FROM THE PRINCIPAL … Esther Wood

NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela was the father of modern South Africa. He brought forgiveness to a broken country. He was a moral leader, as well as a political leader, and the whole world honours him at this time.

On Tuesday 10th December, as a mark of mourning and respect and in accordance with protocol, the Australian National Flag was flown at half-mast during daylight hours.

ONE WEEK TO GO!

A reminder that tomorrow’s Assembly will be extended by half an hour due to the many presentations and announcements that will be made. Commencement time will be 2.15PM. Please join us if you are able to.

The 2013 year is fast coming to an end and we can all look back on a year with many challenges. (The acceptance and implementation of the Industrial Agreement; the introduction of the Compact; the Gonski Funding debate; the Future Directions of Victorian Education paper and the actions that flow from this; the changes to the Regional offices and, at a more local level, the continued building projects that are in progress, completed or planned.)

On review, it has been a most successful year, despite the changing relationship between schools and the Department, which has been described as the “next wave of reform”.

Our NAPLAN results are extremely good, the Parent Opinion Survey confirms parent satisfaction of the programmes we conduct and the Student Survey results reflect the same. The transition from VELS to AusVELS has been a very smooth one.

The interconnectedness between our Early Years facility and the school has been most pleasing. I thank Mrs Jenny de Kretser, Mrs Karen Sinis
and Mrs Eleni Skatharoudis on their leadership in ensuring the progress and development of our youngest school members. It is wonderful for our Early Years staff to be able to share in the progress of our young charges from three-year-olds through to Year Six students.

We are always trying to improve our programmes and systems of operations and this wouldn’t happen without considerable human investment. I thank all the staff (teaching, support and administration) for their continued commitment to constantly seeking ways to improve the life chances of all our students.

We endeavour to ensure that all students access high-quality learning opportunities and that they have an ever-expanding range of personal learning experiences. School self-improvement is an ongoing local system-driven process that is only possible by the continued efforts of our committed and capable school staff.

Our School Council has played a key role in our progress, always with regard to the best interests of the students. They have ably assisted in the efficient governance of the school and ensured that we have operated within the legal framework of the “Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and the “Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007.” At all times the enhancement of the educational opportunities for our students has been a priority.

I thank once again our 2013 School Councillors:-
Robyn Bell               Amanda Brown
Andrew Crockett          Vicki Fahey
Kylie Field             Tim Flowers
Stella Hewson          Claire Maharaj
Fran Mason              Robert Nash
Julie Pratt             Chris Rhyder
Michael Turner         Jennifer Whiteoak
Janice Ramsay (Co-opted)

I particularly acknowledge the leadership of the School Council President, Mrs Robyn Bell and thank her for the support she has afforded me this year.

I look forward to next year with enthusiasm and a sense of excitement to what it offers. 2014 will herald in some changes but I know that by working together we will remain a high-performing, effective and relevant learning organisation for all students.

2014 – THE YEAR AHEAD
Next year is the school’s “Year of Review” and the formation of the school’s four-year “Strategic Plan.” This process will take about six to twelve months and involves staff, parents and other members of the community. This rigorous cycle of planning and self-evaluation provides us with an opportunity to review school performance and operations. The “Strategic Plan” will outline our vision and values, our expectations for teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment and establish key priorities for the coming years.

END OF YEAR DANCE/GLEE PERFORMANCE
For all those who witnessed yesterday’s performance/s I know you would have shared in the pride staff felt at seeing such a display of talent dancing before you. From the very youngest of students to the oldest, the enthusiasm, the fun and joy of performing was evident….a passion for all things dramatic.
There is nothing like seeing the students so keen to learn and perform. The practical components of performance are very important and it is these that the students will take away with them long after they have left the school. Self-confidence, poise and self-awareness are aspects of performance that will stand them in good stead for their journey forward.

I acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Whiteoak, Mr Miet and Ms Crystal in making this all possible. The supporting staff puts the icing on the cake…and of course, the wonderful students who have seized this opportunity and made the best of it and the parents who have given such support. It is indeed a whole school effort.

I am pleased to inform you that next year Performing Arts will be across the school, with Ms Crystal conducting music in each class and Mrs Whiteoak leading Performing Arts…and there will be a Junior Glee Group, which is very exciting. This is in addition to what we already do now.

BROADWAY, HERE WE COME!
WELL DONE, EVERYONE
KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE
A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner in partnership with the Australian Communications and Media Authority’s Cybersmart Programme, South West Grid for Learning and Cybersafe Kids has produced a new resource with help and advice for young people who may find themselves in a situation where they or a friend have put a sexting image or video online and have lost control over who it’s being shared with.

Many schools request advice that they can share with young people, parents and school staff when these cases occur. Whilst there is a lot of advice around preventing this situation in the first place, it is also important to recognise that this does happen and those affected really need support and guidance.

“So you got naked online” is a resource that offers children, young people and parents advice and provides strategies to support the issues resulting from sexting incidents.

The resource covers topics such as:-

- What is sexting and can it happen accidentally?
- Trust and friendship considering what is appropriate to share and with whom.
- How images or videos can be shared online and what websites they might end up on.
- Will this affect your online reputation and your future?
- How to ask your parents for help.
- Where to seek further advice and support.

The “Bully Stoppers” online toolkit provides practical advice, professional learning opportunities and teaching and learning resources on cybersafety and the responsible use of digital technologies. A link to "So you got naked online” has been included within the kit.


