important dates:

February
- 3rd First MARC Van session
- 4th First Prep Rest Day
- 4th Gym Program begins Gr. 1-6
- 5th Working Bee 6pm
- 6th Fresh Fruit Friday begins
- 9th Parent Volunteer & Friends (PVF) Meeting 9.30am
- 11th Gym
- 17th MARC Van
- 17th School Council 6.30pm
- 18th Gym

March
- 23rd Information Sessions & Family BBQ
- 25th Gym
- 3rd School Photos
- 3rd MARC Van
- 4th Preps first Wednesday at School
- 4th Gym
- 9th **Labour Day holiday**
- 17th MARC Van
- 27th Last day of Term 1

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 families to our school community.

We also welcome Miss Michelle Mannes to our staff for 2015. Michelle will be teaching the Gr. 3 class and is taking on this role with great enthusiasm and determination. We look forward to Michelle becoming part of our school community.

We also welcome Mrs. Jeanette Tenace back to our school staff. Jeanette will be working in the Prep room.

CLASSES

This year we are running a four class structure
- Prep – 20 students – Ms. Gaye Saunders (Mr. Johnstone – Numeracy)
- Gr. 1/2 – 22 students – Miss Michelle Blume
- Gr. 3 – 12 students – Miss Michelle Mannes
- Gr. 4/5/6 – 25 students – Mr. Steve Christensen

Specialist subjects
- Languages (Indonesian) – Mrs. Jenny Grant
- Art – Miss Michelle Mannes
- Literacy Support – Ms. Gaye Saunders
- Earth Science – Ms. Gaye Saunders
- Health/Physical Education – Mr. Steve Christensen
- ICT/Music/Choir – Miss Michelle Blume
- Library – Deb Touhey
- Classroom Assistants – Rosemary Bennett (Gr 1/2) & Jeanette Tenace (Prep)

PREP REST DAYS

The Prep students will have rest days on Wednesdays until 25th February. Wednesday 4th March 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.

BOOKLISTS & SCHOOL FEES

Many thanks to all the families who collected books and made arrangements for payments on Tuesday. We put some new plans into place to make this time of the year easier for families. Any feedback on payment options, booklists supplies/collections etc. would be helpful in planning for this time next year. Feedback can be shared with myself or Katrina.

School would like ALL supplies to be returned to school where they will be kept to replenish as required.
TIMETABLE
In developing our classroom timetable for 2015, the focus has been to provide two hours of Literacy and one hour of Numeracy uninterrupted every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with specialist subject areas such as Art, PE, ICT/Music and Earth Science being taught in rotations on Wednesdays. 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 2nd February, allowing us time to have book boxes at appropriate levels organised for all students. More specific details regarding timetables and subjects will be sent home with next week’s Newsletter.

** Specialist subjects (Art, PE, ICT/Music and Earth Science) will take place on Wednesdays and begin after the Gym Program is completed.

ASSEMBLY
Assemblies are held every Monday morning from 9.00am. Parents are welcome to stay for assemblies.

FAMILY BBQ & INFORMATION SESSIONS
Information sessions for each class will be held on Monday 23rd February from 5.30pm for Grade 4/5/6 (Netbook Information) and from 6pm for Prep-6. 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. Following the Information Sessions, we will be holding a Family BBQ from approximately 6.30pm at the school to welcome both new and existing school families. School will provide meat, bread and salads.

FOOD/WATER
Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school to have in the room while working. Water coolers are available for the students to refill their bottles. A fridge is available near the fish tank for items such as yoghurts that need to refrigerated. Lunch orders need to be placed in the box near this fridge before 9.00am please.

LUNCH ORDERS
A ‘Lunch Order List’ is available from the Office. The Fresh Fruit Friday Program will continue this year. Fruit will be provided at recess each Friday beginning on Friday 6th February. Please complete the slip for Fruit Duty help at the end of the newsletter if you are able to assist.

PARENT TEACHER & GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS
We will also be holding Parent/Teacher Interviews at 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. We are in the process of confirming a date which will be in next week’s newsletter.

BREAKFAST CLUB
Breakfast Club will resume next Tuesday morning. All students are welcome to come along and share breakfast with some of their school mates from 8.30-8.50am.

GYMNASTICS
Beginning on Wednesday 4th 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 Palmer’s Gym in the Mundy St. YMCA building. There is a $40 charge to cover the cost of the bus and tuition fees. This can be paid weekly or as a lump sum prior to the program beginning. This amount is included as part of the Excursion Levy. Preps will be joining us for the last session on Wednesday 4th March. There is a $8 cost for Prep students for this day. Gymnastics permission note will be coming home tomorrow.

