



Macarthur Primary School

E-mail: macarthur.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: Lynn Lyles
School Council President: Peter Musson

Office Hours 2013

Monday - Wednesday
8:45am - 9:10am
9:40am - 3:45pm

For appointments
please ring
03 55761245

Classes begin: 9:10am

Recess: Mon, Tues,
Wed & Frid
-10:40—11:00am
(Thurs 11:10-11:30am)

Lunch: 1:00 - 1:50pm

End of Day: 3:20pm

Term Dates

2013

Term 1: 29 January
(teachers start), students
start Thursday 31 January
to 28 March
Term 2: 15 April to 28 June
Term 3: 15 July to 20
September
Term 4: 7 October to 20
December

Newsletter Date February 6

Issue 02 2013

From the Principal's Desk

“Learning to Learn” Program

The first two weeks of the year are spent working on establishing classroom routines, work habits and expectations. This includes behavioural expectations and classroom organisation.

All grades conduct our “Learning to Learn” Program during this time and this sets the classroom guidelines for the year.

Assessment

Teachers are also involved in conducting assessments in the first few weeks of the year. This gives us the starting point for learning for the children.

Grades Prep and One have begun this week with the English Online Interview which is a one on one assessment conducted by the teacher with all students.

Grade 2 will begin next week with the Numeracy Interview and grade 4,5 6 will begin On Demand Maths and English assessments in week 3 when our swimming program is completed.

Take Home Reading

This year we want to have a consistent approach to Take Home Reading across the school.

Staff are working together today to develop a system which will also reflect the strategies being taught in the classroom. This is being designed to strengthen the links between school and home and to make take home reading more meaningful.

Each week students will bring home a reading diary sheet which will include the strategy being taught in the classroom. This will include a focus to assist parents when hearing children read or discussing texts with their

child. Teachers will send home more information on the way this will run in their classrooms. The reading diaries will begin next week.

Daily reading will be happening in all classes before school in the mornings. Parent helpers in all rooms are very appreciated.

Swimming Program.

The swimming program has had a good start. We have been lucky with the weather and all children seem to be enjoying the sessions.

This year I have four instructors per group which I am hoping will ensure we can cater for all needs and abilities.

A big thank you to all of the parents who have turned up to help with Prep/One. Your help with our younger children has been most appreciated by the teachers.

Athletics Helpers

Today we have begun athletics training sessions for all students in grades one to six. These run every Wednesday afternoon and have been most successful over the past few years.

This year I have had a record number of parent volunteers and I am so appreciative of this. Parents have many skills to share with the children and we can really make a difference to the children when we all work together and bring our enthusiasm and skills into the school.



Sport Days

This term we will be running sports on Wednesday afternoons and on the Friday afternoons following swimming. Children will need to bring sport uniforms on these days. The focus for term one is athletics. This will change in term 2 when we will introduce Phys Ed lessons for the children. I will send home a timetable once specialist lessons begin.

MARC Van and Art

MARC Van will begin tomorrow. Every Thursday children will have either MARC Van or Art. These lessons begin this term with the first lesson tomorrow.

School Jobs

I would like to thank a few parents for some jobs they have recently completed around the school. Richie Belleville has put up some new signage in our car park, Ange Jones has cut back the creeper near the multi-purpose room and MarkTodd had swept the school driveway. Thank you so much for these jobs.

I have a few jobs which still need to be done including:-

- Painting yellow paint around garden edges and bollards
- Sweeping amphitheatre
- Fixing wooden garden table

If you are able to help please let me know.

Medical Details

The school is currently updating all medical records for all students. This is extremely important so I ask everyone to return the forms to Sylvia as soon as possible.

Of particular importance is ensuring you child has an up to date Asthma Management Plan at school if needed. I ask everyone to assist us in this matter.

Fire Plans

The school is currently reviewing emergency procedures for staff and students. I have included some information for parents regarding procedures during a bushfire for your information. On Code Red Days the school will be closed. I have a system in place for all parents to be contacted by a staff member on Code Red Days. No staff, students or parents are to be present on the school site on a Code Red Day.

