FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Transition Day:
This coming Tuesday (11th December) is a State wide Transition Day for all Grade 6 students moving from State Primary Schools to Government Secondary Schools. By now all Year 6 students should have been enrolled in a Secondary School and be aware of their new schools’ arrangements for the day. Any queries about the day is best directed to the Secondary School of your choice.

Back at Cardinia Primary School we will be having our new Preps for 2013 along for the day, experiencing their own Transition and a couple of their siblings in other grades across the school. Children will also be introduced to their new teacher and their classroom for 2013. (In most cases.) All children will receive their Booklist and information about the fee structure for 2013 on this day as well. If Parents choose to pay their fees before the end of the year they can receive their child’s supplies on the receipt of payment, otherwise children will receive their books etc at the start of Term 1 – 2013. Teachers return to School on Tuesday the 29th of January, with students returning to school on Wednesday the 30th January.

School Camp:
Last week we had a very successful school camp to the City with 108 students participating over the week. Despite extremes in weather we were able to complete all of the planned activities and ensure everyone had a safe and rewarding time. A special thank you must go to all the staff and students for their co-operation and assistance, particularly the older students who really looked after the younger members of their travelling groups.

Reports:
Reports will be issued to all students on Monday the 17th December. In most cases they will be without written comments due to the on-going AEU work bans. I urge all parents to take advantage of the Parent/Teacher interviews being offered by all teachers in lieu of these comments.
Please take care at all times in the car park areas. Caution and alertness needs to be uppermost in everyone’s minds when in these areas.

- It is very important that if any parent or friend of the school has any concerns, queries or problems regarding any aspect of the school to bring it to the attention of your child’s teacher or Allan straight away.
- Students are reminded that the bringing of electronic games and other valuable items to school do so at their own risk. If such items are misplaced or damaged then the owners of such items are responsible for any cost incurred.
- Mobile phones and ipods need to be handed into the office on arrival to school and then collected at the end of the day. Students don’t require these items during the normal school day.
- Deb Beale the School Chaplain is available on a weekly basis to support children, parents or families in a wide variety of areas. Please feel free to contact Deb or the school if you would like to use this service. Deb is in attendance every second Thursday and every Wednesday of the month this term.

Thumbs up

- To all the students who participated in the School Camp to the city last week. You all did an excellent job and were extremely well behaved and co-operative at all times. Well done guys!
- To Jess Dart for the fantastic work she did in organising the camp this week and ensuring a very successful outcome. Just fantastic!
- To all staff who attended the camp for their outstanding efforts throughout the week.
- To Nathan White and Jane Wood for the great work they did back at school ensuring everything ran smoothly and to the staff who provided an alternative program for the week. Very much appreciated.
- To Trudie, Nicole and Jess for organising and taking the Grade 6 students on their Graduation activity today to Luna Park. We hope the weather is kind to them down at St Kilda.
- To Judy for all the work she is putting into organising this years’ concert. Only a couple of weeks to go before the big event.
- To a number of Community Bodies and friends of the school who are providing various awards for our students over the next few weeks. (Majority of which will be presented at the School concert on the 20th).
- To Beaconhills College Band for coming along and performing for the students last week. By all accounts it was a great performance and enjoyed by one and all.
- To Michelle Henson who is always there to lend a helping hand and assist in any way that she can. Always very much appreciated Michelle.
- To Susan Gothard for picking up the fruit that we have donated to us by Koo Wee Rup Woollies.

Slip Slop Slap:

During Fourth Term and First Term all students and staff are expected to wear a hat while outside at recess, lunchtime and during sport or other outdoor activities. Children who are not wearing a hat at these times will be expected to play in a shaded area around the school and will not participate in sport or outdoor class activities. Children are also asked to remember to apply sun screen before coming to school and to re-apply, if necessary, during the day from the lotion container in the First Aid room. If your child is allergic to certain types of sunscreen, can you please inform the office and your child’s teacher. Every one’s co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Online Safety Strategy

eSmart is a cybersafety and cyberbullying system developed by The Alannah and Madeline Foundation (who also developed the Better Buddies Program we run). It assists school communities to promote the safe, smart and responsible use of digital technologies, manage cybersafety and deal with cyberbullying and bullying. It is expected that every school will commence eSmart by the end of 2013.

Here is the website if parents would like to visit www.esmart.org.au. It provides lots of useful strategies, resources, tools and case studies about keeping safe online and safe use of Facebook, Twitter, etc.
**JUNIOR SPORTS DAY**

Students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will be participating in the Cardinia Junior Sports Day on Friday 7th December. Students will move around a range of activities between 9.00am and 11.00am. We need some parent helpers for the morning to supervise activities, if you are able to help please see your child’s teacher.

Thank you

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**End of Year Items:**

All Grade 6 students will receive a gift from the School Community at the Concert, as a keepsake for their time at Cardinia Primary School.

A boy and girl in each class will be presented with a Kooka Award for outstanding work and attitude on concert night.

At assembly on the 10th of December a Grade 6 student will receive an Award from Laura Smyth MP for La Trobe. This award is based on Student Leadership and Community Service, along with achievement.

All children need to purchase a small gift for their Buddy. The Buddy present exchange takes place on the last day of School.

All children receive a small gift from their teacher on the last day of School and we usually end the day with a wat….. fi…..!

If you aren’t going to be with us at Cardinia Primary in 2013 – please let us know as soon as possible to assist us with our planning for the new school year. It will be greatly appreciated.

