NEWSLETTER No. 1 January 29th 2014

Important dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td>5th – Prep Rest Day</td>
<td>25th – Prep Rest Day</td>
<td>4th – Last Day of Term 1</td>
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<td>5th – Gym (Gr 1-6)</td>
<td>26th – Gym (Gr 1-6)</td>
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<td>11th – AASC – Netball</td>
<td>26th – AASC – AFL</td>
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<td>12th – Prep Rest Day</td>
<td>4th – AASC – Netball</td>
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<td>12th – AASC – AFL</td>
<td>5th – AASC – AFL</td>
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<td>12th – Family BBQ &amp; Info Sessions</td>
<td>10th – LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>13th - School &amp; Community Meeting</td>
<td>11th – AASC – Netball</td>
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<td>18th – AASC – Netball</td>
<td>12th – AASC – AFL</td>
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<td>19th – Prep Rest Day</td>
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<td>20th – Finance Meeting 5pm</td>
<td>26th – AASC – AFL</td>
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<td>24th – Young Leaders Day</td>
<td>4th – Last Day of Term 1</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WELCOME BACK
On behalf of all staff, I would like to welcome everyone back for what should be a very exciting year for Axedale Primary School.

A particular welcome to our new Prep students and other new students and their parents to our school community.
We also welcome Hannah Schneider-Provan to our school as a student teacher. Miss S will be working in the Prep/1 room for the first three weeks this term.

We welcome our new Preps Rachel, Evie, Thomas, Cooper, Matthew and Rhianna to Axedale PS.

We also say a big welcome to Jaelyn Kelson, Ava & Campbell Martin and Angus Carrick and their families to our school community.

THANK YOU
Thank you to the Monti, Liersch, Pearce and White families for their work watering, painting and mowing in the school yard over the holidays. It has helped to keep the grass green, the veggies growing and the school looking cared for. Your help is much appreciated.
2013 SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS
Congratulations to our award winners who were presented with their awards at last year’s Christmas Concert.

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<tr>
<th>SENIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD</th>
<th>JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Hermens</td>
<td>Laura Higgins</td>
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<tr>
<th>SENIOR ENDEAVOUR AWARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Shaw</td>
<td>Bridgit Jobling</td>
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<th>SENIOR SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Caburnay</td>
<td>Molly Bartels</td>
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<th>SENIOR ACADEMIC AWARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Caburnay</td>
<td>Hannah Prendergast</td>
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CLASSES
This year we are running a three class structure
Prep/1 – 18 students – Ms. Gaye Saunders (Mr. Johnstone P/1 Numeracy)
Gr. 2/3 – 23 students – Miss Michelle Blume
Gr. 4/5/6 – 23 students – Mr. Steve Christensen

Specialist subjects
Languages Other Than English (LOTE – Indonesian) – Mrs. Jenny Grant
Art – TBA
Literacy Support – Ms. Gaye Saunders
Earth Science – Ms. Gaye Saunders
Physical Education – Mr. Steve Christensen
Music/Choir/ICT – Miss Michelle Blume
**PREP REST DAYS**
The Prep students will have rest days on Wednesdays until February 26th. Wednesday March 5th will be their first Wednesday at school and will allow them to take part in our last Gym session in Bendigo. Preps will be buddied up with older students to assist them at the gym. There will be a $7.50 charge for entry and bus.

**TIMETABLE**
In developing our timetable, the focus has been to provide two hours of Literacy and one hour of Numeracy uninterrupted every day, with specialist subject areas such as Art, PE, Music, Earth Science and LOTE (Indonesian) being taught in the afternoon sessions.
As part of the two hour literacy block, students will be reading from 9.00 – 9.30 am. We would like to encourage parents who have some time free at this time, to come in and listen to some students reading one to one. Our aim is to have every student read to an adult every day. This will start from Monday 3rd February allowing us time to have book boxes at appropriate levels organised for all students. We find the best results occur when parents hear students other than their own children read.

**FAMILY BBQ & INFORMATION SESSIONS**
Information sessions for each class will be held on Wednesday 12th February from 6.00pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to get to know the teachers and how their classes will operate through the year. Further information will be in next week’s Newsletter.
We will be holding a Family BBQ Night also on Wednesday 12th February from approximately 6.30pm at the school to welcome both new and existing school families. School will provide meat, bread and salads.

