Preps Start Fulltime

On Monday the Preps start at school fulltime. We congratulate our Preps for settling so well into school. They are certainly a positive and capable group and we are proud to have them as part of our school community.

Curriculum Day

We had our first curriculum day on Monday. David Hornsby worked with the staff on enhancing our literacy knowledge and programs. Please note in your calendars that our next curriculum day is on Monday 15th April which is the first day of Term 2. OSHC will be available on the day if there are sufficient numbers. As always please contact Karen if you require care.

District Swimming Sports

Last week 17 children competed in the District swimming sports at Monash pool. Fifteen of the children placed fourth or better. Holly is through to the divisional competition and we wish her well.

Allergy and Asthma Forms

It is very important that we have up to date medical information for children with allergies and/or asthma. If you have received one of these forms to update, please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

Kerry Wood
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013
Welcome to the Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2013.

All students are invited to participate in the Challenge this year. Please complete the permission form and return it to your class teacher. Normally the school would be able to then give you your personal username and password after we get your permission form, but the website is not quite ready however, we are going to start anyway! Simply keep a list of the title and author of the books you have read and have your parent or carer sign for each book you have read. Perhaps you could keep this list in the back of your homebook. I will let you know when you can transfer this information to your login page.

For those parents and children who don’t know about the Reading Challenge you will receive more detailed information from your class teacher.

JOINING A LIBRARY
The local Whitehorse Libraries would be delighted to have new members. To join you need to visit and ask to join. You will need to bring identification that contains your name and address, eg Driver’s licence, a bill that shows address.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES COMPETITIONS AND AMT FOR 2013
Each year the UNSW offers students from Grade 3 to Grade 6 the opportunity to participate in the following competitions: Computer Skills, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. The Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) also offers a mathematics competition. If you wish your child to participate in any of these competitions, please ensure your child collects an enrolment form from the office. Please include the correct payment with the enrolment form. Enrolment and payment needs to be returned to school by Thursday 14th March 2013.

Sue Worcester
Competitions Co-ordinator

WAVES OF NATURE
If you make your way from the Stephanie Alexandra Kitchen out into the Whimsical Wilds of the Whitehorse Vegetable Garden you will find a beautiful new pathway of vibrant mosaic tiles.

Students from Grades 3-6 created these stunning tiles in response to a Whitehorse City Council “Artists in Schools” Grant. The subject matter was “Flowers from Around the World,” promoting multiculturalism, led by local Ceramic Artist Claire Sutherland.

A special thanks, in particular to our School Gardener – Julie Jensz, and also to Students, Parents and Dave Hayes who’s hard work has finally brought the project to fruition.

Students might like to search out and find their own ceramic flower and be proud of their creative contribution to the Kitchen Garden.

Julia Martin
Art Teacher
EMA 2013
(Education Maintenance Allowance)

Reminder:

Tomorrow is the final date to lodge your application with the school office.

If you have not collected an application form or presented your Health Care Card or Pension Card at the school office, please remember that applications for EMA must be submitted to the school no later than 28 February 2013 for the first instalment.

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).

KINDERGARTEN

4 year old group

We have shared some new adventures at kinder this past week, with our weekly visits to the school library proving to be very exciting!

The kinder children will visit the school library every Wednesday and there we have the opportunity to browse at books and then choose a favourite and borrow the book for the week. We spend about half an hour in the library and end our session with a story telling experience. We encourage all the children to bring their library bags each week.

We have also visited one of the school playgrounds during the week, where the children enjoyed climbing and exploring new equipment together. We really enjoyed the slides and "wobbly" bridge and the step ladders. We hope to visit the school oval soon and say hello to the "chooks" in the school kitchen garden too.

We wished Rithya and Jack Happy 4th Birthdays too!

We have been exploring and learning about various sea life creatures. We have shared many new songs, such as "3 Jellyfish", "Fish Alive", "Down by the River". We are really looking forward to our visit from the "Wild Action Show" on Thursday 28 February where we will enjoy a presentation called "Rockpool Discoveries".

More adventures to be shared!

Annamaria, Narelle & Jude
The World's Greatest Shave raises about half the money the Leukaemia Foundation needs to fund its important work – providing practical and emotional support to people with blood cancer, as well as investing millions of dollars in research.

Kate Hewett has been inspired to raise money for The Leukaemia Foundation, after her close friends’ 5 year old son was diagnosed with Leukaemia late last year, and she needs our help. Kate is aiming to raise $10,000 dollars for the Foundation.

Kate will also be auctioning off to some lucky punter the opportunity to shave off her hair, at St Philips Sports Day on March 17th.

Hair Today gone Tomorrow!

If you would like to support Kate by donating to this wonderful cause please go to the Worlds Greatest Shave website, http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/ and follow the prompts to ‘search for a shaver’ and enter Kate Hewett.

AFL Footy Tipping

The football season is approaching and once again Whitehorse PS is running a footy tipping competition. The competition is open to all WPS students and the wider school community, ie. mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents etc. The more the better! The competition can be accessed through the Victeach website.

http://www.victeach.footytips.com.au

Competition name: Whitehorse Primary School
Password: Whitehorse

Great prizes to be won for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall plus prizes if anyone tips 9 winners in one round. (Note: If multiple tippers select 9 winners the points difference will be used.)

The first AFL round starts on Friday 22nd March so join the competition and get your tips in now!

Mandy Lewis