

The Overport Times

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

EVERY DAY COUNTS! EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

Be here and be on time!

School Council Elections: School Council election nominations open on 16th February and close at 4.00 pm on 24th February. Attached to this week's newsletter is a timeline and information outlining various aspects of School Council, its purpose and expectations of parents on council. There are three 2 year positions and one 1 year position for parents on council this year. If you are interested please contact me for further information.

Parents Club Annual General Meeting: Our parents club AGM will be held in the staffroom on Thursday, 26th February at 9.00 am. We will also launch our new Parent Drop-in room which is in the admin wing. We hope that all parents will feel welcome to use this room from 8.45 am to 10.30 am each morning **except each Thursday from March**. Tea and coffee will be available. Parents Club will be able to use this room for their meetings and preparations. If you would like to be involved in Parents Club or just like to come along to the AGM to hear what has happened throughout last year and the plans for the coming year, please join us on Thursday, 26th.

Raising Student Achievement Together-Do we want clever kids? Parent involvement at school is vital! In an article in "Professional Voice", Professor Alma Harris of the University of London identified the two most powerful levers for raising student achievement: **parents and teachers!** She said that what was surprising was the proportion of influence each contributed: home was 80% and the school 20%. The Melbourne Declaration of Educational Goals for Young Australians states: *Parents, carers and families are the first and most important influences in a child's life, instilling values that will support young people to participate in schooling and contribute to the broader local and global communities.* The key benefits accrue when the family is actively engaged as a credible partner in supporting the child's learning. Family engagement therefore means all those actions and activities that directly support the child's learning and demonstrate our value of education. We look forward to working in partnership with you as we teach your child together.

Literacy Enrichment Assistance Program- LEAP! This year we have introduced a new program which we are calling LEAP. Mrs Sharron Hearn, our literacy expert with support from Mrs Sue Rose, is working with selected groups of students from grade 1 to 4 in an intensive reading program. The program is not the Reading Recovery, rather designed to improve students level of reading to enable them greater success and independence. Students have been assessed and selected. The groups of students and their specific needs will change throughout the year. The intensive hour long program is on three each week Tuesday to Thursday for the whole term. While it is anticipated that the eight students in each group will change each term some students may have a second term if required and identified by Mrs Hearn and their teachers.

.....Continued overleaf

Diary Dates



Tues 17th February
Information Night P-2

Wed 18th February
Information Night 3-6

Thurs 19th February
Education Sub
Committee

Friday 20th February
Pupil Free Day

Mon 23rd February
School Council
Tues 24th February
Whole School
Assembly—9.00am

Thurs 26th February
Billy Tea Bush Band
Workshop & Bush
Dance

Thought for the
Week

*Nobody
said that
it would
be easy,
they just
promised
it would
be worth-
while!*



School Hats: Our sun smart policy states that students must wear a wide-brimmed hat until April 30th and again from September 1st. This has been endorsed by Cancer Council who oversees Sun Smart for schools. Please note a wide-brimmed **navy blue hat with or without the logo** is the acceptable uniform for student at Overport PS. Should they leave it at home, they are required to play in the shade at the south-east end of the basketball court. Therefore, it may be a good idea for children to leave their named hat at school.



Billy Tea Bush Band: On Thursday 26th February we are holding our bi-annual "Billy Tea" bush band and bush dancing evening. Please see Mrs Madder column for more details.

Student Banking Incentives: The Commonwealth Bank has provided a rewards program to encourage children to developing sound saving habits. Information is available from our office along with banking applications. These will also be forwarded to the youngest children in the school.

Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online: There is helpful information about dealing with cyberbullying on the Edugate website. Also there are opportunities for your child to win prizes including an iPad. This information can be found at the following website. <https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/newsevents/newsbriefs/Pages/Bully-Stoppers-Being-Cool-Online.aspx>

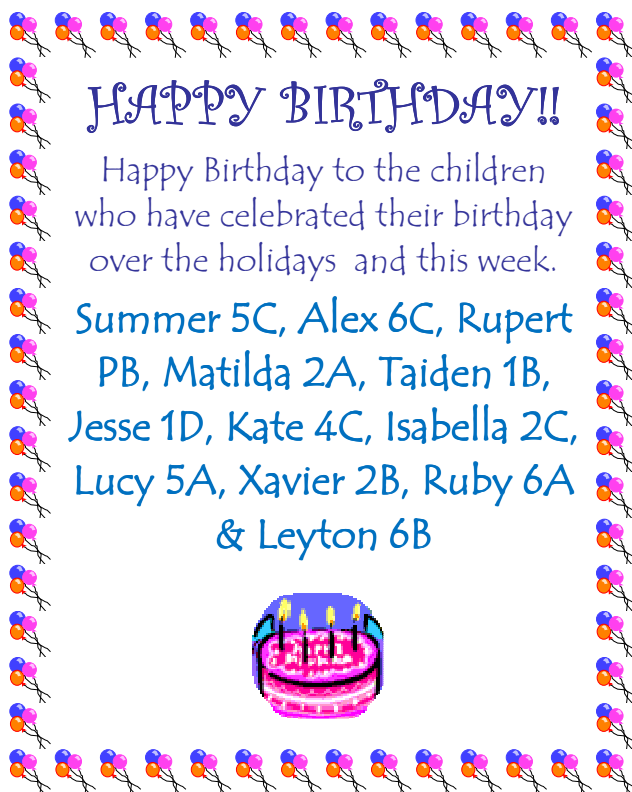
Two Important messages: Children in Hot Cars: On hot days, children should never be left alone in cars. No Exceptions. **Safety in Our Driveways:** The risk of children being killed or injured in driveways returns as children start back at school. Always supervise children near drive ways, be mindful backing out and teach your child to look and listen near driveways. **Please note the school Car park is NOT a drop off or pick up point for students and NOT a parking area for parents.** Thank you for helping to keep our kids safe.