**LUNCH ORDERS**
Lunch orders will begin from next Monday, the 3rd February.
A ‘Lunch Order List’ is available from the Office.
The Fresh Fruit Friday Program will continue this year. Fruit will be provided free at recess each Friday beginning on Friday 7th February. **There is a slip at the end of the Newsletter for parents who are available to help cut up fruit.** This is usually done at 9.00am each Friday and put in the fridge in containers ready for recess.

**PARENT TEACHER SESSIONS**
We will also be holding Parent /Teacher Interviews towards the end of February. It will be a chance to analyse the first few weeks of school and to make clear plans covering academic and social aspects. At these meetings, each student’s Individual Learning Plans will be negotiated and put into place for the remainder of Terms One and Two.

**GYMNASTICS**
Beginning on Wednesday 5th February, Gr. 1-6 students will be travelling to the Bendigo YMCA each Wednesday to take part in a five week Gymnastics Program. The program will be conducted at the Mundy St. YMCA building. There is a $37.50 charge to cover the cost of the bus and tuition fees. This can be paid weekly or as a lump sum.
*As a number of start-up payments have been required, we are happy for gym payments to wait until the end of February if required. Please contact Katrina in the Office if this option is best for you at the moment.*
Preps will be joining us for the last session on the 5th March. There is a $7.50 cost for Prep students for this day.

**BUS TIMETABLE**
A draft Bus Timetable is attached to this Newsletter. This may be refined over the first few weeks of travel.

**STUDENT BANKING**
Our school banking day is **Tuesday**. Interested students can apply online, at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone, or via a paper-based application available from the office.

**SCHOOL FEES**
I encourage all families to finalise the payment of School Fees as soon as possible.
The school is happy to put a fortnightly payment plan into place if that is a more suitable arrangement for your family. Please contact the Office.
Yearly School Fees are $50 for the first child, $30 for the second child and $20 for the third or fourth child.
EMA - 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 – 28th January 2014 and Term 3 – 14th July, 2014. Application forms are available from the school office. Closing date for applications is 28th February 2014.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $150 for students in Grades 1 – 6 and $200 for Prep students and is paid in two instalments.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

A Conveyance Allowance is available for eligible students using private cars to attend school. To be eligible a student must live more than 4.8km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school or bus stop. Please come into the office by the end of February to complete an application form if you are eligible.

STUDENT ABSENCES

When your child is absent we require you to complete one of the tear-off slips attached and return it to school. More forms are available from your child’s teacher, the office or on our school website. It is an expectation of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that all absences are explained. Regular attendance is extremely important and it’s not okay to be away, unless your child is ill or has a valid reason. Studies have shown that there is significant negative impact on a child’s learning if they are absent for 15 days or more in a year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Students should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. If bus travellers have things at school they must be stored in the Day Safe in the office. Please remind your children of this.

SCHOOL HATS

A reminder that students are expected to wear their broad brimmed school hats during Term One. They are available for purchase at the Office for $11.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Our Active After School Community Program (AASC) will begin on Tuesday 11th February. The program will operate on Tuesday and Wednesday nights this year and will give students the opportunity to develop their fitness, ball skills, teamwork as well as exposure to new and different sports. Sports in focus this term are AFL and netball. Sessions will run from 3.30 - 4.45pm. Fresh fruit is provided after school as part of this program.

Preps students can be a part of this program from the start of Term Three onwards.

Two permission forms are attached today, one school based and one from AASC.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Our School and Community Committee is our main fundraising group. I would like to encourage all new families to be a part of this committee if time permits. Meetings are casual and friendly and we aim to have one fundraiser each term. This Committee also provides parents with an opportunity to discuss queries or issues with the Principal.

Our first School and Community Meeting is on Thursday 13th February in the Staffroom at 9.30am after reading time.
PICK UP AREA
A reminder to all families that we would like all pick up and drop offs are to take place on the school side of Raglan St. (dirt road). We aim to have no students crossing the road at this busy time. While it is not a one way street, it would be appreciated if parents could leave this area by driving down past our oval and around the school block. This avoids u-turns and backing across the road which can be dangerous at this busy time.

HOT WEATHER
In regard to hot weather days, when the conditions outside are uncomfortable due to the heat, students are given the option of staying inside at recess and lunchtimes to make the most of the air-conditioning. Staff supervise both inside and outside areas.

