August 4, 2016

Upcoming Events

August 8-11
Yr 5/6 Urban camp

Tuesday August 9
Hooptime Yrs 3 and 4

Saturday August 27, 7.30pm
Parent Club Trivia Night
Tickets available $20 each

August 29 to Sept 9
Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday Sep 8
Short Film Festival 6-7.30pm

Friday Sep 9
CURRICULUM DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

Saturday October 15
Shopping Tour
Monday Oct 31
CURRIC DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday Nov 1
CUP DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

November 9-11
Yr 3/4 Beechworth Camp

Friday November 25
School Production

Wednesday December 14
Yr 6 Graduation Dinner

Friday December 16
Family carols Night

FORMS DUE BACK:
Yr 3/4 Hooptime
Yr/5 Camp Agreement
SCHOOL FEES

2016 TERM DATES

Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
Term 3: 11 July to 16 September

Our vision for Dixons Creek Primary School is to empower students to embrace learning; to achieve their personal best and to build their emotional, social and physical well-being so they may actively contribute to the local and global community in a child safe environment. All members of the school community will value, and REACH to be: Resilient, Energetic, Accountable, Caring and Honest.

PRINCIPAL PREAMBLE
Sharon Walker

We are really happy that our new values are set and as a community we can begin the real work of embedding them into our community culture.

Last week I worked in the Year 3/4 class where we discussed the ‘Accountable’ value. I asked the children to make two columns in their books and to head one ‘Myself’ and the second one ‘Others.’ I asked the children to talk in groups about what they were the ‘boss’ of and responsible for. We talked about the notion of being accountable to oneself, not just to others. I was really impressed by the answers the children came up with without prompting from me. The children decided they were personally accountable for their own:

- Hygiene
- Behaviour—self control/ discipline
- Thoughts
- Learning—focus/ motivation
- Belongings
- Safety
- Choices
- Health—food/ sleep/ exercise
- Honesty

They decided they were accountable to others in relation to:
- Homework - teachers /parents
- Chores—parents
- Laws—society
- Roles/responsibilities—teacher/class mates
- Rules—school/ home

These children were articulate about what they should be held accountable for yet as parents, and teachers, we often try to place this accountability elsewhere. Sometimes we look to put the blame on someone else when our children lose, belongings, don’t take school notices home, fail to complete homework or are not honest.

Children need to learn from an early age that they will be held accountable for their own actions—at a developmentally appropriate level. Children in Foundation can dress themselves, make parts of their breakfast, pack their school bags and empty them at night. When children leave clothing in the playground it should be them who look for it. Even Foundation children should put school notes in their red folders and empty it out at night bringing notes to adult attention. Obviously there is a limit to what can be expected, but asking too little is also a disservice to children’s opportunities to become independent and accountable.

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HELPING CHILDREN TO RECOGNISE CHILD ABUSE

In schools we have always tried to teach children about child abuse however it is a sensitive subject and can cause distress for children, teachers and parents alike. We do not want to scare our children but the fact is there are many adults and older children who want to prey on the young. This article is written for children and would be worth discussing with your child.

‘Abuse means that an adult or an older child does things like:

- Touching your body in a way that makes you feel scared, worried, angry, sad, or confused
- Hitting you so that it leaves marks, bruises or bleeding
- Hitting you on the head or neck
- Calling you names, over and over, that make you feel bad or sad, or that you don’t belong
- Not giving you a safe place to live
- Not feeding you
- Not letting you go to school
- Hurting other people (like your mum or sister) or animals in front of you, that makes you feel scared, sad and worried

It might be that the people who abuse you are also the people that you want to love you and to keep you safe. If this is what is happening for you, remember that you have a right to be safe. Maybe the adults who are caring for you need someone to help them know how best to do that. Talking with someone who can help is the first step to make some changes for you and your safety.

How would I know if I was being abused?

