



# Macarthur Primary School

E-mail: [macarthur.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:macarthur.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Lynn Lyles  
School Council President: Peter Musson

## Office Hours 2010

Monday – Friday  
8:30am – 9:00am  
Mon, Tues, Wed  
11:00am – 3:30pm  
Thurs  
11:00am – 2:30pm  
Fri  
11:00am – 1:00pm

## Term Dates 2010

**Term 1** 1 February (students start) to 26 March

**Term 2** 12 April to 25 June (26 April - ANZAC Day Public Holiday and 11 June will be a student free day)

**Term 3** 12 July to 17 September

**Term 4** 4 October to 17 December

## Newsletter Date February 3rd

## Issue 01 2010

### From the Principal's Desk

#### Welcome Back

I would like to welcome back all students to the start of 2010. I hope all families had a happy and relaxing summer break. Staff returned last week and have spent the first days back planning curriculum for the year and organising classrooms. The year has started very smoothly with every one settling into the school routine very quickly.

A particular welcome to our new prep students and their families. We have 8 new preps this year Emasyn Belleville, Jake Hunter, Johanna Jones, Thomas Logan, Olivia Nield, Justin Rundell, Maddison Sharrock and Oliver Wortley. We hope they had a fantastic first day at school on Monday. Welcome back also to Paris Dyson who rejoins us in grade 1.

#### Welcome Morning Tea

I plan to hold a morning tea next Monday at 10.30am. This is to welcome all prep parents to our school community and give people a chance to ask questions about the school routines. All parents are invited and I would like to introduce new parents to established parents to act as a "parent buddy". Anyone willing to act as a buddy for new prep parents please contact me at school.

#### Hats / Uniform

It is wonderful to see all of our students looking so smart in their uniforms at the start of the year. This certainly sets a good tone for our school and adds a sense of pride in our school community. Thank you to all parents for your strong support for our Uniform policy.

A reminder that sunhats must be worn

in term one as part of the school SunSmart Policy. Children without a hat will need to play in the shade. Hats are available for purchase at school.

#### Swimming Program

Our Swimming Program will begin on Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>. This will run for 2 weeks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Lessons will be conducted at the Macarthur Pool run by Jason Lamb's Splash Factory. The cost of the swimming program is included in the school fees and is also currently subsidised by the school. This year the cost has increased and we are required to pay an entry fee to the Macarthur Pool. This cost has been included in our program cost. However, families who have a membership of the Macarthur Pool will be able to claim a \$10 reduction on the 2010 school fees.

#### Student Assessments

The school has a very comprehensive assessment schedule to collect information about student achievement and learning needs. This assists teachers to plan classroom programs and make judgements on student achievement. All teachers in all grades will be conducting assessments early in the term in literacy and numeracy. Some of these assessments are conducted one on one with students in grades Prep to grade 2. I will be teaching in grades every Wednesday to release teachers to conduct these assessments.

### Parent Information Nights/ Interviews

The school will be holding information sessions for parents in all grades next week. Teachers will inform parents about classroom procedures, programs and expectations of students.

Miss C will conduct individual meetings with parents and Miss Mulder and Mrs Shepherd will be running information sessions for all parents on Thursday night, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Information Night times are as follows:-

- Mrs Shepherd: 6.30pm
- Miss Mulder: 7.00pm
- Assessment Information Session: Mrs Lyles 7.30pm

### Assessment Information Session

There has been much talk in the media recently about assessment of students and school performance, in particular NAPLAN, with the introduction of the government's MySchool Website.

We are aware that some of our data does not present strongly in a couple of areas and I would like to run an information session for parents to explain the data and show the NAPLAN test to parents. I think it is very important that parents understand the testing system and how it works.

NAPLAN is one of the many assessment tools we use in education and is only a snapshot of performance on one particular day. It is also important that the community is aware of how data can vary dramatically when averaging and comparing small group data.

Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions and I can address any concerns. I will also outline our assessment strategy and our Strategic Plan which details the school plan towards data improvement, including NAPLAN.

I hope many parents will be able to attend this session.

### Prep Day Off

Prep students do not attend school on Wednesday throughout February. This day will be used by Miss C to schedule individual Prep assessment times. Miss C will contact parents to make a suitable time. I will be teaching grade 1 students on Wednesdays so that this can occur.

### MARC Van

Our visiting library teacher Mrs Hatherell will begin her program this Thursday and visit every alternate Thursday as in previous years.

### Headlice

We will be conducting a whole school headlice inspection next Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>.

This will hopefully allow us to identify any problems early in the school year. In line with our Headlice Policy parents will be informed if lice or eggs are detected. A follow up check will be also be conducted for students if either lice or eggs are detected.

### Bushfire Readiness: CFA Visit

The school had a visit from the CFA last Friday and staff were informed about being prepared for a bushfire.

We have developed a Bushfire Readiness Kit in preparation for an emergency event. We will be conducting fire drills with students over the next week. We are in need of donations of woollen blankets to be stored at school to be used as protective blankets to cover students if necessary. If you can help please send these to school as soon as possible. I have attached a copy of our emergency procedures for all new prep parents.

