A Message from the Principal

As the cold weather sets in our school community is really suffering with colds and flu. Added to this is the problem with gastro. Please read the letter in the newsletter regarding the outbreak of cryptosporidium across the state. The important thing to note in this letter is the advice to not swim for two weeks following a bout of gastro to try and prevent cross contamination and the spread of the problem.

As always I am asking parents and carers to keep sick children at home, I urge staff to stay away when sick as well so we can minimise the spread of germs.

On another matter, I have had several conversations with Mr. Tony Claringbold the manager of Centrelink at Fountain Gate. He has kindly offered to send some of his staff to school to provide information about entitlements you may be able to access from Centrelink. His intention for the evening is to have staff who can give an overview of some of the main payments that students and carers may be eligible for. Tony will have his Multicultural Resource Officer present to discuss his role and to speak about some other support agencies in our area and will also speak about self service options and the new DHS apps that customers can now use. There may also be an opportunity to talk about options for young adults to transition into after school.

It is often the case that some families seem to get a lot of support and others get very little. Some families that are comfortable do not access help because they do not realise they are eligible. So Tony and his team are kindly offering an information evening on Wednesday May 29th.

The date is Wednesday 29th and will start at 7pm the school will be providing a light supper so please fill in the reply slip for catering. The topics will include information on;

- Centrelink Payments
- Family allowance
- What happens when your child turns 16

Please note due to the fact that this is an information evening where attention to speakers is necessary we will NOT be able to cater for children.

Cheers Sue.

__________________________________________________________

Students Name

We will be attending the Centrelink Information Evening on May 29th 2013.

Names of people attending.

__________________________________________________________

Please note due to the fact that this is an information evening where attention to speakers is necessary we will NOT be able to cater for children.
Zac received his award for saying “more”.

Daniel received his award for communication using PEC’s.

Najma received her award for independent walking & eating.

Brodie received his award for leadership.

Nawel received her award for leadership.

Imogen received her award for participation & maturity.

Ashley received her award for enthusiasm.
On April the 26th, Room 17 ventured to Rickett’s Point to explore the intertidal zone and the rock pools.

We encountered a range of artefacts and creatures. Then we ventured to Middle Brighton Beach to walk along the sand and take photos amongst the colourful beach boxes. The class thoroughly enjoyed our outing.
Dandenong Valley SDS Student Support Group Meetings

DEECD Guidelines on Student Support Group Meetings recommend that 4 timetabled SSGs be scheduled— one per term.

Dandenong Valley SDS staff and parents /carers have always been encouraged to request an SSG whenever they have an identified need.

However, SSG meetings are held specifically for the following purposes:
Term one:
   To identify the student’s goals and program needs.
Term three:
   To monitor and review the student’s progress and to amend goals as required.

In 2013 additional meetings will be offered:
   term 2 - Wednesday May 15th
   term 4 - date to be determined

TERM 2 SSG MEETINGS

To ensure that these meetings remain purposeful and relevant parents and teachers will be asked to nominate what they wish to discuss and who they wish to attend from the students’ learning team.

If your child’s teacher has any specific concerns, they will contact you.

If you have specific concerns and wish to have an SSG Meeting, please request a form from your child’s teacher.
The BIG MOUTH CAMP is a residential camp for students from 6 to 15 years of age, who use speech generating devices. The camp is also for their families and carers. The primary aim of the camp is for the children using the device to improve their device use and become much more competent communicators in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

Intensive communication therapy will be provided each morning and the afternoon will involve activities and opportunities for everyone to practice the skills they have learnt in the morning. Separate sibling recreation sessions will be conducted in the mornings, and this time will also provide parents/carers to discuss and work on issues around augmentative and alternative communication.

The camp will also be offering mentoring from experienced adult communication device users, training from device manufacturers / support staff, sessions on related disability computer software and much more!

WHEN IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The camp will run from Friday September 20th to Tuesday September 24th 2013.

WHO CAN GO TO..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The Big Mouth camp is open to children who:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are aged 6 to 15 years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Using a speech generating device such as a Dynavox M3, SuperTalker, LightWriter, iPad with AAC App, Vanguard etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a primary physical disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have at least one family member/carer who will be attending the camp with them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Want to improve their use of their device and their general communication competency</td>
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WHERE IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The Camp will be held at Rawson Village, approximately two hours drive north east of Melbourne, near Mount Baw Baw. All campsite buildings and many of the activities are accessible to those in wheelchairs. the camp staff are extremely helpful and the location is beautiful.

