31st January, 2013

**From The Principal's Desk**

A very warm welcome back to all of our families for the start of the new school year. I trust that you all had a great time over Christmas and the New Year and that you are all filled with enthusiasm for the year which lays ahead. We look forward to welcoming our new prep's who will commence school with us tomorrow.

This is a shortened newsletter with our first full newsletter planned for next week.

Next Wednesday February 6th, is a pupil free day approved by school council. We are fortunate to have been able to arrange for Lisa Keskinen, a well-regarded educationalist, to work with our staff for three days. Her first day will be next Wednesday without the children at school and then a further two days, one late February and the other early in March, to work with the teachers in classrooms with the children. Lisa will lead us in developing our skills in the area of oral language, (which is the core skill of all language development) and the further development of writing skills. Funding for this work has been through the Supporting Professional Practice Grant we successfully applied for in 2012.

“sKids” will offer a full day program on this day for those students whose parents require it and who are registered. If you are not registered and require this service- either next Wednesday or for the normal before/after/vacation care, forms are available from the office. To find out more details regarding times, programs and costs, please see Matt Hine who works out of the ELC each day before and after school.

Our first whole school assembly will be next Friday, February 8th at 2.50 in the multi purpose room. This will feature our first Grade of the Week for 2013 – the class of 5/6L- and we will also be presenting our house and school captain badges. Parents are encouraged to attend these assemblies to help celebrate our student achievement, to find out what the children have been doing each week and to find out what else is happening in and around the school.

You may have read the article in the local paper this week relating to the reduced subsidies VicRoads will be providing to local councils in the next financial year which may lead to some school crossings losing their crossing supervisors. The corner of Seaforth Rd and Railway Pde, which a number of students at this school, along with students attending Patterson River Secondary College and St Anne’s Catholic School also use, has been identified as one of thirteen of these crossings. I, along with other principals from across the municipality, will be attending a meeting at Frankston Council next Monday afternoon and I should have more information for you next week.

School canteen will commence on Friday Feb. 8th. As always we desperately need volunteers to help, so if you would be available once a fortnight, once a month or even just once a term, please let us know. Our children love having the opportunity to have a lunch order at school but we can only continue to provide this service if we have sufficient people to run it, so please give this your consideration. A reminder to you also that Marina’s Café will not be providing lunches for students this year, but we hope to reactivate this sometime in the future.

Towards the end of last year I wrote in the newsletter regarding the importance of punctuality at school each morning at 9 am and, the importance of not picking children up prior to 3.30 unless it is absolutely essential. This develops in our students the ability to be reliable and responsible and also demonstrates to them that you value their education. Please help your child in developing these skills and understandings throughout the school year.

I look forward to the school working together with you to provide the very best for your child throughout the 2013 school year. Please remember that it is a partnership and it is important that we have close communication with each other.

Regards
Michael
BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST
FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to another school year. With term one approaching it is time to get your children ready for their return to school or attendance at a children’s service. While their asthma is just one of the many things to get ready, this checklist will hopefully make the process easier.

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or 'spikes', in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children and adolescents in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these 'spikes' usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school or preschool. A significant 'spike' in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital, of children and adolescents experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February. For this reason, we have compiled a quick checklist for parents and carers to go through to prepare their child for the school year.


Is your child ready for new school year?

- My child has had an annual asthma management review with their doctor and has had their Asthma Action Plan reviewed
- My child has up to date ambulance membership
- My child knows how to recognise early symptoms of asthma and knows when to seek help from staff if they experience asthma symptoms
- My child understands the importance of taking reliever medication when necessary and knows how to use their puffer and spacer, either independently or with assistance.
- An updated Asthma Action Plan has been provided to my child’s school/children’s service. Even if their Asthma Action Plan has not changed from last year it is important that a letter is provided to the school/children’s service informing staff of this. It is vital that staff know what to do for your child in an asthma emergency
- A reliever puffer and spacer (and mask for children under 5 years old) has been provided to the school/children’s service for my child. With the change in infection control guidelines, spacers can no longer be shared between children and it is vital that each child has their own equipment
- I have read and understood the school/children’s services asthma policy

For more information, resources or assistance completing this checklist please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au

REMINDER FROM THE ART ROOM

Could all children please provide a named art smock or old shirt for use in the Art Room.

Thanks

Mrs Giles