

# Newsletter



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*Excellence  
through Endeavour*

Principal:  
Mrs Heather Hill

## Welcome

Welcome to our new families who have joined us this year, and a big welcome back to our ongoing students and their families. I hope everyone had a relaxing break. It's good to see our staff and students returning looking relaxed and refreshed, and full of enthusiasm.

We had a very smooth start yesterday, the first day of school for Years 1 to 6, and today we welcomed our new preps. All seemed to settle in well and we hope they are enjoying the new school year.

Teachers were back at school last week, and have participated in a rigorous professional learning program, covering a range of curriculum and wellbeing aspects. We will share many of our new learning experiences, especially in regard to the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program in the coming weeks.

This year we are welcoming two new staff members: Miss Dominique Sison (5/6D) and Mr Phillip Cook (2C). I know you will join me in welcoming them to the school community.

The focus for teachers during this first term will be to ensure all children settle comfortably into their new classes, and feel happy and secure. As part of this process, all classes will develop an Essential Agreement which details shared understanding of the expected values to be followed within the classroom learning community. Parents will be then sent copies of these, so they can support our values as part of the home/school partnership.

We look forward to another year of working together to ensure our school provides the best opportunities possible for our students.

## “Bite and Write” fruit break

At approximately 10.00am each day, the children have a fruit break, where they are encouraged to eat a piece of fruit (or vegetable). The children are also encouraged to have a water bottle (with a “pop-top” for ease of use),

so that they can drink water as needed throughout the day.

Its purposes are to:

- encourage the eating of healthy food, and
- ensure all children have sufficient nourishment to keep them at their peak throughout the morning session.

We encourage all families to continue participation in this initiative, and also to extend the healthy eating program to recess snack time and lunchtimes. Teachers will be promoting healthy eating in their classrooms and encouraging the limiting of unhealthy snack foods. This also helps us reduce the amount of paper rubbish that may litter our grounds.

Please note that morning recess is at 10.55am, and a substantial healthy snack should also be provided for this time.

## Parent Information Evenings

Parent information evenings will be held shortly. At these sessions, teachers outline the expectations for their classes for 2009. Areas such as curriculum, assessment,

Looking Ahead	
Thursday 12 February	Fete Meeting 7pm — IRC
Monday 16 February	School Council Meeting
Monday 23 February	Parent Information Evening Levels 1 & 3
Tuesday 24 February	Parent Information Evening Levels 2 & 4
Thursday 5 March	Welcome Picnic
Saturday 21 March	Murrumbeena Primary School Fete
Wednesday 25 March	School Photos

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homework and well-being are all covered during these sessions. Specialist teachers will also briefly outline their programs at this session. All sessions will be in the multipurpose hall, followed by an opportunity to visit your child's individual classroom. Dates and times are as follows:

**Monday 23 February**

6.30 Level 3 (Years 3 and 4)

7.30 Level 1 (Preps)

**Tuesday 24 February**

6.30 Level 2 (Years 1 and 2)

7.30 Level 4 (Years 5 and 6)

**Tissues**

Parents are asked to provide a box of tissues for their child to use at school. One box from each child will ensure sufficient tissues are available in each class for the whole year (particularly useful as we approach the colder months when coughs and colds are prevalent). Thank you in anticipation.

**Early Dismissals /Late Arrivals**

Parents are reminded of the school's policy for early dismissals and late arrivals of students.

All students who arrive after 9.15am must report to the office with their parent, and a late arrival form is to be completed to hand to the class teacher. Parents wishing to pick up children before the regular dismissal time should also report to the office and sign an early release form, which is passed on to the class teacher.

These measures are to ensure the children's safety at all times.

