EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
As I was watching our students rehearse in Dance Club the other day to perform at OXFAM I wondered how any performance could be any better in any other school. To see our students, from Prep to Year Six, perform was simply wonderful and emotionally moving. The development of skill, the confidence and the pleasure of performing was so recognisable. The extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes, after-school and at weekends are all conducted by staff voluntarily. On top of a full teaching load this is quite an extraordinary and wondrous undertaking. It is very difficult at times not to feel “let down” by others, sometimes those in our organisation who do not see the wonders I see that occur in the classrooms and the lasting effect this has on students as they leave our primary setting and venture into the secondary school environment. I heard from a parent this week of the successful progress of her son this year at secondary college. She asked me to thank the marvellous teachers for their commitment and dedication to her son, which I have done. It is very rewarding for us all to hear such positive “good” news as it encourages teachers to continue to strive to make a significant difference in students’ lives and to enable students to improve their future prospects.
Primary education provides the foundation for students to succeed in subsequent years of schooling so that each student maximises his/her potential into adulthood to inform and influence society’s future. There always seems to be an ongoing barrage of criticism in the media and by some politicians about what our schools aren’t doing or providing. We hear about the neglect of values in our schools, the ever present and headline raiser of bullying, the low literacy and numeracy levels of
our students and the continual need to improve the performance of teachers.
The continual onslaught of criticism by those outside the educational profession and the lack of fair funding creates a situation of educational unrest and dissatisfaction.
I watched the news the other night and can’t say I can see any obvious improvement in the behaviour of our Parliamentarians in session and I had to question how our leaders (both parties) seem to think it is alright to demonstrate that “manners” and common courtesies are for everyone else in society. One would hope that leaders set the standard for others. Certainly the staff at Burwood Heights Primary School do that!

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMISED FUNDING TO VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
I take this opportunity to mention that it is now unclear if the Federal Government’s proposed $12 billion funding to Victorian schools (Better Schools Funding as a result of the Gonski Report), will occur.
Although this funding reform package was agreed to on the basis of a bipartisan approach prior to the Federal election, it appears that from 2015 a new deal will be considered.
I have been asked whether this will affect our planning. The answer is “no” as fortunately we did not rely on any of this proposed funding coming to us with a change in government.
I’m sure we will all hear more about this.

LOOKING FOR A CRE TEACHER
There is a need for an additional CRE teacher at Burwood Heights Primary School next year. Training for CRE teaching is provided by Access Ministries, the organization responsible for CRE in government schools.
Anyone who is interested in teaching CRE at our school next year please contact Ian Cameron (CRE coordinator) on 9878 3693.

PREP M – Gemma W for giving 100% in everything she does. You are an absolute pleasure to teach!
PREP W – Ridhima S for her outstanding effort in reading and using her knowledge of phonograms to sound out words.
GRADE 1/2A – Frances W for being a responsible student who is always willing to help others. Well done Frances!
GRADE 1/2E – Archie W for concentrating on improving his handwriting. Keep it up!
GRADE 1/2T – Hannah P for writing and editing an excellent recount on Junior School Sports Day. You’re a superstar Hannah!!
GRADE 1/2WM – Simran B for a fantastic recount of her dream titled ' My Best Dream Ever!' - Well Done!
GRADE 3/4A – Gordon C for showing insight into how sedimentary rocks form, in his science experiment procedure writing. Terrific!
GRADE 3/4G – Jason N for his interesting persuasive writing on "Public Transport is the Way to Go" Well Done, Jason!
GRADE 3/4J – Joshua F and Joshua T for taking pride in their work and always doing their very best at all tasks. Keep it up!
GRADE 3/4P – Mel C for working beautifully while making a fantastic Tangram shark. Well done Mel.
GRADE 5/6A – Madeline S for her perseverance in completing her written and drawn procedure, of how to make her 'Fabulous Pizza' to a high standard. You rock!
GRADE 5/6H – Mary G for putting in considerable time and effort to complete her leadership speech. Great work.
GRADE 5/6L – Holly P, Max Z, Martha S and Justin P for working cooperatively and effectively on their Maths Portfolio to produce an excellent visual representation on smoking statistics. Well done!
GRADE 5/6M – Oscar A for being a kind and considerate student to everyone in the school community. Keep it up champ!
HOME CRAFTS – Stefan F for quietly going about his own business in the kitchen enjoying the atmosphere and cooking process.
VISUAL ARTS AWARD – Susanna T for her creative interpretation of Pablo Picasso’s cubist paintings to create a portrait using line and repetition. Well Done!
LOST PROPERTY
END OF YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING
LAST CHANCE TO CLAIM

