



The Poppet Head

Weekly newsletter of Quarry Hill Primary School
 "A Waste Wise School"

Tuesday 3 November 2009 Newsletter No. 34

Acting Principal: Andrew Schaeche
School Council President: Cathy Spencer
PFA Presidents: Rose Vincent & Kerrie Grossman

IMPORTANT DATES

	Time	Details
October		
November		
2, 3, 9, 10		Personal Development Program Sessions – Grade 6
Sunday 8	9.00 am – 1.00 pm	Working Bee Rooms 1, 2 & 3
Monday 9	3.30 pm	Walkathon sponsorship money due
Wednesday 11	10.50 am	Remembrance Day Commemoration Assembly
Thursday 12	9.00 am – 11.00 am	Wild Action – Mini Beast Incursion Prep/1
19, 20, 21		Energy Breakthrough
25 – 27		Maldon Camp Grade 3/4
Thursday 26		Grade 2 Sleepover
December		
Tuesday 8		Orientation Day Grade 6
Wednesday 9		School Christmas Carol Celebration
Friday 11		School Disco
Monday 14		Pinnell Swimming
Tuesday 15		Grade 6 Graduation
Friday 18	1.30 pm	Last day of Term - Early Finish

Principal's Report

Hi everyone,

"YOU CAN DO IT FOCUS" This term we will be focussing on the key foundation of **Persistence**.

Our Habit of the mind is: Giving Effort

Thought for the Fortnight: The harder I try, the more successful I will be, and knowing that success is not caused by external factors (luck, ease of task), but by internal factors (effort).

1:1 Netbook Program

Many of you will be aware that this year our grade 6 students have been fortunate enough to participate in a pilot netbook project run throughout our Region in all government schools. These students will use their netbooks during years 7 & 8 at government secondary schools. While the parents have been asked to pay \$52 per year over the three year period, the cost of the netbook project was heavily subsidised by the Department of Education and the Region. Last week at a combined meeting of Regional staff and principals from two networks, it was decided that all primary schools in the two networks would continue to support a 1:1 netbook program for grade 5 & 6 students. While we all agree that the value of the netbook program to enhance student engagement and learning is very high, there will be no subsidies to support this program. We are currently looking at options to make this happen and we will have a model to present to School Council in the coming weeks. We would be looking at a model where parents contribute an amount each year (approximately \$100 a year) when their child is in grade 5 & 6 to assist with the offset of the cost of this initiative. This payment will enable students to access a netbook at school and they will be able to take the same netbook home. There will need to be an insurance excess in the event of the netbook is broken, this figure will be discussed and decided at School Council. We plan to hold a meeting with parents in grades 4 & 5 in early December to outline details of the program and to answer any questions.

EMA -Changes for 2010

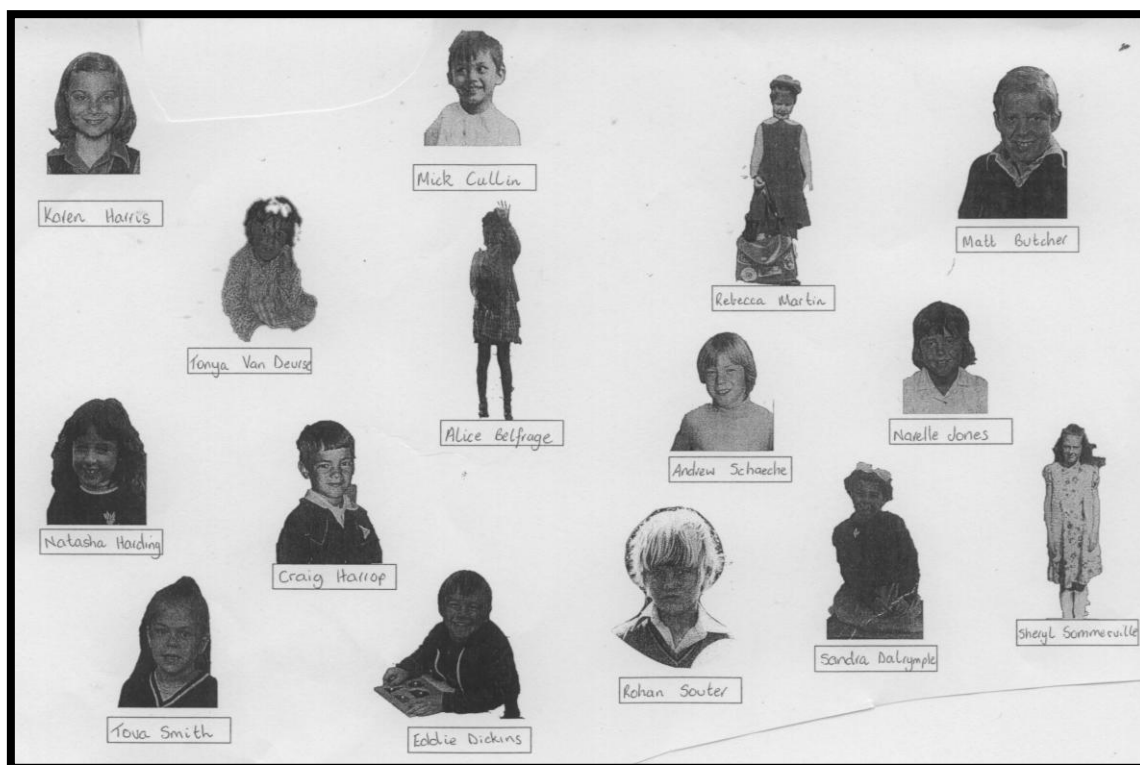
The EMA is indexed annually to the Melbourne Consumer Price Index (CPI) to ensure that the payments reflect the increase in the cost of living. For 2010 the CPI increase will take the allowance for primary students from \$221 to **\$225**. The increase for secondary students will take the allowance from \$443 to **\$450**. Parents will continue have the option to receive the parent portion of the EMA payment directly into their nominated bank account via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), **or** to receive their payment by cheque - as was the arrangement in 2009. The arrangements for 2010 continue to provide parents with 70% of their portion of the EMA for the first instalment and 30% of the EMA for the second instalment. This arrangement recognises that families incur the highest educational costs at the start of the school year.

