A Message from the Principal

First of all I would like to say a big SORRY to everyone who has been trying to contact us over the last couple of weeks. We have had enormous trouble with the phones due to the bad weather. Apparently part of our system was hit by lightning. The phones were dead, then, they would come back on, crackle so we couldn’t hear anyone and then drop out. It was very frustrating for all.

The teachers and therapy team have been putting in a great deal of effort into the half year reports. You can expect them home next week. In addition this year parents will be sent a pictorial representation of student progress towards the achievement of their goals. Some are posters, some are books and others will be delivered electronically. This initiative came directly from our strategic plan with staff in the Student Engagement Professional Learning Team developing the idea to focus our students on their own learning. I am reliably told that the students love their books/posters etc. I have seen most and I believe everyone will be very happy with them. I commend the teachers on such a great job. These reports took many hours to produce.

Finally we are saying goodbye to one of our longest serving staff members with the retirement of Jackie Saddington. Jackie has been at Dandy Valley for just short of 20 years. She is highly valued and much loved by students and staff and will be missed, however like many of our retirees she will come back from time to time to help when others are absent. I am sure you will join me in thanking Jackie for all her hard work and wish her a long and happy retirement. We also Farwell Michelle Suggate who is moving off to live in the country, she will be missed by all but especially the staff and students in room 6. We wish her every happiness in her new home.

Hope everyone has a safe and lovely holiday,

Looking forward to term 3.

Cheers

Sue
Halle received her award for being helpful.

Lachlan received his award for being helpful.

James received his award for great participation.

Aston received his award for happily exploring a variety of sensory toys.

Antonio received his award for eating nicely at the table.

Avi received his award for excellent writing.

Sarah received her award for listening & following instructions.

Brandon received his award for improved independent walking in a group.
You Can Do It Awards

Jai
Anthony
Amy
Beyonce
Suha
Corey
Natasha
Mitchell
Adarsh

Casey-Cardinia Libraries and the Friends of Cranbourne Libraries present

Beyond the Disability
Ideas towards creating an inclusive environment

presented by Asphyxia

Asphyxia, a deaf performer, puppeteer and author provides insights into her own childhood and through engaging and lively stories, relates challenges and strategies that are inspirational.

A ‘not to be missed’ event for parents, carers and teachers.

Monday 24 June, 6:00 - 7:00pm
Cranbourne Library
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road
Melway: 134 B6

NO COST. Book online at www.tinyurl.com/ccdcevents or phone 5990 0150.
Our two Police Band awardees are Jade & Aiden who proudly received a special Police Badge along with a show bag with lots of assorted goodies inside.
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or
  - be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or
  - be a temporary foster parent.
* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 15 July for Instalment two 2013.
**FOOD IS FUN**

**Rationale for School programme:**
Desensitisation to new foods, with the ultimate goal to improve oral feeding
Achieve developmentally appropriate behaviours regarding food. Reduce
anxiety or phobia associated with foodstuffs
Backfilling missed experiences (eg for students who were feed non-orally for a
period of time). Activities will take place away from usual mealtimes and will not
involve the usual social requirements, eg manners, using utensils, being clean
and tidy. The aim is NOT to make children try new foods, but to feel relaxed,
comfortable and in control around food.

**Things to think about at home:**

Stay relaxed – the more tension you have at mealtime the more anxiety your child will have

Smile and use a positive facial expression – even if your child is eating
something you don’t like, always try to reinforce eating as a positive
experience

Eat with your child, share some of their food, let them feed you or take
tools from your plate (manners are less important at this stage), social
modelling ie. This is what we do at mealtimes.

Try not to be upset if your child spits out their food – this is part of normal oral development and
means your child has control of what is in or out of their mouth.

**Activities to try at home**
Set up a kitchen corner with a tea set and playfood, Add food puzzles, cutting games etc. Messy play,
eg painting with mousse and yoghurt, jelly etc. Dry messy play with pasta, oats, rice etc – do a treasure
hunt, hiding small toys or treats in the mix for your child to find. Measuring and mixing, dry ingredients, if
you are brave you could add a cup of water. Cornflour experiment (see attachment)
Drawing and writing in trays of flour, if all else fails, make it snow!!
Thread pasta and cheerios, to make necklaces or bracelets, or just
for fun!
Involving your child in cooking activities at home (don’t get hung up if
they lose interest halfway through!) Tea party, pouring juice into small
cups, get your child to serve you and their teddies.

Keep foods apart on the plate if this is something your child likes – you
could use a bento box to keep food ‘uncontaminated’, or shaped
children’s tri-plates.

If your child won’t use cutlery, try the plastic variety – sometimes the feel or taste of metal can be off-
putting.

Sit at the table for meals

Offer child size portions – they can always request more

Seek the advice of your paediatrician and dietician if appropriate

Keep offering new foods, regularly and repeatedly, it takes at least 30-40 presentations before a child will
accept a new food

At non mealtimes, have fun with food – see suggested activities
AVOID:

- Begging, pleading or bribing
- Using food as a reward or punishment, eg if you do x you can have a lolly, or, you were naughty, no dinner for you
- Force feeding
- Over-facing the child with too much food
- Getting angry
- Overstimulating by talking too much, having the television on or the radio on.
- Pulling faces
- Wiping up mess or faces before the meal is finished (unless your child is distressed by it)*
- Reacting to spitting or throwing of food
- Grazing behaviours
- Giving milk or snack just before tea time
- Eating too late

* unless your child is distressed by it.
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
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MY TIME DATES 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
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<tr>
<td>18\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
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<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
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<td><strong>Term Three</strong></td>
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<td>22\textsuperscript{nd} July</td>
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<td>5\textsuperscript{th} August</td>
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<td>19\textsuperscript{th} August</td>
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<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} September</td>
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<tr>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} September</td>
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For details please contact:
Lynne Wood 0418 480 166

VENUE FOR TERM 3 WILL BE DANDENONG VALLEY S.D.S.
DISABILITY
Respite & Recreation
EXPO 2013

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS LIVING IN THE SOUTH DIVISION

Find out more about opportunities for people with a disability

- Respite Options
- Recreation & Arts Info
- A Large Variety of Stalls

Thursday 29th August
10am - 2pm

Dandenong Market
Cnr Clow & Cleeland St
Dandenong

MELWAYS REF: 90 D7
FREE EVENT

For more information contact the MOIRA Expo Coordinator:
Ph (03) 8552 2222 Email: respiteexpo@moira.org.au

Interpreters available on request

Proudly Supported by
MOIRA

[Logos of Australian Government, Centrelink, Greater Dandenong City of Opportunity, Department of Human Services]
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.

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.
Did you know you can access up to $7,000.

The Electronic Communication Devices Scheme provides up to $7,000 for specialised communication devices for people of all ages who have no speech or who have difficulty being understood.

Up to $7,000 for the provision of:

- An electronic communication device (ECD) also known as a speech generating device (SGD)
- Voice output software
- Switch
- Including $1400 available for a mounting system

Yooralla
you can

See back for more details


Contacts:
Phone: 9362 6111
Email: a&ep@yooralla.com.au