## Important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Regional Volleyball Championships – Grade 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>MARC Van (Prep/I borrowing)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>MARC Van (Gr 2-6 borrowing)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Easter Raffle drawn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – 2.30pm <strong>Finish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>PVF Meeting 8.50am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Mother’s Day High Tea</td>
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<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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## Class News

Well done to our Classroom and School Value award winners for this week.

### Class Award Winners

**Zaithan** – having a positive attitude and being willing to have a go and do his best when tackling work tasks.

**Lincoln** – doing a fantastic job to help clean up Axedale during Clean Up Australia day.

**Ava** – doing her personal best with all learning tasks.

**Katya** – for achieving her SMART goal of being ‘Top Gun’ in the Grade 4 Multiplication Tables task.

### School Values Award Winners

**Ally** – being *honest* and telling us when something is not as it should be when playing with her peers.

**Danielle** – doing her *very best* in the classroom and always being ready to learn.

**Isabella** – consistently showing *respect* to teachers and peers.

**Emma** – showing excellent *organisational* skills in preparing her autobiography.

### Golden Brush

The winners of the Golden Brush last week were the Gr. 1’s. Well done!

### House Competition

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

### Magic Words

Well done to our students who have moved up some levels with the Magic and Oxford Words.
IMMIGRATION MUSEUM EXCURSION

Yesterday, our Grade 4, 5 and 6 students attended the Bendigo Library to take part on an Immigration Museum Roadshow. On the 16th of March Axedale P.S went to the Immigration Program at the Bendigo Goldfields Library. We learnt about history. More specifically, we learnt about Isabella Steiner, wanting permission to immigrate to Australia. There was a letter with a coupon printed on it. There was a typewriter as well. We had to make a “book” of information the investigators found out. We took pictures and circled the clues for information needed to finish the “book.” After 15 minutes we would share the book and pictures on the big screen. Also Katya, Lilly, Alex and Zayne got dressed up in old fashion clothes, they looked really funny.

By William and Katya

Wow I didn’t know that in the 80s you could use a voice recorder to record live messages. I learnt that Isabella got a permit to come and live in Australia.

By Anthony

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday 22nd March will see the Annual General Meeting held at 6.30pm, followed by the first meeting of the 2016 School Council.

The AGM is open to all school community members. Congratulations to nominees Kristen Harrison, Julie Liersch and Garry Van Wynen on their election to School Council.

Many thanks to Claire Turner for her work over the last two years. We are pleased that Claire will now be taking up a role on the Finance Committee.

Parent Representatives – Neil Aurisch, Lara Bathurst, Sharon Hipwell, Kristen Harrison, Julie Liersch and Garry Van Wynen

Staff Representatives – Gaye Saunders, Steve Christensen & Corrín Hartland

Principal – Lex Johnstone
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE
Tomorrow at 9.00am will see the first meeting of our Buildings and Grounds Committee. The first tasks will include work on an overall ground’s Master Plan and beginning to develop ideas for the McIvor Rd. entrance to the school.
Thanks to Jeanette Tenace, Mandy McKay, Sharon Bromley, Karina Pickrill and Linda Hermens who have indicated an interest.
Please contact Mr. J if you are keen to be involved.

ZONE FAMILY FUN NIGHT
A Family Fun Night at the Zone is planned for next Monday, March 21st from 5-7.30pm. This night, organised by the PVF, provides a BBQ tea for the family, and the children (and parents) an opportunity to play laser tag. Laser Tag is on from 5.30-7.30pm. Families are asked to BYO drinks. In past years, it has been a very pleasant evening and another opportunity to meet up with others in our school community.
A charge of $10/family covers entry, BBQ tea and laser tag. A flier is attached to the newsletter.

DRAGON MILE
The 30th Annual Bendigo Bank Dragon Mile is on again this year on Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday). If students are interested in participating they can collect an entry form from Mr C. On the day, meet Mr C in Pall Mall at 10am ready for an 11am start. Grade Prep-4 complete the mini mile (800m) while Grade 5 & 6 complete the mile (1.6km).
So far we have 16 entrants –which is fantastic.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
Our students spent a very busy hour last week as part of our Clean Up Australia Day mission. Our Preps cleaned up the school ground, our Grade 1’s cleaned up the Axedale Park, Grade 2/3/4 cleaned up the back of the Axedale Store and the church and the Grade 4/5/6 cleaned up[a long the highway and around the front of the Axedale Store and the Axedale Tavern.
It was pleasing that this year the amount of rubbish collected around the town was significantly down on previous years. The Gr.1’s are pictured here busy at the Park.

