### Important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk Safely</td>
<td>Pie Drive orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>to School/Wear</td>
<td>delivered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bright</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colours</td>
<td>Connecting With Kids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day – Gold</td>
<td>6-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>coin donation</td>
<td>10th</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Choir Bendigo Competition</td>
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<td>Tree orders</td>
<td>13th</td>
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<td>due</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
<td>MARC Van</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>16th</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVF Meeting</td>
<td>Finance Meeting</td>
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<td>8.50am</td>
<td>21st</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Pie Drive</td>
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<td>orders due</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>24th</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARC Van</td>
<td>Last Day of Term – 2.30pm finish</td>
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<td>31st</td>
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<td>MARC Van</td>
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### CLASSROOM AWARD

**WINNERS**

- **Ada** – For putting time and effort into her work and making her sheets neat, bright and colourful.
- **Lottie** – For working hard on her subtraction skills and showing great improvements.
- **John** – For displaying a positive attitude during NAPLAN testing.
- **Cameron** – For working hard on his spelling both at home and at school.

### SCHOOL VALUES AWARD

**WINNERS**

- **Sydney** – For having a positive attitude and always giving her best to all activities presented.
- **Ben** – For being a helpful member of the classroom and always looking out for others.
- **Travis** – For showing respect to his teachers and peers.
- **Zane** – For always co-operating well with others in the classroom.

### GOLDEN BRUSH

The winners of the Golden Brush last week were the Gr 4/5/6. Well done!

### HOUSE COMPETITION

The winners of the House Competition for the week were Campaspe.

### MAGIC WORDS

Well done to our students who have moved up some levels with the Magic and Oxford Words.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

EDUCATION WEEK
Grandparents and Special Visitors Day on Tuesday May 17th.
A big thank you all of our school families and their special visitors for coming along on Tuesday. We had a great turn out with support for almost every student. Speaking with many students afterwards, they were excited to have had visitors at school that they don’t normally see in this setting.
It was great to have so many here for morning tea and trust that our special visitors enjoyed the chance to catch up and have a chat with new and old friends.
Whole School Literacy and Numeracy rotations. Yesterday the students were split into six multi age groups and rotated through two numeracy and two literacy activities as part of Education Week. Students seemed to enjoy working in different groups than normal and with a range of teachers and activities.

2017 PREP INFORMATION SESSIONS
This morning we welcomed 11 parents to our 2017 Prep Information Session. It was a great chance to meet prospective parents and share information about our school and answer questions about our Prep program.

WEAR BRIGHT COLOURS – WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
Walk Safely to School/Wear Bright Colours Day is on tomorrow, Friday May 20th to raise money for the 65 Roses Cystic Fibrosis campaign.
It is an out of uniform day.
Walk to School Day will be on the O’Keefe Rail Trail, beginning where the trail crosses Crowes Rd/Cemetery Rd. See map below for details.
Families and students are welcome to join us at any part of the walk. The first 10 minute section cannot be seen from the road.

8.00 Start – at the intersection of Crowes Rd., Cemetery Rd and the Rail Trail. Path is packed gravel and asphalt for those with prams who are intending to walk.
8.30/35 arrival at school.
8.20 ish Cemetery
8.10/8.15

[Map of the area showing 8.00 Start, 8.10/8.15, 8.20 ish, and 8.30/35 arrival at school.]
BRENDAN BARTLETT – LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Next Tuesday evening, Bendigo based Landscape Architect Brendan Bartlett will be visiting the school to speak with School Council and the Building and Grounds Committee regarding the development of the High St. entrance to the school. While I have had a walk around the school with Brendan, this will be our first group meeting and will be a chance for the school community to listen to Brendan’s ideas & thoughts and to have an input through a Q&A session.
Parents are welcome to come along in any capacity and join the discussion.
We will start at 6.30pm and the session may take 30-60 minutes. Students are welcome to come along with parents if there are no baby sitting options.

THANKS – ANDY & TANYA CZUCZMAN
Thanks to Andy and Tanya who have repaired our western fence and added some new fencing in near the gas tank and rubbish bin area. Much appreciated.