It is really incredible to see so many unnamed items of school uniform and the ever increasing number of unclaimed articles of clothing. I ask parents to please check in the Lost Property tubs if they are missing any school uniform garments. Please check the name on your school jackets in case you have accidently picked up the wrong one.

RETURN OF LIBRARY BOOKS
Please ensure all library books are returned on time so Mrs Bakopanos can do an audit of the resources. It is important that books are returned in the same condition that they were borrowed.

ELECTION OF 2014 SCHOOL LEADERS
On December 2nd we will be holding elections for School Captains, School Sports Captains, President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Student Representative Council, School Arts Captains and School House Captains. The class representatives for the Student Representative Council will be elected in early February 2014.

Students should prepare a short speech on why they wish to be a school leader in 2014 outlining their skills, abilities and personal qualities, which would make them suitable for the position. The speech should be no longer than two minutes. Students in 2013 Years Three to Five will cast their votes. I encourage all students to put themselves forward if they wish to be a leader next year.

Last Wednesday we had the Burwood Heights Primary School ‘Walk to School Day’. Many students took part showing their interest in making Healthy Decisions. The ‘Walk to School’ results were:
- Prep M – 12 walked out of 19
- Prep W - 12 walked out of 20
- 1/2 A - 19 walked out of 23
- 1/2 E - 20 walked out of 22
- 1/2 T - 22 walked out of 25
- 1/2 WM - 16 walked out of 23
- 3/4 A – 20 walked out of 23
- 3/4 G – 19 walked out of 24
- 3/4 J – 18 walked out of 25
- 3/4 P – 15 walked out of 27
- 5/6 A – 17 walked out of 21
- 5/6 H – 17 walked out of 24
- 5/6 L – 17 walked out of 22
- 5/6 M – 18 walked out of 21

I’d like to congratulate all students for taking part in the day and I’m sure they felt energised for their morning learning session. I would also like to thank the parents for encouraging their children to take part and the teachers who volunteered their time to walk students to school. The overall result was 76% of students walked to school on Walk to School Day. Well done!

EXCEL MUSIC OPEN LESSON DAY

On Monday 16th December EXCEL MUSIC will be hosting an Open Lesson Day. Parents will have the opportunity to attend their child’s lesson and observe the progress that has been achieved during the course of the year. It also enables students to perform for an audience which is very important for their musical development and personal growth.
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
For 2014, the EMA application process and EMA payment rates will remain unchanged. The EMA programme will cease from 1st January 2015.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA 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 foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term One (28th January 2014 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term Three (14th July 2014)

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28th February 2014.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $200.00 Prep students for Year One to Six students $150.00.

The first instalment will be $140.00 for Prep and $105.00 for students in Years One to Six.

The second instalment will have a payment amount of $60.00 for Prep and for Years One to Six it will be $45.00.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who have paid the first instalment of 2014 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28th February and prior to 14th July must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office.

FAMILY PORTRAITS
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
Thank you to those families who have booked portraits. Please enter the school through the car park gate (all others will be locked) and the main school entrance. I will be in the office for you to check in when you arrive.