Feelings are important – they are one of the ways our body tells us what’s going on. Sometimes our body can give us a warning that we are not safe so it’s important not to ignore what we are feeling. When you are scared you might feel butterflies in your tummy, the hair on the back of your neck gets prickly, you might feel tight in your chest or you might start shaking and curl up in a ball.’

PARENTS PHOTOGRAPHING CHILDREN IN CLASSROOMS OR ON EXCURSIONS

Please remember that parents do not have the right to photograph other people’s children without permission from their parent. Some of our families have not given permission for their children to be photographed other than for the class photos.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you to Meridie Jackson Smith who will assist Mrs Hannagan in the remodelling of the ‘quiet area’ and removal of the oxalis in the driveway.

A Working Bee will be scheduled for August.

Thank you to Miss Hayley Bawden who will act as principal of this school from August 20 to September 16, 2016 whilst Mrs Sharon Walker has long service leave. Miss Bawden will be supported by the school leadership team—Mrs Sandra Hannagan and Mrs Richelle Hoogenraad.

Year 4/5B will be taught by Mrs Margot Pope during Miss Bawden’s acting principal role. School Council would like to thank Mrs Pope for the support she has shown our children in covering leave.

Whilst Foundation enrolments are decreasing currently, this tends to be a cyclic phenomenon and we are looking forward to being that ‘little boutique’ rural school again that attracts families seeking a more individualised education for their child.

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Our School Chaplain, Judy Young, needs to change the days she is at school here. Judy will now be here every Thursday and every second Wednesday. If you wish to meet with Judy, or have your child/children work with her, please see Kerrie in the office to sign a permission slip.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY CHANGE

Due to the Friday ‘Artist in Schools’ program we have changed the weekly assembly time from Friday morning to Thursday afternoon at 3pm. The assemblies are conducted in Mrs Hannagan’s room. We ask that parents please be seated by 2.55pm.

Each week a class will present an item as we continue to foster student leadership and engagement.

Mrs. Hannagan, and her children, have made a whiteboard background that will be displayed each week.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLIES AS THE CHILDREN HAVE PRESENTATIONS EACH WEEK.
MRS HOOGIE F- 2H
Our grade enjoyed bringing baby photos to school last week—so many cute little faces! We have been learning about what we can do at different ages and how we grow and change. Next week the students will be asked to research their family history and put together a simple family tree to share with the class.

We have had several kinder transition mornings with the most recent being last Wednesday where we turned into ‘Wild Things’ and did the ‘Monster Mash’. It was a fun morning full of dancing, creating and getting to know the 2017 Foundation students.

MRS SCHARBEL 1/2s
In our classroom, we have had a really busy start to term 3. We have had cooking and tennis workshops each Thursday, that the children have enjoyed immensely, and have finally learnt to multiply, much to the delight of the kids. They so badly want to start learning times tables. We have also been learning, how we are all special in our own way. Our integrated studies unit this term is titled "Where we are in Place and Time". This is all about history and how things, such as our homes, toys and transport have changed over time. I would appreciate it if you would bring in some old household items and toys to put on display in the classroom. I promise we will take good care of the items and they will be returned at the end of the term. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ALONG A NAMED BOX OF TISSUES TO YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM. NOW THAT WINTER COLDS HAVE HIT THE DEMAND FOR TISSUES HAS EXHAUSTED SUPPLY!
MISS JACOBS 3/4J

Last week Miss Jacobs was ill so we were taught mostly by Mrs. Walker. After reading the book ‘Snow Blizzard’ we wrote our own adventure stories ensuring we used heaps of dialogue and descriptive language including similies, adverbs and adjectives.

Later in the week we discussed our school values and learnt about what being ‘accountable’ means. Mrs. Walker was very surprised about our lists as we knew a lot about this value. We decided that as we grow and mature, we need to be ever more accountable to ourselves and to others.