**Accidents, Illnesses or Injuries at school**

If your child is injured at school, they will be immediately referred to the First Aid room for assistance. Mrs Val Henshaw is a staff member who holds first aid qualifications, and she will attend to any injuries. For serious injuries or sudden illnesses, parents will be telephoned immediately, and if necessary an ambulance will be called. Minor injuries (cuts, grazes etc) are treated in the first aid room and the child returns to their classroom. When a child receives treatment, they are given a note to take home to parents, which details the procedures taken. We do not have a whole of school policy to cover accident insurance. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's position on insurance for school injuries is set out below:

***“Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally***

***responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or school council employee or volunteer.***

***Student accident insurance policies are available from the private insurance market. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare. They can be obtained by school councils on a whole-of-school basis, or by parents for individual students.***

***If there is no whole of school policy, parents/guardians must be reminded at the start of the year and, ideally, prior to any school camp or major excursion that:***

- ***parents/guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs; and***
- ***reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.”***

**Personal Goods Brought to School**

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Parents are asked to discourage their children from bringing to school any unnecessary or particularly valuable items. If bicycles or scooters are brought to school, they must be individually padlocked onto the bicycle racks, which are beside the multipurpose hall. Although every care is taken, the school cannot accept any responsibility for the safety of any of these items.

**Family Picnic**

Our annual whole school picnic tea is planned for Thursday 5 March from 6.00pm – 8.00pm on our school oval. All families in the school (Prep – 6) are invited to bring a rug to sit on and a picnic tea. I encourage all families to come along, meet new friends and old, chat with the staff, and have an

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enjoyable informal evening.

### School Contributions

School contributions are now due (see attached information). Payments may be made in lump sums or instalments. Monies should be placed in labelled envelopes and are forwarded through the classrooms to the office. Payments by credit cards may be paid directly to the office. Please be aware that as banking is done regularly, the office does not always have enough cash for change, so correct money is appreciated.

### Absence Note forms

The school requires written communication following a child's absence from school due to illness or any other reason. To facilitate this, included with this newsletter is a proforma for parents to complete and give to the child's class teacher on return to school.

### Head Lice

Control of head lice is an ongoing problem in all schools. Hopefully, with vigilance, and cooperation between home and school we can minimize its occurrence at our school. Students new to the school should collect a permission form from the office, for parents to sign for each child, which will enable to school to undertake head checks from time to time. All new Prep children will receive a form. Please return this form to your child's class teacher.

### Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. The EMA provides an annual amount of \$221 for primary students and \$443 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

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 1986 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009). The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **27 February 2009** for the first payment.

Application forms are available from the school office.

### Heather Hill

## From the Assistant Principal

### WELCOME

One of the main aims of Murrumbeena Primary School is to make sure that all members of our school community are informed and happy with all aspects of the school.

If you have any issues, concerns or problems please see Heather or me for clarification or discussion. We are always on yard duty before school and small issues can generally be clarified quickly or you can make an appointment to see us.

No matter how small you think a problem is we are more than willing to talk to you and help in any way we can.

### HOT WEATHER

Terms 1 and 4 can be very hot and at Murrumbeena Primary School we try to minimise any discomfort that hot weather causes in the following ways:

- The main building hall, art room and all portables are air- conditioned and very comfortable on hot days.
- We have a Sunsmart Policy which incorporates the following principles:
  - We have been running "Sweat Days" for the last 8 years and will continue to do so this year. On a sweat day children remain inside for half of lunchtime when the temperature is over 35 degrees at 12:30pm or during times of persistent hot weather.
  - Students must also wear broad brimmed hats or legionnaires hats during terms 1 and 4 when outside the classroom. Students who are not wearing hats will be directed to designated shade areas.
  - Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen; however teachers will not be able to apply sunscreen to students.
  - Students are encouraged not to play games that are too active on hot days.
  - Students are encouraged to keep up their fluid intake at all times and particularly on hot days. We encourage students to have water bottles with them.

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## PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Our playground for yard duty purposes is divided into 3 areas. There is a yard duty teacher in each of these areas every recess and lunch. All students are monitored in the yard with misdemeanours recorded and followed up with appropriate consequences. We have regular 'Free Time Fridays' where students receive extra play as a reward for great playing.

Peer Mediators will also receive training in Term 1. Peer mediators help students sort out minor problems and come up with agreed solutions during recesses and lunchtimes.

