NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 4, 2014

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<td>Friday November 21</td>
<td>PREP 2015 Transition Session 9-11am</td>
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<td>Friday November 28</td>
<td>CURRICULUM DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED</td>
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<td>Friday December 5</td>
<td>PREP 2015 Transition Session – 9 – 1.30PM</td>
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<td>Friday December 5</td>
<td>School Production – Yarra Glen Community Hall 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday December 12</td>
<td>Twilight Working Bee</td>
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<td>Tuesday December 16</td>
<td>School Picnic – Bollygum Park Kinglake</td>
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<td>Wednesday December 17</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner – 5.45pm – 8pm</td>
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<td>Thursday December 18</td>
<td>Last day of the school year – 1.30pm dismissal</td>
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<td>Friday December 19</td>
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SCHOOL VISION

Children at this school are responsible, independent and flexible young learners who are able to access the latest technology in order to communicate with the world. They have highly developed social skills and maintain self-discipline. The children work in groups that are productive, harmonious and energised. Physical education, the arts and positive social interactions allow all children the opportunity to experience success and recognition in the community. Children at Dixon’s Creek Primary School are happy to come to school. They are respectful to others and do not tolerate bullying of any kind.

The staff members at Dixon’s Creek Primary School take pride in the school community’s achievements. They support the goals of innovation, access and excellence through ongoing professional development and training. The curriculum at this school supports the individual student’s needs with creativity and a wealth of relevant activities. High standards in literacy and numeracy are expected and planned for.

Teaching staff value the expertise and experience of the parent group and encourage active community participation in many aspects of the school.

The school community is a supportive, involved and proactive group. The resources and environment at the school are highly maintained and valued. School, home and community links are strong and actively fostered.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Our school production is nearly here. On Friday a happy band of parent helpers will ferry cast members down to the hall in Yarra Glen in order to practise on the actual stage. Please ensure that all cast members have returned the permission slip enabling them to be taken in private cars to the hall. The classes will not have this time at the hall – just the cast. Everyone needing a permission slip has one.

On Friday evening, all children are required to be seated in the hall by 6.30pm. The actual production will start at 7pm sharp. It is just under an hour in duration. The show is not meant to be a polished performance. We have had staff illness, children absent and parents trying to organize rehearsals. Unfortunately there have also been changes of cast members and few parents able to help with organization. We think it is fabulous and will only get better in the coming days!

Thank you to the founding production members – Elisabeth, Laura and Emma, extra parent helpers in past weeks, Nicholai Johnson – Shortis for his script, Miss Lyons for arranging the music, Amanda Hull for her fabulous props, classroom teachers for their choreography and the children who have all done their very best.

Please note that an afternoon tea will be held to farewell Heather Johnston on Monday December 15 at 3pm. We ask parents coming to bring a plate of finger food to share with the school community. We will have a few speeches and then enjoy afternoon tea in the ‘quiet play area.’

SHARON WALKER
**SCHOOL TERM DATES 2014**

2014 Term 4: October 6 – December 19

2015 Term 1: 29 January to 27 March
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION**
The school production is this Friday, December 9, at the Yarra Glen Memorial Hall. Parents may like to take a picnic dinner to the park and meet up with others before the production start. Children must be seated in the hall by 6.30pm. The show will start at 7pm however we may need to check through student details with the children. The show will last for just under an hour.

**IMPETAGO – SCHOOL SORES**

We have now had several cases of impetigo in the Years 3-6. Impetago is also known as school sores. It is a skin infection caused by the Staphylococcus or Streptococcus bacteria. It is also known as school sores because it commonly affects school-aged children. Impetigo is more common during the warmer months.

Staphylococcus or Streptococcus bacteria can live harmlessly on and inside various areas of the body, such as the skin surface and nose. However, cuts and abrasions or eczema may allow the bacteria to cause infection to deeper skin tissues. Healthy, intact skin can sometimes develop impetigo too. The condition is characterized by collections of small, crusting blisters that usually form on the face or limbs. It can also present as a mild rash or a little pink ‘bite.’

Impetigo looks unsightly, but it isn’t dangerous and doesn’t cause any lasting damage to the skin. However, it is highly contagious. A child with impetigo should be kept home from school or day care until appropriate treatment has begun.

