Calendar

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<td>16th March</td>
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<td>Ride to School Day</td>
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<td>18th March</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Funky Hair Day—Gold Coin Donation</td>
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<td>18th March</td>
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<td>Grade1/2 Pizza Night and Sleepover</td>
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<td>19th March</td>
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<td>Dahlia and Arts Parade/Relays</td>
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<td>21st - 23rd March</td>
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Principal’s Column

Principal’s Awards

There will be no awards this week due to public holiday on Monday.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You will have read in our last newsletter the plans to restructure our approach to the School Fair and the Night on the Green event. The proposal is that the Fair occur every second year and that the Night on the Green, which is also bi-annual, be 'ramped up' to include some food and drink stalls and a major raffle. In effect these two events will alternate. On Thursday March 17th at 3.00pm our Fundraising chairperson Jody Abel will be available in the staffroom to chat with any parents on the topic of fundraising. She would love to hear people's thoughts or opinions, particularly on the subject of the Fair. Please consider going along and having your say.

Monday 14th March, Labour Day Holiday
BOMBERS RE-VISIT

On Tuesday we had two more Essendon players, Luke Davis and Angus Monfries, visit our school and share some of their experiences in the AFL. They spoke with our Grade 5/6's about how they made their way through the junior ranks of football and also shared some of the struggles and highs of the experience. The children had some interesting questions to fire at them. They followed this up with a clinic on the oval. Those of us who aren't Collingwood supporters wish them luck in their pre-season Grand Final tomorrow night.

THE FLAG FLIES AGAIN

We have re-located our flagpole to make the Australian flag more central and visible. You will see it just outside the wooden stairway at the end of the admin building. In line with Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy we will also soon have the Koorie flag flying. It will have its own flagpole located not too far from the existing pole. We received a new flag via the offices of Steve Gibbons, our local Federal Member.

PLEASE DO NOT WALK ACROSS OUR DRIVE-THROUGH

The heading says it all. We have a rule in place that asks families not to walk across the driveway. If you choose to park on-site please help us with this safety rule. Enter and exit via the entrance to the parking area.

THE SLAB IS COMPLETE!

Last Friday saw the pouring of the final section of the slab of the new building. It is now a vast area of concrete, ready for the construction of the steel frame. A very elaborate cable tray is being constructed to carry electricity and other cabling from the new building to the existing buildings. Lots of very interesting things for us to watch at the moment. July is still officially the time for completion.

John Morton
Principal

You Can Do It Awards. There will be no awards this week due to Labour Day weekend.

Assistant Principal’s Column

PREP’S ATTENDING FOR THE WHOLE WEEK

During the first four weeks of school our Prep students have been attending four days a week and it is now lovely to have them at school on Wednesdays.

Our Prep teachers during these Wednesdays have been involved in using the English Online Interview,
which is a DEECD requirement to measure student progress, strengths and weaknesses to inform their teaching according to students learning needs. The Prep – 2 team have been using the Online Numeracy Interviews which is an extensive numeracy program to diagnose starting points for learning.

WHOLE SCHOOL READING

Each Monday commences with our whole school assembly which is now followed by a whole school ‘reading time’. This week was our first attempt at having all students and staff engaged in reading at once across the school. Students were reading in classrooms, at the front of the school ‘on the green’, under shady trees, in the Library and in the Multi Purpose Room. We have introduced this wonderful program because we value the importance of reading and wish to emphasise the fact that more practice improves skills which leads to achievement. I know many families support us by reading with their children at night and modelling the reading process at home whether it is newspapers, books or magazines.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

At the front desk the ladies in the office keep a store of ‘Visitor’ badges. Any visitor who comes to the school is asked to sign the visitor’s book and wear a badge for identification.

We are lucky enough to often have parents in the school assisting in our school day for a variety of reasons. So we would encourage you to drop by the office and pick up a badge and sign in to our visitor book.

This is a standard procedure across schools so that if we have any emergencies we know exactly who is in the school at that time. It is also easy for staff and students to identify you as an authorised person in our school.

SCHOOL NURSE-UPDATE

Recently we sent out the ‘Prep School Nurse Assessment Forms’. We have been quite successful with having most forms returned, if you have not yet sent yours back it is not too late and we do have some spare copies if yours has gone astray. Denise Watson popped in this week and will start work with us next week. Denise not only works with the Prep students, she checks other students who have ongoing concerns and makes referrals. If you would like to make an appointment with Denise to discuss any concerns, please contact the office.

Until next week,

Helen Forrest

Senior News

STUDENTS HAVE NOW COMPLETED two of their project tasks on Values. They will continue working on this project throughout the term. The next two tasks are due this Friday March 11th.

TEN ‘JUMP ROPE FOR HEART’ students attended a work shop in Melbourne at the Netball Hockey Centre today. They will now be able to help other students in the JRFH team perform new and exciting tricks.

HOBBIES AND CLUBS began yesterday and the students were able to participate in a variety of activities. They all seemed to enjoy the activity they had chosen. Thank you to Mrs G who has offered her help in Paper Quilling.