Gardening Help

Due to some feedback via a 'cuppa and chat' session last term a few parents willingly volunteered their time to do some gardening around the school on a Friday morning between 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Last week Julie Strawhorn did a wonderful job weeding the front garden area just in time for the flower display we are starting to see from our new roses. If you have some spare time and can help out on a Friday morning we would appreciate some extra help.

World Teacher's Day

Last Friday was a celebration of all teachers throughout the world. To show our appreciation of our teachers the PFA provided a gift to all our teaching staff and put on a beautiful morning tea. We also celebrated the day by announcing the winners of our competition of matching the teachers to their primary school photo. We had 32 entries but only three were correct; it must have been harder than I thought! The lucky winners were Lily G, Josh C-G and Harry G and they all received a small prize for correctly identifying all teaching staff.



REPEAT NOTICES

Pupil Free Days for 2010 The Victorian Government Schools Agreement determines that the first three days of term one and the third last Friday of term two as pupil free days. This means that for the 2010 school year the pupil free days are as follows January 27th, 28th and 29th and June 11th. The first day of school for students in 2010 is Monday February 1st.

2010 Term Dates Term 1 February 1st - March 26th **Preps will have Wednesdays off in February so teachers can conduct prep interviews** Term 2 April 12th - June 25th Term 3 July 12th - September 17th Term 4 October 4th - December 17th

2010 Daily timetable

Next year we will be trialling a slightly different daily timetable from this and previous years. It will operate as follows:

9:00 am - 11:00 am	- 2 hour learning block
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	- lunch break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	- 2 hour learning block
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	- Afternoon recess break
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	- 1 hour learning block

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The reasons for the changes are as follows:

- One hour blocks fit in with our specialist timetable more conveniently and we don't have to start and finish specialist classes either side of the lunch break as we currently do.
- If there are interruptions in the morning session due to specialist classes, every class will still be able to conduct a two hour uninterrupted literacy block.
- Lunch break at 11:00 am ensures that the students are having enough to eat to sustain them until the afternoon break. We believe that having the substantial and often healthy lunch items such as sandwiches at this time will assist with this.
- Students will still have fruit breaks throughout the day.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call in and speak to me about this.

Christmas Carol Celebration Evening - Wednesday December 9th

This year, as an end of year celebration of learning and community gathering, we will be conducting a 'Christmas Carol Celebration Evening'. This event will be held on Wednesday December 9th. All grades will be performing a song and leading a Christmas carol and we hope to have performances from the choir, instrumentalists, jazz ballet, Indonesian instruments and lots more. We will also be presenting some awards on the night. It promises to be an enjoyable community evening, and it would be wonderful to see a large representation from our school community in attendance. More information will follow but please place this date in your diaries now.

Planning for 2010 & Friendship Requests

The 2010 grade structures are yet to be finalised however we will be running an extra class next year. We will have 10 classrooms and a likely enrolment of 240 students giving us an average of 24 students per class, smaller than this year. Staff places a great deal of importance on class structures and aim to establish productive environments that support learning as well as maintaining and building friendship groups. We try and aim for a balance of educational and social needs in each classroom.

