NEWSLETTER No. 3 February 13th 2014

Important dates:

**February**
- 13th - School & Community Meeting
- 17th – School Banking
- 18th – AASC – AFL
- 19th – Information Night & Family BBQ 6pm
- 19th - Prep Rest Day
- 19th – Gym (Gr 1-6)
- 19th – AASC – Netball
- 20th – School Photos
- 20th – Finance Meeting 5pm
- 24th – Young Leaders Day
- 25th – AASC – AFL
- 25th – School Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 26th – Prep Rest Day
- 26th – Gym (Gr 1-6)
- 26th – AASC – Netball

**March**
- 4th – AASC – AFL
- 5th – Gym (Prep-6)
- 5th – AASC – Netball
- 10th – LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
- 11th – AASC – AFL
- 12th – AASC – Netball
- 18th – AASC – AFL
- 25th – School Council AGM 6.30pm
- 19th – AASC – Netball
- 25th – AASC – AFL
- 26th – AASC – Netball

**April**
- 4th – Last Day of Term 1

**AWARD WINNERS**
Last week’s award winners were:-
- P/1 – Callum – For working really hard in all subject areas and being a friend to everyone.
- 2/3 – Brydie – For making a great start to her writing this year.
- 4/5/6 – Jaidyn – For committing to all learning tasks and making a great start to 2014.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS**
Each year, School Captains and Vice Captains play a very special role in our school. They have a key role in demonstrating excellent leadership, behaviour, and guidance for other pupils, as well as welcoming and thanking visitors to our school and performing other tasks as required.

This year we are very pleased to announce that Jack Di Valentine and Keely Van Wynen will be our School Captains, with Josh Gersbach and Maliqua Pearce as Vice Captains.

Congratulations to these four students and we wish them well for the year ahead.
HOUSE CAPTAINS
In the school, we have two houses, McIvor and Campaspe. The House system is used to earn classroom points, school care points and Friday sports points. Each Monday at assembly, our house award is presented to the winning team for the week.

Last week, students had the opportunity to present a speech to their peers as part of the process of electing House Captains and Vice Captains for 2014. I would like to congratulate all the students who presented a speech on their composure, clarity and preparation. It was impressive.

Following the speeches, all students voted for their preferred captain from Grade 5/6 and vice-captain from Gr. 3/4.

Congratulations to the following students:
McIvor House
Captains – Ryan Strawbridge and Kathryn McKay
Vice Captains – Nathan Strawbridge and Bridgit Jobling
Campaspe House
Captains - Ed Caburnay and Laura Hipwell
Vice Captains – Zayne Pearce and Emma Hipwell

CONGRATULATIONS
Well done to Campbell, Angus, Katya, Isabella, Molly, Bella, Sam, Jaeyln and William who achieved an award for progressing through another level of Magic Words and Oxford Words in spelling and reading.

Well done to Cameron, Skyla, Meg, Josh, Cody, Ben, Alex and Callum for earning their Premier’s Reading Challenge Certificate which were presented at assembly on Monday.
With just the grouting to go, work is almost complete on the wonderful mosaic at the front of the school put together by Linda Hermens and Susie McGrath. We need to say a huge thank you to Linda and Susie for their sustained effort on this task. They tell me they have taken it one bite at a time, but I know it has involved a lot of bites! Our school community really appreciates their commitment to this task.

Work will begin this Saturday on the brick construction next to the Principal’s Office end of the school. It will provide a further space to display our last remaining tiles and will provide a quiet sitting area for students.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

PARENT HELP
It has been great to see the high level of parent support in classrooms to help with reading from 9.00-9.30. Our aim is for all students to read to an adult every day. On many days we have been able to achieve this aim.

Thank you to those who have been at school covering books and those who have taken books home to cover. Your help is much appreciated and will see these resources available to students very soon.

Thanks to Deb Tuohey for sorting our many library books out onto the new shelves and to Alan Monti for his vege patch watering to help our veges through the (long!) hot spell.

