB operates from the corner of Thomas Street and McPherson Road, Moonee Ponds to AVPS. This route operated to school on Monday and Thursday Morning.

NEWS FLASH
Volunteers are now able to start a new route from Wingate community house to AVPS via Ascot Vale road on either Tuesday or Friday mornings.

If you may be interested in using the WSB or require more information, please contact Wai Ying (info below).

Wai Ying Tham
thampotter@bigpond.com
0412023688 or 93842448

Notes home
A number of important notes have gone home in recent days that need your attention as soon as possible. This will help teachers with their ‘start of year’ set up and reduce the amount of time required to follow up any unreturned notes.

• Local Excursion/photography and online newsletter request
• Medical – permission to publish photographs (only a selection students)

Swimming
More information, including permission forms will be sent home with students later this week about grade 2,3,4 swimming lessons ($80 is payable now at the office) that commence on 21/2 and the up and coming swimming carnival for grade 4,5,6 students.

Attendance – Absences
Most families should have received our new ‘Abstentee note’ pad. These were sent home with students on Monday. The idea is that you can stick this to your fridge and fill in a form and return it to school when your child returns. All of our key contact information is also included. You can still contact us by phoning or emailing. We do ask that you explain every absence and let us know in advance if an extended absence is planned. Please see the office when you require a new pad. Our average student attendance record at AVPS is currently very good. We want and need our students at school every day. It’s cool to be at school!

Medication / Action Plans – reminder
A reminder to parents to ensure that all medication and medical action plans are updated as needed. It is a requirement that all students with ASTHMA present an updated action plan every school year. It is also a timely reminder that it is recommended that all students are ambulance subscribers. In case of an emergency, we may call for an ambulance. Please contact me if you need to discuss anything further with me.

Tips for packing a healthy lunch box
It can parent’s constant worry - what are the best school snacks to put in your child’s lunchbox. This video and tips from channel 9’s A Current Affair last year, shows you tasty, healthy snacks that won’t break the bank. You’ll see a few familiar faces in the video too! Thanks to Amanda for the link: http://aca.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=7962490

Welcome to all of our new families. Enjoy your week.

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

Education Maintenance Allowance

Eligibility
The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2011 for instalment 1 and 5 August 2011 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must on the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2011) for the first instalment and on the first day of 3rd Term (18 July 2011) for the second instalment:

(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a foster parent.
(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.
Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), Mobility Allowance, Remote Area Allowance or any other benefit not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

**Submission dates**
The application form must be lodged at the school by:
- **28 February 2011** for the first instalment or
- **5 August 2011** for the second instalment.

**No late submissions will be accepted.**

Should you be eligible, please collect your form from the school office and return on or before 28th February 2011.

**MVIMP**
We are finalising the numbers for the MVIMP Program for this year. There are still vacancies for some instruments (especially the Bass Guitar taught by Phil) so don’t miss out, get your forms in asap to Bev in Unit 2!!! Students already enrolled in the program will meet their tutors this week and begin their lessons.

Bev

**School Motto**
School Council is canvassing the school community around the development of a school motto. So far, School Councillors have brainstormed a list of values and the SRC have discussed the idea of a motto at their meetings at the end of 2010. They are collecting ideas from Units to take to the SRC meetings this term. I will put their suggestions and the list up in the main building corridor for you to see and add to as you can. I’ll leave strips of paper in a box and pens. Please pin your suggestion(s) to the board for others to read and to consider. We are very much at the brainstorming end of this consultation process. It is not an easy task but please give it some thought and we’ll see where it takes us. School Council will make the final decision around the adoption/ or not of a school motto at their end of term 1 meeting.

Joanne

**Family Picnic/ Info Night**
To welcome new families to the school we will be holding a picnic on the oval on Wednesday 23 February from 5 pm onwards. BYO own rugs and food to join other families in a relaxing meal. Throughout the evening each Unit will hold an information session for parents to hear about classroom organisation and programs. Please join us if you can.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**
The first parent teacher meetings for the year will take place on Wednesday 2 March. Booking sheets will come home shortly for you to make an appointment with your child’s teacher. This meeting is the time to share information between home and school and to be involved in setting new learning goals for your child. If you have not returned the parent feedback sheet related to learning goals that went out with end of year reports, completing it now and bringing it with you to an interview may focus the discussion helpfully. All children are expected to attend these interviews with their parents and to be involved as much as possible.