If you have specific information about friendship placements which you feel that we at the school would not be aware of, please let me know in writing by Friday November 6th. Please be aware that requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Persistence

Jonah Cox	for persisting with his work and working hard towards reaching his goals.
Peter Schleiger	for a great effort with Lexile reading.
Jamie Grant	for achieving 200 home reading nights.
Tilly Cockfield	for achieving 200 home reading nights.
Abbi Scherger	for achieving 200 home reading nights.
Brayden Oates	for dedicating himself and achieving great results in maths.
Rory Spearing	for dedicating himself and achieving great results in maths.
Emma Greenall	for concentrating more in class and achieving very pleasing results.
Chelsea Gittins	for always being attentive during classroom discussion.

Resilience

Willem Edlin	for demonstrating great resilience in and around the classroom.
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Have a good week

Andrew Schaeche

Acting Principal

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Thank you to last week's helpers Anita Grigg and Kristy Dixon. The sausage sizzle will be available this Friday. Tickets can be purchased from Grade 5/6 students who will be selling tickets in the quadrangle from 8.30 – 9.00 am outside Room 9. This week's helpers are **Sheree Yates and Marissa Tout**. Sausage in bread = \$1.50. Hamburger in bread = \$2.00. Veggie Burger = \$2.50.

WALKATHON

Last Tuesday the school walkathon was held at Kennington Reservoir in perfect sunny conditions. The students walked enthusiastically with most completing three to five laps of the reservoir in the hour. It was great to see a number of parents and grandparents joining the students on the walk. Children now need to return sponsorship money to the office by next Monday November 9th. The draw for prizes will take place at assembly on Monday November 16th.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

There will be an environment committee meeting on Thursday November 5th. The meeting will begin at 8:00 am in room 3. Anyone interested in improving the environment of our school is most welcome to attend.

SCHOOL WORKING BEE

Our final school working bee is coming up this Sunday November 8th and to help with the working bee we are asking parents of students in years 2 & 3 to come and help out with the working bee. The working bee has a new starting time of 9:00 am and concludes at 1:00 pm with a barbeque lunch. If you can spare 30 minutes on the day to improve the environment of our school, it would be very much appreciated.

Jobs to be attempted during the day include mowing and general gardening, installing a drip system in the front garden and in the veggie patch, pressure washing the quadrangle, remove an old seat and erecting a low fence around a garden bed. Tools required on the day include-crowbars, shovels, pressure washer, pliers and a sledge hammer.

OSHC

OSHC has started an online blog! It will keep everyone up to date about our programs, news, websites to have a look at and lots more. Please have a look at the blog and leave a comment at any time. The address is <http://jstelford.globalstudent.org.au/>. If you have any old shirts that can be worn as art smocks and old children's dvd's or videos that have gathered dust, please donate them to OSHC as they would be greatly appreciated! Thanks Jess

RSL POPPY APPEAL – ON SALE THIS WEEK

We are pleased to be able to assist the RSL with the selling of poppies. We have on sale poppies for 50c and \$2 and \$5 for pin poppies. Students from Mrs Martin's room will be assisting with the sale of the poppies this week.

SCHOOL UNIFORM - STRATHMENS LAND

As the new school year approaches there are many things to be organised for your child's integration into Quarry Hill Primary School.

One of the important tasks is the purchase of your child's uniform. As our company has found in previous years it is extremely hard to predict the quantities needed for the new intake of students, to overcome this and ensure your child has all the uniform needed to commence, we are asking that parents/guardians bring in your child before December 11th to order the quantities desired. We do not require a deposit or payment to be made until the uniform is collected in January.

Stocked items are:

Bomber jacket

Rugby

S/S polo

L/S polo

Sumer dress

Thank you

Strathmensland

PFA NEWS

Next PFA meeting will be Tuesday November 10th at 9.00am in the staffroom.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GO SAILING DAY

The **Bendigo Yacht Club**, in conjunction with Yachting Victoria, is hosting a 'Go Sailing Day' at the **Bendigo Yacht Club**, Sunset Drive, Lake Eppalock, on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Come out to the lake and try sailing! Bring a picnic lunch, or a sausage sizzle will be available. Also bring a change of clothes (just in case you get wet), suitable footwear, a hat or cap and some SPF30. Safety gear will be provided. Pre-register by contacting Ian Wallis on 0408 102 272, or Rowan Gillies on 5442 4164, or just come on the day!

ParticipACTION Day

Sunday November 8th is participACTION Day around Bendigo. Many venues will be holding special activities for families to participate in such as dance, ice skating, archery and many more. For full details and a list of the venues please go to www.sportslink.org.au.

CHRISTMAS KIDS PROGRAM – NEALE STREET UNITING CHURCH

This program will be a fun time for all primary school aged children to learn more about Jesus' birth. This year the theme is "A Journey Towards Christmas" and we are planning a fantastic morning for the children! The session will be held on Saturday December 5th at Neale Street Uniting Church between 10.00 am – 12.30 pm. There will be no charge to families to have their children involved. If you are interested in your child/ren being part of this fantastic program, please complete the registration from attached and post it to Neale Street Uniting Church by Friday December 12th.