Term 1 Edition 1 February 6th 2014

The Overport Times

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome to 2014 at Overport Primary school to all our students and families. I sincerely hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and return ready for another wonderful year at Overport.

I would especially like to warmly welcome our new families and invite them to take every opportunity to be part of our great family centred community.

We have had a smooth start without any hiccups; it seems like the children have come home! On Monday we held our first assembly, which will continue to be at the regular time of Monday at 2.30 pm. We expect this assembly to be packed with a variety of student performances of their work at school. We invite you to join us at this new time. Our new Preps are behaving like they have always been here – very, very settled in the new open plan prep centre. Shortly our grade five buddies will begin developing their relationship with the new preps…they can't wait!

Staff news. Welcome to our new teachers, Ms Julia Rachelle, in grade 6, Ms Lori Frowd in grade 5, Miss Alice Hawker, in grade 3, and Mrs Amber Ellery in grade 1; some of you may remember Mrs Ellery, who was in our library two years ago. We are pleased to have them as part of our team. Also, welcome back Mrs Jill Wathen from family leave, in grade 2.

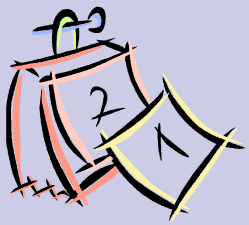
Reminders for our community. Please see the attached flyer for nine **important** reminders for the start of the year.

School Council Elections: Next week information will be going home to begin our School Council election process. We have a highly committed team who work to achieve the school's goals and have the best interests of students at heart in all decisions. Should you be interested in becoming a parent representative on School Council, please contact me.

Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee: Our first Buildings and Grounds meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on 19th February in the staff room. This is a fantastic way to become involved in the school as we continue to implement our school Landscape Master Plan. All parents are welcome to attend and contribute. Mr Bill Mallinson is our convener.

…..Continued overleaf

Diary Dates



Thursday 30th January
First Day Term 1, 2014
Thursday 6th February
Planks Workshop
Friday 7th February
Planks Workshop
Friday 14th February
Free Dress Day
Thursday 20th February
Parents Club AGM
Friday 21st February
Pupil Free Day
Monday 24th February
School Council
Wed 26th February
District Swimming Trials

Thought for the week

Shoot for the Moon. Even if you miss it, you'll still land in the stars.

Education Sub-Committee: Mrs Madder, our Assistant Principal convenes our Education Sub-committee. This meeting is also open to all parents and provides input into programs and policy development. At this stage the meeting is held each third Tuesday of the month at 3.45 pm. Our first meeting for the year is on Tuesday 18th February. Please feel free to join us to contribute to the schools educational development.

Parents Club and Fair Committee: This year will be quite exciting with our Fair being held on 21st March. There is a lot of organising to be done and organising the Fair is well underway. However, many hands make light work, and no matter how much time you are able to give, they will welcome any new members or helpers. As well as this, our Parent Club is a wonderful way to become involved in the school and assist in a variety of ways. Parents club will be meeting with me to identify specific targets for our fund-raising. The AGM will be held on February 20th at 9.00 am. Please join us.

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.

I look forward to catching up with our parents throughout the term. Please feel free to make a time to see me should you have any queries, concerns or would just like a chat about the direction of the school. My door is always open!

Kind Regards,

Julie Gleeson, Principal.

FREE DRESS DAY

Friday 14th February

Bring a bar/block of chocolate

These will be utilised at the TWILIGHT FAIR 2014

Canteen News

The canteen is now open, please note the new operating hours.

A price list went home last Thursday please check before ordering; a few minor changes have been made.

New Canteen opening times 2014

MONDAY & TUESDAY

No lunch orders

Morning recess, Counter sales only

11.00am – 11.30am

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Lunch orders available each of these days

Counter sales morning recess & lunchtime

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S ARTICLE

Welcome back everyone. From the smiles we see on the children's faces, it seems they had a lovely holiday, but are just as happy to be back at school with their friends.

It was great that so many parents were able to take the opportunity to attend our parent teacher meetings last Wednesday. I know our teachers appreciated being able to introduce themselves to you, and to let you know a little about the year ahead. If you were unable to make it, your child's teacher will be in touch with you to arrange another suitable time.

