FROM THE PRINCIPAL:
As the 2012 School Year draws to a close I’d like to express my sincere thank you to all the staff, students and parents for their ongoing support for the school and its continuing development and provision of quality education for all the students it serves.
Cardinia Primary is indeed fortunate to have such a caring and committed staff in all areas of the school, who go out of their way to ensure that all children are supported and assisted on a daily basis. Our integration aides do an outstanding job in integrating our children with disabilities, ensuring they are very much a part of our school community and experience all that the school has to offer. I thank all of these individuals from the bottom of my heart for the support and dedication they display on a daily basis. Virginia’s work in the office is a real credit to her and her professionalism – everyone is always greeted with a cheery hello and smile and again nothing is too much trouble for her, even on the most hectic days.
Our teaching staff are committed to assisting all children and go out of their way to provide additional assistance and support to all children. Many spend a large amount of their personal time to implement programs, plan and offer a variety of additional activities such as camps and outside school hours activities. Everyone works together to achieve the best outcomes for our students at Cardinia Primary School.
I truly believe our Parents are and have always been the backbone of the school and enable us to be able to provide so many extras – to each of you a huge thank you. Karen’s team of Meal Deal helpers, Parents Club, School Council, Classroom helpers, catering ladies and the many parents who just quietly go about doing their bit to help out, all add a great dimension to the school and ensure the school motto and ethos is upheld.
Thank you one and all.

School Resumes:
School resumes for staff on Tuesday the 29th of January and students return on Wednesday the 30th of January. (including Preps for the first week of School).
The office will be open on an irregular basis in the week of 23rd to 27th of January but please phone first to ensure someone is available to attend to your needs.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th December</td>
<td>Christmas Concert. 7.30 pm start This is an Alcohol Free Event. Smoking is also prohibited in the School Grounds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day of School – 2012 School dismissed at 2.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th January</td>
<td></td>
<td>Teachers Return to School – 2013 School Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th January</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students Return to School – 2013 School Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed Date for Whole School Picnic - Cowes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deepest Sympathy:
On behalf of the School Community I’d like to express our Deepest Sympathy to Michelle Polley and her family due to the recent loss of her mother earlier this week. Our thoughts are with her and her family at this very difficult time for her.
**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- 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 Craig Rose and his mysterious helper for kindly removing the basketball pole and goal ring for the concert – very much appreciated.
- To all the parents and friends of the school for their kind thoughts during the festive season and the chocolates are going down well with all the staff.
- To all parents and friends of the school for their tireless efforts over the year, supporting the various programs and activities.
- To Yvonne for all her hard work in the office on a Wednesday over a number of years. Her work is very much appreciated and it’s hoped she will work in a different role in the forth coming years. Thank you for your efforts to date Yvonne.
- To the Gelley Family for providing a new award to the school to recognise a Family for their Services to the school – greatly appreciated.
- To the Osualdini Family who were the inaugural recipients of the Anita Gelley Memorial Award – a very deserving winner of this award.
- To Kaye and the rest of the staff who organised the Thank You Afternoon Tea for our various helpers across the school- (Sorry about the short notice.)
- To Scott Sheppard and the School Council for their fantastic support and direction over the past 12 months ensuring the school continues to grow and develop in what it provides and offers our students.

**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.
CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUPPER
THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2012
Following the Christmas Concert there will be supper served for all adults in Mr White's Grade 2 room.
We are asking families to donate an item of food for the supper, such as cakes, slices, biscuits crackers and dip/cheese are some suggestions. (Please note that we are unable to refrigerate items so please no cream etc). Any donations can be left in the Technology Room after school on Thursday or in Mr White's room prior to the concert.
Supper for the adults with tea and coffee provided will be served straight after the performance.
Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.
Parents Club
ANITA GELLEY - MEMORIAL AWARD:

At assembly on Monday the inaugural Anita Gelley – Memorial Award was presented to the Osualdini Family for services to the school and reinforcing our school ethos. Jo and Noel have been with the school for over 10 years and in that time Jo has worked tirelessly to develop the School animal farm and vegetable garden in this area, providing many children with enjoyment and delight over this period of time. Jo and Noel have worked closely with the school and have donated many items to add joy to the school’s animal farm area and Jowas a key designer for the current version of this space.

My family and I are honoured to have received the first Anita Gelley Morial Award, and would like to thank Anita’s family. Since our first daughter started at Cardinia Primary School in 2001, we’ve known what a wonderful place it is. While I’m pleased my family has been awarded this prize for our involvement with the school, we would like to acknowledge there are many others who deserve to be recognised.

... the Osualdini family.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Free to good home! 8yo Male Pedigree/Pure bred Border Collie (short hair). Bailey has an exceptional temperament having grown up with 5 children, and is very sociable with other pets. He would make a very good addition to any family or just as a companion dog. A farm or farmhouse would be preferable, as the only reason he cannot be with us is because we are moving to a home with a very small yard.

If you can help please contact Mark Emms on 0408 135 911.

TOORADIN DALMORE NETBALL CLUB
Winter season 2013 – team selections

11 & under to 17 & under age groups
Thursday 31st January, 2013, Thursday 7th February 2013, Thursday 14th February 2013, held at 5.30pm on each of these days.
At Tooradin Netball Clubrooms, Recreation Reserve, South Gippsland Hwy, Tooradin.

For more details please call Michelle on 0407 826 076
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 (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).
WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY – FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER

This year the end of year party will be done a little differently, this is due to the increasing size of the school population and the inability to prepare and heat the abundance of food within the time frame.

Each child will pay their normal $3.00 on the day. All those who have paid will be issued with a card with 4 places to be stamped.

For recess there will be a variety of snack party food, each year level will receive a bowl of chips, cheezels, shapes, fairy bread and fruit and veggie platter etc.

At lunch each child will receive 2 sausages in bread, a pop top, and icy pole and a treat (lollypop or chockie Santa). The card will be stamped indicating they have had their items.

Could everyone please pay the $3.00 per child to the office ASAP. Please place it in an envelope marked school party with child’s name and class. I need payments to be made so I can commence shopping.

If your child has any special dietary requirements please let me know so they can be catered for.

If you are able to help on the day with cooking sausages, handing out icy poles or pop tops, making fairy bread, taking food to classes etc, please let me know on 0400 165 052.

Thank you
Karen Muntz
ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

PAKENHAM:
2/56 JOHN STREET
PH: 5941 4989

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TRADING HOURS

17TH – 20TH DECEMBER
10AM- 4PM
FRIDAY 21ST 10AM- 3PM
CLOSED: 22ND DECEMBER – 1ST JANUARY

NORMAL TRADING HOURS RESUME
2ND JANUARY 9AM – 5PM

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