Calendar

Friday 2nd December  Working Bee 4pm-7pm
Friday 9th December  Years 5 & 6 Transition Experience
Saturday 11th December  Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
Monday 12th December  School Council Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday 13th December  Year 6 Orientation Day

NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT 2.12.2011

COOL TO GO TO SCHOOL – Final Session

The Preps for 2012 had their final classroom session today and met their buddies for 2012. This was an exciting time as they worked together to complete a treasure hunt! We now look forward to welcoming the Prep class of 2012 to school for real on Friday 3rd February 2012!

The children also received their library bag with a book to borrow over the holidays. The Buddies read the book to the children to encourage literacy skills. Thanks to Kay G for making the beautiful Library bags for the Preps of 2012.

PREP INFORMATION EVENING

This was a very enjoyable and fruitful evening indeed. Thanks to all the parents who attended and participated with enthusiasm.

The Prep Information Evening for parents of Prep enrolled students in 2012 was held on Wednesday. Mr Aspinall and Mrs Hickey ran the program for parents. Thanks to Sam Carey who organised a special and very entertaining After School Program for the children.

Prep H and 1/2A looked at the landscape paintings of the famous artist Gustav Klimt. Inspired by his piece, ‘Silver Birch Forest’, students began their own Silver Birch forest (triptych). After the tree trunks were masked off, the students used sponge painting to create the scattered forest floor, the sky and the tree bark.

Thanks to those grade 3-6 students who helped with some of the finishing details. Please pop in to have a look!
Prep H Dylan
For concentrating attentively during his reading test and sounding out words carefully and slowly.

Prep H Regan
For carefully spelling each word during his spelling test.

Prep H Sage
For concentrating during our handwriting test! Sage carefully wrote each letter!

1/2A Music Charlotte
For having a go at everything in music and being so positive.

1/2A Micaela
For doing her personal best on our number test, achieving 100%! Well done Micaela, super effort!

1/2A Caitlin
For being a responsible member of our class during the school fire drill. Excellent job Caitlin!

3/4G P.E. Award Mary
For showing terrific effort at Continuous Cricket and in skill sessions.

Principal’s Award

3/4G Julian
For the improvement he has shown with his journal writing.

5R Taylah
For achieving excellent results on the Maths Diagnostic Review.

5R Oliver
For wonderfully detailed and creative picture for his squiggle pictures.

5R Bertie
For achieving exemplary results on the Maths Diagnostic Review.

5R Billie
For achieving exemplary results on the Maths Diagnostic Review.

5R P.E. Award Nathan
For showing terrific effort at Continuous Cricket and in skill sessions.

Principal’s Award

6R Hailey
For achieving exemplary results on the Maths Diagnostic Review.

6R Music Kingsley
For doing a great job playing guitar and making the effort to learn at home too!

6R Kinglsey
For achieving “more” than a perfect score for the Maths diagnostic Review.

HOT DOG DAY

Our P.A. are having a Hotdog day on FRIDAY 16TH DEC
Order forms have been sent home with this newsletter. Please return your order
By Wednesday 14th Dec
HELPERS NEEDED! BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE
We are still looking for two volunteers to assist us with the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle to be held on Sunday 11th December between 8 am and 4 pm. We would appreciate help for an hour or two in the day cooking sausages and selling from the stall. This is the final big fundraiser for the year so please support the PA/Fundraising Committee in this venture. Let’s make it a huge success!

UPWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HAMPER
Donations for the school Christmas Hamper Raffle are now being collected in each classroom. Each Grade has a different theme and we are asking for donations to fill the hampers. Tickets for the Christmas Raffle have also been distributed in booklets of 10 tickets (50 cents a ticket). Please return by Wednesday 21st December. The themes are:
- Grade 5/6R: Chocolate
- Grade 3/4G: Baking
- Grade 1/2A: Christmas Decorations and Ornaments
- Grade PH: Beach
- Staff: The Garden

WISHING TREE
Gifts for the Shire of Yarra Ranges Wishing Tree may be dropped off at the collection box in our school office instead of at the Belgrave Library. They will be collected on Thursday 15th December so please assist with gifts to ensure that no child in the hills goes without a present at Christmas. Gifts for teenage children are really needed but can be tricky, so we suggest iTune cards, Movie Vouchers or any other type of voucher.