CONNECTING WITH KIDS
We are holding a Connecting With Kids session at school on Thursday 2nd June from 6-8pm. Come along to find out more about how to use emotional intelligence to teach children about managing their feelings. Register your attendance with Katrina in the office.

PARENTS FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS
A reminder that our next PVF Meeting is on next Thursday at 8.50am in the Staffroom. All welcome

SCHOOL CAMPS
GR 1/2
Our Grade 1/2 Camp to the Axedale Rotary Camp will take place on September 8th & 9th. Our aim is for Grade 2’s to attend the camp, including an overnight stay. Grade 1 students will join us for both days, taking part in a range of activities with the Grade 2’s. An overnight stay is optional for Grade 1’s. The students will take part in a range of bush and camping activities, tasks that build teamwork as well as some environmental activities. Cost will be $50 which will cover food, accommodation, transport and equipment. Axedale Rotary Camp is a Department of Education accredited camp.

GRADE 3-6
Our Grade 3-6 School Camp will be taking place in the last week of Term Three, from September 13th – 16th, and will be based at Sunnystones Camp near Bacchus Marsh. Students will take part in a range of bush, adventure and environmental activities. Sunnystones Camp is a Department of Education accredited camp.
The cost for the camp will be approximately $300. A camp notice form will be sent home next week with a payment voucher book. Deposit of $50 is due on Friday 3rd June. Please contact the school with any queries.

SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM - Expression of interest
Ricky Cawley (Student Wellbeing Worker) is hoping to implement a meals program at Axedale Primary. This program will help provide meals for families who face difficulty in their lives due to unforeseen circumstances. If you would like to be part of this program or would like to know more, please contact Ricky on 0354397232 or you can catch him on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday.

NEW SCHOOL APP
We’re very pleased to inform you that our school has implemented a new phone app called **Updat-ed** that will make connecting with you so much more convenient. This will replace our previous school app.
To download the app just visit the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android’s. Search for **Updat-ed** and from the menu select our school. We’ll receive your registration request and will need to approve you before your app is up and running.
So what will the app do?
The app’s great for sending out alerts and reminders with one of its best features being the ability to save events directly into your phone’s calendar and send us absence notes.
If you are experiencing difficulty with your app please take a look at our Trouble Shooting Guide. Any further queries should be directed to: helpdesk@sponsor-ed.com.au
Please state the following in your email to helpdesk:

- Your school
- Name and email address
- Model phone/tablet
- Software version

We hope you enjoy being Updat-ed. Please let your extended family know they are also welcome to download this app.

EXCIRSION LEVY
The excursion levy for each year level is a set amount based on excursions and programs offered at school. There are some items included within this levy which are due at the beginning of the year. For families who have been at our school in previous years these amounts used to be a separate line on your family account.

**These following amounts are now due per student:**
- MARC Van $22
- Computer Programs $20 (Prep, Grade 1 & 2) Reading Eggs & Mathletics
- Computer Programs $30 (Grade 3, 4, 5 & 6) Reading Eggs, Mathletics & Mangahigh

Those families who have paid their Excursion Levy upfront will have already paid these amounts. If you are unsure please see Katrina.

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Can we please ask those families who committed at the end of last year to paying a voluntary contribution for 2016 to arrange payment so we can use the funds to put towards our recent purchase of new literacy books. The suggested amounts are:
- $50 1st Child
- $30 2nd Child
- $20 3rd + Child

There is also a grounds maintenance and beautification contribution of $20 per family.

Please see Katrina if you are unsure the amount you committed or for payment options. Remember we now have BPay available.

Attached to the newsletter last week were statements for those families with outstanding amounts owing to the school. Prompt payment would be appreciated. Please note if you have a CSEF amount on your family statement this can only be used for Camp or Excursions.

VICTORIAN PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now open and Axedale Primary School is excited to be participating. Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or ‘experience’ 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

We currently have 33 students who have registered. They have read 82 books so far.

For more information about the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge and to view the booklists, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

BREAKFAST CLUB
Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help with Breakfast Club.