CODE RED DAYS
Our school is not on the Bushfire At Risk Register so we still operate on Code Red Days when other schools may be closed.
On Code Red days the bus will not be operating as it travels through designated danger areas. All bus families will be notified by phone or note if this is the case.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – 2014
We have been scheduled to have our 2014 school photos on Thursday 20th February with Richard Gibbs Photography.

QUICK SHEAR
On Saturday 25th January, a Quick Shear competition and Family Day was held at the Axedale Park. Many thanks to the families who helped out on the BBQ, at the registration area, setting up, cleaning up, on stalls and market stalls. Your help was much appreciated. The day was extremely successful and brought a large amount of people into our town. Can I pass on the school’s thanks to the organising committee who have raised significant funds for the Axedale Pre-School, the Axedale Hall and the Axedale Primary School.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our current School Council will meet for the final time on February 25th. School Council Elections are held in all Victorian schools in March, with Councils working on a March to March cycle.
Of our current School Council Parent Representatives, Neil Aurisch, Lara Bathurst and Shane Carmody have completed the first year of their two year term. Michael Hermens, Martin Cushen and Kellie White will have finished their two year term on February 25th.
We are actively searching for our next group of Parent Representatives. What is involved? School Council meet monthly, traditionally at 6.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Reports are provided in Finance, Curriculum, Buildings and Grounds, School and Community and a Principal’s Report. Being involved is a great opportunity to contribute in a positive way to the feel and the happenings around the school. Prospective Councillors are encouraged to come along to our February Meeting to gain a sense of what takes place. Please let us know if you might be interested.

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO
Parking and Animal Services from the City of Greater Bendigo have contacted our school and requested that the following information be conveyed to our school community.
The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to our school poses a safety concern to children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with the parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school.
Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, even briefly, with or without the motor running. They must not stop next to a continuous yellow edge line, on resident’s nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park. A number of schools have short term time restricted areas, such as 2 minute pick up drop off. These parking areas are in place to allow for ease of access close to schools and these restrictions must be adhered to. Drivers should also be aware that they cannot perform a U-turn over an unbroken or continuous dividing line.
With regard to children’s crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children’s crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary stop safely before the crossing. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.
City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police will conduct random patrols throughout the school year to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules.
TERM DATES 2014
Term 1: 28\textsuperscript{th} January (teachers start), Wednesday 29\textsuperscript{th} January (students start) to 4\textsuperscript{th} April
Term 2: Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} April to 27\textsuperscript{th} June
Term 3: 14\textsuperscript{th} July to 19\textsuperscript{th} September
Term 4: 6\textsuperscript{th} October to 19\textsuperscript{th} December

GUITAR LESSONS
Jo Woodward will be taking Guitar Lessons again this year. This will occur each Friday and costs $10/lesson. Lessons for current students will commence on Friday 11\textsuperscript{th} February. Interested new students please contact the school.

NEWSLETTERS
These are the most important means of communication between school and home. Newsletters are sent home every Thursday. Please get into the habit of looking for them, reading them carefully and responding to the contents as soon as possible. Please call the school if you have any queries. The Newsletter is also available on our website at www.axedaleps.vic.edu.au or via our school app available for Apple and Android.

COMMUNICATION
One of the main keys to success for students is the communication that exists between the school, the student and parents. We encourage all parents to contact the school when there is a problem to be worked through. There is not much that a team effort can’t solve.
We look forward to working with our school community to make 2014 an absolutely fantastic year for the Axedale Primary School.

PRINCIPAL CONTACT
I am happy for parents to contact me as required. If contact needs to be made out of school hours, my mobile phone number is 0408 138 836 and my email is johnstone.alexander.i@edumail.vic.gov.au

Lex Johnstone
Principal

FRUIT DUTY ROSTER

I am able to assist with cutting up fruit on Friday mornings.

Name: ____________________________________________
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<td>TEACHER:</td>
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This student was absent on: ..........................................................
(insert dates)

APPROVED REASONS: (Tick one)

- [ ] Illness
- [ ] Injury
- [ ] Medical/Dental Appointment
- [ ] Bereavement

Additional comment (if required) ________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________
Date: __________________________

PLEASE REPORT ALL ABSENCES ON THIS STANDARD FORM

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