Vicki Fahey
On behalf of Classroom Co-ordinators

END OF YEAR RAFFLE
All families will today receive a book of five raffle tickets for our End of Year raffle. Prizes are hampers of goodies to get you through the holidays. If you don’t want the tickets please return them immediately. There will be a Free Dress Day on Thursday 12th December with the “payment” for the Free Dress being an item to donate to the hampers. Tickets are due back on Tuesday 10th December and the raffle will be drawn at the Assembly on Friday 13th December.

Good luck and thank you for your support of our school.

Classroom Co-ordinators

TEA TOWELS
I have a very small number of tea towels left, so if you missed out on ordering please see me as soon as possible. Prices are $13.00 each or 3 for $30. A 2013 sample is on display next to the office.

Next Wednesday, December 4th, we will be holding a market stall in the kitchen from 3pm. Available for sale will be biscuits, slices, jams and preserves made by our students and volunteers.

Bags of biscuits sell for $3.00 and preserves for $4.00

They make lovely Christmas gifts!

bhpskitchennotes.blogspot.com.au
Junior School House Sports

On Friday, 22nd November, the Preps, Grade Ones and Twos all gathered on the oval for the annual ‘Junior School House Sports!’

The oval was awash with gold, red, green and blue as the school leaders gathered their teams ready to compete.

There was soccer, egg and spoon races, t-ball, hurdles and many more activities to compete in and all activities earning valuable house points. Bonus spirit points were given in abundance due to the awesome sportsmanship showed by each team.

After completing all twelve activities, all the points were collated and added up. And the winner was……

1st - Flynn (red)
2nd - Kenny (gold)
3rd - Cowan (blue)
4th - Florey (green)

A HUGE thank you to all the parents that came and helped, supported and cheered for all the students. Another thank you to the AMAZING school leaders who not only lead and helped their teams but helped with equipment and kept the enthusiasm and house spirit going.

The Level One & Two Teachers
ICY POLES!!!

On Monday the 2nd of December two Real Life Adventurers (Holly Pratt and Ella Baensch), will be raising money to go on their next adventure “Trees Alive.” To raise this money, they will be selling $1 icy poles on the decking outside the library. They will be sold at both recess and lunch. So if you are interested in buying an icy pole for $1, make sure you bring your money on Monday. We are looking to raise at least $30 and all money will go towards the next Real Life Adventure.

GARDEN VIEWS

Hello.......When soil becomes compacted on farms and in gardens water won’t trickle down and plants as signs of life won’t grow well, a type of dying begins. The solution is found in soil loosening via mechanical and biological means or both. In a garden one takes a fork and breaks up the hardness, hard work! Then one gives the earthworms something to eat via rotting plants in the form of compost. Worms go up and down through the soil, aerating it, creating water channels and creating humus (their poo) which acts like a sponge for water. Life and plant variety returns slowly to the soil.

In many respects we humans are part garden. We have a visible form like a stone, we breathe air and are full of life like plants, we also roam about following our desires, our noses, like animals, our inner chook. Hence many emotions in the past were depicted by using animal qualities......sly as a fox, cunning as an outhouse rat and so on. Added to that we are selves or “I” carrying beings who can become conscious through reflection or thought. This sets us apart from stones, plants, and animals, our inner garden. An animal is like a biological robot. It can't get up in the morning and say today I will change my behaviour. A cow is a cow, is a cow, all over the world.

Human muscles are a connection between our stone like boney self and our wanting desiring self. When I want something, say an ice cream, my sleeping inner animal self stirs. I work out where to buy one with thought and then activate my biological muscles so they will steer my stone-like bones to the ice cream shop. If the shop is closed I can feel frustrated emotionally and become tense in my muscles. I may bellow like a bull.

In the course of a normal day our inner animal, our spectrum of desires, wants, and wishes can be thwarted often. A red light makes us stop when we would rather keep moving. Our muscles become a little more tense on each occasion. In the old days when people walked, that walking, that movement would release muscle tension. Animals are always on the move, either foraging, running away or fighting with their muscles, so tension does not accumulate. Psychologists call that animal behaviour which is often suppressed in us, the fight, freeze, flight mechanism.

