Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to the 2014 school year at Darnum P.S! Special welcome to the foundation students who started their school life today and to our new students in other grades as well. This year we also welcome several new staff members - Ms Anita Bolge (Grade 2), Linda Benson (Integration), Melanie Nicholls (Music) and Emma Moorehouse (Science).

This first small newsletter contains several important items of information for the start of the year, however regular newsletters will come home on THURSDAYS each week with the oldest child of each family. You can also access the newsletter online at www.darnumps.vic.edu.au. Please ensure you take the time to read all the information in our newsletters thank you.

School hours and bell times:

- School starts at 9am and finishes at 3.30pm... (3.20pm for P-2..)
- Recess is 11:00 to 11:30 am
- Lunch is 1:30 to 2:30pm
- After School Care operates daily until 6pm.

Please note that any students not collected by 3.45pm will be sent to after-school care and the normal fee for that service will apply.

Arriving at school: Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am. Classroom doors are generally locked until 9.00am. (apart from days of extreme weather) Staff need that time to prepare for the day’s program, however you are of course welcome to let staff know about medical or other important information about your child/children in that morning time. You are most welcome to arrange longer discussions and/or interviews via the office. Teachers usually see off the students at the gatehouse at the end of the day! As you are no doubt aware, there is very restricted parking in front of the school. There are limited spaces available in the staff car park on occasion, however, parents are urged to park in the vacant Vicroads land north of the school, or down adjacent laneways/roads if you wish to come into the school to see staff, etc. Entry and Exit to the school is via the GATEHOUSE ONLY. 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: Bucket or broad-brim style hats are compulsory during term one...please clearly identify them with a badge, button, nametag etc.
DATES: To assist parents with forward planning, here are some key dates for 2014. Our newsletters will also contain important dates for coming events so please check them regularly.

Foundation students have every Wednesday off in February as a rest day.
Friday 21st February - School Picnic at Glen Gromie
Friday 28th March - School Sports Day
Tuesday 22nd April - Curriculum Day (No School)
Friday 9th May - School Photos
Monday - Wednesday 2nd-4th June - Grade 4-6 Camp (Urban)
Thursday 26th June - Report Day
Wednesday 10th Oct - School Concert
Monday 3rd Nov - Curriculum Day (No School)
Thursday 18th Dec - School Christmas Party

Chris and staff...

Welcome back to ASC 2014.

We hope you all had a fantastic break, we look forward to hearing all about your adventures. We are excited to see all our friends and look forward to meeting our new little friend. If you want to know anything about our ASC program please feel free to drop in and have a chat with either Melissa or myself. ASC is located in the Multi purpose room.

Ange & Mel

Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014
In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:
$200 for parents of eligible Prep students $140 first instalment $60 second instalment
$150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students $105 first and $45 second

To be eligible for the EMA:
You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or be a temporary foster parent.
Submit your application to the school by the due date:
• 28 February 2014 for the first instalment*
• 1 August 2014 for the second instalment.

If you are eligible for EMA please come to the office and fill out a form. If you apply for EMA you will need to bring your Health Care Card with you to the office.

Thanks Sharyn

School lunches and snacks: Darnum school promotes healthy food and follows the Education Dept guidelines. This includes a ban on all soft drinks.
The Darnum General Store operate a lunch order program with a menu of suitable items. Parents wishing to use this service make all arrangements and payments via the shop in the morning.
Dear Parents,

The School Council has adopted the following process for the 2014 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, 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 2014 payable fee is $80.00 for the first child and $70.00 for subsequent siblings.

STUDENT REQUISITE LEVY

Oldest child - $80.00 Subsequent Children - $70.00

Family Name: ________________________________________________

I have included payment for the 2014 Student Requisite Levy of $ ________ for my child/children.

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

On behalf of Darnum Primary School Council

Steve Pompei
School Council President

Chris Eeles Principal