FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Whole School Transition Day:
Next Tuesday 10th of December we will be having our Whole School Transition Day, where our new intake of Foundation Students will be in attendance and the rest of the school will move up into their new grade, classroom and in most cases their teacher for 2014. Any new pupils, at other grade levels for the 2014 school year, have also been invited along to get to know a little more about our school and their new classmates.
Not all teaching arrangements for 2014 are finalised at this stage, as we are currently in the process of filling a vacancy for next year because a member of staff is taking leave. Generally the class groupings will remain the same, with minor changes. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to see me.

School Fees – 2014:
School Council, at their November meeting, has decided to increase the 2014 School Fees (Essential Supplies) to $150 per child to cover the ever-increasing costs of supplying consumables and access to technology. The School Maintenance Voluntary Levy remains at $40.00 per family and the Voluntary Levy, in lieu of being able to assist in a voluntary capacity throughout the year, has been reduced to $50.00 per family. Full details are attached to this newsletter.

School books and stationary will be available to collect from 10th December 2013.

Camp 2013
By all accounts the students that are on camp are having a great time. There are some photos included in this newsletter.
If your child is not attending camp this week and you have kept them home, please let the office know so we can update their attendance.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd – Friday 6th December</td>
<td>WHOLE SCHOOL CAMP - CAMP RUMBUG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th December</td>
<td>MEAL DEAL – CARDI BURGER &amp; ICE CREAM SUNDAE FOR $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th December</td>
<td>Grade 6 Transition Day to Secondary School Cardinia Primary School Whole School Transition Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th December</td>
<td>School Council Christmas Break Up</td>
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<td>6.00 pm onwards in the Technology Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th December</td>
<td>End of Year Reports issued to all students</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation Trip to Luna Park – (Permission Note sent home separately.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th December</td>
<td>Whole School Concert – 7.00 pm on the Basketball Court</td>
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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. Under no circumstance should parents/guardians approach other students in the school grounds.

All outstanding payments need to be finalised by the end of the year. Virginia will be sending out reminder notes and account statements next week.

THUMBS UP

To Mrs Chidlow, Mrs Dart & Mrs Esler who put so much work into organizing our School Camp. Their hard work makes it possible to have such a successful camp for our students.

To Karen Sheppard for her dedication to the School Crossing and the safety of our students day in day out. Thank you Karen. Thank you for keeping our students safe!

To Mr Armstrong who was awarded Foundation’s ‘Star of the week’ last week. Well done Mr Armstrong!

To Kirrilee, Nathan and Jane for their work in organising the program for students who aren’t attending camp this week.

To all the students who are here at school this week. It has been a jam packed fun week that has run very smoothly.

To Mrs Polley & Miss Henson who have worked hard to ensure our school reports are collated and printed ready for next week. Thank you Ladies.

To Melissa who came in (on her day off) to assist in our Library Stocktake. Thank you for your help & dedication Melissa!

To Mrs Wood who also helped sort through our old resources in our Library. This will help make more room on our shelves!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Captains – 2014

All of the Students wishing to be one of our School Captains in 2014 have now addressed the School Assembly, outlining their reasons why they would be a suitable candidate. They will now have a short interview with senior staff and then the voting process will take place next week. The successful candidates will be announced and receive their badges at the School Concert on December the 19th. We wish all of the candidates the best of luck, as they would all be worthy winners of this honour bestowed upon them by their peers.

THIS WEEK’S MEAL DEAL IS A CARDI BURGER & ICE CREAM SUNDAE FOR JUST $3.00.
ITEMS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST:

- **After School Care** is available each evening after school until 6.00 pm. The cost is between $4.00 and $8.00 per evening – depending on the rebates available to you. Brooke, our new co-ordinator, will be only too happy to explain the program and take you through the enrolment process.

- The school is still involved with the Pakenham Bucks promotion being conducted by the Good Guys at Pakenham. If you are able to support these programs it would be greatly appreciated. Currently we have close to **$1500 in vouchers** that we will be able to redeem in goods by the end of the year – which is just fantastic!

- Children like celebrating their birthdays at school with a cake, cupcake or lollipop but please be mindful of children with allergies and check with your child’s classroom teacher. We also need to be mindful of the school’s stance on lollies, so we need to limit our celebration treats to a cake or lollipop-type treat. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

- **The Attendance Cup for this week was again awarded to Grade 1H. Well done guys and remember to keep up the fantastic attendance.**
**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Emma Parker will be available for parent teacher interviews next Wednesday 18th December from 3:30pm-4pm in the Art room. Michelle Polley will be available for parent teacher interviews this Wednesday 11th December and next Wednesday 18th December, both from 3:30pm – 4pm in the staffroom. Any parents needing to see these teachers please come and see them at these times or arrange another suitable time if needed.

**FROM THE LIBRARY**

Our Library stocktake has begun & there are a number of books both from Picture Story & Fiction novels still outstanding. Can parents please look at home, car and in any hiding holes for any that still need to be returned.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER**

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Christmas Tree Fundraiser due to limited orders. Those who have ordered a Christmas tree will be refunded. For more information please see Lana Van Berlo.
CALENDARS AND CARDS ORDERS HAVE ARRIVED!

