

# In Touch Newsletter

Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

Volume 2008 Issue 1



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## DIARY DATES

### MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2008

Instrumental Music lessons commence

### TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2008

Buildings & Grounds meeting 6.00pm

### WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY

OSHC Committee 4.30pm

### THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Finance Committee meeting 4.30pm

### MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY

School Council Meeting 7.00pm

### TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

Prep Information evening

### MONDAY 10 MARCH

Labour Day Public Holiday - **NO SCHOOL**

### TUESDAY 11 MARCH

Preps attend full time

### FRIDAY, 20 MARCH

End of Term 1 – Early dismissal 2.30pm

Easter 21/3/08 to 24/3/08

### MONDAY, 7 APRIL

Term 2 begins

## Traffic Management :

### - A.M.

- Stop to drop children off in the laneway only at the main building area.
- Park briefly and drop off in the 5 min. bays.
- Park in surrounding streets and walk back with children.
- Drive carefully in the streets surrounding the school.

### - P.M.

- No stopping in the laneway.
- Parents to park in surrounding streets and walk to meet children.
- Drive carefully in the streets surrounding the school.
- At no time can parents park in the driveway off Flemington St this is far too dangerous as children wait there every day as it is drop off/pick up zone.

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## Principal's Report

*Lesley McCarthy*

Welcome back to the 2008 school year. Thank you to the staff and parents who have made the start of the school year such a rewarding and positive experience for the children. We look forward to a rewarding partnership between school and home as we undertake the learning journey together with your children.

A special welcome to the many new families to our school and to the 60 new prep children who started school today. We wish them all a successful and enjoyable primary school experience.

**Staffing** - This year we welcome several new and returning staff to the school:

Mrs Agata Puglia will teach Prep in Room 11

Mrs Alexandra Reid will team teach with Christina Irwin in Grade 1/2

Mrs Tania Crook will teach Grade 5/6 in Room 5

Mrs Natasha Gracey will teach Library Prep – 2

Signora Anna Pietrolungo will teach LOTE Grades 3-6

**School Uniform** - It was also extremely pleasing to see the increasingly large number of students wearing the school uniform. We have an attractive uniform range and strongly encourage all students to wear uniform.

**Facilities** - Families will have noticed the many facilities works which have occurred during the school holidays. Many of these works were as a result of an Investing in Schools Grant from the Commonwealth Government. The shade sails have been installed over the amphitheatre and junior playground equipment; the old sports shed and decommissioned toilet block have been demolished; new cupboards have been installed in the Multi corridor and existing cupboards painted and the two prep rooms in that block have been painted and a doorway between these rooms installed. We anticipate that this will make for an attractive and effective teaching environment with more sharing. Thank you to Sandra McOrist and Scott D'arcy for their assistance during these projects.

**Communication** - In an attempt to improve communication between school and home, a number of processes and projects will change this year. The first is that all notices distributed to students and parents will be colour coded according to content and action. **PINK** – urgent notices which require a signature; **GREEN** – PE, Sport & Camp; **BLUE** – fundraising, **YELLOW** – year level specific information and **BUFF/FAWN** – School Council.

## SCHOOL FEES AND LEVIES

Would parents please ensure that all school fees are paid to the office by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Please note, payments will be receipted over the next couple of weeks and receipts will be sent home via the classroom.

## PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Will commence next week

## GENERAL NEWS

- Early Leavers Book - if you need to take your child from school before 3.30 pm the Early Leavers Book must be signed at the Office.
- Visitors Badges - all visitors, including parents need to pick up and wear a badge when visiting the school at any time. If parents are helping in classrooms or attending meetings please call at the Office first.
- Before and After School Childcare - Enrolments and messages can be left either in the Childcare pigeonhole near the Office or on the answering machine on : 0412 250 131. Younger children will be collected from their classrooms by the Childcare Assistant.
- Sunsmart Policy - Flemington Primary School is a fully accredited Sunsmart School and endorses the procedures that protect our children from the harmful UV rays of the sun. In Spring / Summer we recommend that your children be well prepared with a Hat that has a broad brim and sunblock to protect them from sunburn. All classrooms also have Pump packs of sunscreen available to the children. Please advise your child's teacher if your child suffers from any known allergies or reactions from sunscreen.
- During Terms 1 & 4 it is compulsory for all students to wear a broad brimmed hat when in the playground. Students not wearing a suitable hat will be required to sit in the shade.
- The school runs a hot/wet day program on appropriate days to limit time outside on these days.
- All classrooms are air conditioned to help us through the very hot days.
- Shoulders and tummies must be covered to protect against the sun.
- Footwear - to protect student's feet and ankles. No thongs or shoes with high heels to be worn. Sandals must cover toes or socks to be worn to protect little toes.
- Medication Policy - the procedure for the supervision and administration of medications at school is as follows :

All medicines (prescription & non- prescription) will require a completed Consent of Medication Form signed by a parent/guardian. Consent of Medication Forms are available from the office.