In mathematics we concentrated on making addition easy by using the mental maths strategies of: make a 10, count on from the largest number and find a double or near double. We were allowed to mark our own work using the calculators.

On Friday we listened to ‘Schools In’ where our children were presenting. We also watched a DVD about Brazil. It is a fascinating country and we learnt so much from this lesson. Our athletes will have fun in Rio de Janeiro.

MISS BAWDEN 5/6B

The 4/5 class have been using morals from Aesop’s fables to write their own fable style stories. Here is Luke’s fable.

THE HYENA AND THE GAZELLE

One day long ago in a forest lived a famous Gazelle. The Gazelle was judgemental and cruel but nobody knew. She would kick the hippos every time she went for a drink. She would stomp at anyone who looked at her the wrong way, and would force the crocodiles to go upstream whenever she went for a swim. But because she was so lovely and talented on ‘The Voice Africa’ everyone admired her.

As a Hyena was walking he came across the Gazelle. The Gazelle turned towards the Hyena and started to chase after him screaming. “Get away you ugly freak!”

The Hyena turned and ran towards the crowds of animals. As they burst into the crowd of animals, the Gazelle was still shouting. Everyone was so amused and instantly lost complete faith in her. The first thing on the news that night was her face and the video of her chasing the hyena through the crowd.

MORAL: Never judge a book by its cover.

BY LUKE
We have had an exciting past fortnight. Last week the Year 5/6 children participated in the ‘Round Robin’ sports event. Our children played netball, t-ball and soccer. Everyone had a fabulous day despite the wind and rain. Our soccer team played six games against other Yarra Valley schools and came home undefeated with a huge trophy. Well done to all our children for showing our REACH value of being energetic—putting all your effort into what you are doing.

Today the ‘Green Thumbs’ group started work on the ‘bird attracting’ garden in the ‘quiet area.’ A big thank you to Will who was able to pull shrubs out of the ground once the other children had loosened the soil. This area is very important to Will so being a part of its reconstruction is important.

This garden will be lower than the old one so a vista can be gained of the school grounds upon entry. The children have designed it and it will feature bird attracting plants. Thank you to Meridie Jackson Smith who will help Mrs Hannagan complete the removal of plants, and take out the oxalis, this weekend.

UNIFORM SHOP

’It might not seem like it but the warmer weather is on its way and now is the perfect time to think about your uniform requirements for summer. Kerrie will now be placing a uniform order once a term, two weeks before the end of term. At the moment we have stocks of most uniform items in various sizes that can be purchased but going forward we will only be holding small amounts of stock.

Kerrie will be making a display of the various items making up our uniform in the office so please call in and have a look. The uniforms are made of good quality materials and are very durable.

Please return any order forms to the office by Friday 2 September or see Kerrie at any time to buy from our in stock items.’

Lee Evans—School Councillor
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB BOOK FAIR

Kirsten Smith, the Scholastic Book Club Coordinator has arranged another ‘Book Fair’ from August 29 to September 4. The foyer will be filled with books that parents and children may purchase—and take away. Last years fair was a huge success and we saw many happy faces clutching a book they had chosen. Scholastic books are always discounted and a great buy. Shop with your child, or sneak in and get that special present. See Kirsten for further information.

REMINDERS

Trivia Night tables must be paid for tomorrow

Shopping Tour deposits due ASAP

Parent Opinion Surveys—last chance tomorrow

SUGGESTION BOX

We have had two suggestions in the past fortnight. The first relates to the timing of our assembly. It has been suggested that we hold the assembly on Monday mornings. As much as we would like to do this unfortunately we cannot due to the Art timetable. If we held it on Mondays a class would miss 30 minutes of Art each week. We have thought long and hard about this vexed question but cannot see a solution unless we can change our Art day in 2017.

The second suggestion relates to the publishing of ‘Student of the Week.’ It has been suggested the names of these children be placed in the newsletter. Great suggestion and we will plan to do this shortly.