

# Term 2 Week 2

## DIARY DATES

### MAY

Mon 11	Grade 4 Starlab incursion
Wed 13	Open Morning for prospective parents 9.30 – 11.00
Thurs 14	Grade 1 excursion to Imax and Melb Museum Prep excursion to the Zoo

Our staff and students returned to school refreshed and ready to get a start on what will prove to be a busy Term 2.

Last week we kicked off the term with the grade 5 camp which was held at Ballan. Camp Baanyi Biami is an idyllic adventure camp set in bushland. I was privileged to be able to visit the site last Wednesday with Anthony Simone, Assistant Principal. Our students as always, exhibited exemplary behaviour and were a delight to spend time with. I enjoyed the activities as much as the students and was delighted to see tentative students try new experiences and persevere with challenging activities. The smiles on their faces reflected their pride in the accomplishment of new learning. The tenacity the children showed encouraged me to overcome my fear of heights to take my turn on the flying fox and giant slide. I thank our wonderful students for guiding the way in helping “an old dog learn new tricks!” I also want to thank the staff for giving up time away from their families to ensure our students were able to experience new skills in a camp setting. I hope parents will also take the time to thank the staff as they are on duty for 24 hours of each camp day.

Our student led assemblies kicked off Term 2 with a bumper edition. The students were absolutely, brilliant and ably led by Zahide and Claire. I know the 117 parents who joined us for the assembly would have been impressed with the way our students are able to confidently address the assembly.

One of our focuses for this year has been to improve community links. I was extremely pleased to see 30 parents attend our second parent forum. The level of interest and in depth questioning from parents indicates the appreciation to learn more about our programs which are unique to our school. During Education Week, beginning May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a variety of learning modules for parents. Stay tuned for more information closer to the date. Forming partnerships between home and school is vital.

When families are involved in their children’s education in positive ways, children achieve higher grades and test

scores, have better attendance at school, complete more homework and demonstrate more positive attitudes.

Parents can help their children at home by:

- Reading regularly to younger students, listening to them read and providing a variety of reading material at home. The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success is reading aloud to your children.
- Supervising homework
- Monitoring absenteeism
- Monitoring television viewing and playing video and computer games
- Having high but realistic expectations
- Encouraging participation in extracurricular activities.

## **PARENTS VICTORIA ONLINE CONFERENCE 18-24 MAY 2009**

**Parents** of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. **You don’t need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part.** Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

### **Register online at no cost**

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on Monday 18 May at:  
[http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1\\_09/](http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/) but please register yourself online first at  
<http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>

The conference will feature seven ‘live’ daily online discussions.

There will also be one continuous week-long online discussion on the topic: **‘What support do parents need to be active participants in their children’s learning and development?’**

### **Each day the conference will discuss one of the following questions:**

**Parent/teacher meetings** - how could these meetings be improved?

**School attendance** - when is it okay to stay away?

**Transition** - what could be done to improve transition from one level of schooling to the next, i.e. kindergarten to primary, year 6 to secondary?

**Cyberbullying** - how do we keep our children safe?

**Sex education** - who's responsible?

**Banning confectionery from school canteens** - tell us your thoughts (this will be hosted on Thursday 21 May by Prue Cerin from the Victorian School Canteen Association)

**Parental engagement** - What can be done to get more parents involved in their children's schools? Hosted by DEECD.

Debra Brydon  
Online Conference Manager

I'd like to extend a **big thank you** to the following parents you gave up their time to help clean and sort the maths bunker late last term.



Isabel Evans  
Sarah Bird  
Chanda Biswas  
Katie Marsh

Thanks to your efforts, the maths bunker looks absolutely fantastic!

Kate Cugnetto  
Maths Coordinator

## SPORTS REPORT

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April the boys and girls interschool sports basketball teams competed in the Grand Final at Roxburgh Rise. The conditions were windy making it hard to score. Luckily both teams were successful in winning their matches. The girl's team consisted of Tanya, Bethany, Ebony, Roshni, Kayla, Alannah, Sara and Ashley. Unfortunately Abbey was absent on the day, but she assisted us in getting to the finals. The final score was 23 to 13 going Roxy's way but it was a close game. The boy's team was made up of Matt, Matthew, Ryan, Joel, Mauricio, Stephen and Jack. The final score was 20 to 16. All our hard work has paid off, as we can now add 2 new blue premierships pendants to our collection.

A big thankyou to Mari, Ben, Erwin and all the parents who helped out.

*Written by Bethany and Matthew from 6 Mari*

## MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Our school Mother's Day stall is coming up on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. Any donations to go towards our stall would be much appreciated and can be left at the Office.

Thank you for your help. The Fundraising Committee.

## HEALTH NEWS

### LIMIT 'SOMETIMES' FOODS

A recent Kids - 'Go For Your Life' survey found nearly half (46%) of Victorian school aged children were eating

lollies, chocolate, biscuits, cake or ice cream daily and 53% were drinking sweet drinks such as soft drink, fruit juice, cordial or sports drinks daily.

These foods and drinks are not essential for providing body nutrients and can contribute large amounts of energy and potentially harm growing bodies. By limiting 'sometimes' foods and drinks we can help children reach their full potential in life.

### Tips to help your family limit 'sometimes' foods and enjoy a variety of healthy foods every day.

- Make tap water the main drink for your family.
- Start healthy foods from a young age and healthy habits will carry into later life.
- Select healthy low fat take-away food options such as grilled fish or a lean meat burger and salad.
- Be a positive role model by making healthy food and drink choices with your child.
- Be patient and keep offering healthy meal and snack choices to your children.

'Everyday' foods and drinks for the family are vegetables, fruits, whole grain bread and cereals, low fat milk and milk products, lean meat, fish, poultry and legumes and water.

## FUN TIME AT THE KINDERGARTEN

We went to see the kids at the Kindergarten. While we were at the Kindergarten we helped lots of kids with their art. Some of us even got to play with them and they are really cute. They all had a clay flower and one clay heart to decorate and give to their Mum's for Mother's Day. They got to choose their own little cute shapes and they used these little shapes to decorate it. We bet their mother's will be so pleased on Mother's Day!!

Written by Annina, Emma and Jessica. 4Ben.

## TERM TWO ICT NEWS

This term our school will be involved in two exciting projects.

1. As part of an Action research project for the Department of Education, three Grade 5 and 6 classes are using the Nintendo Wii and DS during school time. We are looking at the impact of these games on the student's numeracy outcomes. This is an exciting project and the children are working very well at this early stage. If you are interested in learning more about this project then please contact Maree in the ICT Centre.

2. SuperClubs Plus is being trialled in the Grade 3 and 4 areas this term. SuperClubs Plus is a safe online environment where children are shown how to be responsible when working online. Children are currently working on earning their stars and building their own home pages. If your child is in Grade 3 or 4 and has not returned their SuperClubs Plus note, please see their class teacher for another note.