Thanks also to our sponsors.
- Tuesday 24th May – Melinda Pengelly & Claire Noyce
- Thursday 26th May – Hannelie Schutte & Samantha Gilbertson
- Tuesday 31st May – Liz Harrington & Susie McGrath
- Thursday 2nd June – Tanya Czuczman & Claire Noyce

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help cutting up fruit on Fridays.
- Friday 20th May – Susie McGrath & HELP NEEDED
- Friday 27th May – Kelly Gwin & HELP NEEDED
MISSING JUMPERS
Shania Schutte in Prep is missing her Bomber Jacket – size 6. It has her name on the tag.
Killeen Monti in Grade 3 is also missing her Bomber Jacket. We think it ended up in the wrong bag while at Cross Country last week.
Can parents please check their child’s bag and at home in case it has made its way there. Thanks

JOKE OF THE WEEK
Once upon a time, two antennas got married. The service was mediocre but the reception was fantastic.

(Students are encouraged to supply better jokes than Mr. J’s for the Newsletter! They can be handwritten and given to Mr J or emailed to johnstone.alexander.i@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Lex Johnstone
Principal

CLASSROOMS

EARTH SCIENCE
This morning the Prep students spent time in the veggie patch planting winter seeds and seedlings. Thanks to the older students who prepared the beds for us and spread the sheep manure delivered by the Czuczmans. We are hoping for a bumper crop.

AMAZING LEAF
Grace, Emily, Belle, Tianna & Lottie found this leaf after the heavy rains last week. They thought it looked pretty amazing!

ART – GR 2-6 GIRLS
This term in Art, the girls will be doing some scrapbooking. Students are able to make their scrapbooks about anything they wish. Eg. a holiday, their family, their pet.
Please spend some time with your daughter at home to select photos of a common theme, to include in this project. Photos will be photocopied and the original will be sent back home.
I know the girls are really looking forward to this project, as I am looking forward to seeing their work.
Thank you in advance for your contribution.
Michelle Mannes – Art Teacher
SAND PIT TOYS
With some new second hand sand pit toys (thanks Mrs. Jacobs), the sand pit has had a big work over this week. Lincoln, Cody, Darby and Kaiya are busy here building dams, roads, bridges and ramps.

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS (PVF)
FRUIT TREE & BARE ROOTED TREE DRIVE
Fruit Tree order form and tree list are available from the school. Trees are priced from $9.50 to $37. Orders need to be returned to school with payment by tomorrow Friday 20th May. Plants will be delivered in July (Term 3).

PIE DRIVE
Elmore Bakery Pie Drive order form was attached to the newsletter last week. Orders and payment are due by Thursday 26th May.

FOOTY TIPPING
Round 8 - $138.00 JACKPOT
Footy tipping sheets for Round 9 were sent home earlier this week and need to be in by tomorrow or to the Axedale General Store 1 hour before the first game of the round.

COMMUNITY

Help support our school by becoming a UFS member
When you join, we receive half of your membership fee!
Connecting With Kids
Axedale

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to identify your emotions, understand them and be in control of the way we express them.

- Do you often wonder why children do what they do?
- Would you like to learn how to help children manage feelings such as worry, frustration and anger?

Come along to this 2 hour workshop and find out more about how to use emotional intelligence to teach children about managing their feelings.

Term 2, 2016
When: Thursday 2nd June 2016
Time: Arrival and registration 5.45pm
      Session 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Where: Axedale Primary School - High Street, Axedale 3551
Cost: Free
Facilitator: Linda Lynch and Jo Rodriguez (CatholicCare Sandhurst)
Childcare: Not available

For bookings and enquiries contact Ricky Cawley (student wellbeing worker) on 5439 7232
Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to
the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged.
Help your kids build their own firewall against online Nasties

The online world provides endless access to inappropriate content for our kids. Filters can play a part, but as Catherine Gerhardt describes, it’s much better to have a fully rounded approach to tackling the issue.

**Fiction vs. reality.** One of the biggest concerns I have as a parent at the moment is the relative ease with which children can have access to online pornography. Recent studies revealed that children as young as eight years old have seen it, and most kids have witnessed it before parents have even considered discussing it. For me, it’s about considering what the long-term effects are going to be on our children’s future relationships. With wide access to the internet, including mobile devices and gaming systems, it is too easy for even young children to reach inappropriate content.