It has also been raised with me that a free texting App called Kik is now being used quite widely by students, some in their primary years of schooling. This App is installed on smartphones, iPods and iPads and is not intended for use by people under seventeen years of age. This App enables users to connect with strangers and instead of using phone numbers and real names to contact each other, each Kik member has a user name. Unlike facebook or Twitter, conversations and images cannot be viewed publicly, making it harder for parents to monitor use.


URGENT!

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.

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.

REMINDER
CANTEEN CLOSED ON 13TH DECEMBER

Students will need to bring their lunch from home as the canteen is not operating.
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.

Prep M – Prep M for a wonderful year! Best wishes in Grade One! I will miss you!!
Prep W – Ysabellah R for her friendly attitude towards all members of the class and always trying her best in all she does. You're a superstar!
Grade 1/2A – Daniel W for trying his best to work independently on all activities in class. Well done, Daniel!
Grade 1/2E – Whole Class award for being an amazing class and doing their best work all year. You're all awesome!
Grade 1/2T – Damien C for writing an excellent narrative about how Santa was rescued from being stuck in a chimney. Keep up the great writing!
Grade 1/2WM – Daniel C for being a great participant in the Level 2 Spelling Bee Challenge.
Grade 3/4A – Cameron J for writing an insightful reflection about his achievements this semester. Sensational!
Grade 3/4G – Anna C for always having neat work. We'll miss you next year Anna, but we hope you enjoy your new school!
Grade 3/4J – Jake S for showing increasing maturity in his interactions with other students. Well done!
Bobby D for his creativity and persistence over many months, in completing a task which brought pleasure to his friends. What a star!
Grade 3/4P – Iefan G for always getting his work completed to a high standard in the required time. Well done Iefan!
Grade 5/6A – Acacia I for applying herself more willingly to class activities and demonstrating greater confidence! Well Done!
Grade 5/6H – Wendy Z for excellent descriptive writing when reflecting on your school experiences from this semester.
Grade 5/6L – Shiven M for practising his Graduation Dance in his own time and showing great improvement. Well done!
Grade 5/6M – Kayvan N for his outstanding effort presenting his Graduation Speech and for being such an excellent role model to all. Keep it up champ!
HOMECRAFTS – Elisha P 5/6A for being a cheery, capable and always reliable team member. There is nothing Elisha will not do!
VISUAL ARTS AWARD – Miss Aspinall's wonderful class for their concentration, focus and excellent listening skills. Well done everyone!
Hi all,

I hope everyone has been having a good week so far. With just over a week to go until the end of term, it really is starting to feel like Christmas (despite the winter like weather!). Since we do only have a few days left of the term, I’d just like to say how important it is to make sure that your enrolment information is up to date. I’d love to start the new school year with all contact, medical and dietary info up to date and all the needed medication in our first aid box.

We are still needing Asthma pumps from some students and it’s a bit concerning that we still haven’t received these, please bring these along when your child attends next. Asthma is serious and asthma pumps tend to be forgotten by children, so having a spare on hand at OSHClub is necessary.

Just a note about the last day of term, we will be open from 1:30pm until 6.00pm on Friday 20th of December. I do ask that you book well in advance, we will be doing a special afternoon tea and knowing numbers by the Thursday will come in handy. It will also save you a bit of money if your child is booked in before the day. This would also be an awesome opportunity for new families to come and check out our program.

Have a great week!
The OSHClub Team

Next Week’s Activities : Christmas!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>Garden Play</td>
<td>Basketball Jail</td>
<td>Fruit Salad</td>
<td>Silent Ball</td>
<td>Kid’s Movie</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>Christmas Candycane Cookies</td>
<td>Paper Snowflakes</td>
<td>Pipe Cleaner Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Pressed Clay Ornaments</td>
<td>Christmas Gift Box</td>
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Parent Information

OSHClub News
After School Care Program

Program Update 12.12. 2013

OSHClubs program phone: 0423 225 807
Coordinator: LINDSAY
Assistants: MARNI, LIZ , ANTHONY, KERRIE, POOJA, ALEX, RACHELLE
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
Looking for 4yr old Kinder in 2014?
Aurora School is now accepting enrolments for their new
Community Kindergarten.

4yr old sessions: Monday-Thursday 9am -12.45pm.
Offering an inclusive, supportive, play-based program
for local hearing and deaf/hearing impaired children
Based on the philosophy of instilling and strengthening
children’s sense of belonging and personal self-esteem.

Enquiries welcome:
Fiona Pelusi (Kindergarten Director) 8878 9878 / 0407 352 104
www.auroraschool.vic.edu.au
96 Holland Rd. Blackburn South 3130

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Eastern Lions Soccer Club
Open Day
Sunday 15th December 2013
11.00am-2.30pm
Come on down and visit the Eastern Lions Soccer Club
in Burwood for a fun filled day and see what a great club
we offer to potential junior players in our community
Jumping castle
Free BBQ
Small sided soccer games
Penalty shootout
Sponsor stalls
Free wine & cheese tasting (Get Wines Direct)
Bring the family and kids and enjoy a great day out, meet
some of the players, coaches and the President as well, and
maybe you can be a part of our family in 2014!!!

Call for further information:
Norm Willcocks 0416 036 346
Graeme O’Neill 0438 250 388
Mariana Wickert 0401 246 923
Eastern Lions Soccer Club
Gardiners Creek Reserve, Sixth Avenue,
Burwood. (Melways 60 J8).
www.easternlions.com.au