



DATES TO REMEMBER:

February

- 9** Tennis Clinic Grades 1 - 6
- 10** Tennis Clinic Grades 1 - 6
- 16** Tennis Clinic Grades 1 - 6
- 17** Tennis Clinic Grades 1 - 6
- 17** Welcome Picnic
- 20** District Swimming
- 21** Getting To Know You Interviews
- 24** School Photos
- 24** Freezer Angels
- 27** Parent Training Sessions - COMPASS, iPads

March

- 26** Working Bee
- 28** 'Changing Face of Education' Information Night

NOTICES HOME TODAY:

- ◆ Welcome Picnic
- ◆ Helen O'Grady Dance Academy
- ◆ peeWee Tennis
- ◆ Mums' & Tots Tennis Program

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8 February 2017

Term 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back all! A special welcome to all the new families who have joined us at Whitehorse! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful festive season and the New Year has been kind to you so far.

It was wonderful to see the children settling in so well to the new classes and enjoying the opportunities available to them.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

In our end of year magazine last year you would have seen that a number of our students have succeeded in taking on leadership roles in secondary school and gained prized university places.

To add to these successes we would like to also whole heartily congratulate Emma Cook, a past Whitehorse student. Emma has taken up a Chef apprenticeship and in recent weeks competed in the highly prestigious Young Chef Olympiad in India. Emma is the only Australian to make the top 10. An article about Emma can be seen in this week's Leader newspaper.

Notably, Emma was one of the first students to go through the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program here and was always very passionate and creative in her culinary pursuits both in the program and beyond.

Did you know? The Kitchen Garden program is a highly valued program and has been part of the Nunawading/ Whitehorse curriculum for 10 years this year. The program costs the school about \$65 000 to \$ 70 000 per annum to operate and there is no government funding available. Parent contributions received by the school amount to approximately \$15 000 per annum which means the school has to find the difference to sustain the program. Never an easy task!

COMPASS

This year there will be many changes in how we are communicating with parents through expanding the use of the COMPASS system. A letter went home earlier this week

signalling the beginning of the process. As we extend the use of COMPASS we will keep you informed. However, it is always wise to keep in mind that no system is ideal in design and technical issues will arise from time to time. It is also important to be aware that the structure and operation systems of COMPASS are developed and managed by an external provider and as such they will be your best option for any technical difficulties.

The Changing Face of Education and Your Child at Whitehorse

2017 is the first year of our new School Strategic Plan which is currently being drafted from the highly successful School Review Report. Like any industry,

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It is great to see that all of our students have started the year well and are showing such positive attitudes to their learning.

ALLERGIES/ANAPHYLAXIS/ASTHMA

Allergies and asthma are becoming a feature of the daily lives of children more and more these days. We have quite a significant number of children who have various allergies and/or asthma and we ask the cooperation of all parents by doing a small number of simple things.

Firstly, do not send nuts or other products such as peanut butter in lunch boxes. Please save this type of food for home.

Also if your child has an allergy or asthma ensure that you have completed the appropriate forms and provided the school with up to date medication. If you need any assistance with this please contact Mrs Lim.

UNIFORM and HATS

It has been very pleasing to see all of our students wearing correct school uniform to start the year. I would just like to remind everybody that our Sunsmart Policy requires students to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats for all outdoor activities up until 30th April. Children without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Every school dropping off and picking up time can be chaotic and dangerous. We have had a very busy start to the school and as our student numbers grow traffic around the school will continue to be an issue. We only ask that parents consider the safety of everyone when around the school.

Education is constantly undergoing change. This is happening on a globally scale as new skills are required to become an active and successful citizen of the 21 Century. The question is always, what does this mean for my child? To enable our community to gain an insight to that question we are holding a community information session on Tuesday 28 March at 7:00pm where I will speak about the changing face of education. Further details regarding the evening will be made available soon so save the date!

Kerry Wood

BIKES, SCOOTERS and BALLS

Already this year there have been a number of children, including pre-schoolers, riding their bikes and scooters through the yard before and after school. We kindly ask parents to remind children **not to ride in the yard** as it is quite dangerous.

We also ask that all ball games are played on the oval for the safety of all students and visitors in the school. We appreciate your assistance with these matters.

WELCOME PICNIC

We are holding our annual Welcome Picnic on Friday February 17 between 5:00pm and 8:00pm. There will be a sausage sizzle or you can bring a picnic dinner. We'll have games and activities for the children. This is a great opportunity to come along and meet other members of your community

GETTING to KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

These interviews are scheduled for Tuesday 21 February from 2.00pm to 7.00pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and share any information that you feel would be helpful for the classroom teacher to know.

Bookings for interviews are completed through Compass and need to be booked by 9.00am Monday 20 February.

Please note that you may not get a confirmation message after selecting an interview time but you will notice that the word *Booked* will replace the word *Free* under the heading *Status* on the booking page. You are also able to print this page as a reminder of your time.

Paul Tantram

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef





FREEZER ANGELS

COOKING MORNING

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2017

9am Onwards

We currently have a small number of families that would have their load lightened by even one meal. So we are asking for some volunteers to come in on Friday 24 March to the kitchen to prepare some meals. Please contact the office on 98789339 or put a note in the Homebook if you can help.

All the ingredients and recipes will be provided so just bring along your enthusiasm and your favourite apron!



Blackburn Junior Basketball Club

Under 9 - Under 19

Boys and Girls

For players of all skill levels

Winter 2017 Registration Days

Registrations take place at

Slater Reserve, Grosvenor Street, Blackburn North.

Registration Dates

Early Bird Registration - \$100

Saturday, February 18: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Tuesday, February 21: 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Friday, February 24: 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Any registration made after these dates is \$130.

For further information contact Paul Lankford

info@blackburnbasketball.com.au or 0431 559 893

or log into www.blackburnbasketball.com.au.

What's Happening at OSHC

Just a reminder that a new enrolment form is required every year if you wish your child to attend OSHC. Forms are available at the school office.

**REMEMBER; - OSHC is the
place that children never want
to leave!**