Welcome

We have had a fabulous start to the year! It has certainly been a bonus not moving schools, unpacking and establishing ourselves in the new setting while we waited for the gym to be completed. Those of you who have been on this journey with us would fully appreciate this.

We welcome Priscilla Lefebure who has joined us this term while Paul Merriweather is Acting Principal at another school. Miss L (as she is already known) is teaching PE and Music. Having visited a few of her lessons it is clear that lots of learning and fun is going on.

Welcome also to our new Kindergarten teachers Annamaria Bingham and Sally Shying. Both of these ladies are replacing Jacquie Bruce while she is on Maternity Leave.

We warmly welcome all new staff and families to the Whitehorse community.

Industrial Action

As I am sure you are aware from the media a Stopwork day is happening tomorrow, Thursday 14th February. The Stopwork and the bans form part of the AEU action. All teaching staff except Mr Fly will be taking part in the industrial action. As per the details in the notice sent home on Monday, children are not required to attend school on the day.
Permission Forms Pack
Thank you to all those people who have completed the permission packs and returned them to school. There are some who have not returned the documents. Please do so as soon as possible.

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.

Coffee After Assembly
We have organised to make coffee available in the Kitchen Garden after Monday morning assembly for those who are interested. Please feel welcome to join in.

Curriculum Day
Please remember that our first Curriculum Day will be on Monday 25th February. The OSHC will be operating on the day please contact Karen on 0403 197 821 if you require care.

Kerry Wood

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.
NUNAWADING TENNIS CLUB CLINIC

Once again, students will be fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to participate in a FREE tennis clinic. These sessions will run during the student’s PE classes and will commence from Friday 15th February. Each class will undertake two 30 minute sessions at the Tennis Club (behind the school) and will be walked to and from the tennis courts by their teachers. We are looking forward to seeing our student’s tennis skills come to life!

Thanks,
Priscilla Lefebure
PE/Music Teacher

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Last week your child would have brought home the first Issue of Scholastic Book Club for 2013.

Last year we trialled sending all brochures to the eldest child in the family. This year we have decided to send out brochures to all children with their age appropriate brochures.

If you would like to make a purchase please return the order in an envelope with your child’s name and grade on it to their classroom teacher.

Just to let all parents new to our school know that we receive a bonus for the amount of books sold which we use to purchase books and products for our students to use.

If any one would like brochures from other age levels please see me.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thankyou to Tracie Edgell who has been the person behind the scenes who has ordered all the books, processed all the monies and spent many hours managing the Scholastic Book Club. Tracie has been doing this for the last 7 years and never missed an order and nothing has been too much trouble for her. Thank you so much Tracie.

Denise Baldacchino
Book Club Coordinator

KITCHEN REVIEWS

Rose Watermelon Salad

I really like the rose watermelon salad because it was really juicy. I like the rose water on the watermelon. It was so yum!

By Connie

The watermelon salad was good because of the rose water, mint leaves and watermelon.

By Belal

Tzatziki

The tzatziki was nice. It was. really good with the celery and carrot sticks and bread.

I think everyone liked the tzatziki. It tasted like cucumber, some garlic and yoghurt. It had about 8 ingredients. It was sooo! Yum!

By Paige

CHOOK ROSTER

A big thank you to all the families who looked after the chickens over the summer school holidays.

We are looking for families to fill the chook roster for weekends over the rest of this term. It would be lovely to see some new families helping us.

The duties include letting the chickens out in the morning, locking them away at night, making sure they have food and water and of course, collecting the eggs. The rewards are getting to know the chickens and enjoying some fresh eggs. If you are able to help or would like some more information please speak to either Michelle in the office or Julie our gardener.
3 year old group
A very warm welcome to the 3 year old children and their families as we begin Term 1 at Seedlings Kindergarten. We are looking forward to a terrific year of fun and learning together! The children (and their parents) have managed first separations with aplomb and are settling into the routine extremely well! We have been exploring mixing primary coloured paint on paper, using all the fine muscles in hands and fingers to squash and mould playdough, mastering puzzles and drawing using different tools. The children are all joining us on the mat for circle time and proving to be keen participants in songs, actions and rhymes. Already we are feeling that two hour sessions are too short and look forward to having a longer time to explore the outdoor environment when we begin our three hour sessions as from Tuesday the 19th of February.

Many children have spoken excitedly of trips to the beach over the holidays. Following the children’s interest, we will read together ‘The Rainbow Fish’ - a classic story which relates very simply, a positive message about sharing and friendship. The children will have the opportunity to create their own colourful fish and we will use the parachute to make a ‘wavy sea’, exploring concepts such as big, little, up, down, wavy, calm and generally having lots of fun!!

Sally and Jen

4 year old group
We have enjoyed a very busy week together at kinder. We are adjusting to our longer sessions and becoming more familiar with new routines and transition times. We have a busy group of children who have enjoyed interacting and discovering new friendships. Our focus this week is on settling the children positively, ensuring the children are feeling safe and supported.

We begin to build positive relationships with the children and this week we have begun to send home the "get to know you box". The children will have turns sharing news and pictures about their families, interests and hobbies.

Looking forward to exciting adventures!

Annamaria, Narelle and Jude