## CLASS ESSENTIAL AGREEMENTS

In the first of week of school each grade will form their class *Essential Agreement* based on our school values. All students contribute to establishing their class Essential Agreement along with consequences and rewards. These will be published in the next few weeks.

## VALUES

We have an agreed set of values which reflect the behaviours and expectations we live by at Murrumbeena Primary School. Our values are-

- **Care and Support**
- **Cooperation**
- **Endeavour**
- **Honesty**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**

Our focus over the next few weeks as we begin the school year is **Care and Support**. This involves taking care of oneself, others and property. It is about supporting peers and teachers in all aspects of school life. This value will be highlighted in classrooms over the next 3 weeks.

**Shirley Krongold**  
(Assistant Principal)

## CALLING ALL BUDDING TENNIS STARS !

Murrumbeena Primary School would like to invite skilled and experienced tennis players in grade 5 & 6 to nominate for the BENTLEIGH DISTRICT tennis team.

We would like to hear from any girls and boys who play regular club tennis competitions at an advanced level.

**NOTE: Children must be currently participating in competitive 'club tennis' at level 6 or above, therefore familiar with knock out and competition rules.**

The three best girls and three best boys will be selected from all schools within the Bentleigh District. One player will play singles; the remaining two will combine together to play doubles.

Trials will be conducted at Coatesville Tennis Club on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Selected students must be available and prepared to participate in subsequent VICTORIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL trials.

**Nomination forms for the BENTLEIGH DISTRICT TENNIS TEAM are available from Debby Wall and must be returned before this Thursday 5 February. Please note, due to the very tight time line, late entries will not be accepted.**

Many thanks for your continued support of Physical Education and Sport at Murrumbeena Primary School.  
Debby Wall,  
Physical and Sport Education

## CHESS CLUB

We are offering the opportunity for students in Grades 1-6 to participate in a Chess Club program in 2009.

Sessions would once again be run on Friday lunchtime by experienced chess coaches from *Chess Kids*.

Sessions run weekly for approximately one hour, and cater for all levels of experience.

The children learn about the game of chess, strategy and planning as well as enjoying the opportunity to mix with children in a different context.

In Term One we will run a 9 week program with each session costing \$8 per student. The classes will begin on Friday 6 February 2009 and run for nine consecutive weeks.

Interested students will be required to make a commitment and pay up front. The term program is \$72.

If you are interested in participating in our Chess Club for Term 1 2009 please complete the form at the school office.

## Murrumbidgee Kids Café NEWS

Welcome back! And what a great summer we are having now! I hope you are all rested and ready for an exciting new Term. I would like to introduce you to Fiona Conroy who will be running the canteen this year. I am sure many of you know her as a parent at the school. Fiona's bubbly personality will keep the canteen a fun place (and she loves a great coffee). So good luck Fiona! She is quite looking forward to meeting those of you she hasn't met yet and I'm sure you will support her as much as you have supported me.

Enjoy 2009 and I'll see you around town!

