November 10, 2016

Upcoming Events

November 9-11
Yr 3/4 Beechworth Camp
Friday November 11
Remembrance Day Assembly 10.45am

Friday December 9
School Production 6.30pm
(plate of supper to share)

Sunday December 11
Yarra Glen Community Carols
BBQ / cupcakes

Tuesday December 13
School Picnic - Funfields

Thursday December 15
Yr 6 Graduation Dinner

Due Back:
SCHOOL FEES 2016
Christmas card money

2016 TERM DATES
Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

2017 TERM DATES
Term 1: 30 January (school teachers start) to 31 March
Term 2: 18 April to 30 June
Term 3: 17 July to 22 September
Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

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

This newsletter will be circulated early as I am looking forward to attending the Year 3/4 Beechworth Camp from Wednesday November 9 – 11. Hopefully the weather will be kind, if a little cooler it seems.

The next few weeks will be very busy for families, and for us at school. It will be important to look at the school notice board, read the newsletters and to keep the Dixons Dates in a handy place. We try really hard to inform the school community of events in plenty of time however we often find notices stuck to the bottom of student school bags or floating around in the classrooms.

The School Production is on Friday December 9 from 6.30pm. It will consist of a variety of little puppet theatres set up around the school. Children will need to wear a black skivvy, black pants and black shoes on the night so their puppets will stand out when performing. If the night is very hot a black t-shirt will be fine. We are asking parents to please bring a plate of supper to share after the puppet theatres. Cold cans of drink will be available for purchase.

The School Picnic will be at Whittlesea Funfields Water Park on Tuesday December 13. We had a very positive response to this venue despite the cost and thank those families who returned their expression of interest to us.

The Year 6 Graduation Night will be held at the Healesville RSL Club on Thursday December 15. We love seeing our young people all dressed up and ready to step out into the next phase of their lives. It is such a joy to be a part of this night.

You will soon receive an invoice for the 2017 school fees. We are sending them out early this year so parents have time to budget for these items. Parents are expected to pay for the books, paper and stationary items their children use. Sometimes there may be confusion about ‘free education.’ This refers to the governments provision of staff, buildings and the teaching resources to make adequate curriculum provision for all students including those with disabilities.

Our school has been given the opportunity to cater for the Yarra Glen Community Carols night on Sunday December 11. We would like to offer BBQ sausages, cold drinks and cupcakes for sale. If you are interested in joining a small committee to organise this event please see Sharon Walker. The school staff will buy the BBQ items. We just need some help with cooking on the night and organising parents to cook cupcakes.

Contact Details
Dixons Creek Primary School 1585
1815 Melba Highway
Dixons Creek Victoria 3775
Phone: 5965 2282 fax: 5965 2477 email: dixons.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Statistics from the US show that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18 and that 90% of abusers are known to their victims. Of children who are sexually abused 20% occur before the age of 8 years. www.d2l.org

Laughter and emotional wellbeing

Why do we need humour to stay healthy emotionally? A healthy sense of humour is related to being able to laugh at yourself and your life.

Laughing at yourself can be a way of accepting and respecting yourself. Laughing at yourself as a way of self degradation is unhealthy, but being able to take yourself less seriously can be a life-saver. Research suggests that the lack of a sense of humour is directly related to low self esteem.

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people - everyone speaks the language!

Humour unites us, especially when we laugh together - laughter heals - physically and emotionally.

Laugh and smile and you are enjoyed best when shared with others.

• To laugh or not to laugh is your choice - we’re programmed!

Is the glass half full?

Positive psychology is an emerging field of mental wellness, and many experts who design stress-control programs harness its principles. It focuses on determining and promoting the factors that permit people to thrive. Rather than search for the roots of unhappiness, research coming out of this field investigates the ingredients of a good life and weighs the effects of traits like optimism, humour and even eccentricity.

Optimists, for example, tend to do better than pessimists when coping with stressful situations. They are more likely to put a positive spin on stressors, look for ways to make the best of a bad situation, and use problem-solving strategies to tackle difficulties.

Some studies indicate that optimists often fare better physically, too. A long-term study of more than 830 Mayo Clinic patients published in Mayo Clinic Proceedings in 2000 found that those classified as pessimists had a 19 percent higher risk of mortality over the course of 30 years than those who were optimists. A 10-year study of 1,300 men suggested that a sense of optimism may protect older men against developing heart disease.

If you’re not a natural optimist, this information could merely fuel your pessimism. Don’t let it. Take a deep breath and relax. Evidence suggests avoiding pessimism is more important than boosting optimism.

Little Learner Orientation Dates 2016

Wed October 26
Wed November 23
Wed December 7 (9am - 1.30pm)
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.