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**Parent Teacher Interviews:**

All classroom teachers are providing the opportunity for all Parents/Guardians of students to participate in an interview prior to the end of the year. Please ensure that you contact your child’s teacher to arrange a suitable time. In most cases the parent/teacher interview will provide you with information about your child’s progress in lieu of the written comments that are usually part of your child’s report. If you have any concerns or queries please don’t hesitate to contact Allan.

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**PLAY GROUP**

We have postponed our Christmas Party at Casey Fields playground to Tuesday 18th December, meeting from 9.30am. Please remember to bring a plate to share and a $5 gift for your child, wrapped and named. There will be no playgroup next Tuesday, 11th as many of our children will be attending school orientation day. However some mums will be meeting at Crocs Playcentre.

Thanks, Karen

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**MEAL DEAL**

This week’s Meal Deal is a Salad Roll and Icy pole, all for the small payment of $3.00.

Please indicate on your child’s paper bag what fillings they would like. Chicken, ham, lettuce, tomato, carrot, cheese or mayonnaise.

Please make sure the bag is clearly labelled with your child’s name and class. This makes the delivery of your child’s lunch so much easier for our mums who assist with this fund raising activity.

If you would like to help out Karen and her team of helpers, please don’t hesitate to see Karen or Virginia who will happily utilise your talents in the kitchen on a Thursday. If you can only help out for a small part of the day or just once a term it doesn’t matter. Every little bit of assistance will be graciously accepted and appreciated by everyone concerned.
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
As most families would know it is a Christmas tradition at our school to have a BIG raffle. There are normally about 8 prizes, all of which are made up of donations.

Please have a name and phone number on all the tickets. All donations and sold tickets can be left at the office from now until Monday 19th December. When you sell all of your tickets, Mrs Smith has more at the office.
The raffle will be drawn at our School Christmas Concert on Thursday 20th December.
If you have any questions please ask Mrs Smith.

Thank you for supporting your school.

SCHOOL CAMP SUMMARY
DAY ONE
Last Monday the kids participating in camp were excited because they were heading off for a 5 day adventure in the City. Once all the kids got to school their parents said their goodbyes and took off.
When we arrived in the City we dropped off our bags and went to the Aquarium where we saw all different types of fish. After dinner we set off for Eureka Sky Deck where the views were fantastic.

DAY TWO
After breakfast we went to the Melbourne Museum though it was hard since it was pouring down with rain. After the Museum we went to IMAX to see “Born To Be Wild” in 3D, while we were watching we were reaching out to try and touch the rain forest. After dinner we went to the State Netball/Hockey Centre.

DAY THREE
On Wednesday we went to the Ian Potter Gallery where we experienced an evacuation of the building. Then we went to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre where we had a swim and lots of fun on the water slide. That night we watched a movie called “The Little Rascals”.

DAY FOUR
On Thursday morning we woke up to a really hot day and headed off to the Melbourne Zoo. We watched the Seal show which was educational and funny. After the Zoo we went back to camp to practice for Red Faces. We survived the heat.

DAY FIVE
On Friday morning we started packing up ready to go home. After packing we got on the buses to go to ScienceWorks. We saw the Lightning show which was loud and sparky. We had lunch and headed home.
We had a great time at Urban Camp. We were all tired and ready to come home.

By Nicola S, Shawna C and Rhiannon B.

Thanks to all the teachers who came and helped on camp and thanks to the students for such great behaviour on Camp!!!
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Changes have been made to the EMA payments. Please read the EMA Newsletter in this newsletter.
Forms for 2013 are now available from the office.
Thanks,
Virginia

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, $82 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 (TPF) 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).
MULTIPLE GARAGE SALES
The Cardinia township will be holding Multiple Garage Sales starting at 8.00am – 1.00pm on Saturday 8th December. Many bargains!!!!

ANDREWS COMMUNITY KINDERGARTERN
CHRISTMAS MARKET
6TH DECEMBER 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Monkey G’s, Webster Way, Pakenham

Come down to Monkey G’s for a great evening with
• Kids activities
• Kids clothing
• Babies craft
• Hand made kids products
• Hair accessories
• Creata Direct Learning
• Personalized kids products
• Craft stalls
• Natures Direct
• Rings, watches
• Trash & Treasure
• Professional Photography

More stalls being booked each week. Twenty-three stalls so far! Market is open to all for a gold coin donation so bring your family and friends and do some early Christmas shopping.

We are also having a car boot sale outside Monkey G’s. If you are interested in a stall, please let us know.

Please contact Sharyn on 0412 814 010 or Ainslie on 0425 854 520 for more information.
Cardinia Autism Support for Parents

Are you the parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder?

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed by your child’s behaviour, or other people’s lack of understanding or tolerance?
Do you have other children who are affected by your ASD child?
Are you comfortable being your ASD child’s advocate through school?
Do you know what support is available for all members of your family?

Come and Share your experiences and ideas in a support group for carers and parents of children with ASD

Facilitated by Delia Forrest. Delia has a wealth of experience and training, in working with students with autism spectrum disorders and their families. She established and taught in an ASD unit within a school, and has mentored mainstream and special school teachers in dealing with students with autism.

WHEN: Every Friday until December 14th 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Where: Cardinia Primary School
Enquiries to: Delia Forrest - 9705 3903
FATHER CHRISTMAS WILL WRITE TO YOU !!!

Why not let your little boy or girl have the thrill of writing to Father Christmas & receive a non-committal letter by return post.

IT’S EASY!

- Write to Father Christmas (address below)
- Be sure your child’s full name and address is written very clearly.
- Enclose a cheque to the value of $3 per letter.
- Cheques should be made out to “Lions Koo Wee Rup”

- Send to:— “Father Christmas”
  C/- Koo Wee Rup & District Lions Club
  P.O Box 257
  Cranbourne  3977