



Parkwood Green Primary School

NEWSLETTER

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issue

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WELCOME TO 2011

INSIDE...

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Lots and lots of smiling faces, new uniforms, big school bags and shiny shoes flooded into the school last week to mark the start of the school year. Plenty of anxious mums, new teachers and toddlers joined the procession and lots of dads with cameras recorded the proud moment of their little preppies starting their first day. Welcome back to everyone who was here last year, and an extra special welcome to new students, families and staff members. The start of the year has been particularly smooth and we would like to thank the parents who have prepared their children very well for their first day, and the kids themselves for a really positive start to the year. Thanks also to the staff members who came in extra early over the holidays to prepare their classrooms. Have fun, everyone, build lasting friendships and enjoy a great year. Best of luck to everyone!!



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Sports for Schools



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Literacy and Maths

parkwoodgreen.com

IMPORTANT! Parents are reminded that yard duty teachers do not commence duty until 8:45am each morning, and finish duty at 3:45pm. Please ensure that your children do not arrive overly early in the mornings, and are collected promptly at the end of each school day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 14th February - Swimming Trials-Grades 3-6

Monday 14th March - Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 18th March – School Photos day (Individuals)

Friday 25th March – School Photos day (Families)

Friday 8th April - Last Day of Term 1

Wednesday 27th April – first Day of Term 2

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a group of elected parent and teacher volunteers who manage aspects of the school's direction and operation. Elected school councillors attend after school meetings monthly, they are also members of sub-committees that meet every month, they organise and attend working bees, they meet at the school to help with events, they manage the school's major projects and financial directions, and carry out lots of tasks from moving furniture to negotiating contracts. School councillors are busy and dedicated volunteers who help and organise lots of things for the school, often in the evenings, after school or on weekends. They make speeches, push lawn mowers, cook sausages and work pretty hard. We rely on them a lot.

School councillors are usually elected every 2 years.

Nomination forms for five (5) Parent category vacancies and one (1) DEECD employee category vacancies are available from the office. In 2011, two Parent positions will be for 1 year only. If you decide to stand for election you can nominate yourself (in which case you complete and return the Self Nomination form for either the parent category vacancies (Form 5A) or the DEECD employee category (Form 5C) or you can be nominated by somebody else (in which case you complete and return the Nomination form for either the parent category vacancies (Form 5B) or the DEECD employee category (Form 5D).

Nominations close at 4:00pm sharp on **Friday 18 February 2011**. If you are interested, collect and complete the appropriate nomination form and return it to the school office by the due date and time.

If there are more nominations than positions, a full election will occur, requiring written statements from all candidates of approximately 150 words, so that all eligible voters will have a basis on which to form an opinion when casting votes. Retiring school councillors are Fiona Hyett, Anil Kattula, Janine Purcel, Kellie Neil, Gina Mastrop, Tanya Sealey and Stuart Telford - most of whom are eligible for renomination.

SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

Thank you to everyone who helped collect the thousands of Coles vouchers which provided the following sports equipment for Parkwood Green: 98 Gator play balls, 28 indoor footballs, 28 rugby balls, 28 soccer balls, 28 footballs, 28 mesh sacks, 30 skipping ropes and a NYDA sport team bag.



FAMILY PAYMENTS

Despite being a fairly new school, Parkwood Green Primary School does not ask families to make voluntary financial contributions to help us establish the school. School Council is aware that most families in the area are relatively young couples with little children, are often on one income and are often paying substantial mortgages. Therefore we don't ask families to make voluntary contributions (donations) to the school. Similarly, the school does not charge fees or levies for your child's involvement in certain subjects.

However, throughout any school year parents are often invited to pay for activities such as excursion entry fees, visiting artists, sausage sizzles, digital portfolios, additional book pack items, reader satchels, diaries, graduation photos, bus travel and a heap of other bits and pieces. These items are 'in addition' to the materials and services provided by the Department of Education for schools, and therefore come at a cost to parents. They are not compulsory, and parents can choose for their children not to be involved in them.

Past surveys of parents clearly indicated that parents believe the amounts of money requested by our school were very reasonable, but they hated paying small amounts all of the time. As a result, School Council introduced a Family Payment of \$125 per child. This payment covers all of the smaller items throughout the year, and parents are not required to make any other small payments, other than voluntary fundraising activities which parents may or may not choose to involve themselves in. Obviously expensive school camps and swimming programs are an additional cost.

Council provides the opportunity for parents to pay these amounts in a lump sum, or in 4 quarterly instalments (\$31.25), or parents may choose to simply pay for each item or event as it occurs (Parents are however reminded that if they choose to pay one event at a time, and they attend all or most activities, the combined costs will be greater than the Family Payment. A schedule of payments is provided below if you wish to pay by instalment, and advice regarding costs and due dates will be provided in advance for any parents wishing to pay per event.