SUGGESTION BOX

If you have some great ideas for the school, and are willing to help achieve them, please leave your suggestions in the box on the office reception desk. Please write all suggestions on the designated form available from Kerrie.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION DETAILS

Please note the School Production will now be held in the school grounds on Friday December 9, 2016 at 6.30pm. The children and teachers having been working with Angie MacMillan, our Artist in Schools resident, to perform a series of small puppet theatres around the school grounds on this night. Angie has asked that all children wear black clothing for their performances so the puppets will be highly visible to the audience. It is suggested that children wear a black skivvy, black pants and black shoes for the performance. If families have extra, unwanted black clothing of this nature please leave in the office with Kerrie so we may help those who cannot buy these items. Please bring a plate of supper to share. Drinks available for purchase.

2017 SCHOOL CLASS ORGANISATION

After much discussion, consultation and deliberation, we have decided the 2017 school class structure. We are really excited about being able to offer multi-age classrooms again. This structure has always been a feature of small rural schools and sets them apart from larger ‘mainstream’ schools. Some liken it to a ‘boutique’ style education where older children are able to act as role models for the younger students. This gives the older children a sense of pride and responsibility. Schools that run multi-age classrooms report lowered incidences of poor classroom behaviour and general bullying in the playground.

When our school was all multi-age rooms our student engagement, well being and school-connectedness scores were all much higher. As the school grew, student perceptions fell slightly.

Multi-age classrooms are like a family that all help each other to do what they are developmentally capable of doing. This structure gives us options for placement of children who will work better if separated from friends, or who may have siblings at school.

We cannot allocate teachers to classes at the moment due to possible movements in this application time for staff wishing to gain promotion positions. We hope to announce the staffing on the last day of school if it is known.

The classes for 2017 are:

1x F-2, 1x 2/3 and 2x 4/5/6. The Year 6 children will work with Mrs. Walker, at times, for programs allocated to their higher developmental level.
Mrs Hoogie’s F-1

As part of our Inquiry unit this term we are looking at the importance of stories, traditions and cultures. We have been reading about aboriginal dreamtime stories and learning about Aboriginals. As a class we made an artifact table complete with a ‘real boomerang’.

We are also learning about other cultures that make up Australia’s population and we have started using the term ‘Multicultural Australia’. It was fantastic when Amity bought in her Indonesian traditional dress and Natalia bought in a traditional Thai Wedding dress.

We started making our puppet bodies with Angie last week and they are looking fantastic!

A huge thanks to Eva, Meggy and Rebecca for helping us with the puppet making on Friday.

MRS SCHABEL 1/2S

On Friday 4th November, the junior school went to the Yarra Valley Junior Sports day at Upper Yarra High School. The weather was lovely and sunny, the kids were excited and on the buses we went. When we arrived we split up into year groups with our teachers and parent helpers. We then participated in 8 different sports on a rotation throughout the day. There was 100m sprints, parachuting, beanbag throwing, tunnel ball, hungry bird, obstacle courses, relay races and sack races. Dixons Creek PS students represented the school so well, and many parents and helpers on the day commented on how well mannered we were and what good sports too. Our students should be very proud of the effort they made and how they conducted themselves. And boy did we have a lot of fun!! A big thanks to Mr Devisser for organising the day.
MISS JACOBS 3/4 J

The Year 3 and 4 children are looking forward to the Beechworth Camp. We leave on Wednesday and return on Friday. On the way up to Beechworth we stop at Glenrowan to watch a ‘sound and light’ show about the life of the Kelly Gang. We will have a chance to do some souvenir shopping there too.

Once we get to camp we will organise our things and set off for a long walk. Other children have told us there are fabulous rock formations along the way that look like marbles. It is a long walk along a gorge but once we get back to the Priory we can have a rest and the best dinner ever!

The next day we visit the township and have time to explore the cordial brewery, Beechworth Honey and have lunch at the lake where we can do some gold panning. We also go to the old court house and re-enact the trial of Ned Kelly. That night we have a disco provided by a visiting DJ.

On our last day we go to the forge and watch the blacksmith at work. He usually makes a fire poker. It will be really exciting to see him mould the red hot metal. Most of us have never been to a real forge. After the visit we come back to the Priory and have damper with jam and cream. We can also have billy tea if we want.

For the Year 3 children this is the first camp we will attend outside of the school grounds. Mrs Walker and Miss Jacobs are very excited about going on camp with us. The girls will love their big dormitory and the boys get to sleep in rooms of three children. We have all signed our camp rules agreement and will promise to be on our best behaviour whilst having lots of fun and making precious memories too!

MISS BAWDEN 4/5B

The year 3 to 6 students attended the 20\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of the Toolangi Sculpture Trail on Monday at the Toolangi State Forest. Forest and nature expert, Bernie, took the students around to look at past sculptures, some having been there for 20 years. He discussed the history of the forest as well as it’s necessity to our ecosystem. He shared with us some photos that he has taken as well, one of a rare spotted quoll that he found in Toolangi and another of a giant tree that he discovered around 30 years ago. After this, Avis Gardener, a local artist, and her son Kim assisted the students to make their own collaborative sculpture. The students used sticks, clay, bark and string to create the amazing structure that will be displayed during the festival and will become a home for insects. Over the next two weekends the Toolangi Sculpture Trail have a lot of kids activities on offer, including a puppetry performance by Toolangi Primary School on the closing weekend. We would highly recommend you to go up there and look at the student’s sculptures once they have been reconstructed amongst the grand trees of the forest. If your child attended the excursion if you could please make a donation of $7 towards the Toolangi Sculpture trail project, if you have not done so, it would be greatly appreciated.
MRS HANNAGAN 5/6H