**AVPS School Reunion 1-2 April**
I hope this date is in your diary and that families will be able to join into this celebration. Friday 1 April is an Open Day and Olden Day Fair late afternoon and on Saturday 2 April a catered event will take place at the school in the evening. There’s lots still to do and organise and your help on the planning team would be appreciated. Newcomers welcome! The Fair is to be coordinated by the parent fundraising committee, the staff and students are taking care of most of the Open Day program and the evening event is being organised by School Councillors. Advertising material is on its way and we will be asking for volunteers to distribute flyers. We know online information should draw visitors from afar.

Come along to our first meeting of the year on **Monday 14 February, 3.45 pm, in the staffroom.**

Joanne

On behalf of the Community & Resources Subcommittee.

**YOGA classes Tuesdays after school**
Would you like to join interested staff after school on Tuesdays (4-5pm) for yoga classes? Anna Emery teaches Hatha yoga in the space between Units 4 and 5 each week. The class is for adults only and comes highly recommended by staff ‘regulars’. Cost: $13.00/class (casual rate) or $100.00/ term (10 classes). BYO own mat or rug.

**Uniform Shop**
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.
OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK
'we make kids smile'

Please make note of our OSHC telephone number, 0423 795 247. For all future bookings, account changes or to view your statement please go to www.campaustralia.com.au

Maribyrnong Park Football Club
Junior registration day
Crn The Boulevard & Oxford Street, Moonee Ponds (Clubrooms)
Sunday 13th February
11.00am - 1.00pm

ST JOHN’S NETBALL CLUB
REGISTRATION NIGHT
St John’s enters a number of teams in the VBCCACNAI competition which is held on Saturdays during winter at Aberfeldie Primary School.
St John’s registration night will be held on FRIDAY 11TH of February 2011
BETWEEN 6 -8PM
at
ST JOHNS UNITING CHURCH
(in the meeting room)
Cnr Mt Alexander Rd & Buckley St, Essendon
NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME
If you have any questions regarding this night or the registration process please do not hesitate to call club secretary Julie Walters on 9346 8422 or 0400 262 705 or email on juliewalters@hotmail.com

ST JOHNS UNITING CHURCH
(in the meeting room)
Cnr Mt Alexander Rd & Buckley St, Essendon
NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME
If you have any questions regarding this night or the registration process please do not hesitate to call club secretary Julie Walters on 9346 8422 or 0400 262 705 or email on juliewalters@hotmail.com

Chess Coaching

Where: Ascot Vale Primary Library
When: Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.15pm
16th February to 30th March 2011
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 2nd place and a Bronze badge to 3rd place at the end of term. To enrol your child please make payment (per child) of $75 cash or $85 by Tuesday 15th 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

Forward this section with your payment to your school office.

Child’s Full Name: ____________________________
Grade: ____________________________
School: ____________________________

Payment Due: Tuesday 15th February.

$75 cash: ☐ or $85 cheque: ☐
Parkside: Footy by the River

Junior/Auskick Registration: 18 February, 5:30pm
Activities and Sausage Sizzle [Senior Players will also be training & assisting]

The Parkside Football Club is looking for kids wanting to play Auskick or Junior footy. Auskick is open for Kinder up to Grade 6 and is on Friday afternoons from 5 to 6pm (starting 18 March). Junior Footy teams range from under 9 to under 14. Training is on Wednesday and Friday nights (starting Wed 16 March).

Venue: Merv Hughes Oval
Farnsworth Avenue, Footscray
(near Flemington Racecourse & Edgewater Estate)

Contacts: Auskick: Gary Marshall 0458 349 583
Junior Football: Ray Barber 0411 093 920


The chickens that came for dinner

One night me and my family, nanny and pa were having dinner and our chickens and the school chickens decided to join us for dinner so we had to push them off the chairs and the table.

By Ella Zaccari

Honey and Bok Bok

By Lydia Zaccari