- When medicines\* are sent to school they will be housed in a locked cupboard in the administration area of the school. Medicines will be sent home with students at the end of the day.

\*Personal asthma medication (puffers) are to be kept within convenient reach of the child e.g. classroom/child's bag.

**This procedure is to ensure that there is a safe structure for the handling and administration of medicines across the school.**

- **Box of Tissues (named)** All students are requested to send a box of tissues to school within the next 2 weeks. These will be used by the grade during the year.
- Bell Times

8.55	Line up bell
9.00	Lessons begin
11.00 - 11.30	Recess
1.30 - 2.30	Lunch
3.30	Dismissal

**Supervised Hours** - Students must not be at school unsupervised by a parent before 8.45 am. or after 3.45 pm. A teacher will be supervising the grounds from 8.45 am > 9.00 am and 3.30 pm > 3.45 pm. Discuss with your child what to do if you are delayed-find a teacher/go to Office.

## Allergies

We have several children who may suffer severe life-threatening reactions to some foods. As part of our management of these student's allergies we are requesting the co-operation of all parents in providing a safe environment at our school. We are requesting NUT PRODUCTS, including peanuts, peanut butter and all tree nuts such as cashews are not part of any child's lunch.

In previous years we have had fantastic support by all the school community and we are very appreciative of the co-operation of all families in caring for the well being of others.

## Assistant Principal's Corner

Sandra McOrist

Welcome back to everyone.

I would like to thank Nathan and David Kramer for the fabulous repair and paint job completed on the inside of the cubby house over the holidays. It certainly makes it a far more inviting place to play.

This week, most Australian kids will be going to school, pre-school or even child-care. Some children will be beginning a new experience. Others will be **returning** to school or child-care after a holiday break. Many will be **changing** from one school to another either as a result of a move or transition to a new level of schooling. Whether your child is a **starter, returner** or a **changer** this time of year offers an opportunity to get off on the right foot. This is important as kids' success at school is often determined by how they start.

The start of the year is a brilliant opportunity for a new beginning for those who may have struggled last year at school either academically or socially. A clean slate is important for some children and young people. The new year provides an opportunity for children to grow personally as they need to meet new challenges. Adapting successfully to change or altered circumstances is a basic life skill and here are five things that you can do to help get your kids off to the BEST start ever and maximise this time of OPPORTUNITY:

### **Pump UP the positives:**

Kids react differently to change and new circumstances. The good news is that they tend to take their cues from their parents. So be positive in your language and attitude toward the coming events. If school 'sucks' then point their attention towards the positives – different friends, new activities or fun teacher. Find something positive for them to focus on.

### **Be patient:**

It takes some kids longer than others to settle, make friends and move into a new routine. If kids are finding things a little tough let them know that things will get better. Resist the temptation to change situations that may not be ideal for your child. Be a supportive parent rather than a rescuer parent. Teach your kids the value of patience.

### **Process what happens:**

Help children and teens process their new experiences and be willing to fill in the gaps of what they don't see. Kids can be faulty observers forgetting that there maybe two sides to every story; and that there may be good reasons for schools doing what seem to be dumb things to them. Point out the pieces they don't see.

### **Play down blowouts:**

School and child-care can be tiring for kids as they negotiate new relationships, learn new routines and adjust to new adults so they frequently become tired, grumpy and cantankerous at home. It's hard to be good all day so parents often have to cop the brunt of their bad stuff for a time.

### **Work out problems with the school or child-care setting:**

Work out the right channels and take any settling in issues to the right people at the right time. Don't be in too much of a hurry though as you need to give kids a chance to settle.

Psychologically, the way a child starts a process will often determine his or her eventual success. Getting off to a good start does make a difference and parents are very much part of this process. So be prepared to focus more of your energies and attention toward children than usual as they settle in at this important time of the year.

