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.

Parents are advised that Parkwood Green is now accepting enrolments for 2010 prep classes. With lots of interest already being shown by 2010 prep parents, we encourage parents to enrol or book for a school tour at their earliest convenience by telephoning the school on **94493600**. As always, we will conduct personal tours during terms 2 and 3 for everyone interested in enrolling at the school, and children are invited to attend. We will also run our information nights later in the year for all parents who have enrolled children, and our very popular transition program and orientation day will be on offer.

Our 2009 preppies (some of whom are pictured above) have settled into school extremely well, no doubt as a result of some great preparation by parents, a very effective transition program, and the hard work of our excellent teachers. Hope to see all those bright and smiling little 2010 preppy faces soon!!

ENROL 2010 PREPS NOW
All government schools are assessed each year according to a variety of criteria, and the results are compared to other schools in Victoria. Parkwood Green consistently performs very well in each of these measures - and 2008 was no exception!!

PARENT OPINION SURVEY
Each year the Department of Education randomly selects 15% of parents to complete a confidential survey about the school. The data is aggregated by the Department and compared to all other Victorian schools in 18 different areas ranging from Reporting and Homework to Student Motivation and Quality of Teaching. Parkwood Green once again returned results in all 18 areas higher than the average of all other schools, and in many areas such as Stimulating Learning, Teaching Focus, Homework and General Satisfaction, we performed amongst the very highest performing schools in Victoria.

STUDENT OPINION
All students in years 5 and 6 complete a confidential survey each year that is collated by the Department of Education to provide feedback on how students feel about their school. Our 2008 student opinion data was outstanding, building strongly on previously high results. Students consider our school to be very safe, the teachers to be very caring and concerned about their progress, lessons to be stimulating and appropriate and generally feel very positive about their life at school. Our student opinion results are also amongst Victoria's highest results. Our school regularly receives positive feedback from the community about our student's excellent behaviour, and we are very proud of the hard work that they do and the results they achieve.

STAFF OPINION
Staff are also surveyed each year using an online survey. Once again the data is collated and compared to all other schools in the state. Our staff have returned very positive data over the years but 2008 data was exceptionally high and would no doubt be the envy of most schools. Areas such as morale, supportive leadership, role clarity, student motivation and learning environment were all areas where we performed above virtually all other Victorian schools, while all other areas were also very strong. This is not a surprising result as staff members at Parkwood Green are a very hard-working, talented and dedicated team.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS
Student enrolments are the key indicator of community confidence in a school. Since our opening in 2004, parents have flocked to Parkwood Green, almost entirely based on recommendations from other parents. Almost 70% of all children who attend our school live closer to other government schools, but their parents drive them further to bring them to Parkwood Green. When quizzed about why they view Parkwood Green so favourably, parents consistently refer to the school's high standards, excellent student behaviour, individualised teaching and learning, high levels of technologies, and the prevailing safe, calm and cooperative atmosphere. In 2008, we enrolled more preps than any other Victorian school, so we must be doing something right.

READING
All children in years Prep, One and Two are benchmarked each year against state-wide standards of reading, and our results are always very high. In Victoria approximately 81% of all Prep students can read accurately at reading level 5, but at Parkwood Green 96% of prep students can read accurately at level 5.
In Victoria approximately 86% of all Year 1 students can read accurately at reading level 15, but at Parkwood Green 100% of Year 1 students can read accurately at level 15. In Victoria approximately 94% of all Year 2 students can read accurately at reading level 20, but at Parkwood Green 97% of Year 2 students can read accurately at level 20. These are exceptionally high results, (especially for Year 1 students) and they are even more impressive when we consider that we include in our data students who have transferred into our school late in the year with low reading skills.

NAPLAN RESULTS
The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a new Australia-wide initiative that measures literacy and numeracy abilities of students in Years 3 and 5 in all states and territories. Victoria as a state performed very high in NAPLAN and so when we compare our school's results against other...
schools in Victoria, we can be comfortable in the knowledge that we are making strong comparisons. We can be pleased in the fact that 100% of Year 3 students achieve at the National Minimum Standard in almost all areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy, and we performed above most Victorian schools in most of these areas as well. Year 5 students also performed very well in NAPLAN, with similar results to Year 3 which is particularly rewarding as none of these students started their education at Parkwood Green. As a matter of coincidence, both literacy and numeracy have been identified as key focus areas for all schools in western metropolitan Melbourne and so we can expect that new initiatives in 2009 will help us to increase these scores even higher in the future.

