Important dates:

**February**
- 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
- 27th – Parent Teacher Interviews
- 2nd – Working Bee
- 4th – AASC – AFL
- 5th – Gym (Prep-6)
- 5th – AASC – Netball

**March**
- 10th – LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
- 11th – AASC – AFL
- 12th – AASC – Netball
- 18th – AASC – AFL
- 19th – Ride to School Day
- 25th – School Council AGM 6.30pm
- 19th – AASC – Netball
- 25th – AASC – AFL
- 26th – AASC – AFL
- 4th – Last Day of Term 1

**AWARD WINNERS**
Last week’s award winners were:
- P/1 – Thomas – For working very hard at reading time, reading lots of books and learning his colour words.
- 2/3 – Emma – For helping out younger students during Active After School Communities.
- 4/5/6 – Josh G – For working hard and demonstrating good research skills for his Olympic Project on Ireland.

**GOLDEN BRUSH**
The Golden Brush for last week was won by the Prep/1 room. Well done.

**HOUSE POINTS**
McIvor won the House Point Award for the week – two weeks in a row! Campaspe are keen to turn this around.

**SPELLING AND READING AWARDS**
Lots of students are continuing to work their way through the various high frequency word levels in both spelling and word recognition (reading). Lots of practice at school and home is making a big difference.
SPECIAL VISITORS
On Tuesday we enjoyed a fantastic visit from an extended Indonesian family who are visiting family in Australia and are friends of Ibu Jenny. The family have been in Bendigo for a number of weeks with their children Bunga aged 13, Bema aged 9, Ai and Wowo 6. Our visit was organised by Jenny Grant our Languages teacher. Our students were able to speak with our visitors in Indonesian and find out some interesting information about their country and their school. It was a great opportunity for our students to meet with children who speak the language they are learning and make it more ‘real’. It was also a great opportunity for the Indonesian children who really enjoyed experiencing a school and students in Australia.

On Tuesday we had some of Jenny Grants Indonesian friends visit our school. All the classes had a chance to ask them some questions about their life style in Indonesia. At recess some of the kids showed them around our school. All the kids found out a lot more about Indonesia than we already knew. We thank Jenny Grant for taking on this opportunity to organise this for us.
Terima Kasih (Thank you)
By Jack and Keely.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
INFORMATION NIGHT AND FAMILY BBQ
Many thanks to all those families who came along last night for the Information Night and Family BBQ. We hope that the classroom sessions were beneficial and helped to build the sense of understanding and teamwork that is essential between school and home to develop each child’s full potential.
We trust that everyone enjoyed the get together afterwards and that it gave new families an opportunity to build some new connections to the school and the town. Thank you to our chefs Mick, Bev and Martin, Julie and Kelly for the cakes and slices and Fran for the salads.
PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Parent Teacher Interviews will be conducted next Thursday 27th February. Interviews will be for ten minutes each and will run from 12 noon to 5.00pm.
Each student at our school has an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). At the Parent Teacher Interviews, staff will discuss a draft of your child’s ILP. Following these discussions, a final ILP will be in place for Semester One. Areas listed on end of 2013 Student Reports will form a part of the 2014 ILPs.

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.

WORKING BEE
There will be a working bee on Sunday 2nd March. More details to follow.

EAGLEHAWK DAHLIA & ARTS FESTIVAL RELAY
Axedale PS students are invited to attend this event on Saturday 15th March. Students will take part in a relay race (200m or 400m) in teams of 4. I currently have 3 Grade 4/5/6 students interested who are looking for a 4th teammate. Interested students would need to meet Mr C and their Axedale teammates at the Eaglehawk Town Hall at 11am on the Saturday morning. The racing will be finished by approximately 12.15pm. Please see Mr C if you are interested. (All grade 3-6 welcome!)

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Through a nomination/election process, a revised School Council will be elected for 2014 and will be in place to meet for the first time on March 18th.
We have an allocation of six parent representatives. We are seeking to fill three, two-year Parent Representative 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 tomorrow 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.
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, Facilities 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 on the 25th February to gain a sense of what takes place. Please let us know if you might be interested.