HOMEWORK: We would appreciate your support in your child’s endeavours in getting the homework completed and handed in on time. This is due back on Friday of each week. Failure to complete homework tasks will result in your child attending ‘Homework Club’ during Monday lunchtime.

Helen Forrest
READING - This Literacy skill is vital and needs to be practised as often as possible. At school we read at least once every day and also endeavour to involve children in worthwhile Statewide and school Literacy activities, two of which are outlined below. Please continue to support your child’s daily home reading practice.....

“The more you read the more places you will go” a quote by Dr. Seuss.

Please continue to return any misplaced readers that are found at home. More than 20 readers were returned last week which boosted our reading supplies!

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE – 2011 is the sixth year of this special event. The aim of this challenge is to create further interest in reading. As part of the Prep and Grade One Literacy program teachers will read 30 books from the Premiers Reading Challenge list to the children. Teachers will also record all the necessary data on the PRC website. Grade Two and Three children will independently read 30 books and upload book titles on the website. If your child returns the permission form they will receive a beautiful certificate which is designed by a special artist and also signed by the Premier. A wonderful keepsake!

BIG READ - All classes enjoyed ‘buddying up’ after Monday Morning Assembly for 20 minutes of quiet reading. Some classes even enjoyed reading outdoors - ‘on the green’ and in the Koorie garden.

LABELS - There still seems to be a significant number of unnamed clothing, lunchboxes and drink bottles. Please take the time to label these! Also young children can often take home other children’s belongings by mistake. It is important for parents to check labels and ensure other children’s property is returned promptly to school.

REMINDER - Please return notes for the Grade One Pizza and Disco Night and Grade Two Sleepover ASAP. We are getting excited about this upcoming camps activity.

The Early Years team,
Tina, Amelia, Taygen, Cheryl, Carolyn, Cherie and Greg

Sports News

HOCKEY

We had a visit last week from the Bendigo Hockey Association who ran a hockey for the day with our students. Two coaches attended our school and taught the students the various skills required to play hockey. Well done to all the students that attended these sessions.
Art News

WE’VE ALL HAD ANOTHER TERRIFIC WEEK in the Art Room. Senior students have been painting ‘Picasso Portraits’ and working on a Book Focussed Painting. Junior students have been having a lot of fun Water Painting their terrific pictures. Well Done to all students, your artwork is looking sensational.

DAHLIA AND ARTS FESTIVAL is just over a week away and the Art Room is full to the brim with decorations for our procession entry. The students are all very excited about being part of such a wonderful event, I look forward to seeing everyone all dressed up on the day! If there are any parents out there who have a few spare hours on Friday the 18th March, I would love some help setting up our float. This process takes up most of the day, so any help would be greatly appreciated.

I will be sending a note home next week with all the final details, including times and meeting places, I am currently waiting for confirmation from the Dahlia and Arts Association in regards to this. Thanks to all parents and staff who have already contributed their time, the support has been wonderful.

Thanks All,

Bekki

Office News

One Stop Shop To Support Schools’ - A motivational session relevant to parents, school councillors & school mgt/staff- ‘To sustain and engage school communities’. Date: Wednesday, March 16th, 2011. Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm. Place: Big Hill Primary School. Location: 5644 Calder Highway, Big Hill 3555.

FOR SALE GRADE 6 POLO SHIRT - We have available at the office a previously owned 2011 Grade 6 Polo shirt, size 14 in Navy, available at the price of $15.00. If you wish to purchase this shirt please contact the office.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY - The Sebastian Association Inc have available a Community Directory for Neilborough, Raywood, Sebastian and Woodvale. If you would like a copy they are available at the office.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - We are expecting the delivery of our school photo packs on 28th March. The packs will go home within that week to be returned by Friday 8th April. Photo’s will be taken on Tuesday 3rd May.

FRIDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL
$2.00 PER GAME
New Players Welcome

Games start at 5.30pm at the St Liborius Courts, Panton Street, Eaglehawk 8 TO 14 YEARS - SUIT BEGINNERS
The aim of the Eaglehawk Basketball Association is to have fun, learn ball skills and participate in a team sport.

Junior Coordinator: Rosemary Metcalf 5446 2809
Contact: Christy Gordon 0418467342 Diane McIntosh 5448 3396
Could you please keep the above dates in mind for the coming year.

**Mothers Day stall** will be on the 6th May. Any donations can be brought to the office and if you could help on the day please let the office staff know. We are also seeking donations for our Easter raffle which will be drawn on Monday 4th April. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly.

**The Fundraising Committee** are looking into changing the setup for our major fundraising event this year.

We are proposing that instead of having two major events for the year we will be holding *‘A Night On The Green’*.

This event will only include stalls selling food, drinks, show bags, etc.

**This means that we will not have our ‘School Fair’ this year. Under the new plan the Fair will take place every second year with the Night On The Green in the alternate year.**

If you have any feedback in regards to this proposed change of events please contact the office.