All sores must be covered with a waterproof occlusive (no holes) dressing. Occasionally a crepe bandage may be needed to hold the dressing in place or help prevent younger children from scratching the sores.

Common symptoms of impetigo include:
- The skin itches and reddens
- A collection of blisters forms, commonly around the nose and mouth
- The blisters pop and weep a yellow, sticky fluid
- The area develops a raised and wet-looking crust
- The scab dries and falls off
- The skin completely heals after a few days.

Common antibiotics are used to treat this infection. Children are excluded from school until treatment has commenced and the sores covered with a water tight dressing. Impetigo blisters and crusts are filled with bacteria. This makes the condition highly contagious, particularly when the site is weeping. The skin is usually itchy, so the child scratches and spreads the infection from under their fingernails to other areas of the body or to another person. Infection can also be spread by handling contaminated clothing or articles.

Suggestions to reduce the risk of transmission to other family members include:
- Encourage everyone to wash their hands with soap frequently, and dry completely.
- A child with impetigo should be kept home from school or day care until appropriate treatment has begun and the sores on exposed areas are covered with a waterproof occlusive dressing.
- Cut your child’s fingernails short and encourage them not to scratch scabs or pick their nose.
- Avoid scratching or touching the sores to prevent spread to other areas of the body. Use a crepe bandage if necessary.
- Keep affected areas of skin clean and covered to minimise the chance of spreading the infection.
- Always wash your hands with soap before and after touching sores or scabs.
- Encourage children to use their own towel and face cloth. No sharing.
- Wash the child’s linen, towels and clothes in hot water. Wash all household linen in hot water while the infection is present.
- Dispose of used dressings promptly and thoroughly. Wash and dry hands after the dressings have been disposed of into a plastic bag and place bag into household waste.

**Please note:** We have had *one* child hospitalised with this infection and *another* possible going today. We have four children that we know of with the infection. Please if your child has a mild rash or is itching a small sore – go to the doctor immediately.

**STUDENT REPORTS**

Student reports will be distributed to parents on Friday December 12. This school offers parent teacher interviews in June however any parents having concerns with the December report should make an appointment to speak with the classroom teacher directly. These reports are mainly compiled in November so are a record of student progress up until that time. Prep students, in particular, will have advanced in reading levels throughout December. This year we have trialled a more comprehensive record of the strengths and challenges a student has. We are confident this school gives an enormous amount of information about student outcomes, especially when read in conjunction with the student portfolios, or ‘black folders.’ From next year the ‘black folder’ will be sent to parents in all year levels – Prep to Year 6. It is vital these folders are returned to school promptly as they contain all the years raw test data. This material is placed into the child’s central file at the end of each academic year.
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PICNIC
This year the School Christmas Picnic will be held at Bollygum Park in Kinglake, on Tuesday December 16. We have had a previous school picnic there and it was greatly enjoyed by the children. Parents are welcome to attend. Each child will be able to order a packed lunch from the local fish and chip shop. The school will provide some drinks left over from the school fair however each child will need to bring a filled water bottle on the day. We are awaiting final lunch costings before sending out the permission slip and total cost. We estimate the cost per child will be $13 if one pack of food is ordered and $18 if two – older/bigger eaters may need two. The buses will pick up from school at 10am so children will need to bring a small backpack with playlunch, drink bottle, sunscreen and a ball or special toy to play with perhaps.

KRIS KRINGLE
Please note that there will be no Kris Kringle this year. We initiated the gift giving because we were a very small school and all the families knew each other really well. Now that we are so much bigger the giving has become more impersonal and defeats the whole purpose. Several parents have already approached the office to say they would rather not have the Kris Kringle. Children will get so many gifts at this time of the year so one less will not matter. Next year we will start a ‘Community Tree’ where we can give to less fortunate families, or older members of society. This will be part of the Year 5/6 ‘Community Outreach’ program and the children will organise it.

SCHOOL FEES
School Council advises that school fees for student materials in 2015 will be $210.00 per child. Payment plans can be arranged. It is an expectation that parents will pay for the materials each child receives. We only charge for books, consumables and art materials. We give the materials to the children in good faith.

TWILIGHT WORKING BEE
The next Working Bee is December 12. We would love to see as many families as possible help with the few jobs that need to be done. If you have not attended a Working Bee, and not paid the $30.00 surcharge, please consider helping at this final one.

