Dear Parents and Students

Last week’s grade three trip to Lakes Entrance was a great success. Thankyou to our parent volunteers and especially to the McTigh family at Lakes for organising some wonderful experiences for our children. We were also very pleased with how well the students coped with being away from home. This trip was a bit of a ‘one off’, however we are still planning to hold a grade two/three sleepover in term two. The grade 4-6 camp (to Ballarat) will be held from May 21st to 23rd.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS:
The students have completed voting and successful candidates (2 boys, 2 girls) will be informed tomorrow. Those students will be presented with their badges on Monday at 9am assembly. Thankyou to all candidates.

CAPE PATERSON BEACH PICNIC - FRIDAY FEB 24TH:
This popular event is coming up next week, on Friday 24th Feb. Could everyone please take particular note of the following:

* All permission forms must be back TOMORROW to assist planning.
* The bus is for school students and staff only.
* A second bus will be ordered only if required. As this adds considerably to the cost, we would appreciate as many private cars as possible to avoid a second bus. We’d also appreciate some older students travelling in cars so that the younger children can experience the bus trip (some for the first time!!).

SAFETY NOTICE:
Each staff member will take a student list and contact details for the students in their class. All children must be ‘signed off’ by a parent or guardian with their child’s teacher before we depart Cape Paterson at (approx) 3.00pm. It is also important that all parents assist with the supervision of their children, esp, pre-schoolers, throughout the day.

There are a couple of important reminders about the excursion:

1. The bus is due back at Darnum at about 4.30pm.
2. Ensure a staff member knows if you are either leaving early or staying later and that your child/children are signed off as not coming on the bus.
3. All adults are asked to assist the staff to supervise all children, regardless of age, so that we can have a safe and happy day.
4. After School Care IS available after we return.

Finally please check all details on the ‘Cape Paterson’ note regarding what to take, map etc

I encourage everyone to attend this great event. We especially love to have grandparents etc join us on the day. As mentioned, please help us with supervision to ensure everyone has a safe, stress-free day and please be ‘Sunsmart’!

SCHOOL COUNCIL:
Our February meeting is next Tuesday (21st) at 7.30pm. The dates for 2012 are
Tuesday 20th March  Tuesday 15th May  Tuesday 19th June  Tuesday 21st August
Tuesday 18th September  Tuesday 23rd October  &  Tuesday 20th November
SCHOOL COUNCIL CONT...
School Council elections are held in late March. There will be at least one vacancy that we need to fill - full details in early March.

NEWSLETTER:
Our newsletter is the most important way we have of providing school information. You can also access it freely on our website: www.darnumps.vic.edu.au
Due to website space limitations, the ‘web’ version of our newsletter may not always contain as many photos or pictures, but all normal information will be included, including permission notes etc.

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” - INFORMAL INTERVIEWS:
Over the next two weeks all staff will be sending home information about these interviews. This is a very valuable opportunity for both parents and teachers. The questionnaire has been particularly useful in planning the individual and social support for each child.

ART SMOCKS:
If you haven’t sent one of these with your child, could you do so a.s.a.p. Thankyou

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS:
We were very pleased to see this start last Tuesday, and the basketball sessions begin tonight. Please note that it is essential that parents see Ellie at the end of each session to sign their children out, thankyou.

OFFICE HOURS:
Our office bursar, Mrs Sharyn Cropley, is employed full time. Please see Sharyn for all enquiries regarding EMA, school levies, uniform payments, etc.

2012 SCHOOL LEVY:
The school levy remains unchanged at $65.00 for the first child and $60.00 for additional children. Families who have current EMA or applying for EMA in 2012 (see note below) do not need to pay this levy as it is directly paid to the school.

EMA:
Holders of Government Health Care Cards can apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Please see Sharyn for this. There are also new forms for all EMA recipients to enable payments to be made by direct deposit. These are available at the office.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE:
If you live more than 4.8km from Darnum School and we are your closest school you can claim an allowance to drive your children to school. (Families who claimed this allowance in 2011 do not need to reapply).

