Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to the 2012 school year! A special welcome to our 21 new preps and also a number of new students in other grade levels, bringing our enrolment to 110. We also welcome our new staff members, Rhonda Carlin (Grade Three) and Marie Harris (Integration).

This special newsletter contains several important items of information for the start of the year, and regular newsletters will be sent home EACH THURSDAY with the oldest child in your family… Please check their bags for this each week.

You can also access the newsletter on our website: www.darnumps.vic.edu.au

Due to the increased enrolment, we are now running SIX classrooms. The senior school (grades 4, 5 and 6) all operate from the rear classrooms, and all other grades are in the main building. Our timetable runs on 5 teaching blocks and some fortnightly specialist rotations:

Key Times:
• School starts at 9am and finishes at 3.30pm... (3.20pm for P-2...see below)
• Recess is 11:00 to 11:30 am
• Lunch is 1:30 to 2:30pm.

As noted above, we have a slightly earlier finish for students in Prep, One and Two to enable any parents who do not have children above those grades to do an earlier pick up to assist with the restricted parking in front of the school. Parents are also urged to park in the vacant RTA land north of the school, or down adjacent laneways/roads.

Students may only exit the school or cross the road via the front of the gatehouse. Parents MUST supervise younger children crossing the road or the staff car-park at all times. Please assist us to keep all children safe. More of this in future newsletters.

• Reminder: Preps have Wednesdays off in February, however please ensure you have booked your child’s interview time with Sharon

• After School Care will operate with our director, Rhonda Cox. It operates from 3.30pm to 6pm each week day. Registration forms available at the office.

Our first big event, the annual Cape Paterson beach day is booked for Friday 24th Feb. and the School Sports are on March 21st (back up day is the 23rd). Please mark this on your calendars...everyone welcome!
Grade Three Camp: This takes place from next Wednesday, 8th. There will be a short meeting at 9.00am tomorrow (Friday 3rd) for all parents to discuss the final plans. In particular, those parents who are attending the camp as volunteers are urged to attend if possible.

Can we ask that:

- All volunteer parents provide a copy of the Working with Children check to the office
- All payments of $120.00 be made to the office by Tuesday 7th thankyou.
- Could all families please send along a small container of biscuits, cake or slice.
- A separate note will be sent home with your grade three child with other information.

Active After School Sports: Students from grades one to six will receive an enrolment form for this exciting free after school sports program which will operate throughout 2012. In this first term, we have senior girls basketball and junior gymnastics on offer. I urge all eligible students to take part. There will be various sports on offer throughout the year, so eventually all students should have an opportunity to take part in this program. It has taken us about 8 years to get into this program...so I hope everyone makes full use of it! There are limited places, so get your forms in fast!

**HATS:**
A reminder that wide brim or bucket style hats are compulsory in Terms 1 & 4. A spare older hat in your child’s bag is also a good idea if they forget their main one. Another good hint is to sew a badge or button on your child’s hat for easy identification.

   **Remember, all your child’s uniform items should be clearly named.**

**Picture Plate Products:** As luck would have it, these arrived just a day or so AFTER Christmas. They look great and will be sent home with your child today.

**WANTED:** Could ALL children bring their OWN art smock to school. An old long sleeve adult-sized shirt would be fine, but please check it is loose and easy to remove!

See you tomorrow!

Chris and Staff