**Kerry**

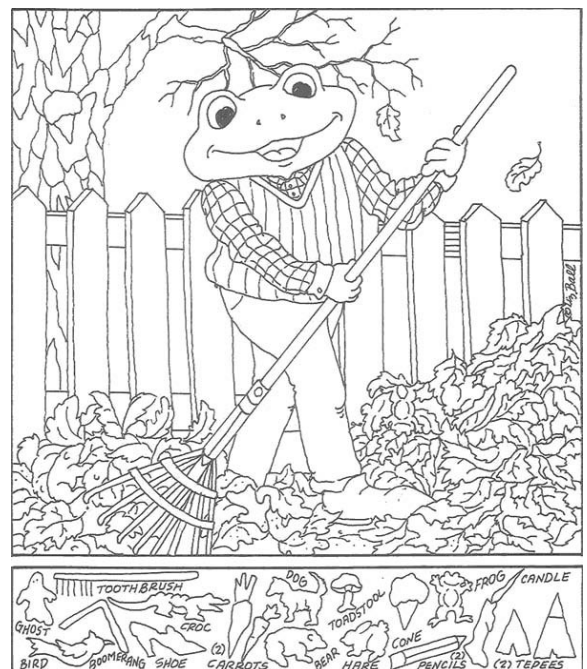


### Canteen Roster

#### Canteen Roster Week 1, 2009

<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	J. Pentland
11.30 – 1.30	E. Condos
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	L. Dziubinski
11.30 – 1.30	C. Kristensen
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	J. Brosi; J. Hickman; J. Scotland
11.30 – 1.30	L. Holzer; J. Thompson; W. Meers
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	L. Goldsmith; P. Answerth
11.30 – 1.30	P. Edgley
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	L. Kovacs
11.30 – 1.30	S. Delaney
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	A. Ozga; T. Sharpe
11.30 – 1.30	C. Farnan
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
9.30 – 11.30	L. Banducci; J. Ingram
11.30 – 1.30	T. Munn; S. Brumley; T. Russell

This week find the hidden pictures in this picture...



**Out Of School Hours Care**

Welcome back everyone and to all the new families starting at the school. Currently places are filling fast for our Before School program however we still have availability for all After Care sessions. Please ensure you have completed a 2009 enrolment form as bookings do not carry over from last year. For any further information regarding the program please feel free to come and see us at our office or call on 9568 3529. Thanks. Miranda Boulton.

	<b>Before School Care Breakfast &amp; Activities</b>	<b>After School Care Activities</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>4 February</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> Cereal & Milo  <b>Activities:</b> Activity Packs Roadblock Tiggy	<b>Outside Play</b> <b>Art:</b> Stress Balls <b>Cooking:</b> Marshmallow T Cups <b>Sport:</b> Chair Soccer <b>Other:</b> Bat Tennis <b>Game:</b> Poison Ball
<b>Thursday</b> <b>5 February</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> Cheese on Toast & Milk  <b>Activities:</b> Relaxing to Music Ship Shark Shore	<b>Outside Play</b> <b>Art:</b> Jigsaw Puzzles <b>Cooking:</b> Pikelets <b>Sport:</b> Pony Express <b>Other:</b> Frisbees and Vortexes <b>Game:</b> Jumps
<b>Friday</b> <b>6 February</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> Scrambled Eggs & Milo  <b>Activities:</b> Story Tapes 6 Chair Soccer	<b>Outside Play</b> <b>Art:</b> Mosaic Art <b>Sport:</b> 10 Pin Bowling <b>Indoor:</b> -t <b>Game:</b> Free Time
<b>Monday</b> <b>9 February</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> Toast & Milo  <b>Activities:</b> Chess Challenge Music Games	<b>Outside Play</b> <b>Art:</b> Making Play dough <b>Cooking:</b> Fruit Cups <b>Sport:</b> Flag Warfare <b>Other:</b> Music Games <b>Game:</b> Octopus
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>10 February</b>	<b>Breakfast:</b> Fruit Salad & Juice  <b>Activities:</b> Celebrity Head Dodgeball	<b>Outside Play</b> <b>Art:</b> Trivia Night <b>Cooking:</b> Smoothies <b>Sport:</b> Dodgeball <b>Other:</b> Hoop Shoot Out <b>Game:</b> Tiggy Games

**Advertisements*****South Eastern Soo Bahk Do***

(A Family Karate School)



With an emphasis on family values, courtesy, respect and discipline.

VENUE: Murrumbena Hall, Murrumbena Park. Kangaroo Road.

TIME: Mon & Wed 6 to 7 pm  
Sat 9 to 10amCOST: \$7 for Juniors.  
\$8 for Adults.

First lesson FREE

Contact Derek on 95695572 after hrs or  
mob 0407 237 428**Fete News****Plant Stall Meeting**

Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 7.30pm  
Location: Marion Grant's Home  
6 Narbethong Road, Murrumbena.  
All green thumbs welcome!