All Children’s art calendars & cards that were ordered earlier this term are now ready for collection. Parents that have children at camp can collect them from the office at any time. Any uncollected calendars or cards will be sent home next week.

Thank you
Lisa & Emma

PARENTS’ CLUB CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Christmas is fast approaching and that means Parents’ Club is preparing for the festive season by organising our raffles & other goodies for the concert night.

Shortly, each family will receive a note with an item we would appreciate they donate to the raffle prizes e.g. biscuits, a decoration, coffee up to the value of $5. If we could please have these handed into the office by Wednesday the 18th of December it would be greatly appreciated. (Additional items are always more than welcome.)

Feel free to join us for one last meeting for the year & a cuppa on Thursday 12th December in the staff room - toddlers welcome.

Any further info or if you have any suggestions please feel free to let me know. I'm usually hovering most days between the Foundation rooms & Junior Learning Centre or you can contact Lisa Cartmel via the school Facebook page.

GRADE 6 LUNA PARK GRADUATION

Our Grade 6 are heading off to Luna Park on the 16th of December. Permission Forms have already been sent home. Please return your permission forms as soon as possible so we have an idea of how many are going.
PHOTO’S FROM CAMP RUMBUG

[Images of people by the water, trees, and boats in a lake]

[Images of people on a platform in the water and another person on a blue container nearby]
Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Booklists and Parent Contributions for 2014

Victorian legislation provides that instruction in the standard curriculum program must be provided free to all students in Victorian government schools. Free instruction includes the provision of learning and teaching activities, instructional supports, materials and resources, and administration and facilities associated with the standard curriculum program.

To support the delivery of free instruction, School Councils may request payments from parents for student materials and services charges. These payments fall into three main categories:

- **Essential Education Items**, which parents are required to provide or pay the school to provide (e.g. stationary, text books and school uniforms where required).
- **Optional Extras**, which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. school magazines and extra-curricular programs or activities).
- **Voluntary Financial Contributions**, where parents and guardians are invited to make a financial contribution for school grounds projects, library funds or new equipment.

**Essential Education Items**

In 2014 Cardinia Primary School Council is seeking payment of $150.00 **per student** for Essential Education Items and Booklist items. This amount covers items such as:

- Initial books and stationary for each student in Prep to Grade 6.
- Supplies for Art, Music and Physical Education.
- Classroom Reference Materials, including dictionaries and computer programs, such as Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Ziptales
- Classroom stationary items and equipment, including photocopying.

**Voluntary Financial Contributions**

In addition, School Council is seeking two further Voluntary Financial Contributions **per family**.

**Voluntary Contribution 1**

A contribution of $40.00 per family to assist the school in its efforts to:

- Maintain a grounds beautification program.
- Assist in our Library refurbishment and resource improvement program.
- Provide additional IT equipment and access.
Voluntary Contribution

For families who are unable to assist in the many voluntary activities which are part of the school ethos, and wish to support the school in another way, an additional contribution of $50.00 per family. This is in lieu of attending working bees, assisting with Meal Deals, providing assistance in the classroom and/or being an active member of School Council or Parents Club.

School Council endorsed the new fee structure at its meeting in November to ensure that the school can meet the ever growing demands on its budget. There hasn’t been a fee increase for over two years.

Cardinia Primary School’s fees still remain quite modest in comparison to other schools in the area and still has one of the lowest essential and voluntary fees structures in place.

In regards to initial books and stationary, the school orders the books and materials required for each student. The supplies come to the school pre-packed as a complete kit. The cost of each package is very economical as we have access to quality products at reduced prices through bulk purchasing.

Payment for the Essential Education Items can be made prior to the end of the 2013 School Year or on the first day of the 2014 School Year. All payments and contributions can be made by BPAY, cash or cheque to the school Office. Upon receipt of your payment your child will receive a box containing their booklist items.

All children will receive this box of supplies on the first day of the school year regardless of whether parents have made the Essential Education Items payment to the school or not.

Financial Difficulty

Parents and guardians who are experiencing financial difficulties are welcome to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the Principal that suits both the parents and the school.

Several support options are also available to assist parents and guardians with education expenses, including:

- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available to holders of an eligible Health Care Card, eligible Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold Card. EMA is paid directly to parents/guardians, who may then choose to transfer the payment to the school. Information about EMA, including the application form, is available from the school Office.

- Schoolkids Bonus (formerly the Education Tax Refund) is available to assist with expenses such as uniforms, books, school excursions, stationary and other costs like music lessons. Further information about the Schoolkids Bonus, including eligibility criteria, is available from the Australian Taxation Office.

- Additional support may also be available through the State Schools Relief Committee.

Parent Payment Policy

A copy of our Parent Payment Policy is available from the School Office.

Payments can be made and books picked up at the office from the 10th December.