SCHOOL STAFFING
We had two positions advertised for 2015. One was the Year 3-4 classroom teacher and the other a school program based education services officer (ESO). Heather Johnston will retire at the end of the school holidays and Dee West’s contract ends on the last day of school. Both the ESO, and the classroom teacher, vacancy are aligned to the new School Strategic Plan directions. Panels are currently going through the selection process for the two positions.

HOME READING
We have many children, at all year levels, who do not read consistently at home. It is vital that children read every night at home. Reading is a skill that needs to be practiced if it is to become fluent and automated. Our children have been given the skills to read. We cannot read for them. With children who are reluctant readers it is better they read at levels below their instructional level if they will read. Our library is now stocked well with novels for children in Years 2-6. Books on CD are available at regional libraries. Sometimes listening to these books this will give children a desire to read. Finding an author, or series of books, that children like will motivate them also. Reading to, and with children is important too. Many children say to us that they have no time to read. Bedtime is a great time. Try to make reading time a part of the sleep routine. Children love to have a little bedside lamp that they can turn on, read for a while, and turn off when sleepy. Buy or make a special bookmark to encourage children to read. Maybe a ‘minutes reading’ chart could help with a set target to reach. Modelling reading is important too. Children are more likely to read if they see mum and dad making time for reading. Once non-reading becomes a habit – taking it back up again is hard.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP UP THE READING DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

LUNCH ORDERS
There will be no lunch orders in the last week of the term.

SCHOOL WEBSITE
Please remember that the school website has a copy of the newsletter when distributed. We would love extended family members to visit the site and keep up to date with what is happening.

HATS
Please be aware that all children need to wear a hat at school in Term 4. Parents please check that your child has a hat that fits. New hats are available by order, or in person, from Cassie on Tuesday mornings from 9am.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION
All children in the hall tomorrow night by 6.30pm. Admission is by donation. The production will finish around 8pm. Families are encouraged to meet and picnic in the park from 5.00pm.

CURRICULUM DAYS
The school will be closed on Friday December 19 so the staff can complete the yearly CPR and anaphylaxis training. The school will close at 2.30pm on Thursday December 18 after an assembly at 2.15pm.
USED A4 PAPER
We still desperately need A4 paper that has been used on one side only. Please bring to the office!! Thank you so much to those who have been able to help us in the past.

PREP 2015 TRANSITION DATES
December 5, 9-1.30pm.

SEWING MACHINES WANTED
Do you have a relatively modern working sewing machine that you no longer need? We are hoping to use them in a Year 5/6 ‘business’ project next year (part of the mathematics curriculum). If you have one, or know of family who do, please feel free to donate them to school- or loan perhaps? Thank you Cindy Watts.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DECEMBER 17
One of our first changes in the Year 5/6 area is to change the graduation program. Mrs Johnston and the children have enjoyed their day out together each year however student numbers are now too big for this kind of activity. We therefore invite the Year 6 children to attend the following event:

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<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE</td>
<td>Dixons Creek Bar and Grill</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>Wednesday December 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME FOR CHILDREN</td>
<td>5.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME FOR PARENTS</td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME FOR VIDEO PRESENTATION</td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>COST TO CHILDREN</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>COST TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS</td>
<td>Coffee, desert, alcohol at bar prices</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPH PACKAGE</td>
<td>At parent choice</td>
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A payment slip will be attached to this newsletter. Children should pay to the school office by Monday December 15. Parents may purchase drinks and desert on the night and pay at the register.

The children will have a three course dinner with four main choices. Parent may purchase drinks and desert at bar prices. The children will be photographed throughout the night individually, with friends of choice, as a group and with family. It is a formal occasion so formal dress is requested please. More information can be acquired from Miss Lyons who is the coordinator of the event.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CHILDREN NEED TO BE HERE AT SCHOOL BY 5PM ON THE NIGHT FOR GRADUATION PHOTOS TO BE TAKEN. Please ask at the office or see Cindy Watts for more information.

FROZEN JUICE STICKS
During Term 4 frozen fruit sticks are again available for purchase each Friday lunchtime, and on other days when the temperature is above 33 degrees. The cost is $3.00 for five. A card is kept to record the number of sticks received. Please send along the correct money in a named envelope. Many parents buy multiple cards to ensure children can have a frozen stick on very hot days.