Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bushwahzee
The Bushwahzee event was held on Monday this week and it was wonderful to see how it brought the school community together. I think the students took great pleasure in demonstrating to their parents and guardians, their new dancing skills that they had acquired during the day.

Thank you to everyone who came along as it was a great opportunity to relax and enjoy Christmas and to catch up with family and friends. Congratulations to Amy for organising Bushwahzee band day and performing with them and also the staff, the Events Committee members and other parents who pitched in to help out and make the event even more enjoyable.

Parents, Guardians and Friend Morning tea
Next Monday 17th December a ‘Parents, Guardians and Friend Helpers’ Morning Tea will be held in the Hall at 10:40am to celebrate and thank everyone for all their support and work this year. It is wonderful how supportive parents/guardians/grandparents are and their work enables a richer learning environment for students and a greater sense of community in the school. Thank you also to all the helpers who will not be able to attend as your work is greatly appreciated by the staff, students and me. To help with catering if you have not already done so, could you please contact the office to let us know that you are able to attend.

End of School Year, Student Reports and other Matters
There will be the usual Friday assembly tomorrow afternoon with a number of awards and presentations being made. The 5/6 students will also be returning from their camp.

The following events of the final week are:
• Parent, Guardian and Friend Helpers’ Morning Tea 10:40am on Monday 17th December.
• Class Christmas parties and celebrations on Tuesday 18th December.
• The Student End of Year reports on Tuesday 18th December. These will be sent home with the children, however, if students are away these will be posted to a home address.
• Wednesday 19th. Students will meet their 2013 teacher as part of our transition process and information about school staffing will be provided in the newsletter. (It will be published Wednesday instead of Thursday)
• Wednesday night, 19th December. Year 6 Graduation for the exiting Year 6 students.
• Thursday the 20th December. Last day of term. There will be a farewell assembly, held at the flag pole at 3.15pm.
Last Day of the School Year for Students 2012
This year, as Friday 21st December will be a Pupil Free Curriculum Day, the last day of the term for students will be celebrated on Thursday 20th December. Students will be dismissed at 3.30pm as usual with a Farewell Assembly at the Flag Pole commencing at 3.15pm. The SAC program will be running on the Friday.

School Commencing Arrangements 2013
The School Office will re-open on Tuesday 29th January 2013. The school will recommence for students in Year Levels 1-6 on Wednesday 30th January 2013. School begins for Preps the following day on Thursday 31st January and on this day there will be a Parents Welcome Morning Tea at 9.15am in the Hall.

Pupil Free Days 2013
School Council has also approved Pupil Free Curriculum Days and School Council Committee Dates for 2013. Please note the following dates: Tuesday 29th January, Friday 26th April, Monday 4th November (the day before Melbourne Cup Day) and Friday 20th December (the last day of school). I believe that this arrangement will best suit parents and will enable the professional development of the staff.

Wales St Primary Strings Concert 2012
Congratulations to all of Ross Henderson's Wales Street Primary violin and cello students! Last week’s end of year concert was one of the best yet, with excellent individual, duet, quartet and strings group performances. Good luck to all the students sitting strings exams. Thank you to Ross for your commitment to our students.

Regards,
Christopher Sexton

EVENTS

MANGO...MANGO...GO...GO...MANGO!!
Thank you to Penny K for organizing the most DELICIOUS fundraiser for the year!!! About 160 boxes arrived on Monday most of which have been picked up and devoured no doubt. We made approx. $940 profit. So far, in our household, we have had mango lassie, milkshake, fresh chopped as a condiment on a curry and on muesli .... Going to attempt making a mango cake when the weather is conducive for baking. Your Mango orders can be collected at the office please see Pina. Happy eating!!

BUSHWAZEE
Sausage Sizzle: A huge HUGE THANK YOU!!! To the handful of parents who stepped in at the last minute to help with the sausage sizzle... you did fantastic job. A big BIG THANK YOU for the response and BONZA effort put in by all the staff. Otherwise, the BBQ may not have gone ahead, only 3 people returned their volunteer form... So thank you to all that helped. We sold almost 60 kilos of sausages and made just over $1000. The money will be going toward the repayment of playground equipment. Reminding you all, that any fundraising made by Events in 2013 will be going towards finalizing a regular yearly repayment of over $30,000 a year (for the last 3 years) towards playground equipment ending in December 2013. Yeah!

FETE : SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2013
As I mentioned in last weeks newsletter, in order to have time on your side to make CRAFT items and to EMBRACE the FRUIT BEARING season to make PRESERVES ... It may be a good idea to contact coordinators of these stalls and let them know what you are planning to make or have made, for ideas, sourcing material and to avoid doubling up on one item.