DEECD Name Change: Please note the Department of Education has changed its name from Department of Education and Early Childhood Development -DEECD to Department of Education and Training -DET .

Kind Regards,
Julie Gleeson
Principal

Second Hand Uniform

Did you know the school sells second hand uniform?
We would welcome your donation of any clean, useable, second hand uniforms.
Please deliver to the office for us to resell to our school community.



Insurance Policy

Please read the below details to ensure you are fully aware of the department's policy.

- Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.
- Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.
- The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S ARTICLE

Teaching staff are now preparing for our upcoming **Information Nights** next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. All parents are encouraged to come along. They will take place in the relevant learning spaces at the following times:

Tuesday 17th February, Preps at 6.00pm, Yr 1 and 2 at 7.00pm

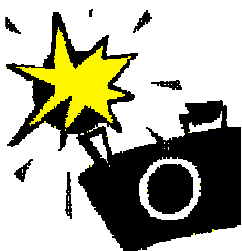
Wednesday 18th February, Yr 3&4 at 6.00pm, Yr 5&6 at 7.00pm.

Thursday 19th February will be our first **Education subcommittee** meeting for this year. We meet at 3.45pm in the staffroom, and all interested members of the school community are welcome to attend. This subcommittee reports to school council on items such as: curriculum programs, planned excursions and camps, professional development of staff as well as other matters of interest. At this meeting I would like to discuss the effectiveness of our Information Nights. I would welcome input into any other discussion topics we could put on the agenda for future meetings.

As you are aware, school assemblies are now being held on a fortnightly basis for our junior and senior school, with 2 whole school assemblies scheduled for this term. These are held each Monday afternoon from 2.30pm, with the exception of our first **whole school assembly** which will be on **TUESDAY 24th February at 9.00am**. All school leaders will be presented with their badges at this assembly, with a morning tea to follow for them to enjoy with their families.

The **Billy Tea Bush Band** activity will take place **Thursday 26th February**. This is a reminder to have signed permission slips returned to school as soon as possible. It will be a great day, with all classes taking part in workshop activities throughout the day and a family bush dance in the evening from 6.00pm at the rebound wall. The community is invited to return to school from 5.00pm for a picnic tea in the playgrounds.

Our 2015 school photos will be taken on Thursday 12th March. Envelopes for orders will be coming home very soon, should you wish to purchase these photos. Orders need to be returned to school prior to photo day. Please follow the instructions on the envelope and clearly mark the information required. The school does not handle these payments. They are passed directly on to the photographers on photo day, therefore, BPay and Eftpos will not be available.



An updated term 1 calendar can now be found on the website. Just click the Coming Up link to check on the latest events planned at Overport.

Remember that **Friday 20th Feb and Friday 20th March are Pupil Free Days** this term. Students are not required at school on these days, as teaching staff will be undertaking professional learning.

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

Deborah Madder
Assistant Principal

Canteen News

Don't Forget

Ice Cream Day

Tuesday February 17th

Order forms are
due back *today*,
Thursday 12th.

As a sometimes food,
this is only offered once
a term

Monica Champion



Most children haven't developed the skills to be safe in traffic.

They may:

- not notice objects directly in front of them
- have trouble judging the speed of cars
- not behave safely.

If you drive or park near the school take extra care and keep on the lookout for children.

arrive
alive

vicroads

Victoria
The Place to Be



Extend OSHC at Overport Primary School

ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au
CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437



Last week was good week to get outside and make the most of this awesome weather and longer hours of sunshine. We have started a few projects with the children, for them to get to the staff as well as the other children.

As it is term 1 hats are compulsory at after school care. The children are required to have a hat at after school care, they can either leave a spare hat at the program or keep one in their bag so they then can go outside to play in the afternoon.

The school has 2 pupil free days this term- Friday 20th February and Friday 20th March, if you require care on either of the days please book your child or children in using the PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au.

Kelly

Next week's activities:

Monday 9th February :

Door hangers

Tuesday 10th February :

Goat Mask

Wednesday 11th February :

Year of the Goat

Thursday 12th February :

Chinese Lanterns

Friday 13th February :

Fruit Salad and outdoor games

Book Club is due back on:

Monday

16th February 2015

Please remind students:

To place all orders in envelopes clearly marked with their Name and Class

To have the correct amount of money

All Cheques payable to Scholastic

Parent Book Club Payment Online is available:

Use this convenient service to pay for your book club order using a quick, easy and secure method!

After your payment has been accepted, you will be given an 11-digit receipt number. Please record your receipt number in the space provided on your Book Club order form, in the bottom left corner.

Remember to also record the amount paid and provide the details of the credit card holder on this form. Your completed Book Club order form should be sent back to your child's teacher.



Student Banking

Reminder to all families that
student banking is every

Wednesday.

Student banking
information packs are
available from the office.



Parent's Club AGM

Thursday 26th February at 9.00am In the staffroom