In modern life we need to get all our juices and energies flowing again or get crook. We can dig our soul garden and restore its biological flows by deliberately lying on the floor and squeezing intensely every muscle then releasing it, from our feet to the top of our head. Breathing will change and tears may flow as life is once again restored to our frozen muscle and breathing systems. Tension is like compacted soil and needs loosening. Happy squeezing and releasing.

Peter Le Ray
CONGRATULATIONS to the Burwood Heights Netball teams – The Wizards and The Mystics have both made it to this week’s Grand Final matches.

Good luck to both teams on Saturday. Whatever the outcome, you should be so proud of yourselves.

If anyone would like to come along and help cheer them on, we would love to see you on Saturday 30th November at the Sportlink Centre, Hanover Road, Vermont South (next to Vermont South Shopping Centre). The Mystics play at 8:30am and The Wizards play at 9:30am. Hope to see you there.

Stella Hewson (Secretary) Ph: 0404 856 110 email: rshewson@tpg.com.au
Julie Pratt (Treasurer) Ph: 0409 406 072 email: jules.pratt@gmail.com

The Burwood Heights Netball Club has vacancies for players (boys and girls) to join a team for next season, starting in February 2014.

If you will be in Grade 2 or higher next year and would like to play Netball on Saturday mornings at the Vermont South Sportslink Stadium (Hanover Road), please contact Stella Hewson or Julie Pratt before the end of Term 4.

If you would like to play but getting to the Stadium is a challenge, please let us know as there are a number of families willing to help with transport.

Stella Hewson (Secretary) Ph: 0404 856 110 email: rshewson@tpg.com.au
Julie Pratt (Treasurer) Ph: 0409 406 072 email: jules.pratt@gmail.com
Hi all,

I hope everyone has been having a good week so far. With the weather warming up and the sun staying out longer, we’ve been taking advantage of this and have been playing outside a lot more. Although we have a couple of spare hats at the program, more and more children are starting to forget their hats and we are starting to run out of spares. Please remind your children that they need to bring their hats to OSHClub when they attend. If they have a spare hat, they are more than welcome to leave it at the program with their name on it.

Have a great week!

The OSHClub Team

Next Week’s Activities: Christmas!

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Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0423 225 807
Coordinator: LINDSAY

Dear Burwood Heights OSHClub Parents,

We have been informed of an upcoming Pupil Free Day and are hopeful that this will run, however, this is dependent on numbers.

Date: Friday 6th December. Please book prior to Wednesday the 4th of December.

Times: 8.00am to 6:00pm

Cost: $13.56 - $46.00 per child (Not including 50% tax rebate)

How to book: Please log in to your account online at www.oshclub.com.au and book in under the aftercare bookings tab.

What happens: Loads of fun for all ages including art/craft, games, sports, drama, board games and fun with friends.

What to bring: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Also wear/provide appropriate clothing including hats.

Please note: we require a minimum of 15 children to run the day, parents will be notified by end of business Wednesday the 4th of December if the day will proceed.

Further Important Information for this Day:

- Once you have booked there are no refunds for cancellations.
- A $10 late booking fee applies for any casual attendances on the day.
- All regular Before and After Care bookings have been removed.

If you have an account query, need help logging into your account or no longer wish to receive email please contact your account manager Courtney on the information below

Kind Regards,
Courtney Entwistle- Relief Accounts Manager for:

P: 03 8564 9027   Outside Vic: 1800 460 870
F: 03 8564 9001
E: ambika@oshclub.com.au
W: www.oshclub.com.au

Child Care Rebate(CCR)
Most families are eligible for the 50% rebate of all out of pocket expenses for attending OSHClub programs. Many families are getting half their fees back as an immediate discount when they ask for their rebate to be applied to their account.
To do this call 13 61 50, give your Customer Reference Number (CRN), enter your PIN (if you have one) then say ‘Child Care Rebate Options’ and follow the prompts.
Ask for your Child Care Rebate to be paid ‘directly’ to OSHClub on your behalf as a fee reduction.