QUICK SHEAR
As you would know, the Axedale Quick Shear took place in Axedale on January 25th. It proved to be a great day for the town. It is estimated more than 500 people attended on the day. The committee organising the day comprised members form the Axedale Primary School, the Axedale Pre-school and the Axedale Hall Committee.

I would like to take this chance to thank Shane and Emma Carmody for representing our school and putting in such a huge effort.

I would also like to thank the Shaw, Allen, Liersch, Aurisch-McGrath, Splatt/Gwin, Kendall, Brown, Hipwell, Van Wynen and White families for their various contributions on the day. Over 50 volunteers were required on the day.

The Quick Shear Committee is very excited to be able to inform the community that almost $12,000 was raised to share between the three organising groups. This is an amazing effort and will greatly help to provide continuously improving resources and opportunities for pre-schoolers, school children and general members of the Axedale community.

GYM PROGRAM
Our Gym Program will resume next Wednesday as the weather has cooled down. As we do Gym in two one hour groups (12.45 & 1.45), the group not involved at the gym will be visiting the Bendigo Town Hall next week. A COGB Councillor will show us around, including the area where Council have their monthly meetings.
TIMETABLE
This week has seen the first full week of our new timetable. It will operate slightly differently to last year. Students will have a weekly class in Health/PE (Mr. C), Earth Science (Ms. Saunders), Art (Mr. J) and ICT (Miss Blume). Students will have ICT for Terms 1 & 2 and then Music (Miss Blume) in Terms 3 & 4. These specialist areas will all take place on a Wednesday. This will leave the remainder of the week in classrooms for Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Studies. Languages will be on every Thursday and MARC Van will be on every second Tuesday. We expect MARC Van to start on Tuesday 25th February.
School Library borrowing with Deb Tuohey will take place every Wednesday morning.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
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.

Through a nomination/election process, a revised School Council will be elected and will be in place to meet for the first time on March 18th.
We have an allocation of six parent representatives and two community representatives. We will be seeking to fill three, two-year parent positions and two, one-year community positions on School Council. If you are interested, please make contact with myself or talk to one of our current School Councillors.
Nomination forms are available at the Office. You can have someone nominate you or you may choose to self-nominate. Nominations close on Friday 21st February at 3.45pm.
If more than three nominations are received, an election process will take place prior to the Annual General Meeting on March 18th.

FAMILY BBQ & INFORMATION SESSIONS
Our postponed classroom information sessions for each class will be held next Wednesday, 19th 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. Netbook information for Gr. 4/5/6 will also be shared.
We will be holding a Family BBQ Night also on Wednesday 19th February, from approximately 6.30pm at the school to welcome both new and existing school families. School will provide meat, bread and salads.

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.

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.
The following information comes to you from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
Every day counts – school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

On Monday February 24th, all our grade six students will be travelling by train to Melbourne with Mr. C to attend the National Young Leaders Conference at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Along with 4,000 other grade six students, they will hear from a range of inspirational role models about what it takes to be a leader. These days have been very successful in the past. There is no cost for this excursion. Parents will be required to drop off and pick up students from the Bendigo Railway Station. More details will be sent home with grade six students next week.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – 2014

We have been scheduled to have our 2014 school photos on Thursday 20th February with Richard Gibbs Photography. Attached to the newsletter last week were photo order forms which need to be returned prior to photo day.

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help cutting up fruit on Fridays. A roster is attached for these volunteers.

Friday 14th February – Sharon Hipwell
Friday 21st February – Jodie Black
Friday 28th February – Julie Allen

Students will be provided with a couple of plates of fresh fruit at recess time to munch on.

STUDENT BANKING

Next Monday 17th February, representatives from the student school banking group will be at Assembly to talk to the students about the Dollarmite Program. Our school banking day is Tuesday.

The school banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will also have fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

School banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the school banking program.

Taking part in school banking is easy

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youth Saver account they can start banking straight away, they just need to bring in their deposit every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites wallet, they can request a new one from their local branch or contact the school banking Co-ordinator.
If your child does not have a Youth Saver account we will be holding an account opening day on Monday 17th February from 8.30am until 10.00am. The Commonwealth Bank will also speak at assembly on this day.