The students in Year 5 / 6 are continuing their investigation into Media over the next few weeks. They have chosen inquiry questions such as, “How are magazines presented to promote their products and to engage their audience?”, “Does vlogging affect the way people behave?”, “How does the media impact the way people see themselves and affect self-image?”, “How does media promote musical performance and affect the success of artists?”, “How is animal care and safety promoted using media?”. The students are excited about presenting their work in a range of formats such as videos, websites and blogs.

Class discussions about the impact of modern technologies have brought up many issues about cyber safety and how to protect our identity in the online world. We discussed with the children the importance of having open and honest discussions about the use of social media with their family and establishing ground rules including privacy settings.

In Mathematics we will be conducting investigations for measurement by creating a hypothetical sports stadium or movie cinema complex. The students will be making plans, 3D models and budgets for this project.

The Year 5/ 6 students are also working on a special collaborative project with their F / 1 buddy which will hopefully result in a completed picture book by the end of the year. Stay tuned.

GREEN THUMBS FUNDRAISER

We have packets of Christmas cards available at the office for sale. Each pack of 4 cards is $6.00. Each card is impregnated with seeds to plant once the festive season is over. What a fabulous way to remember Christmas 2016. The sale of the cards will fund the revamped ‘Quiet Area’ garden at the front of the school. Please drop into the office and buy a pack to support the Green Thumbs in their work.

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL DVD AVAILABLE

Many families have paid for a Short Film Festival DVD showcasing the children’s work last term. If you have paid please pick up your DVD from the office as they will not be placed in school bags. If your family would like to purchase a DVD please see Kerrie in the office as we have some extras available for purchase at $10.00 each.
On Monday November 7, Years 3-6 attended the Toolangi Sculpture Trail. It was a fabulous way to learn about sculpture and its connection to the forest and nature.
Dear Parent’s, Student’s and members of the Local Community,

We are looking for enthusiastic and interested volunteers to help get this fantastic event ready for this beautiful part of the Yarra Valley. We are keen to highlight this unique forest and encourage people locally, nationally and internationally to visit, learn, admire and enjoy this environmental experience.

**Background**

The Toolangi Sculpture Trail was first conceived in 1996 as the International Sculpture Event sponsored by UNESCO. The event brought different cultures together to express similar concerns about ecology and the environment through the medium of sculpture, leaving a lasting legacy for future visitors. Although much of the sculpture was ephemeral, there are still traces left today including four works that are very prominent.

**The Project**

The Toolangi Sculpture Trail 2016 celebrates the 20th anniversary of the event, which also aims to express the same concerns that are as relevant today, if not more so, than in 1996. There will be 15 Victorian artists working in the forest for 2 weeks to produce site specific sculptures using materials sourced from the Toolangi Forest.

[www.toolangisculpture.com/volunteer](http://www.toolangisculpture.com/volunteer)

**How will you benefit from being involved?**

- You will have the opportunity to interact with high calibre artists working in this pristine environment.
- This is a great opportunity for someone interested in art, the artistic process, or the environment to immerse themselves as part of the process.
- You’ll be contributing to bring a valuable experience to the wider public, ensuring that this project gains the exposure that it deserves.

**How can you contribute to make this event a success?**

Some of the positions currently available are Tour Leaders, Assistant to artists, School group assistants, First Aid officers, Traffic management and ticket collectors. If you have the skills and interest to participate in this iconic project, please contact us to register your interest.

**We also have a working-bee on Saturday October 15, 10am at the Discovery Centre and forest. Everyone is welcome!**

**The Sculpture Trail will run from Sunday 6 to Sunday 20 November, 2016.**

Reggie 0418 851 819, Sharon 0400 949 745, Bernadette 0412 747 348

OR [info@toolangisculpture.com](mailto:info@toolangisculpture.com)
PERFORMANCE

Stories from Snugglepot and Cuddlepie

Set to the unique bush music of Peter Mumme, young dancers celebrate the adventures of favourite characters Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, the gumnut babies along with Ragged Blossom, Mrs. Snake, Mrs. Kookaburra, the banksia men and all the bush friends.

Dancers taught by Miss Barbara Hayles of Barbara Hayles Academy of Dance and Drama.

THE MEMO, HEALESVILLE
SUN 20 NOV - 2PM

A Dance Salute to May Gibbs for the Centenary of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie

The Memo
235 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville

TICKETS
FREE bookings required

For more information and to book tickets: 1300 368 333 or culturetracks.info
PaddleHub

canoeing victoria

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Family and Friends Paddling Sessions every Sunday

From Sunday 6th November 2016 - April 2017

All Ages, Fun, Outdoors, Safe

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paddlehub.canoe.org.au / 0430 312 252

Join in Today!!