HOW MUCH IS..?  BIG MOUTH CAMP
The camp fee is $300. Scholarships are available to assist with this fee. Please let us know if you would like further information about the scholarships. Arrangements can also be made for additional people, eg integration aides to attend. Please contact us to discuss this.

CONTACT..  BIG MOUTH CAMP
For application forms visit: www.bigmouthcamp.org.au. For questions regarding the camp please email: jane@janefarrall.com

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 10TH MAY 2013
The Big Mouth Camp is auspiced by the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre and is funded by the Melbourne Welsh Church. The camp is also supported by Jane Farrall Consulting.
Student Transport Unit has requested that all schools ensure parents are aware of the following information regarding access to school bus services.

Home pick-ups and drop-offs

Over recent years the Student Transport Unit (STU) has worked closely with schools and bus operators to increase the number of students who are picked up/dropped off at common points.

Many students now access the bus services at common points and this has reduced the travel time for some students and enabled larger buses to be used on some routes. However, for some families a home pick-up/drop-off is the only practical way their children can access the bus. The Students with Disabilities Transport Program policy provides guidance about the circumstances where home pick-up/drop-off arrangements can be supported.

These circumstances are:

If a student is unable to access a designated pick-up point to meet a bus service, an alternative arrangement may be available.

Individual transport arrangements are usually approved quickly in the following circumstances:

• The nature of the student’s disability may prevent them from physically travelling to a pick-up point.

• A family has multiple students with diagnosed disability attending the same specialist school.

Requests for individual transport arrangements other than the above will require the completion of a special cases application form, which will then be considered by an expert panel.

Special transport arrangements cannot be approved by the STU when it extends the total service beyond policy time-frames, when it would significantly affect other student travellers, or where there would be significant financial implications.

Student behaviour and access to school buses

As our enrolments increase, so does the pressure on our school buses and many of our buses are now operating at full capacity. Students granted access to school buses are allocated one seat on one bus. In this situation, the bus staff no longer have the luxury of allowing vacant seats adjacent to students who find the close proximity of others a challenge. In these circumstances, if a student’s behaviour puts their own safety or the safety of others at risk, they will be denied access to the bus service and it will become the parents’ responsibility to transport the student to school. Families may be eligible for a conveyance allowance to assist with the cost of transporting students. We do appreciate that this could place many families in a very difficult position but as with everything, the safety of all our students is of paramount importance.

If you have any concerns or require further information about this or any other transport matter, please feel free to contact the school or Student Transport student.transport@edumail.vic.gov.au

PHOTOS

Photo packs should arrive at school in the next 4-5 weeks. Parents can still order online from online at www.arphotos.com.au. Orders can be made by forwarding your payment directly to Arthur Reed Photos. An additional fee of $9 applies per order for this service.
22nd April 2013

No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS Loans)

Please share this information with your school.

Do you need to buy a new item for your home, but are finding it difficult to save the money? Do you want to avoid expensive credit card bills, rental agreements or store loans?

Women who receive Centrelink benefits or are on a low income can apply for a No Interest Loan of up to $1000. Repayments start from $20 per fortnight through Centrepay.

The loan can be used to buy a fridge, washing machine, TV, furniture, computer or other approved items. The items must be new and come with a warranty. The loan can also be used to pay for other items such as car registration, medical or dental expenses (including dentures, asthma pumps, sleep apnoea machines) or course fees. It cannot be used to pay for household bills or debts.

Applicants need to get a written quote from any reputable store. They need to complete a budget with the NILS Worker to see if the loan will be approved. Applications take 2-4 weeks to complete. Women who live in the City of Greater Dandenong and City of Casey can apply.

We can refer men to other local organisations who also offer the NILS loans. Please note that Wellsprings is closed during school holidays.

Further Information
Contact Bernadette (NILS Coordinator) on Ph 9701 3740.
READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Reading is important.............
Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When your are reading to your child, the rhythm and melody of language will prepare your child to start reading.

How to read to your child..................
Before reading talk about the book cover, the title, the pictures and discuss what the book could be about.
Be loud and confident as you read.
Point to the printed words as you read them.
Keep your reading pace consistent. Don't be too fast or too slow.
If there are repetitive words in a sentence- PAUSE. This will give your child an opportunity to say the word themselves..... Eg- "Wheels of the bus go round and- PAUSE".
When you are reading use a lot of different facial expressions and vary the tone of your voice appropriately. This will keep your child interested in the book.
Make sure the environment is calm, and not interrupted by background sounds such as CD player, television etc.
Make it a pleasurable experience. Let your child choose the book.