5/6R TRANSITION EXPERIENCE
Grade 5/6R will be attending a Transition Experience at Upwey High School for the day on Friday 9th December. They will complete lessons in different subjects according to a secondary school timetable. Thanks to Ms Southern and the high school for organising the program to allow children to have a taste of future experiences.

SCHOOL FEES & BOOKLIST PRICES FOR 2012
School Fees for 2012 will be $265 for the first child and $215 for the second child (This includes a $40 B & G levy-refundable on attending a working bee.) The Booklist component of the school fees will be $125.

The information sheets have already been distributed to all families. Please see the office if you have misplaced your copy.

The minimum payment will be $110 and will be due during the hours indicated on the last week of term. Payments may be made before the end of the year or at the beginning of 2012. Direct Deposit is available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY PICNIC & CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING
The annual event will be held on Monday 19th December from 6:00 pm on the school oval. We would expect an appearance from Santa Claus at some time. All families are welcome to attend and have a relaxing time with some games and exercise for the children. Carol singing will be a feature of the evening at about 8:00 pm.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION- DINNER & PRESENTATIONS
The Year 6 Graduation Dinner and Presentations will be held on Wednesday 21st December at Marybrook beginning at about 6:00 with dinner at 6:30 pm. The formal part of the evening involving parents and family members for presentations and speeches will be held at about 8:30 pm.

ORIENTATION DAY- YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY
Tuesday 13th December will be the Orientation Day for all Year 6 children to attend the secondary school of their choice in 2012. This will be a whole day program and the respective secondary schools will provide information to all students.

CAMEO EXCURSION
We are anticipating a Whole School Excursion to the Cameo Cinema in Belgrave to view the movie “Arthur Christmas 2D” on Tuesday 20th December from 10-12. We will be walking to the theatre along the bike track. We expect to have lunch at the outdoor theatre before returning. The cost will be $8.00. The notice and permission form will be distributed this week.

FINAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
This will be held on Monday 12th December from 6:30 pm at Honey Thai in Belgrave. The meeting will be followed by dinner at around 7:30 pm.

HOT DOG LUNCH
The PA/Fundraising Committee are organising a special luncheon for those interested in a Hot Dog Lunch and this will be held on Friday 16th December. Order forms have been distributed this week. Check at the office if you have not received an order form.

RED FACES 2011
Practice sessions will be the order of the day! The annual, and favourite, Red Faces event will be held on the last day of school, Thursday 22nd December. Children will need to be prepared and rehearse in readiness for their performances. A list will circulate the grades soon for children to register their act. Priority will be given to single involvement for children before any multiple acts will be considered (Children encouraged to perform only once-individually or with a group). Parents will be welcome to attend the event. Start time is anticipated to be 9:30 am and acts will continue until about 11:00 am.

CLASSROOM KRIS KRINGLE
The staff has decided to plan for a Kris Kringle activity for the last day of school again this year. All children will be invited to participate within each grade and bring a small gift for another child in the grade (no food items thanks). A separate notice will be distributed in regard to this matter. It is a choice activity - not compulsory for children to participate. The value of the gift is requested to be about $5 or $6 dollars.

END OF YEAR PLANNING

EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM 4
On Thursday 22nd December dismissal will occur at 1:30 pm with a lunch hour being eliminated. The final assembly for the year will be held at 1:15 pm and all parents are welcome to attend. The Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn at this assembly.

WRITTEN REPORTS- END OF THE YEAR
It is anticipated that Semester 2 (End of Year) Written Reports will be distributed on Friday 16th December. Again I am insisting that report envelopes only be opened by parents or in the presence of a parent. Please complete the Parent Comment page and return the page for photocopying for us to complete our records. I thank the teachers for their dedication to the completion of the reports which are almost finalised.
WORKING BEE ATTENDANCE 2011
Please remember that anyone who has paid the Buildings & Grounds Levy for 2011 may request a refund of $40 or for the amount to be paid towards next year’s school fees. Any parents whose children are not returning in 2012 may request the refund from the school office. A draw will also be made for the end of year Working Bee Prize with names of those attending during the year being put in a draw for some prizes.