Most kids who have seen pornography know immediately that it feels wrong. They can feel ‘strange’ and their personal instincts kick in like an alarm system telling them something is not quite right. They may feel sick, embarrassed, confused. Some kids stumble across it (many porn sites know popular key strokes kids use), and others are exposed to it by friends or family.

**Is pornography really that big of a deal for our kids?** The simple answer is yes. Pornography damages their brains by tricking them into releasing the same pleasure chemicals that drugs do. “A child’s brain is more vulnerable as it is rapidly forming neural connections. Viewing pornography can reprogram a child’s brain and initiate an addiction that is often harder to overcome than drugs or alcohol,” says Kristen Jenson, author of Good Pictures, Bad Pictures.

**Pornography harms relationships.** Youth are being exposed to pornography even before they have had the opportunity to experience a relationship. Teens tell researchers that they don’t like pornography but they feel pressured to watch it, and they even acknowledge that it provides a model for them to follow. When we start to think about kids getting sex education from pornography, we can start to understand why we should be worried about their future relationships. Viewing pornography is setting up unrealistic expectations and desensitizing sexual expectations. Pornography can distort a person’s view of what a healthy relationship should be, and devalues the principles of mutual respect, trust and love we expect our children to experience in the future.

**What can parents do to build their child’s firewall?**

**Be proactive, be preventative.** Like most things it’s helpful for parents to begin the conversation before their child becomes interested in porn. Younger kids are more likely to see the parent as a dependable source of information; by the time they are teenagers peers become the reliable source and peer pressure and curiosity can lead them down a path of unrealistic expectations and perhaps, even addiction.

**Be open.** Most kids won’t tell their parents because they know they shouldn’t be looking at that stuff and, worst of all, you might take the technology away from them. Be honest, for many of us that might be our first reaction. But in hindsight it only prevents kids from telling us about their online experiences later on. It’s okay to say, “Thanks for telling me, I’ve had that happen too”, or “Let’s look into that together”. 

more on page 2 >>

Start by asking your child. Ask whether they have ever seen inappropriate photos online. Let them know that if it happens you expect they will come and tell you, assuring them they will not get into trouble and will not have the device taken away from them. You can suggest your child leaves a note for you if they see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable. This lets you know when they are ready to discuss it and gives you the chance to have a chat with them on the subject when you are ready.

Internet filters and porn blockers. These are important, but they are not a one-stop shop on protecting our kids. They can certainly help by minimising the risk of ‘random’ porn attacks, but they won’t safeguard them either. Even if we feel we have placed adequate measures within our own homes, children must, and do, go out into the wider world where they will have exposure that is beyond our control.

Developing internal filters is about getting kids to understand what pornography is, how it affects their brain, and coming up with strategies they can use when they are exposed to it. Children need to be able to make safer choices when they are in situations where content filters or adults are not monitoring their behaviour. It is normal for kids to be curious and as they head into the teenage years that curiosity peaks. As children grow they spend more time online and get exposed to more of the online world, with parents having less control over their viewing habits.

Parenting responsibility. Websites and governments are taking the minimum responsibility on these issues, so it has to become primarily a parenting responsibility. Children can be protected and harm can be minimised by taking some common sense approaches. Parents need to establish their expectations about children’s viewing; make sure communication devices are used in public places; install net nannies and firewalls where appropriate and don’t be afraid to keep a check on website histories. Investigate how you can protect your children and minimise their exposure by installing a porn site blocker onto your internet connected devices. A quick Google search will provide some options which best suit your family.

Discussions about pornography need to be part of an ongoing conversation within the family. Talking won’t put your kids at increased risk; in fact, it increases their awareness and empowers them to make safer decisions when the time does come. Short, frequent discussions will help your child remember information – rather than one big long lecture. As bestselling author Steve Maraboli advised: “Take action! An inch of movement will bring you closer to your goals than a mile of intention.”

Catherine Gerhardt