Basically the four options are:-

❶ Pay the \$125 Family Payment by the 25 February 2011.

❷ Pay the Family Payment in \$31.25 instalments by the following due dates:-

Instalment 1 – By 25 February 2011

Instalment 2 – By 6 May 2011

Instalment 3 – By 22 July 2011

Instalment 4 – By 14 October 2011

⑥ Pay for activities or items individually but by their due dates. If you select this option and your child is in preps, pay \$16.00 for the recently distributed reader satchel and library satchel by Friday 25 Feb (or return them to the office in mint condition) and if your child is in years 3 – 6 please pay \$10.00 by Friday 25 Feb to receive their student diary.

④ Don't pay any money and receive the basic provisions provided to all students only.

Please Note: The school portion of the EMA will be used to pay the Family Payment for eligible parents unless parents advise us otherwise.

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 **and**,
- submit their application to the school by the due date.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1st February 2011 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (18 July 2011).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **28 February 2011** for the first instalment and **5 August 2011** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$230** for primary students and **\$450** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques.

Payment Amounts

Instalment	Portion	Primary school*
One	Parent	\$ 80.50
	School	\$ 80.50
Two	Parent	\$ 34.50
	School	\$ 34.50
	Total	\$ 230.00

As the school receives \$115.00 for each EMA eligible student, parents who wish to pay the Family Payment for their child can choose to simply pay the shortfall of \$10.00 (difference between the Family Payment and the school's portion of the EMA) when submitting your EMA application form to the office.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2011 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2011 and prior to or on 5 August 2011, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Parents can opt to be paid by EFT rather than cheque. EFT payments can only be made to the parent's bank account.

Application forms are available from the school office. You must bring your Health Care Card to the office when lodging your completed application form

MEDICATION

Parents that require their child to have medication at school need to make sure that they bring the medication to the sick bay and see one of the office staff and fill out a form which allows the school to administer the medication. The medication needs to be in its original container and the dosage amount clearly marked.

LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS BOOKLETS

Family participation is one of the most accurate predictors of a child's success in school and beyond. Families and schools working in partnership can help promote and build high expectations for all children and young people to ensure they achieve their full potential.

'Shine@Home – 201 literacy and maths tips to help your child' has been developed in line with Victorian Essential Learning Standards. It provides families with handy hints they can do with their child through everyday activities to help develop their literacy and mathematics skills at home.

We encourage you to complete activities from the booklet based on your child's individual needs to work together with the school to help your child to develop the essential skills to give them the best start in life.

Spare copies of the booklet, "Shine@Home" can be obtained from the front office.



There will not be our usual "Stars of the Week" section this newsletter. Stay tuned for the next newsletter where all our Stars will be revealed.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Djerriwarrh Health Services operates a public school dental service, which is currently located at Coburn Primary School, Melton South.

Children from pre-school age to Grade 6 are eligible for service at the School Dental Clinic. The dental Service is free for children who are eligible for concession, or a co-payment fee of \$28 is payable for those who are not eligible. The \$28 co-payment fee covers the cost of all treatment the child receives for that 'course of care'

For any enquiries or bookings please call 8746 1100. The service is available Monday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

FOOD AND ALLERGIES

Parents are reminded that at our school, children only eat food that their parents have provided to them, or that their parents are aware that the school is providing to them. There are many students at our school with diabetes, or severe allergies or other food associated medical problems. For this reason, we do not allow parents to bring birthday cakes or lollies to school for children to eat to celebrate their classmates birthdays etc. If parents bring foods to school for their child's class mates to share, the teachers will ask that you take it home again. Similarly, we ask that parents do not send nuts or nut products to school. Some students have such severe allergies to nuts, that their life is threatened by other students eating nuts in the same room.

If the school is organising an activity that involves foods, eg: a barbecue, making Anzac biscuits, Easter eggs etc, the staff will inform parents beforehand and parents can let the teachers know if they do not wish for their child to be involved.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Enrolments are still being accepted for Religious Instruction at St Mary of Assumption Parish, Keilor Downs, for the year 2011 for children in Grade 2-6 who attend government/private schools. Classes begin on the 8th February 2011.

For those children that have already been Baptised, the Sacraments to be received are;

RECONCILIATIONS-FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION.

Children begin in:

GRADE 2	An Introduction to Religion
GRADE 3	First Sacrament Reconciliation
GRADE 4	First Holy Communion
GRADE 5	Preparation for Confirmation begins
GRADE 6	Confirmation and ongoing faith development

Enrolment Forms will be available in the office opposite the church. I am available on Tuesday and Wednesday's between 10am and 4pm. Please do not hesitate to call me on 9364 0440.

Althea D'souza.

**EXCELLENCE &
OPPORTUNITY**