PREP WELCOME BAG
We ask that Prep students bring the welcome bag they receive from DET back to school to use as their MARC Van borrowing bag.
PREP EARLY YEARS LITERACY & NUMERACY TESTING
Prep parents have an extra attachment to their Newsletter today. The light blue sheets needs to completed and returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

ART SMOCK
All students are asked to bring along a named art smock. An old oversize cotton shirt (dad’s!) usually does the job. Also a reminder that an art smock/old shirt is needed to protect school uniforms. These are not needed until March.

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

SCHOOL APP
The Newsletter and a range of other school items are available on the school app. Just go to the app store and search. Continued feedback from current users would be useful.

BUS TIMETABLE
A draft Bus Timetable is attached to this Newsletter. This may be refined over the first few weeks of travel. Ross’ phone number is at the top of the list.
New bus travellers – please let the school know when your child will be starting to use the bus eg. some Preps may not use the bus for the first few weeks.
Previous users- please text Ross to let him know if you will not be catching the bus in the mornings. Ross is happy to take messages from 7.00am.

TERM DATES 2015
Term 1: Thursday 29th January – Friday 27th March (Easter is in the middle of the school holidays)
Term 2: Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June
Term 3: Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September
Term 4: Monday 5th October – Friday 18th December

STUDENT FREE - CURRICULUM DAYS 2015
Each year, schools can plan for four Student Free Days. School Council has approved the following dates as Curriculum Days for 2015.
Wednesday January 28th – Planning and Preparation
Friday July 31st – Michael Ymer PD
Parents will be notified of the other two student free days following our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday February 17th

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLAN
At the beginning of each school year we require an updated Asthma Management Plan for those students who are diagnosed with asthma. Can these please be organised ASAP and the new plan dropped into the office so we can update our records? Parents are also asked to check the expiry date on any medication which is kept at school and supply the school with new Ventolin if required. Parents are reminded that we require each student to have their own spacer due to health regulations. Thanks for your assistance with this.

FAMILY PAYMENTS SHEET
At the end of last year all families were given a family payment sheet. This is a summary of all costs for the year for your family. If you require another copy please see Katrina in the office.

MAINTENANCE LEVY
A $20 maintenance levy per family has also been implemented to continue the development of exciting and safe grounds/facilities for our students to play in.
EXCURSION LEVY
We have introduced a new payment option for parents in 2015. Our Excursion Levy will cover most excursions and incursions for the year. This will allow families a range of payment options to suit their circumstances.
Families will be able to pay:
- by lump sum,
- by term instalments,
- by monthly or fortnightly direct debits from bank accounts,
- item by item as they arise through the year.
The camp will be a separate payment, usually with deposit due mid Term 2 and balance before camp in Term 3.
The Excursion Levy total for each year level is listed below:
- Prep – $107
- Grade 1 – $134
- Grade 2 – $134
- Grade 3 – $144
- Grade 4 – $154
- Grade 5 – $154
- Grade 6 – $154

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS
Our Parents, Volunteers and Friends 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 held roughly once a month and are casual and friendly. This Committee also provides parents with an opportunity to discuss queries or issues with the Principal.
Our first Parents, Volunteers and Friends meeting will be in the Staffroom on Monday 9th February at 9.30am.

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.

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 SUPPORT PAYMENT (replacing EMA)
Our school has introduced a School Support Payment as per 2014 EMA arrangements. To be eligible for receipt of the School Support Payment 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 School Support Payment 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 2015. Please come to the school office to complete the application. We need to sight your current card as part of the application process. Closing date for applications is 27th February 2015.
The School Support Payment provides an annual amount of $150 for students in Grades 1 – 6 and $200 for Prep students.

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 Training 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 Training 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.

THANK YOU
A big thank you to a number of helpers over the holidays:-
- thanks to John and Marg Hill who lived on site for a couple of weeks and have kept our oval green.
- to Scott, Wendy, Meg and Hugh White who mowed, pruned and tidied up our grounds yesterday ready for the start of school.
- to Alan Monti for continued care of the vege patch
- to Jocelyn, Robyn and Julie who spent a number of days in January completing the painting of the Grade 4/5/6 classroom areas.
- and to our Cleaner Linda for having the school looking clean and bright ready for the start of the year.

QUICK SHEAR
Congratulations to the Quick Shear Committee – Emma and Shane Carmody, Melissa Doak, Marie Colvin, Steve Mason and Ann Mason- for co-ordinating a very successful event last Saturday.
On behalf of the school, I would like to thank all the families who volunteered to help out to raise money for the school, the pre-school and the hall.
It was great to see lots of school families come along and join in the activities provided.
As always, feedback from those working and attending would be valued in planning an even better day next year. Don’t forget to ask the kids how the day could be even better. Please see one of the above committee members to share you feedback.

WORKING BEE
There will be a one hour Working Bee next Thursday 5th February evening from 6-7pm to spread soft fall in and around the relocated playground.
Please complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter if you are able to attend.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES
A reminder to parents that there is no ‘Active After School’ activities this year.