Following Clean Up Day the Prep students made a list of things they found and drew a picture of them putting the rubbish in their bags using their gloves.
UKELELE LESSONS
Last week we began Ukelele lessons with all students from Prep-6. From now til the end of Term Two, Jo Woodward will be taking small groups for 20 minute lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays. This is a great opportunity for all students to develop some basic or more extended instrumental skills.
School is funding this program as part of providing a wide range of curriculum options. A set of 10 ukeleles have been purchased with the help of funds provided by the ‘Axedale in Harmony’ group. This group of local singers practice at our school every second Wednesday night and at the end of 2015 Axedale In Harmony made a donation to the school, which has now been put back into the Music provision budget. Jo is pictured here with Angus, Cameron, William, Katya, Anthony and Piper.

VICTORIAN PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE
The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is now open and Axedale Primary School is excited to be participating.
The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to 16 years in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by the closing date of the challenge.
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.
If you would like your child to participate, please return the attached privacy and consent form. All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll.
For more information about the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge and to view the booklists, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

BREAKFAST CLUB
Tuesday 22nd March – Melinda Pengelly & Emma Carmody
Thursday 24th March – Hannelie Schutte & Samantha Gilbertson

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
Friday 18th March – Hannelie Schutte & Susie McGrath

ROYAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL APPEAL
Attached to the newsletter last week was a donation envelope for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Families who wish to make a donation are asked to return the envelope to school by Monday 21st March so our donation can be included as part of the Good Friday Appeal. Receipts are also available for your donation. Thank you to those families who have already made a donation.

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS (PVF)
Our Parents, Volunteers and Friends Committee are our main fundraising group. Points to note and some dates to add to your calendar include:-
- Easter Raffle tickets were attached to the newsletter a few weeks ago. We have extra books available from the office. Tickets are $1 each – please sell both sides. We are asking all families to donate an Easter item that will form part of the prizes that will be bundled up. Donations can be left at the Office.
- BUNRAISER – Thank you to those families who placed an order for hot cross buns, they will be delivered to school on Tuesday 22nd March.
- PVF will run a Family Fun Night at the Zone on Monday 21st March. A flyer is attached to the newsletter today.
MICHAEL GROSS PARENTING RESOURCES
Our school is a member of Parenting Ideas. Visit www.parentingideas.com.au
This week’s attached article is “Helping kids with homework”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day. Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character.
Heraclitus

Lex Johnstone
Principal

EARTH SCIENCE
Gr.1’s have been busy digging their potatoes which they planted last year, unfortunately due to the very dry hot summer the potatoes were very small and few and far between. Grade 1’s also planted seeds for our winter crops. Hopefully the weather will be a lot more favourable.
If anyone has any lawn clippings we would appreciate some green things for our compost. They can be dropped at school next to our compost bays. Thanks

PREP CLASSROOM
This week in the prep classroom, a lot has been going on.
Every second Tuesday (non MARC week) Preps get together with their Gr. 4/5/6 buddy to complete activities together. This week the buddies worked on their ICT skills, learning how to use the paint program. Emma is shown here helping Bonnie to navigate the program.

We are writing my name and drawing a picture. Emma is a good buddy because she helps me to draw the fish. By Bonnie
FORMS TO BE RETURNED OR ORGANISED AT SCHOOL

ZONE FAMILY NIGHT
Return form with numbers indicated by Friday 18th March.

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS
Raffle books were attached to the newsletter last week. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th March.

COMMUNITY

**HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY FunLoong**

- **Saturday, April 16**
- 10.30am to 1.30pm
- Hargreaves Mail

**Features:**
- Bong Bong Hall Band
- Traditional Chinese Dancing performed by the Central Victorian Lion Team
- Festive Photo Booth
- Happy Hands Happy Hearts: Star dough and Share Mud
- Face painting by Alternate Designs
- Loopy Tune 3-in-1 Inflatable Jumping Castle
- and of course bouncy castles!

For more information please call 1543 6000

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**Any children and parents of children interested in registering or re-registering for Strathfieldsaye Auskick in 2016 should register now!!**

All you need to do is go online and register at: www.strathfieldsaye.com.au

Use the centre locator in the top right hand corner of the site. Type in your post code (3551) to find Strathfieldsaye Auskick. Enter and payment online $90 per child.

Sessions will run on Sunday’s 9.00am for 10 weeks starting Sun April 17th 2016. Flight Centre Park Strathfieldsaye.