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.

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.
GYM PROGRAM
Our Gym Program resumed yesterday as the weather cooled down. More photos are available on our school website at www.axedaleps.vic.edu.au under Programs – Health & PE.

While students waited for their turn at gym COGB Councillor Mark Weragoda showed us around the Bendigo Town Hall, including the area where Council have their monthly meetings.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – 2014
School photos were taken today. Richard Gibbs, our photographer, estimates the photos will be back in the school by the end of term.

STUDENT ABSENCES
When your child is absent we require you to complete an absence tear-off slip and return it to school. 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.

**STUDENT BANKING**

Next Monday 24th February, representatives from the student school banking group will be at Assembly to talk to the students about the Dollarmite Program (they were to come this week, but were unable to make it).

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 Dollarmite 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 PHOTOS – 2014**

School photos were taken today. Richard Gibbs, our photographer, estimates the photos will be back in the school by the end of term.

**FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help cut up fruit on Fridays.

A roster is attached for these volunteers.

- Friday 21st February – Jodie Black
- Friday 28th February – Julie Allen
- Friday 7th March – Jocelyn Davies

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

**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.
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.

TERM DATES 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>28th January to 4th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 22nd April to 27th June</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>14th July to 19th September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>6th October to 19th December</td>
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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

CLASSROOMS

PORTSEA CAMP

*From the 11th to 17th of January, Maliqua and I were lucky enough to go to Portsea Beach Camp. It took about three hours to get there and when we got there we headed to our rooms, unpacked and made our beds. There were so many things to do there, including a giant swing, a flying fox, a high ropes course, cricket, boat rides to see lots of different things, a slip 'n' slide, crafts and lots of different games. The week we were there, the temperature was over 40 degrees nearly every day, but that didn’t stop us doing all the activities. My favourite activities at Portsea were the flying fox, games at the beach and the giant swing. I met lots of nice kids and leaders there who I’ll remember for a long time. I’d like to thank Axedale School, Bendigo Council and the businesses around Bendigo who sponsored me, for giving me this amazing experience that I’ll never forget.*

By Jack Di Valentine

*On the 11th of January Jack and I went on a camp to Portsea. We met some nice people and it was fun. There were a lot of amazing people and things at Portsea. The night games were from 8.00 till 9.30pm. We played ‘treasure hunt’, ‘One Twenty-one’, ‘Little Day Out’, ‘The Carnival’ and ‘Hunt The Animal’. There were day activities every day. At 8.00am we had breakfast then got ready. We went on the flying fox and giant swing. It was so fun! We came home on the 17th of January.*

By Maliqua Pearce
GRADE 4/5/6 HOMEWORK
Thanks to the parents who have assisted their children in completing homework tasks over the last few weeks. Students were this week given the task of completing either Part One or Part Two of their Winter Olympics Project. Next week students will be required to finish the part they haven’t started (Part One or Two) and submit by next Thursday 27th February. Thanks again for your help and please see me if your child needs assistance.

Mr C.

COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Human and Animal Emergency Care

SPECIALIST COURSE IN ENVENOMATION - DESIGNED FOR RURAL VICTORIA
KNOW WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN BY A SNAKE OR DANGEROUS SPIDER
Bookings contact: Lee Peak 0421 890 491  E: leepeak.23@gmail.com
Cost: $25.00 pp  Includes manual with certificate.
Date  Monday 3rd March 7pm - 9pm Axedale Fire Station
Envenomation/Snake bite Kit available to purchase $15 sml / $30 Large

Course Instructor
Lee G Peak
Registered Critical Care EMT
Emergency Medical Educator
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](http://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
ORDER FORM

NAME: _______________________________________________

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TOTAL AMOUNT $ 

Payment can be made when placing your order or on pick up of your bag/s by cash, cheque or EFTPOS.

You can ask family and friends if they would like to order as well.

For more information visit www.stickybeaks.com.au where you can also print out your free name / class and lunch order labels.