### Curriculum Programs

Term 1 is traditionally a busy term. We begin the year with our "*Learning to Learn*" Program across the whole school. This program runs for two weeks and aims to assist students establish routines for their learning: roles, responsibilities and rules are set within classrooms and playground. This is a vital part of establishing an environment in which students can learn effectively within a school community.

All grades will continue the term with a unit of work focussing on the theme of "*Friendship*" and what that means. We will be looking at ways we can be a good friend, how to solve problems, why friendship is important and friendships within our community. This will aim to build social skills, understandings and relationships.

The *Bully Busters Program* is booked for March which will support our focus on developing positive social relationships.

The *Swimming Program* is also a highlight of the term for all students with some children competing in the district swimming sports at the end of February. More information will follow as dates are confirmed.

The *Athletic Sports Day* at Pedrina Park is also coming up this term. We have begun practising for this already and will be practising weekly. If any parent is able to assist with athletics training please come on the following afternoons. The more help the better.

- \* Tuesday 1.30: Gr 4,5,6
- \* Wednesday 1.30: Grade 1,2,3
- \* Friday 1.30: Grades P - 6
- \*

#### Student Leaders

The student leaders for 2010 are as follows:

#### School Captains:

Harry Musson, Carly Watson

#### Junior School Council President:

Tahlia Watson

#### Junior School Council Vice President:

Johnathon Dunn

#### House Captains: Purple

Captains: Carly Watson, Tahlia Watson

Vice Captains: Sarah Cassidy, Indi Jones  
Yellow

Captains: Harry Musson, Laura Nield

Vice Captains: Bailey Belleville, Chelsea Jewell

#### Bus Monitors

*Sullivan's Bus:* Bailey Belleville, Tahlia Watson

*Jenny's Bus:* Johnathon Dunn, Ruby Hill

#### Junior School Council

Nomination forms for students wanting to be part of Junior School Council are available from Tahlia Watson and Johnathon Dunn.

These are due back next Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Parent Contribution 2010

School Council has set the Parent Contribution for 2010 at \$120 per student. This is broken up as follows:-

- \*Student Requisites \$40
- \*Cultural and Arts Performances \$40
- \*Swimming \$40

Payments may be made at the school office. Parents with family membership of the Macarthur Pool will be entitled to a \$10 reduction on fees.

Lynn Lyles

## Corangamite Library:

Monday 3:30 - 4:30pm

Wednesday 1:30 - 4:30pm



Jullie has an extensive range of books, talking books, DVD's etc AND if it's not in the library, she can order it for you.

Come in a see her.

### Total Fire Ban & Fire Restriction Information

1800 240 667

(Victorian Bushfire Information Line) or:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



## EMA - Newsletter Information 2010 /



### Education Maintenance Allowance information

#### Information for 2010

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (27 January 2010 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (12 July 2010).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 26 February 2010 for the first instalment and 6 August 2010 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of \$225 for primary students and \$450 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 years in 2010 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

#### Payment Amounts

Instalment	Portion	Primary school*	Secondary school*
One	Parent	\$ 78.75	\$ 157.50
	School	\$ 78.75	\$ 157.50
Two	Parent	\$ 33.75	\$ 67.50
	School	\$ 33.75	\$ 67.50
	Total	\$ 225	\$ 450

\*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will form the basis for calculating the amount payable to parents and schools.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2010 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 26 February 2010 and prior to or on 6 August 2010, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Contact: School Office for application form and further information.

**MACARTHUR  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

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We're on the web!  
www.macarthurps.vic.edu.au



*Macarthur Recipe Drive*

**Do you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with your community?**

Healthy Active South West and Macarthur Community Health are putting together a FREE recipe book and would like you to contribute...

**...Recipes can be of soups, entrees, mains, lunch box ideas, salads, snacks or desserts...**

How to be involved...

Drop in, post or email your favourite recipe to Macarthur Community Health by

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

12 Ardonachie St or [macarthurch@swh.net.au](mailto:macarthurch@swh.net.au)  
Any questions... Call 5522000

*Recipes may be modified by South West Healthcare Dietitian to make it a healthier choice.*

**Calendar 2010**

PD Professional Development  
Conf Conference  
PM - Principal Meeting  
JRC - Junior Red Cross  
JSC - Junior School Council

LL Lynn Lyles  
JM Jacinta Mulder  
SC Shama Cunningham  
CS-Coral Shepherd  
SM Suzy Millard  
JT Jullie Timms  
SL Sylvia Luke



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 31	February 1	2	3	4 MARC	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 - Parent Information Evening	12	13
14	15 Swimming	16 Swimming -Pancake Tuesday	17	18 MARC Swimming -Go For Your Life Van 12:00	19 Swimming	20
21	22 Swimming	23 Swimming	24	25 Swimming	26 Swimming -SGSSA Swim Hamilton	27
28	March 1 Swim Carnival	2	3	4 MARC	5 -SGSSA Swim Hamilton B/up day	6