## Working Bee Term 1 Grade 5 / 6

Dear Grade 5 /6 Parents and Flemington families,

Working Bees are held on a regular basis. Each term a particular year level is targeted but all families are welcome to attend. Students are particularly welcome as it is their school. The Buildings & Grounds Committee appreciate your assistance in the continued upkeep of our school grounds.

**SUNDAY March 2nd 9 a.m.- 12 noon**

## Curriculum Corner

Flemington Primary School follows the curriculum set by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development. This is the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and covers Prep to Year 10.

The curriculum starts with the "basics" in Prep and extends to cover a large number of learning areas in later years. The structure and breadth is explained in the booklet available at the office or on the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority website at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

For more information, see the school website at <http://www.flemingtonps.vic.edu.au/teaching/curric.html>

Information evenings for all will be held in the next few weeks and dates will be advised in next week's newsletter.

## IN TOUCH EMAILS

If you are interested in receiving In Touch by email each week instead of a hardcopy, please email you request to [sandham.laura.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:sandham.laura.l@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Please include the name of the youngest child attending FPS.

Thank-you.

## Instrumental Music News

*Vern O'Hara – Music Coordinator – 0403 777 050*

### TERM 1 TIMETABLES

Term 1 lessons for the instrumental music program will commence Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Copies of the timetable which includes day and time of lessons for Week 1 are available for collection outside the office. A copy of the timetables is also on display on the Music noticeboard in the main corridor. A list of the theory classes is also included. These classes will be held either before or after school. Your child's teacher will give out copies of the rotating timetable for the rest of the term at your child's first lesson.

If you have any questions concerning the Instrumental Program please see Vern at the school or contact him on his mobile 0403 777 050.

### School ensembles and choir membership 2008

The school ensembles will commence rehearsals on the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. The instrumental teachers will be nominating students for our various ensembles on the basis of their skill level. Your child's teacher will give them an 'Invitation to join a school ensemble' form at your child's first lesson, if they feel they are ready to participate in a particular ensemble. There is a fee of \$25.00 per term for membership of an ensemble. You will need to fill in the form and return it to Mr O'Hara. The ensembles rehearse at lunchtimes from 1.30 - 2.00 pm. If you have any questions concerning ensemble membership, please see Vern at school or contact him on his mobile 0403777050.

The Junior and Senior choirs will commence rehearsals on the same week-Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Junior choir is for students in Years 1 & 2 and will rehearse on Wednesday from 1.40-2.05 and Senior choir for students in years 3 to 6 and will rehearse on Monday from 1.40-2.05. If your son/daughter is interested in continuing in one of the choirs this year or joining one of the choirs, they will need to collect a 'School Choir membership' form from the office or from Mr O'Hara and complete and return the form ASAP. There is a fee of \$40.00 per year to be a member of the choir.

## OSHC News

*Kaye Evans – OSHC Coordinator – 0412 250 131*

### O.H.S.C. Fee Arrangement

1. All O.H.S.C. invoices are due for payment 7 days from issue.
2. All families will be invoiced on the first day of the month for the month in advance.
3. A bond will be imposed on all new families using the program and held in trust to be returned to families when they leave the program or the school. The bond has been set at \$100 for the first child and \$50 for each sibling in the O.H.S.C. program.
4. Placement on the waiting list for places in the program will incur a fee equal to the bond. This will be held in trust and returned to families when they withdraw from the waiting list, leave the program or the school.

### Current Fees

- Sick days will be charged at full rate.
- Aftercare \$10 per session
- Before-care \$ 5.50 per session
- Curriculum Day \$30.00 per session
- Vacation Care \$35.00 per session
- Casual Fee \$12.00 per session

Thank-you  
*Kaye Evans*  
 OSHC Co-ordinator

## Parents Association News

Thank you to Rosie Hayes for organizing the Prep parents morning tea for their first day of school. Thanks to all the parents who assisted and attended to make our new families welcome. This is a very positive opportunity to make links with new families and our school.

### ICYPOLE DUTY

With lots of hot weather still to come we are calling for parents to support the sale of icypoles on Tuesdays.