HELPING HAND
MOWING & BRUSHCUTTING STILL URGENTLY NEEDED
If any parents are available after school, or during the day to assist with mowing or brush cutting duties over the coming weeks this would be much appreciated. The current weather conditions have led to huge grass growth recently and with washed out Working Bees the problem has become exaggerated.
Please contact me if you are available at any time.

WORK EXPERIENCE
We will be welcoming Ebony H (sister of Oliver and Charlotte) for work experience next week. She will be working in the Art Room and classrooms to provide assistance for the teachers.

REMINDERS
VISITOR’S BOOK- SIGN IN AND OUT
Completing the Fire Drill last week gave us a reminder that all parents/visitors who attend the school for any reason (more than a quick 5 minute stay/drop off) need to sign the Visitors Book on arrival and departure so that we can be assured we know who is in the school at any one time.

SCHOOL START BONUS 2012
Year 6 and Prep 2012 parents need to ensure that current Health Care Card or EMA information is up to date as parents need to know whether they qualify for the School Start Bonus or not. Please contact Kay at the office if you have any questions regarding qualifying for the School Start Bonus which is provided to offset school expenses for Year 7 and Prep children in 2012.

SOUPEES: FREE FEED FRIDAY FOR BREAKFAST
The free breakfast session continues each Friday through Term 4. Children have been offered a choice from Weet Bix, milk (soy, full cream, lite), toast (white, wholemeal) and jam/vegemite. Apples are also available for all children. Gavin and helpers continue to do a great job so I hope that families are taking advantage of this opportunity.

JUST FOR FUN
PLAYING WITH WORDS
I met a man who loves eating couches.
I think he has a suite tooth.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges

GIVING TREE
Helping Kids in our Community

We need your support to ensure no child in the hills goes without a present at Christmas.
(department store Giving Trees gifts are not distributed in the Hills)

Here’s how you can help:

1. Give a gift for a child
   Take a tag from the Giving Tree at the Belgrave Library, purchase a gift for the child described and leave it under the tree by Thursday 15th December 2011

2. Make a tax deductible donation (over $2)
   Cheque and cash donations can be forwarded directly to DRERS. Please contact DRERS for details on how to donate via direct debit or credit card.

Please drop your donations off at our office in the box that has been provided by the Shire of Yarra. Thank you for your kindness.

WORKING BEES
We have planned two twilight working bees. the first one is TONIGHT & Friday 16th Dec.
4pm-7pm
BBQ Dinner will be provided

Experimental fun with Mr Murray
Happy Birthday
For our students & staff
1st Dec - 8th Dec

Mrs Arvo
Lily
Bryce

We made Lemonade!

On Monday we made lemonade. We put sugar, we boiled some water and squeezed the lemons, then after we squeezed the lemons we poured the juice into a jug and then we put it in the fridge and left it for 40 minutes to chill. It was scrumptious and so refreshing.

Thanks to Pam for giving us her juicy lemons,
By Hannah

Homemade Lemonade Recipe

- Prep time: 15 minutes  Serves: 10

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cup sugar (can reduce if desired)
- 3 cup water (for the simple syrup)
- 2 cup lemon juice (approx 10 lemons)
- 3 cups cold water (to dilute)
- 1 lemon (for slices in the lemonade)

**METHOD**
1. Make simple syrup by heating the sugar and water in a small saucepan until the sugar is dissolved completely.
2. While the sugar is dissolving, use a juicer to extract the juice from 8 to 10 lemons, enough for 2 cups of juice.
3. Add the juice and the sugar water to a jug.
Add 5 to 6 cups of cold water, more or less to the desired strength. Add some sliced lemons.
Refrigerate 30 to 40 minutes. If the lemonade is a little sweet for your taste, add a little more straight lemon juice to it.