Starlab is Coming

I have booked a visit by Starlab, a touring Planetarium, on Wednesday, February 20th. This should be a very exciting experience for the children. Prep children will be invited to attend school for this visit. More information coming soon.

Lynn Lyles

UNIFORMS

This year Lei Kelly (0418 810 398) and Leonie Margrie (0427 675 713) have volunteered to co-ordinate Uniforms.

For Term 1, Lei will be available each Wednesday from 2:00pm.

Please contact her as required. The school holds a range of uniform items

Orders will be packaged and ready for pickup on the Wednesday. Payment will be required with order

Special Birthday wishes to

February

Harry McDonald (2nd)
Latisha Gay (3rd)



Parent Contribution 2013

School Council has set the Parent Contribution for 2013 at \$140 per student. This is broken up as follows:-

- *Student Requisites \$40
- *Cultural and Arts Performances \$40
- *Swimming \$40
- *Excursion Travel \$10
- *Garden Program \$10

Payments may be made at the school office.

Parents with family membership of the Macarthur Pool will be entitled to a \$10 per student reduction on fees.

Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including **textbooks, stationery, uniforms** and **excursions** for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of \$150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, \$62 million over four years will be redirected to the State's most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account **or**

Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**

Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, 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 temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at **29 January 2013** (Instalment One) and **15 July 2013** (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.

	Prep	Years 1 - 6	Year 7	Year 8 – Age 16
Instalment One	\$140	\$105	\$210	\$175
Instalment Two	\$60	\$45	\$90	\$75
Annual Total	\$200	\$150	\$300	\$250

Parents Club

Parents Club will be having its first meeting for the year on Friday the 22nd of February, at 2pm in the multi purpose room. All parents are invited to come along and see what our parents club is all about, or just have a cuppa and meet other families.

Hope to see you there

Nikki Belleville - President
Anna Wortley - Secretary
Tamara Hardy - Treasurer

Art News:

Art classes resume on **Thursday 14th February.**

All students require an art smock to protect their clothing.

Some of our glues and paint art particularly unforgiving on school uniforms. If your child's art smock, from last year still fits, please make sure it is washed and returned to school.

Smocks do not have to be especially made for school, an old shirt with the sleeves cut down will be quite adequate.

Thankyou



Anne McNaughton

Spacers and Schools/Preschools: Reminder for Parents & Carers

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. Some schools/preschools may implement a policy where parents/carers are responsible for the cost of the spacer if one must be used from the asthma emergency kit.

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.



For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email schools@asthma.org.au

Active After School Program.

A Bus note is required to be sent to the school, notifying the school when their child/ren will not be travelling on the bus.



TYRENDARRA SHOW

SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2013

Kids bring mum & dad along to the 96th annual Tyrendarra Show. You could even enter a scarecrow – they can be made from straw or material. There are lots of sections you could enter including art (for kindergarten or primary pupils – theme “old McDonald’s farm”), lego, cookery, craft, floral art, cut flowers, photography, or the junior show kids. Come along and see “Eric the Red” a whip-cracking juggler and “The Urban Fairy” living statue! You could have a free ride on the stagecoach, see the animal nursery, enter your pet in the pet competition, and watch displays of dog obedience, karate and gymnastics.

Have a look at our website for the full schedule of events:

www.tyrendarraagriculturalshow.com.au

Fire Ready Presentation

As today has been declared a Total Fire Ban day the CFA has postponed the presentation scheduled for this evening at the Senior Citizens Rooms.

If you know of anyone planning to attend can you please pass this information on to them.

Tennis

Tennis Meeting

February 18th at 8 o'clock at clubrooms

Tennis Coaching

Another 3 week bracket of tennis with

CALLUM KURTIS will begin

February 11th at 4 pm

Contact Ange Jones 55761146



Also sent home with the Newsletter

Student Information currently held by the school. Please update your details as needed and return to the school as soon as possible. If the changes are the same for each student, mark the changes only on eldest student information sheet.



BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to another school year. With term one approaching it is time to get your children ready for their return to school or attendance at a children's service. While their asthma is just one of the many things to get ready, this checklist will hopefully make the process easier.