Time: 10.45am – 11.35am

Duties: Collect canteen key from the office

Serve icypoles and take monies

Lock canteen and return key and monies to the office

Please complete the return slip and place your response in the "Icypole Volunteer" box located outside the office. In order to get a timetable up and running we would appreciate your response by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Any queries please contact Jacqui on 9370 8892 or Rosie on 9326 0339.

### **ICYPOLE VOLUNTEER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Please nominate how frequently you are available.

Weekly  Fortnightly  Monthly  Term

1st Tues of mth  Last Tues of mth

Would you like to team with a friend?

Yes  No Friend's name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Office News

### 2008 Education Maintenance Allowance

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 current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29 January 2008 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (14 July 2008).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2008 for the first instalment and 1 August 2008 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of \$215 for primary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques. Students turning 16 years in 2008, will be paid on a pro rata basis and not on the 70/30% basis.

#### Payment Amounts

Instalment	Portion	Primary school*
One	Parent	\$ 75.25
	School	\$ 75.25
Two	Parent	\$ 32.25
	School	\$ 32.25
Total		\$ 215.00

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2008 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29 February 2008 and prior to or on 1 August 2008, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office. If you applied for the 2008 EMA at the end of 2007 you will not need to reapply when returning your 2008 Fees & Levy form.

Thank you.

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

It is now a requirement by law (as of December 30<sup>th</sup> 2007) that all parents who volunteer their time at the school during normal school hours hold a Working With Children Check.

If you plan to do any volunteer work at the school you can apply for a WWC Check at any Australia Post. Please note that your WWC Check card *must be visible at all times* during volunteer work.

## Community News

### Michael Grose presents Devils, Darlings, and Discipline

Michael will entertain, inspire and stimulate parents to assess their approach to parenting and find out what works and what doesn't.

Venue: The Supper Room, Level 3  
Melb Town Hall Swanston St  
Enter via the portico entrance

Date: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Time: 7-9pm

Free but bookings are essential.

RSVP: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb on 9328 8953

### **Fitness - kick@flemington**

**FREE** Group outdoor Fitness Training

When: Every Wednesday 6am

Where: Newmarket Reserve Cnr of Racecourse and Epsom Rd

*Get trained by World fitness Champ Matt Thom.*

Phone 9376-8088 or visit website

[www.fitnesskick.com.au](http://www.fitnesskick.com.au)

### **Walking Bus 2008**

A flyer has been sent home to each family today with information regarding the Walking Bus Program in 2008.

## Community News

### Monash Uni Professional Development Programs -Summer - Autumn 2008

The Faculty of Education offers Professional Development Programs which will be of interest to parents at your school. The programs range from one-day workshops to 10-week part-time classes, many courses provide credit towards undergraduate or postgraduate study within the Faculty of Education at Monash University.

#### **Integration Aide/Teacher's Aide**

This is a valuable qualification for people who would like to work in schools with children with special needs.

#### **Educational Planning for Students with Special Needs.**

Building on the Integration Aide course, though it is not a prerequisite, it provides the participants with the skills and knowledge to enable them to write and implement an Individual Educational Plan for students with special needs.

#### **Adolescent Counselling**

This will be of interest to parents who want to gain skills in how best to support adolescents. This course is recognised by the Faculty of Education to the value of 12 credit points, at post graduate level.

For more information please refer to the Monash University website at:

[www.education.monash.edu.au/shortcourses](http://www.education.monash.edu.au/shortcourses).

For an application form or further information on a specific course, please contact Juliette Coloca on 9905 2700 or email [fdo@education.monash.edu.au](mailto:fdo@education.monash.edu.au) or visit our website.

### Creative Contemporary Dance Classes

**Dance Discovery:** 2-6 yrs

**Creative Contemporary Dance:** 6-14 yrs

**Parent-Child Dance & Play** for children who have development concerns: 2-6 yrs

**"Come & Try" classes now!!**



Canterbury Street Stables, Flemington  
Ring Lee: 9376-6396 or [leefrances@bigpond.com](mailto:leefrances@bigpond.com)  
*Performing Arts & Occupational Therapy*

### **Tennis Coaching**

Group Lessons from \$4.99 per class, Private Lessons from \$17.50 per class, Match Play \$9.99 per Night, Qualified T.C.A. Coaches, Tennis Workout from \$7.49 per session.

*Kensington Banks Tennis Club, Smithfield Road OR North Park Tennis Club, Flemington Rd. Phone: 9521 4772 OR email [tpta@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tpta@optusnet.com.au)*