Pam, Lydia and Ryan's mum gave 1/2A some lemons so on Monday we made lemonade, it was delicious!
We put lemon slices on top for decoration
By Caitlin

It was scrumptious and thank you Pam, Ryan and Lydia’s mum for the lemons, so we could make yummy lemonade!
By Ariel
Parents Association News

Thank you to all of the families who have offered to help at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle that is booked for Sunday 11th December. This is a fantastic fundraiser for our school.

We now require just 2 more helpers for the 10-12pm and 12pm-2pm slot. If you can help out, please call the office.

New members are always welcome and Toddlers are welcome too.
Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Whooping cough on the rise in 5-14 year olds

The number of children aged 5-14 years old catching whooping cough has increased dramatically in Victoria over the last four years.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly infectious disease causing a severe, persistent cough. Whooping cough is spread by coughs and sneezes from an infected person. While most children and adults eventually recover, often after weeks or months of illness and household disruption, there is a serious risk if infected people pass the disease to young babies.

Around one in every 200 babies under six months of age who catch whooping cough will die. Some babies will suffer permanent disability from brain and lung damage.

Family members, including siblings and parents, are the main source of whooping cough infection in babies.

Timely immunisation offers the best chance of preventing the spread of whooping cough. Whooping cough vaccine is provided free for children at two, four and six months, at their fourth birthday, adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school and parents of newborn babies. The two month vaccine can be given early at six weeks to start protection earlier.

Parents are urged to ensure their children are vaccinated on time and to consider their own whooping cough vaccination needs.

Vaccination is recommended for all adults caring for or working with young children, including school teachers, as well as all health care workers.

Parents should talk to their doctor or nurse if they have questions about the whooping cough vaccine.

For more information search ‘whooping cough’ on www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
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Have we got the perfect Christmas present idea for you?

Come on down to Village Cinemas Knox and purchase a gift card for that special someone. Village Cinemas Gift Cards are the perfect gift for everyone— you chose the value, they choose how to spend it!

Gift cards can be redeemed for any tickets, food and beverage at all Village Cinemas including Gold Class, VMAX, Village Digital 3D and Cinema Europa.

With our Express Queue it’ll take you no time to purchase your wonderful gifts so you’ll be in and out before you can say “Merry Christmas”.

**Merry Christmas!**

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**FREE FAMILY VEHICLE SAFETY DAY**

Saturday 3rd December 2011
9am – 4pm

Be prepared this holiday season for your family road trips

- Free Family Vehicle Safety Check
- Are your baby/child car seat fitted correctly?
- Do your tyres have enough tread?
- Are your brakes safe?

Gladstone Safety Centre – Continuing for the Transport and Motoring Foundation. Keeping children safe from violence. Have you heard about the all- new program – Helping Australian schools deal with cyber bullying!

7 Hayward Road, Ferntree Gully
Enquiries call 9752 4030

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**Christmas Decorations for Children**

FERNTREE GULLY LIBRARY

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**Luna Park Drive In**

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**FAMILY FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS FAIR**

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**Christmas in the Hills**

Excursion to Graduation 2011
Begin 6pm Cameo Cinema
Dinner Term 4, 2011 Term 4, 2011 Term 4, 2011 Term 4, 2011
Upwey Primary Upwey Primary Upwey Primary Upwey Primary
We need volunteers to help run a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Scoresby on Sunday 11th December this is one of our major fundraiser PLEASE HELP. We will need a number of volunteers between 8am and 4pm. If you could spare an hour or two please fill in the form with the time that suits you. It won’t cost you anything, just some of your free time.

If you are interested please complete the slip below and return it to the office.

SIGN UP NOW…HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP…

Bunnings Scoresby, Ferntree Gully Rd. 8am to 4pm. Sunday 11th December.

I/We, ……………………………………………………………………………………………...

would like to volunteer at the sausage sizzle to be held at Scoresby Bunnings.

Signed: ……………………… Date: …………..

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Thank you for your support and time. Please tick a box when you are available to help.