Regards  Chris & Staff
BOOKCLUB
Bookclub orders and money are due back no later than Tuesday 21st February.

DIARY DATES

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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th</td>
<td>Cape Paterson</td>
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<td>School Council meeting</td>
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<th>MARCH</th>
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<td>Monday 12th</td>
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CAPE PATERSON

Those travelling by car may either go directly to Cape Paterson or follow the bus. It is strongly recommended that sunscreen is applied at home and that children have a rash vest or spare T-shirt to swim in. We will be getting all children to re-apply sunscreen at lunchtime.

**Broad brimmed hats and plenty to drink are a must.**

We will be leaving school at about 9.10am so could all children be at school by 9am.

We expect to leave Cape Paterson at about 3.00pm to arrive back at Darnum close to 4.30pm.

- No boogy boards can be taken on the bus.
- To avoid winding roads, we will be travelling down Westernport Road (via Drouin), then along the South Gippsland Highway to Wonthaggi.
- Note that we are going to the first bay beach NOT the surf beach of Cape Paterson
- Please take picnic rugs and shade shelters if you have them
- Lots of sunscreen, hats and drinks must be taken
- Children & families need to provide all drinks and food.

The school council will purchase icy-poles.

- Children are NOT to take spending money and we ask attending parents not to buy extra items for their children (eg. ice-creams) during the day.
- Please assist us with supervision! All attending are asked to assist the staff and lifesavers with supervision of all children throughout the day. Staff must be informed if you leave earlier than our scheduled departure, thankyou.

Students of the Week
BAYLIN ROURKE
BRYDIE SOMERVILLE
RUBY DAVIE
ZAC MILLER
LISA STRAATMAN
ABBAY CRAWFORD
CAPE PATerson PICNIC DAY - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
PERMISSION FORM

FAMILY NAME: __________________________________________

I give my permission for my child/ren to attend the above excursion.

In the event of illness or injury to my child/ren whilst on the excursion I authorise the Teacher in charge of my child/ren, where the Teacher in charge is unable to contact me or it is otherwise impracticable to contact me to:
- consent to my child/ren receiving such medical or surgical attention as may be deemed necessary by a medical practitioner.
- administer such first aid as the Teacher in charge may judge to be reasonably necessary.

TRANSPORT: I will be taking a private vehicle and will be taking the following Darnum school children in our car:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Or

My child/ren will be travelling via the bus ☐
(Please tick if required)

Comment (if required):

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian  ____________________________ Date  /    /2012
Dear Parents,

The School Council has adopted the following process for the 2012 requisite levy. This follows recent Department Education Guidelines regarding parent contributions to the purchase of student requisite and stationary needs for the school year (eg. pens, books, glue, diaries etc.). Most schools, including ours, have done this for many years by organising bulk purchases so that all children receive the correct number and type of each item, at a reduced cost. The school also freely provides (or heavily subsidises) many other activities throughout the year. This includes sports association fees, swimming subsidy, picnic/excursions, M.A.R.C. Van levy, visiting performances subsidy and special art/craft items to take home.

As a result of this levy, School Council will **NOT** ask families to pay a ‘Voluntary Contribution Levy’. (Most schools have a booklist which parents need to purchase for their child, as well as a Voluntary Levy, and both are usually substantially more than our levy). We are committed to provide a top quality education but keeping costs to an affordable levy.

As all students have already been supplied with their requisites, it would be appreciated if the Student Requisite Levy could be paid by the end of Term One.

The 2012 payable fee is $65.00 for the first child and $60.00 for subsequent siblings. (If you are in receipt of E.M.A. allowance this fee will be automatically paid to the school.)

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I have included payment for the 2012 Student Requisite Levy of $ ________ for my child/children.

Banking Details: Darnum Primary School Council
Commonwealth Bank Warragul
BSB 06 3532 A/C NO 10082108