CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

At Monday morning assembly this week we presented the badges to our School Leadership Team for 2014. The certificates were presented by Dee Ryall MLA. We congratulate those who received a role and look forward to them being outstanding leaders.

School Captains:    Cayne and Briget
Vice School Captains:    Tamara and Stan
Wood (Red) House Captains:    Anthony and Charlotte
Dunlop (Yellow) House Captains:    Owen and Cooper
Cowan (Green) House Captains:    Alicia and Ally
Hollows (Blue) House Captains:     Holly and Braydon
Environment Captains:     Connor and Alexandra
Environment Team members:    Anthony
                            Sean
                            Georgia
                            Jasmine

PERMISSION FORMS PACK – Thank you

Thank you to all the families who have returned the permissions pack. There are some details we need to follow up and clarify with some families, we will then start to create the contact lists. As you would all appreciate this will take some time but we will supply them as soon as possible.
WELCOME PICNIC

We had a fabulous turn out to our annual Welcome Picnic last Thursday evening. The weather was beautiful and the company fabulous! This year it had a more sporting focus with games to play and the ‘Go for Your Life’ team certainly engaged the children in the variety of activities. Our Picnic Bingo was also a lot of fun and congratulations to the four winners who each received a $20 iTunes card:
- Ethan 1/2B
- John 4/5A
- Brooke/Emmy Prep B
- Adam 1/2A

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - Grades 1 to 6

Last night we held our Parent Information Night. This was an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers of each grade and hear about the plans for the year.

We are reviewing our reporting processes and procedures this year and we will be sending out short random surveys on different aspects of communication throughout the year. Although the surveys are optional we are hopeful that we receive a good response so that we can plan for the future. Of course I am sure you will appreciate that there are some departmental and legal requirements which govern aspects of the communication and information we can offer.

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Today we had sixteen children attend the Nunawading and District Sports Association Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all students who competed, with a special mention to Madeline who came second in her breaststroke race. She now goes through to the Divisional Carnival. Thank you to Mr Mai and the parents who drove and supported the team.

2014 SCIENCE PROGRAM

This year we have Mr Fly working alongside the classroom teachers to give a greater profile to Science in the school. So far it has been a huge success. There are a number of plans in place for Science this year including the Solar Boats competition at Scienceworks. The feedback from the children and parents has been wonderful. Thank you Mr Fly!

Kerry Wood

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.  
* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx
SCIENCE MATERIALS NEEDED

Over the coming weeks the students will be carrying out a number of experiments which require recyclable materials. If you could assist by recycling the following materials for the science program it would be much appreciated.

- shoe boxes, jars with lids, plastic lemonade bottles (all sizes)

The Level 3&4’s will be constructing and testing balloon powered cars (shoeboxes), and investigating air pressure (lemonade bottles).

Richard Fly
Science co-ordinator

CHOOK ROSTER - HELP NEEDED

We are again looking for volunteers to look after the chickens on the weekends. No experience is necessary and our chooks are very friendly.

If you are able to help please speak to Julie or Michelle

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN

PRODUCE NEEDED

The garden is looking lovely despite the hot dry summer, but we have a pesky white fly to combat. So if you have any produce you can share with the kitchen we’d appreciate it. Especially lemons, fruit, cucumbers, tomatoes and anything else you’ve got too much of! We still have a few gaps in our garden and kitchen volunteer schedules if you can spare some time to help this fun program, no experience is needed!!

Thanks, Julie and Deborah

KITCHEN REVIEWS

Wow! What a dip! It taste just like the package one. At the end of the session the tzatziki was gone. The flavour in my mouth was amazing! It was like my mouth was asking for more.

Karina 4/5A Zesty Lemons

I loved the Sushi because it was delicious and creamy. The Sushi was crunchy and soft at the same time, because the cucumber and the carrots gave the crunch and the rice made it soft. The mayonnaise in the rice made it creamy, but not too much!

By Megan

Yum,yum,yum the Dipping Sauce was so textured with a Sweet touch. It kicked in Nicely with the sushi. It Looked like Soy Sauce and tasted like it but anyway it still tasted Great.

Nick
Zesty lemons, 4/5A

Accident insurance/Ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school

Families are reminded that Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students.

Parents and carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

Likewise 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.

Insurance policies for individual students are available from commercial insurers.
Dear Parents and Guardians

Over the last 2 weeks there have been many student attend PE wearing inappropriate footwear. Wearing the wrong shoes can really impact a student's safety and/or success during Physical Education activities. Shoes like boots, sandals, slip-ons, even dress shoes can get in the way with simple activities like running, jumping, and stopping. It is important for students to wear proper footwear on the day that they have Physical Education class in order to participate safely in class activities, and to be successful with those activities. Proper footwear should have cushioning on the heel area, a noticeable curve in the arch of the foot, and traction on the bottom of the shoe. Shoes do not need to be expensive or any certain brand name. It is also very dangerous when shoes are not tied properly. Students trip and fall, shoes fly off when they try to kick a ball, and the foot has no support because it is sliding around. Shoes must be tied tightly so they will not come off.

On another note, if your child needs to be excused from physical education activities, please write a note and have your child bring it to PE class.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me any time. Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe.

**Physical Activity & Your Child**

Many parents ask the question “What can I do to get and keep my child physically active?” Here are some tips:

- Set a positive example by leading an active lifestyle yourself.
- Make physical activity part of your family's daily routine by taking family walks or playing active games together.
- Give your children equipment that encourages physical activity.
- Take your child places where he/she can be active, such as public parks where there are basketball courts and fields or to a school playground.
- Be positive about the physical activities in which your child participates and encourage them to be interested in new activities.
- Make physical activity fun. Fun activities can be anything your child enjoys, either structured or non-structured. Activities can range from team sports or individual sports to recreational activities such as walking, running, skating, bicycling, swimming, playground activities or free-time play.
- Instead of watching television after dinner, encourage your child to find fun activities to do on their own or with friends and family, such as walking, playing chase, stretching, or riding bikes.
- Be safe! Always provide protective equipment such as helmets, wrist pads or knee pads and ensure that activity is age appropriate.

**IMPORTANT DATE— 1st May 2014—Cross Country**

The Whole School Cross Country will be held on the 1st May at school. Students will do some training during PE times, however it is really important that students do some training outside of school times. Keep an eye out for more information in the next Gym-NEWS-ium.

So strap on those shoes and get running.