Contact : CRAFT : DEB ALLEN: dearsomeone@gmail.com
There was a great response last fete, we loved all the fabulous things that were made and donated almost all items sold!! Brilliant

PRESERVES : Cath Chamberlain : chamberl@ihug.com.au Ph: 9480 5035
PLEASE NOTE: each batch you make needs to be identifiable, so ensure that you record the following details on a LOG sheet to provide coordinator next year when handing in your marvellous creations!! Ensure JARS and LIDs are sterilized/clean and in good working order! For each BATCH of preserve you make, please RECORD on LOG SHEET the following:
NAME and CONTACT email / phone
DATE: when the preserve was made.
INGREDIENTS: used to make preserve.
Your jars will be labelled by the coordinators when you deliver these to the school before the fete next year.
People made some beautiful preserves last year and we are hoping that you can do the same again... I think, it may be a good season for aromatic and tasty fruit this year... let's see.

Good luck.

Maria Romnios - Events / Fundraising
EMA - Newsletter Information 2013

Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving

EMAChanges to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, 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 temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
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<td>$150</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
URGENT REMINDERS

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE SETTLED IN FULL BY TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER.

Please note: Exclusion from the program will apply, if your account is not settled IN FULL by the above date (as per our Fee Policy)

RE-ENROLMENT FOR 2013

Families who require care for 2013 must re-enrol by coming into the program and checking their current enrolment form with a $10 Levy Fee (cash only).

Families who have not re-enrolled for next year will not be the responsibility of the SAC service (as stipulated in our Enrolment Policy) and as required by the National Education and Care Services National Law 2010 (The Act) and National Regulation 2011.

Parents/guardians will be phoned and asked to collect their children if there is not a current enrolment and booking form.

Children without an updated enrolment form and booking will remain the responsibility of the school as staffing/ ratios needs to be considered for the safety and wellbeing of children attending.

Please Note: Your child will not be on the “attendance roll” in 2013 if you have not re-enrolled and made a booking for 2013.

PUPIL FREE DAY

Friday 21st December is Pupil Free Day

Bookings for Pupil Free Day must be made by Thursday 13th December. No bookings will be taken after this date.

Due to pupil free day occurring on the last day of this year, families will need to pay $35.00 in advance when making a booking.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As this is our last newsletter for the year, the School Age Care Team wishes all families a safe and merry Christmas

CLASSIFIEDS School Council accepts no responsibility for goods / services offered here

Music Lesson Enrolments Open For 2013 with Cat Canteri. Lessons on Drum-Kit (1 place only), Keyboard & Guitar are available.

20 or 30-minute individual lessons are held on Mon., Tues., & Wed. during school hrs.: m: 0432339255 e: catcanteri@yahoo.com.au

Bachelor of Music (Improv), VCA, The University of Melbourne. Ad. Dip of Music Performance, NMIT.

Girls size uniform items for sale.

Size 6. Has been used this year only, 2 summer dresses, 1 winter tunic, 1 zipped hoodie, 1 navy skort, 1 short sleeved t shirt and one long sleeved polo shirt. $80 ono for the lot. Please contact Kylie Rogers on 0408205388

Red the Nosepaper presents “Take it all”, a charming play for all ages, using Chaplinesque clown and modern technology to create a magical silent film style that talks about some deep problems of the Earth nowadays. Sun Dec 16th at Northcote Town Hall, 2pm & 6pm. Adult $20/$15 conc. & child $12 or family 2 + 2 for $40. Online tickets: www.northcotetownhall.com.au

Music Theatre Boot Camp is a program based around singing, dance & acting - the 3 skills of music theatre. Primary aged students play games; learn new skills work together to put together a short scene which parents & friends are invited to. The program runs 9.30 to 3pm; Monday to Friday at Brunswick School of Dance (Northcote) we have programs starting Dec 17, Jan 7, 14, 21 and 28. Further info. www.musictheatrebootcamp.com.au

2013 Cricket & Soccer Clinics at Princess Hill, starting 9 Feb. Contact Mike Bishop, 0418 303 432, mabish@optusnet.com.au

If your child attends a school other than St Anthony’s or Holy Spirit Primary Schools and would like to receive the Sacraments in 2013, please contact the Parish Office on 9486 3633 or e-mail alphington@cam.org.au to book in your child. Yr 3 & above for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & First Communion and Year 6 & above for Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes held 6-7pm on Mon. for 6 weeks before the Sacrament is conferred. Cut-off dates for enrolment in the 2013 Sacramental Program are:


For Sale. Ikea Mydal bunk bed, Ikea trundle bed - including mattress, Ikea Trofast (triple) storage unit, Timber bookcase. All in very good condition. Contact Suz on suzannebritt@yahoo.com.au for images of each piece or call 0401956122 to arrange viewing in person.

FOR SALE: Second-hand WSPS school uniform. 2 x hoodie without zip (size 6). 1 x hoodie with zip (size 6). 1 x brand new fleece vest (size 6). 2 x school dress (size 6). 1 x winter pinafore (size 6). Please call Sarah 0413 311 019.