**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.

**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.**

**TERM DATES 2014**
- **Term 1:** 28th January (teachers start), Wednesday 29th January (students start) to 4th April
- **Term 2:** Tuesday 22nd April to 27th June
- **Term 3:** 14th July to 19th September
- **Term 4:** 6th October to 19th December

**GUITAR LESSONS**
Jo Woodward will be taking Guitar Lessons again this year. This will occur each Friday and costs $10/lesson. Interested new students please contact the 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
COMMUNITY

Hey Ladies, would you like a social game of netball. We have a three section indoor comp on Mondays or Thursdays, with free crèches. Give me a call, or if you are an umpire or would like to learn you are most welcome.

Phone Deb on 5439 7637 or 0407 509 227

EPSOM SOCCER CLUB

Players Wanted

Epsom Football (Soccer) club is inviting you to come to our registration days to join our club for fun, friends and fitness. Come meet us in the Function room at the Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve.

If you are up to 10 years of age as of the 1st of January 2014 registration days are Monday 10th and 17th February 4-6.30pm

Any questions contact Mark Anderson on 0407 850 740

11 years of age and upward registration days Thursday 6th February 4.30-6pm.

Contact Liz Grace 0417 369 756

BOLD is hosting an information evening

Dyscalculia – the Numbers version of Dyslexia.

Dyscalculia or ‘maths dyslexia’ is probably the least diagnosed and understood issue under the learning disability umbrella.

This evening will address:

➢ How to identify dyscalculia
➢ Strategies to help learn math

When: Tuesday, 4th March Time: Arrive 7:00pm for a 7:15pm start. Finish 9.30 pm

Where: Catholic Education Centre, 120 Hargreaves St Bendigo

Cost: $5 for teachers and parents

Registration: Ring Tracey 5434 3922; email info@bold.org.au or complete registration form attached or on www.bold.org.au

Respiratory experts talk to parents about asthma

Ever wondered what the experts would say about a cure for asthma?

Or how to get your teenager to take their medication?

If you want to find out the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about children and asthma, watch The Asthma Foundation’s new video series – available from http://forum.asthma.org.au/

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

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Phone Deb on 5439 7637 or 0407 509 227
Bendigo Easter Festival Volunteers - Applications Now Open

Get involved - meet new people, work with industry professionals and have lots of fun!

The Bendigo Easter Festival is looking for volunteers to work at the festival between **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 April 2014**.

- It is a great opportunity for students who are required to complete volunteer hours
- Flexible rostering
- Training and uniforms supplied – including a **FREE** pair of shoes from Peak Fitness Australia.
- Working with Children’s Check maybe required for some roles.
- Applicants must be over 15 years.

Volunteers are required for a wide variety of roles:

- Easter ‘Paint Out’ Exhibition Assistant
- Community Stage Supervisor
- Risk Management Assistant (Carnival)
- Entertainment Activity Assistant (WWCC required)
- Entertainment Production Coordinator Assistant
- Fireworks/Twilight Movie Assistant (WWCC required)
- Hidden Creatures Assistant (WWCC required)
- Information Assistants (Information Tents) (WWCC required)
- ‘Paint Pot People’ Assistant
- Roving Entertainment Chaperone
- Site Manager Assistant
- Spic and Span Attendant
- Vendor Assistant

Information and Application Form now available at www.bendigoeasterfestival.org.au

Applications close 21 March 2014

**For further information please contact**

Bendigo Easter Festival Volunteer Coordinator

P: 0459 167 425

E: a.downing@bendigo.vic.gov.au or s.mika@bendigo.vic.gov.au

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Is your Lollipop person the sweetest?

Nominate your Lollipop person for the 2014/2015 School Crossing Supervisor of the year award.

Pick up a nomination form online at www.schoolcrossingsvictoria.com.au.

Your support of this program will help ensure your School Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve for their commitment to the ongoing safety of our children.

Closes Friday 2nd May 2014