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or 'spikes', in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments¹. Approximately 1 in 10 children and adolescents in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these 'spikes' usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school or preschool¹. A significant 'spike' in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital, of children and adolescents experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February¹. For this reason, we have compiled a quick checklist for parents and carers to go through to prepare their child for the school year.

Is your child ready for new school year?

- My child has had an annual asthma management review with their doctor and has had their Asthma Action Plan reviewed
- My child has up to date ambulance membership
- My child knows how to recognise early symptoms of asthma and knows when to seek help from staff if they experience asthma symptoms
- My child understands the importance of taking reliever medication when necessary and knows how to use their puffer and spacer, either independently or with assistance
- An updated Asthma Action Plan has been provided to my child's school/children's service. Even if their Asthma Action Plan has not changed from last year it is important that a letter is provided to the school/children's service informing staff of this. It is vital that staff know what to do for your child in an asthma emergency
- A reliever puffer and spacer (and mask for children under 5 years old) has been provided to the school/children's service for my child. With the change in infection control guidelines, spacers can no longer be shared between children and it is vital that each child has their own equipment
- I have read and understood the school/children's services asthma policy

For more information, resources or assistance completing this checklist please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au

¹ Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring (2011), "Asthma in Australia: with a focus chapter on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease", Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra 2011.

**South West
Healthcare
Supplies**

Main Foyer, Warrnambool Base Hospital
Ryot Street, Warrnambool 3280
Phone: 5564 4105 Fax: 5565 1285
Email: rehabshop@swh.net.au
DIRECT TO PUBLIC SALES

In Association with Paediatric Asthma Program



Order from South West Healthcare Supplies

- Individual price: \$12.95
- Buy 5 or more: \$10 each
- Order code: 609722869874

To order please phone, fax or email order with billing and collection details. Delivery fees apply.

The School will purchase a bulk order and offer them to parents for the \$10 cost.
Please note: each student will require a spacer for school use.

Please contact Sylvia if you require a spacer.

2013/02/01
180 254 1111

**South West
Healthcare**

**Community Health
'Partners in Improving Health'**

**HARP
Paediatric Asthma Program**

The HARP (Hospital Admission Risk Program) coordinates health services to help people to better manage and maintain their own health. Giving the right care in the right place at the right time may reduce the need to go to hospital.

The program is offered to the families &/or carers of children with asthma.

The program consists of:

- Education – which will include but not inclusive of:
 - What is asthma
 - Signs & symptoms
 - Triggers
 - Medications
 - Action plan
 - Exercise
 - 1st aid / emergency asthma management
 - Whole family involvement
- Education tools used are age appropriate for your child

Location:



- Appointment made at venue most convenient for you & your child
- Family members encouraged to attend appointment
- HARP Care Coordinator may assist with management strategies for your child's school, Kindergarten or child care centre (if applicable)

There is **no cost** for the HARP program

Participation in the program is voluntary. Your decision whether to take part or not, or to take part and then withdraw will not affect your routine treatment at South West Health Care.

Maintaining your **privacy and confidentiality** is important to us. All health professionals will ensure that privacy guidelines and requirements are followed.

**Contact: Sarah Irving, HARP Paediatric Asthma Co-ordinator, 55644187
Or Warrnambool Community Health 55644190**



**MACARTHUR
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

PO Box 36

23 Russell Street
Macarthur Vic 3286

Phone: 03 55761 245

Fax: 03 55761 333

E-mail:

macarthur.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

Hawkesdale Macarthur Football Netball Club Inc
Western Bulldogs Footy Training Session @
Macarthur Rec Reserve **Thursday 7th February.**
There will be a **Junior Training Session at 5:00pm**
Followed by Senior Training.
Everyone welcome. Tea / Bar Available

Hazel's Music

If anyone is interested in private music lessons for piano, keyboard or guitar during school hours.
Please contact Hazel on 0427 044 759 or at the Music School on 55723409.

If anyone is interested in joining the Recorder Group at lunchtime, please see Hazel.
You just need a recorder and is available for purchase from Hazel for \$12.00. There is no cost to the student as the school pays for this.