WHIPPER SNIPPER
The school has had to purchase a new whipper snipper as the old one is no longer repairable.
The old whipper snipper is available to school families for spare parts if anyone wants it. It is a Kawasaki 'K Power' 2-stroke engine. The carburettor is in very poor condition and they do not make them anymore. It has a relatively new bump feed head. Please contact Lex if interested.

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
MICHAEL GROSS PARENTING RESOURCES
Our school is a member of www.parentingideas.com.au
This week’s attached article is “Make the most of this school year”.

Lex Johnstone
Principal

FRUIT DUTY ROSTER

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

Name: ________________________________

WORKING BEE

I am able to assist at the working bee next Thursday 5th February from 6-7pm.

Name: ________________________________

COMMUNITY

![Image of community events banners]
Recovering from Separation
Bendigo

Are you separated and wondering

WHAT’S NEXT?

Stuck, confused, frustrated or sad? Want to understand a little more about why you feel the way you do and eventually move on? Then join our eight week program and meet other men and women who have experienced separation or divorce.

Term 1 2015
When: Wednesday 4th February to 26th March 2015
Time: Arrangement and registration 6.15pm
Session: 7.00pm-10.00pm
Where: CatholicCare Noel Daly Room, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo
Cost: $20 for the entire program
Parking: Enter at 116 Hargreaves Street
Facilitators: Narelle Williams and Ky Gregg

For bookings and enquiries phone Ky Gregg on 5438 1300

Groups are subject to minimum and maximum numbers. Early registration is encouraged.

PlayGolf Clinics

Women Beginner Golf Clinics
Belvoir Park Golf Club
77 Belvoir Park Rd, Big Hill, Bendigo

Women’s Clinic (Level 1)*
Fridays 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March 2015
Time: 9:30am - assembly for a 10:00am start
Coffee and Cake - Morning Tea after the Clinics

* Level 1: For complete novices or people wishing to return to the game

Equipment provided – Dress comfortably (flat shoes) – Giveaways
Registration forms online at www.golfvic.org.au
(Click tab - PlayGolf, Clinics)
For enquiries, please contact:
Janice Klemm - 0409 462 644 or
De Racthiffe - 0419 534 812
or Mark Barnford - 0428 241 213

Tuning in to Kids
Bendigo

Want to learn how to help your child manage feelings and emotions (emotional intelligence)?

- Children with emotional intelligence...
  - have greater success with making and keeping friends
  - are more able to calm down when upset or angry
  - have better concentration at school

In this six session program you’ll find out how to help your child understand and manage feelings such as worry, frustration and anger.

Term 1 2015
When: Thursday 26th February - 26th March 2015
Time: Arrangement and registration 9:15am
Sessions: 9:30am - 11:30am
Where: CatholicCare Sandhurst Noel Daly room, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo
Cost: $20 for program (no charge for health care card recipients)
Child Care: Sorry, child care is not provided
Facilitators: Barby Webley and Linda Lynch
Parking: No on site parking available - please park in surrounding streets

For bookings and enquiries phone Ky Gregg on 5438 1300

Groups are subject to minimum and maximum numbers. Early registration is encouraged.

Senjuns Hockey Club
Registration Day

Sunday 8th February 2015
12pm – 2pm
At the White Hills Botanical Gardens

This is for all Men’s, Women’s and Junior teams

Existing members, transfering players and new players to the club are all welcome!

Contact:
Dinny Hone 0408 552 464
Sharon Horetyp 0420 491 234

Free BBQ lunch!
Please bring a salad to share and your own chairs

for bookings and enquiries phone Ky Gregg on 5438 1300
Parental withdrawal from children's education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities.

But the message for parents is clear – become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child's education. Their chances of success are better when kids see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning and their school in particular. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Make the most of the opportunities that schools offer to assist in the classroom including, hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Parent participation is much broader than helping out in the classroom. Hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep are important aids to learning.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child's education in positive ways:

- **Make sure your kids start each day well.** That means they should get a good night’s sleep, have a healthy breakfast and arrive at school on time with all their learning requirements as well as a healthy lunch.

- **Attend school activities** such as open days, concerts, parent evenings, sports events and celebrations. Read the school newsletter and other forms of communication so you can stay in the loop with what's happening at your child's school.

- **Consult with your child’s teacher** about homework expectations and practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school. Each teacher has his or her own expectations about how you can help so make sure you work within their guidelines.

- **Find out** what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s. School discipline is always more effective when it’s supported by parents so be supportive of their attempts to promote good behaviour in your child.

- **Direct any problems or constructive criticism through the correct channels** such as your child's teacher, the principal or the school's governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school's reputation.

- **Become an advocate** for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school-life.

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**AXEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL ABSENCE NOTE**

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<td>GRADE:</td>
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**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**