As you know, our payment system for excursions has changed a little for this year. Please remember that those who have elected to pay either the full amount or by instalment, will only need to tick the appropriate box and return the signed permission slip for each individual activity. For anyone who is yet to make any payment, you will need to send the relevant amount along with your permission slip. Occasionally there may be an activity which is not covered by our excursion levy. These are activities which may involve only a small number of students. Payment and permission will be required for such events. Payments for things such as school photos, which are entirely optional, are also not covered within our levy.

Some changes have been made to our canteen opening times. Please be aware that the canteen is open for counter sales on Monday and Tuesday at recess only. The canteen will then open as usual for lunch orders and counter sales at recess and lunchtime on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Our **Twilight Fair** is fast approaching! **Friday 21st March** is the day, so make sure you keep it free. Our Fair committee is organising a **working bee** to complete some tasks in preparation for the Fair. This will be held after school on **Friday 28th February**. If you can spare a bit of time, your help will be very much appreciated.

For safety reasons, could I remind everyone that the speed hump near our lower gate is **NOT a crossing point**. Towerhill Road is very busy at the beginning and end of a school day, which is why there is a 'Lollypop Lady' to help everyone enter and leave the school grounds safely. Please make sure you walk up to our designated school crossing to cross the road.

Enjoy the weekend everyone,

Deborah Madder Assistant Principal

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Happy Birthday to the children who have celebrated their birthdays this week.

Paul 4B, Olivia 6B,
Dezil 6C, Mikayla 2C,
Bailey 6A, Alisa PB,
Olivia 4A, Charli 2B, & Joel 6B

WANTED - Bar or Small Fridges

The senior school kitchen areas desperately need small refrigerators for use during cooking and science activities.

If you have an old fridge (Working of course) that has been sitting in your garage that you would like to donate to the school we would greatly appreciate it.

Please contact Mrs Lacey or
Miss Yanni if you can help us out.

Thanks so much,
Senior School staff

PARENTS CLUB AGM

Thursday 20th February
9am in the staffroom
All welcome, a great way to meet other parents and find out what is going on around the school.

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to what exciting possibilities 2014 holds. We can't wait to see lots of familiar faces at Before & After School Care and to welcome lots of new faces as well. Please pop in and say Hi!

ENROL NOW & PAY LATER
NEW Enrolments must be received with 5 days notice
Great news! In order to make the enrolment process more convenient and affordable for new families, we have decreased our annual enrolment fee from $30 to $20 per family. AND, you don't even need to pay this until you first use the account! So if you enrol and never make a booking, then you never need to pay the enrolment fee. We therefore encourage ALL NEW FAMILIES to enrol with Extend so that the service is available to you if you need to use it later.

All active enrolments & permanent bookings roll-over each school year so you only need to enrol once! Just let us know when you no longer require the service.

Please note all completed enrolments must be received with a **minimum of 5 days notice** before a booking is required. For any enrolments that need to be processed with less than 5 days notice, an **Express Enrolment** service is available at an additional charge. For further details please see our Terms and Conditions at extend.com.au.

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

Runners' Club

This club may be joined by all students from years 1-6, no matter what their running ability is. Students wishing to participate meet Mr Bryant on the oval between 8:30-8:50am on Monday and Wednesday mornings, starting this week. Runners' Club is a great way to build cardiovascular endurance, experience associated health benefits and improve students' concentration for the academic day ahead. Runners' laps are recorded and once they have reached certain accumulated distances, they are awarded certificates at assembly and achievements are published in our newsletter.

Ben Bryant

Book Club is due back on:

Monday 17th Feb 2014

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

Our school has an app

We are now using an app to send instant messages, newsletters and notices.

The tiqbiz app will help our school keep you fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news and events. It's easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

Downloading is easy...

Available on the App Store — iPhone and iPad. Go to the Apple App Store and search tiqbiz.

ANDROID APP ON Google play — Android smartphone and tablet. Go to Google play and search tiqbiz.

www.tiqbiz.com — Windows & Mac computers. Go to www.tiqbiz.com and click on the download button.

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