Forward Notice:
March 4
7
8
12
15
18
25
27-28
28

Performance—Excuse Me I Was Here First
Division Swimming
Life Ed
GWS Swimming
House Athletics
b/up House Aths
District Aths at Pedrina Park
Gr6 GRaSS Camp
End of Term

Calendar 2013

PD Professional Development
Conf Conference
PM - Principal Meeting
NWM - Network Meeting
JRC - Junior Red Cross
JSC - Junior School Council
AASP - Active After School Prog

LL Lynn Lyles
JM Jacinta Mulder
DH Darren Hilliard
CS Coral Shepherd
CU Christine Unger
RT Rachel Thomson
AM Anne McNaughton
JT Jullie Timms
SL Sylvia Luke

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 -Swimming	5 -Swimming -AASP	6 - NO Preps -Aths pm	7 -MARC -Swimming	8 -Swimming	9
10	11 -Swimming	12 -Swimming -AASP	13 - NO Preps -Aths pm	14 -Art -Swimming	15 -Swimming	16
17	18 - Swimming Carnival	19 -AASP	20 - NO Preps -Starlab Planetarium -Aths pm	21 -MARC - District Swim	22 -	23
24	25 -b/up Swim District	26 -AASP	27 - NO Preps -Aths pm	28 -Art	Mar 1	2
3	4 -Performance	5 -AASP	6	7 -Div Swims	8 -Life Ed	9



Athletics Training 2013. Parent Weekly Roster

Thank you to the many parents who have offered to assist with athletics training this year. I have attached a roster for each week. The sessions will be on Wednesday afternoon each week. The session starts at 1.50pm at the end of lunchtime till 3.10pm. Children will rotate around activities.

Week 1 Feb 6th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Sue Logan Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones Jenny Nield Long Jump: Mark Todd Sprints/Hurdles: Rachael Dettling, Sally Gay
Week 2 Feb 13th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones, Long Jump: Mark Todd, Victoria Jackson
Week 3 Feb 20 th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones Long Jump: Victoria Jackson
Week 4 Feb 27 th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones Long Jump: Mark Todd Victoria Jackson
Week 5 Mar 6 th	Discus: Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones Long Jump: Mark Todd
Week 6 Mar 13 th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols Alana Sharrock High Jump: Ange Jones Long Jump: Victoria Jackson Sprints/Hurdles: Rachael Dettling Sally Gay
Week 7 Mar 20th	Discus: Lei Kelly, Louise Nield Shot Put: Jodie Nichols High Jump: Ange Jones Long Jump: Mark Todd Victoria Jackson

Leonie Margrie: Each week from 2.30: will help in any group where it is needed. Anyone able to help with High Jump would be most appreciated.

Bushfire Plan Information for Parents

- 1 Children should be safe at school if a major fire threatened. Officials considered that the school building and the grounds provide a safe refuge and students would be kept inside until the danger has passed.
- 2 Children, staff and visitors would assemble in the bluestone building (grade Prep one classroom) in the event of bushfire.
- 3 Parents would be advised not to try to collect children from school as the school is a safe refuge and all students will be well cared for during such a crisis. *Students will only be released to a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN on such occasions.*
- 4 Buses will be held at school if there is known to be any danger along bus outlets. Parents should expect delays if fires are running and may obtain information by ringing the school, or by listening to local ABC Radio on 594 & 1602 AM, 3HA on 981 AM and 3YB on 882 AM for announcements. Please contact the school if you know of possible dangers along a bus route.
- 5 Bus drivers have instructions to stop and seek information if they see evidence of fire. They will not drive through smoke and will seek a safe refuge if there is any possible danger. Children will not be left at bus stops when there seems to be potential danger from fire unless someone is there to collect them.
- 6 If buses are delayed we will attempt to contact these parents, but please remember that it is not always possible to make these telephone contacts. Bus monitors will be trained to make emergency calls on bus phones as a back-up to our bus driver in an emergency situation.
- 7 Parents are reminded that the most dangerous place to be in the event of a wildfire is on the roads or caught in the open. Parents should not place themselves or others at additional risk by driving to the school if conditions on the roads are hazardous.
- 8 *The school will be closed on CODE RED DAYS. School buses will be cancelled. No staff or students will attend school.*