SCHOOL FACILITIES
School facilities were bolstered in 2008 by the arrival of a second Art room, 4 more double portables, new cricket nets, an electronic scoreboard, interchange benches for soccer teams, goal post fences, dozens of new computers, interactive whiteboards, significant extensions and upgrades to our computer and telephone networks, a large electrical upgrade occurred, a new back entrance from Panorama Drive was built, and new signage at the front of the school was installed. Much of 2008 was also dedicated to researching and planning our new synthetic sports oval which will be installed in 2009, transforming our very poor oval to a state of the art all weather facility – very exciting.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Each year we track student absences and compare them to averages of other Victorian schools. When Parkwood Green Primary School first opened, students were absent far more often than they needed to be. This resulted in school absence averages being higher than state averages, particularly in the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Student absences obviously impact on student achievement and it comes as no surprise that as student absences have decreased over the years, student achievement has increased. Student absences in 2008 continued their downward trend and we are very happy to report that in the problematic year levels such as Prep to 2, children have on average 5 days less absences per year, and generally we now have less absences than most schools in these year levels – well done kids and parents, keep up the great work!

PERFORMANCE ACCREDITATION
All government schools were required to undertake a formal Performance and Development Culture Accreditation process throughout 2008 in order to ascertain the levels to which each school had developed a culture of accountability, performance feedback, professional development and continuous improvement within the teaching staff. Parkwood Green was informed late in the year that we had received one of the state’s highest accreditation results, which was celebrated shortly after by a formal presentation from the Minister for Education, Bronwyn Pike MP to our assistant principal, Mr Stuart Telford.

OVERALL
In all respects 2008 was an outstanding year, and we can all be proud of our achievements. The kids have been fantastic, parents have been wonderfully supportive and the staff continue to impress everyone with their dedication and talents. It has been equally satisfying to watch the staff busy themselves in 2009 focussing on ensuring that future performances are even better.

2008 has been fantastic - but 2009 is already shaping up to be even better!
Despite excellent reading results in 2008, parents will not be surprised to find out that staff at Parkwood Green have recently undergone intensive reading intervention training to work with individual students to produce even higher results. Our latest support program, ‘Bridges Literacy’ is designed to identify weaknesses in reading and to provide targeted strategies to address them. Pictured above are staff member Judy Meddings and Jack Grant who are working together to brush up on their skills. Go Jack!

NEW SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD
We are very pleased to announce that after successfully applying for $200,000 of Federal Government stimulus package money to add to our own funds, our long awaited synthetic sports field is ready to go. Tenders have closed and construction will commence this term. The sports field will be of the highest quality and will include a new football field, an overlaid soccer pitch and running tracks, all tying in with our existing synthetic cricket pitches and electronic scoreboard etc. During construction the oval will obviously be ‘out of bounds’ for students but I am sure the sports field will prove a very popular playing area when it reopens.

NEW LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Parkwood Green has been invited by the Dept of Education to submit details for the construction of a new multi-million dollar learning and technology centre facing Panorama Drive. The centre will include six brand new state-of-the-art classrooms, technology spaces, shared community spaces and withdrawal and office areas. Numerous meetings were conducted over the vacation period and we are confident that construction will commence very soon. The proposed building is quite large and will require us to move some of the portables, but the end result will be spectacular. The plans look fantastic and this is all very exciting!!

DATES TO REMEMBER:
Thursday 23/4 – Grade 3 & 6 Athletics day at Werribee
Friday 24/4 – Anzac Day ceremony and assembly – 9:00am
Tuesday 28/4 - Grade 4 & 5 Athletics day at Werribee
   Wednesday 29/4 - Grade 5 cooking excursion
   Thursday 30/4 - Grade 5 & 6 Bravehearts incursion