How to pick the right book for your child.............
Try to find a book that matches your child's interest. If your child likes certain characters, then pick the book that involves those characters. Eg- Wiggles, Thomas the tank engine, Dora the Explorer etc....
If your child is very young, then start with picture books. For toddlers choose books that have less print and more pictures on them.
For older children, try to choose books that are slightly above your child’s reading level but at the child’s interest level.
Don't be surprised if your child wants to hear a favourite children's book again and again. That's fine. As they get to really know the story well, have them fill in words for you.
As your child gets older and gains in reading ability, occasionally pick a book right at her reading level and take turns reading to one another.

Here are examples of some books for easy reading. All of these books are excellent books to read to younger children because they are repetitive, have easy language and are fairly short.
The Ginger Bread Man, The Very Hungry Catepillar, Goldilocks and the Three Bears,
Where is the Green Sheep, The Three little Pigs, Dear Zoo.

Reading with your kids is fun!! Make sure you have a great time when you are reading together!!!
"My Time"
Dandenong Valley

Venue  Term 2, 2013
Oatlands Primary School
79-93 Kurrajong Road
Narre Warren, 3805

Time
Mondays Fortnightly
10.00am - 12.30pm (2.5hrs)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MY TIME DATES 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
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<tr>
<td>18\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
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<tr>
<td>18\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
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| Term Three            | Term Four      |
| 22\textsuperscript{nd} July | 14\textsuperscript{th} October |
| 5\textsuperscript{th} August  | 28\textsuperscript{th} October |
| 19\textsuperscript{th} August | 11\textsuperscript{th} November|
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} September | 25\textsuperscript{th} November|
| 16\textsuperscript{th} September | 9\textsuperscript{th} December |

For details please contact:
Lynne Wood 0459 517 558
Once again the Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia is pleased to present the amazing RAZZA-MA-TAZZ.

The RAZZA-MA-TAZZ is a family variety show to be held at Festival Hall on Saturday 18th May 2013.

RAZZA-MA-TAZZ is a live theatre show of international standard performers steeped in the traditional disciplines of clowning, juggling, balancing, puppetry, acrobatics and unique comedy routines; all performed to the highest degree of skill and entertainment value.

WHERE & WHEN!

FESTIVAL HALL
300 DUDLEY ST. WEST MELBOURNE
SATURDAY 18th MAY 2013 2.00PM

ONE TICKET PER PERSON IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY
e.g. 5 children & 1 adult = 6 TICKETS TOTAL

NAME OF PERSON REQUIRING TICKETS: _________________________________________________________

NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED ADULTS & CHILDREN COMBINED: _______

FROM ALL OF US INVOLVED, PLEASE ENJOY THE SHOW
Dear Parents,

Due to the outbreak of the Cryptosporidium infection (also referred to as 'crypto') in the southern and eastern metropolitan regions of Melbourne (including in some swimming pools), the Health Department has issued the following information.

- Do not swim if you have diarrhoea or for 14 days after the diarrhoea stops. Crypto can still be spread easily through water up to 14 days after diarrhoea stops

- All swimming pool patrons should shower and wash thoroughly with soap before entering the pool

- Please note the importance of preventing ill patrons from entering the pool. Even if the pool is properly chlorinated crypto is highly resistant to chlorine and can be spread easily through the water

For more information go to

Michael Weston
Assistant Principal
Dandenong Valley SDS
Victoria Road
Narre Warren Vic 3805
PH: (03) 9704 9411
FAX: (03) 9796 6298

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**For Sale**

The Occupational Therapy (OT) have several 'Safe n Sound' booster seat covers (full sized to cover the Styrofoam booster seats). They are clean, in great condition and are $5 each (a steal)! It's a first come first serve sale, so if you want one pop $5 in an envelope and mark it for 'OT Booster seat cover', and drop it into the office, or in your child’s diary and we will send one home.

Thankyou Rachael, Fiona and Sheeba.
Dandenong Valley’s Basketball region is looking for basketball players!!

We train every Sunday at Dandenong Basketball Stadium from 12pm-2pm (located 270 Stud Road, Dandenong - $5.00 each week to cover court hire)

Games are held at Dandenong Basketball Stadium each Friday night ($7.00 per week) and there will be monthly tournaments against other regions (Ballarat, Melb inner east, Gippsland to name a few!)

Come down and try it out - the first 3 weeks are free (no obligations/expectations to join)!!!

Contact Barbara Guest on – 0409 009 018 for more information