Contact strathfieldsayeauskick@gmail.com

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**Falcons All-wares Market**

Fire Recovery Fundraiser

**Friday 18th March**

6-9pm

Trader Hall Building (next to Bendigo Art Gallery)
34-40 View St, Bendigo

Gold coin entry
BBQ & Drinks available

*Raising money for junior playing equipment lost due to recent arson attacks perpetrated in Eaglehawk*
Helping kids with homework

For many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Here are some ideas that may help.

Homework causes more headaches for parents than it does for children. Some parents worry because their children don’t seem to do enough while others are concerned because they do too much.

But for many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Okay, what to do?

The first step is to know the homework policy of your children’s school and understand what is expected of you as a parent. Most schools have parent interviews and information sessions at the start of the year. Next year, make sure you get a good handle on how your children’s teacher expects you to assist your child.

It is also useful to find out what your child’s teacher will do if your child doesn’t complete set tasks. Homework is basically an agreement between a teacher and a child so it should be up to the teacher to ensure the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes ‘the bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed. Your role as a parent is to support the school if a consequence is put in place, such as completing work in recess or whatever the school deems appropriate.

Here are practical homework tips:

1. **Establish homework time and stick to it each day.** If children tell you they don’t have any formal homework then they can read, revise or organise their work. My feedback tells me sticking to a routine even when no formal homework is set is extremely useful and helps avoid battles.

2. **Put the onus back on your children to take responsibility for their work.** Ask children at the start of a homework session to state how much homework they will do. At the end of the session check it to see if it matches with their intentions as well as yours. If you are more concerned about homework than them, your children are not the ones responsible for their homework.

3. **Homework is as much a time management issue as anything else.** Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit, which they should stick to. There is little point slogging away once they become frustrated or tired. Give them an egg-timer or use a clock and get them to work hard for small chunks of time. A little work each night is more productive than packing it into one weekly session.

4. **Help children decide the best time to do homework and then encourage them to stick to those times.** Maybe on some days homework is tackled after dinner for any number of reasons. If doing homework straight after school is important to you then consider feeding children ONLY after homework is completed. Food can be a huge motivator for some children! (As mentioned in point one, a homework routine is important but the timing can vary.)

5. **Establish a good working environment for students.** Make sure they have a quiet, well lit, well ventilated area away from distractions. A table or desk makes a good workspace, although don’t be surprised if they spread work all over the kitchen table. Some kids hate to be stuck away in their rooms and prefer to work at the kitchen table and can do so productively. Others are easily distracted and work in short bursts. Work out what is best for YOUR child.

6. **Use the motivating factors of technology.** The Internet and other forms of electronic learning are quick, convenient and give access to huge amounts of information. Nevertheless, children should still know how to access information from more traditional means such as books. Check with your child’s teacher as to their specific recommendations and preferences.

7. **Encourage children to get organised.** Help them think ahead to plan their homework around extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

8. **If you are helping with a particular task, keep your explanation simple and practical.** If you become frustrated or upset and the atmosphere becomes tense – stop helping.

9. **Be realistic – don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties.** When in doubt send a note to your child’s teacher letting him or her know the problem. The teacher will appreciate this good communication.

10. **Communicate any concerns.** If you have concerns about how much or the difficulty of homework your child is set, contact the teacher and arrange a time to discuss your worries. Such discussion is the basis of a true partnership between you and your child’s teacher.

The place of homework is routinely questioned by education authorities (now is currently one of those times in Australia) but my gut reaction is that children will always have homework. The name may change and the activities may vary but it will always be homework.

Schools generally try to make sure homework is varied, interesting, engaging and purposeful for children and parents.

Parents also need to be patient with both children (if they struggle) and schools that are trying to find a balance between too little and too much.
FAMILY FUN NIGHT @ THE ZONE

Monday 21st March  5pm-7.30pm
(Laser Tag 5:30pm-7.30pm)

Bring the whole family. It’s on again!
We have booked the Laser Tag & BBQ area for our exclusive use.
It’s heaps of fun, good exercise, suitable for toddlers to adults, and a great way to have a relaxed evening with other families.
The Zone staff will be organising shorter games, and larger elimination games to ensure everyone gets lots of tagging time.

$10 per Family
Includes Laser Tag and a BBQ dinner for the whole family. BYO drinks.
Please return the slip & $10 below by Friday 18th March.

The Zone Family Fun Night

Family Name: ________________________________

Adults:__________ Children:__________ I have included $10 payment per family