Welcome Back to the 2013 School Year

Welcome back to Whitehorse Primary for the 2013 School Year.

It is wonderful to see everyone back rested and ready for an exciting new year. I would particularly like to welcome the many new families that have joined us at Whitehorse.

Permission Forms Pack

As in previous years we have sent home a pack with a set of permission notices that need to be read, completed, signed and returned to the school by Friday 8th February. These forms include internet and behaviour codes of conduct, photo and religious education permissions among others. Please ensure that you read them thoroughly. There are some changes from last year.

Newsletter Online

Our newsletter will be available on the website as it has been in the past. This will be our prime source of communication. To receive an email telling you that the newsletter is available please go to the school’s website, http://www.whitehorseps.vic.edu.au/, click on the ‘Subscribe to Newsletter’ button which is found on the home page below the Calendar and enter the details required. We encourage all parents to use this method of accessing the newsletter.

Canteen

We are thrilled to announce that Katherine Clarke and Kathryn Zouglakis have volunteered to take over the running of the canteen. At the moment they are revising
the menu and reorganising in general. We will let the community know as soon as the team are ready to go. Don’t forget to volunteer to help them if you can.

**Curriculum Day**

As announced last year our first Curriculum Day will be on Monday 25th February. The staff will spend the day developing literacy through literature. The OSHC will be operating a Curriculum Day program, please contact Karen on 0403 197 821 if you require care for your child.

**Chess Club**

We would love to run Chess Club again this year but unfortunately we don’t have a Chess expert to assist the children. Consequently we are looking for someone who would be interested in supporting the club. Please contact the office if you could help.

**Industrial Action**

As I am sure you are aware from the media, a stopwork day is scheduled for Thursday 14th February. The stopwork and the bans form part of the AEU action. Currently we are waiting for the outcome of the legal challenge and the AEU decision. Also, staff are only required to inform administration of their intention to take industrial action 48 hours prior to the day. Once I have all the appropriate information I will be able to notify the parents if the stopwork action is proceeding. At this point in time I can only suggest that parents make tentative arrangements in the event the action goes ahead.

*Kerry Wood*

**KINDERGARTEN—4 year old group**

We would like to welcome all our beautiful children and families to Seedlings. We have spent these initial sessions settling in and becoming more comfortable with our environment, meeting new friends and also new teachers! We look forward to getting to know the children more and also meeting our families and establishing a trusting partnership with you all.

We have some exciting adventures planned and we will be exploring families, friends, interests and soon discover and learn about amazing sea creatures. We welcome back Blizzard - our blue tongued lizard who enjoyed a lovely holiday away too.

Looking forward to new adventures!

Annamaria, Narelle and Jude

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**Chinese New Year 2013 - Year of the Snake**

To celebrate Chinese New Year and the Year of the Snake, Box Hill Community Arts Centre invited schools to participate in the community art project by creating and decorating scales for a giant snake. Combined, the individually decorated scales made for a colourful and visually exciting snake skin.

The snake is whooping 30 metres long and has 2700 scales!

Congratulations to all of our students who each contributed by decorating a large scale for the snake sculpture.

Thank you to everyone.

Julia Martin
EMA 2013

(Education Maintenance Allowance)

The EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. Parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a Valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The EMA application must be submitted to the school no later than 28 February 2013 for the first instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $200 for Prep students and $150 for students in Years 1—6 and is paid in two instalments.

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

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).

Contact the school office for application forms.

SIGN UP NOW FOR MUSIC LESSONS 2013

Lessons in Keyboard, Guitar and Strings will commence from Wednesday, February 20. Students wishing to participate in any of these programs will need to get themselves an enrolment form from the school office, have their parents fill it in and post it directly to Online Music Solutions.

Information about the programs may be found on the reverse side of the enrolment forms. All families will receive a phone call close to lessons commencing to confirm the lesson time and details.

Note: Students from 2012 need to re-enrol to continue in 2013.

Enquiries on ph: 9874 6667 or email oms@bigpond.net.au

1st NUNAWADING SCOUT GROUP

1st Nunawading has been a part of the local community since 1958. It is a family oriented Scout Group with a program full of fun, friendship, new skills and adventure. In Scouting girls and boys get to try new things and become independent, planning their own adventures through outdoor activities, cooking their own meals, working to small badges, camp over night, go on special campovers and social events, Cub Scouting (Kangaroo, Croc's, Anaknuma, Venturers and World and lots more great activities. There's lots more... call now and join the fun.


2013 PLAYER REGISTRATION DAY

Sunday February 10
10:00 am - 1:00 pm :::
DONVALE RESERVE, Noonan Way, Donvale.

Corner Springvale & Mitcham roads.
Melway Ref: 48F3
Keeping kids safe in a cyber world

Social media sites have taken cyber bullying and harassment to a new level. Here’s how to keep your kids safe when online.

Cyber bullying is one of the biggest, safety issues facing young people today. Bullying and harassment online is now commonplace. For instance, over a third of teenage girls have been sexually harassed via the Internet.

The emergence of social media sites has seen cyberbullying go to a new level. Messages and images can now spread like wild fire reaching a huge potential audience in the time it takes to upload an image or shoot off a text message.

Once the family home offered young people an escape from schoolyard bullies. Now the cyber world is so invasive that their bedrooms offer no guarantees of safety any more.

The cyber world is enticing. Young people have always wanted to escape from their parents’ world. In the past they hung out in shopping centres and pool halls. Parents tried their best to keep an eye on where their children were and what they were doing.

The online world is now the shopping mall of the 21st Century. Parents have the same responsibility to help kids stay safe in the online world as they do in the real world. ‘Stranger danger’ and accompanying safe behaviours are just as relevant in the online world as they are in the real world.

Parents should use the same offline preventative strategies to maximise their children’s online safety as they’ve always used. These strategies include: teaching children about the right way to behave online; don’t let them spend all night in the cyber world; and ask questions about what they are doing and where they go when they’re online.

Parents need to remind kids that things in the online world can spin out of control very quickly. A written message or an image can be circulated electronically so rapidly that the scope and scale of cyber bullying can be greater than any other form of bullying.

The following seven key messages form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids. They should be taught to kids so they become second nature, just as the messages about stranger danger were absorbed by an earlier generation.

1. Respect others. Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss with kids the types of messages and images that can cause harm to others when sent. Teenagers often walk a fine line with what they do and say to each other offline, yet it’s relatively harmless. The same type of behaviour online however can be a different story.

2. Think before you send. Remind kids cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. A text message or image sent to just one person can be passed to a potentially unlimited number. Once they are sent they’re almost impossible to erase and take back.

3. Treat online passwords like your house key. Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However there are some things, such as online passwords that they don’t share, not even with their best friend.

4. Block bullies. Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages and addresses online. Similarly, they can block text messages from bullies as well.

5. Don’t reply to harassment. Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides responding to bullying behaviour often simply encourages the bully to continue.

6. Save the evidence. If kids are bullied they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as proof if the bullies are brought to justice.

7. Tell someone. The insidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don’t seek help, as they think there’s something wrong with them. Talk with kids about going to a trusted adult, when they feel their rights or safety have been violated. They should with your help report online bullying to the appropriate service provider.

Sticking the proverbial head in the sand regarding kids’ use of communications technology is no longer an option for parents. Savvy parents need to learn as much as they can about children and young people’s online lives so they can respond to situations appropriately.