FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Philippines Delegation Visit:
Yesterday we had eight educators from the Philippines who are all recipients of “Teachers of Excellence Awards – Philippines” and are visiting Australia as part of the initiative Strengthening Leadership and Teaching Excellence Skills (SLATES) Program. They were accompanied by two Departmental Officials and the Project Co-ordinator from Queensland.

The delegation from the Philippines had formally requested a visit to our school because of the programs we offer and are working on, strong community involvement and the successes the school achieves in many areas of school life. It is a real credit to our school community that we are seen in such light by international teachers and senior members of the Australian Education system. Our staff should take a great deal of satisfaction from this recognition and endorsement of the work that they do.

The visit from the delegation was a fantastic experience for staff and students alike. Our visitors were very impressed with many aspects of what our school is doing and the work we are carrying out. It was a great afternoon and certainly created a buzz around the school. It would have been fantastic to have had more time with the delegation as they asked many questions about what we did and how we organised the school.

The Choir did a fantastic job and members of the delegation were very impressed that all children who wanted to be a part of this group were allowed to do so. All students should be congratulated on their manners and eagerness to show and talk to our visitors about the work they were doing.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| Thursday 8th May | Drouin Secondary College – Information Day  
Program for perspective Students: 9.20am – 3.00 pm  
Program for Parents: 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm (Commencing in College auditorium) |
| Friday 9th May      | Foundation Grade – Mothers’ Day Afternoon Tea                                      |
| Monday 12th May     | Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion – Junior School                                |
| Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th May | NAPLAN TESTING takes place for Grades 3 and 5 students                        |
| Tuesday 20th May    | Our First Transition Day for our 2015 Foundation Intake  
2.15pm – 3.15pm                                                        |
| Wednesday 21st May  | MAY School Council Meeting – 7.30 pm start                                         |
| Friday 23rd May     | Inter-School Cross Country Event – Grades 3 - 6 at Cardinia Recreation Reserve     |
| Monday 26th – Friday 30th May | Foundation Excursion to the community of Pakenham  
Grade 3 and 4 Bike Education Week                                      |
| Monday 2nd June     | Zone Cross Country Event – Toomuc Reserve Pakenham                                |
| Friday 6th June     | Family and Friends Day - 2015                                                      |
| Monday 9th June     | Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday                                                  |
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. Under no circumstance should parents/guardians approach other students in the school grounds.

THUMBS UP

- To Mrs Smith who prepared, baked and organised the very delicious afternoon tea for our visitors from the Philippines. Fantastic job Virginia.
- To all the staff and students for making our visitors from the Philippines feel so welcomed. They were certainly very impressed with our school and all that it has to offer.
- To the students who have made the squads for tomorrow’s Netball Tournament. We wish you all the best in your endeavours and enjoy the experience of representing our School.
- To all our Parent helpers last week who made the Foundation and Grade 1 visit to the Traffic School and Casey Race so successful and for providing the necessary transport. Greatly appreciated.
- To Miss Henson for all the “extra ” work she does around the school, particularly trouble shooting ICT problems and producing the various planners for our whole school activities. Well done Michelle.
- To the Choir for their wonderful performance (at very short notice) to our visiting delegation from the Philippines. All of our visitors were very impressed and appreciative of our choir and the work Judy does with this group.
- To Jess Dart for creating and producing a fantastic power-point demonstration for our guests highlighting some of the programs operating throughout the school. Well done Jess.
- To Melissa and Lisa for making resources for the grade 3’s and the whole school too. Well done ladies!

PARENTS’ CLUB - IMPORTANT UPDATE!!

This month’s Parents’ club meeting will be held on Thursday at 2.30pm in the staff room. We will finish in time for School Assembly.

Up for discussion is the proposal that we form a ‘fundraising subcommittee’. Due to family and work commitments, those of us heading up Parents Club are unable to contribute in a manner that the school deserves. Because of this, we are looking for any passionate, determined and hard working parents to take the lead and bring some fresh ideas to the group. This is a great way to get involved with your child’s school and our School community.

Children love seeing their parents enthusiastically supporting and getting involved in their school.

Anyone interested please come and see me at school or see the ladies in the office.
Thank you
Lana Van Berlo
Friendly Reminders:

(New Arrangements) When parking on Cardinia Road – school side please park as close as possible to the bollards and barrier. Children and parents need to use the designated pathway between the new fence and bollards.

It is important that children arrive punctually at school, 5 – 10 minutes before bell time in the mornings so that their day can commence on time and in a casual manner.

Cardinia Road and the front of the Hall car park are available for parents to park and pick up students, or there are limited spaces in the Church Car park located off Dalmore Road, but please don’t park on the nature strip or block the driveways in this area.

It is School policy that all students need to be collected by an adult, at the end of the day, to avoid an accident from occurring in these congested areas, which can get very hectic at the end of the day for 15- 20 minutes. Your assistance, patience and understanding in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Parents and Friends of students are reminded that smoking and the consumption of alcohol are not permitted on school grounds or when participating in school activities when students are present.

How do I raise an issue or make a complaint?

It is very important for any school to know if any families or individuals have any concerns about the school their child/ren are attending so that the issue can be addressed, misconceptions corrected or issues followed up. Cardinia Primary School is no different and it’s important that such concerns are taken to the school directly and that the school should always be the first point of contact. We need to know if you have any concerns about your child’s education or well-being. Teaching and learning works best when parents and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve any problems.

When contacting the school:

- Plan what you want to say, so you can clearly explain what the problem is. (You might want to take notes)
- Have some ideas as to how the problem could be solved.
- Talk about the problem with your child’s teacher/s or principal by telephone or organise a face to face meeting. Most problems can be solved this way.
- If you still have a concern after talking to your child’s teacher/s you need to speak to the principal.
- Remember you can be supported at any meeting by a friend, colleague or representative from a support organisation if you wish.

Meal Deal this Thursday is a Hot Dog and Jelly cup for just $3.
Every Mothers’ Day all our students will be provided with materials to make a special gift for their Mum. If you haven’t already paid $4 per child to meet the cost of this activity, please do so as soon as possible. We wish all our mothers a happy Mothers’ Day for this Sunday.

FROM THE ART ROOM

A huge thank you to the Cartmel family for their recent donation of lovely paper. Also to the Cormick-Cox family for their regular donations of construction materials. Thank you both very much! The Art room is still in need of some coloured wool. If you can help, please see Mrs Parker. All donations can be delivered to the office.

MOTHERS’ DAY

Our house cross country is set for this Friday 9th of May, weather permitting. Grades 3 – 6 will head over to the rec reserve at 2:00 pm and they are encouraged to wear their house colours. The top ten finishers in each age group will then go on to represent the school in the District Cross Country on Friday 23rd of May. Parents are welcome to attend to cheer on their children and make it a fun afternoon.
CROSS COUNTRY CANTEEN

Our School has been asked to run the canteen at the Cross Country for Grades 3-6 this year on Friday 23rd May.

For the day to run smoothly, we will need to have some helpers on the day, for an hour or two at a time. We will make sure you get to see your child’s race! We will also need some people to make a batch of cupcakes or a slice for us to sell on the day.

If you are able to help with either of these, could you please contact Donna Eager (0438 401 906 or 5998 8070) or see the ladies in the office.

Thank you.

CHINESE LESSONS!

Enrolments are open for After School Chinese for Term 2. Lessons will commence next Thursday after school from 3:45-5pm. Students from Foundation to Grade 6 are welcome. Kids will not be behind if they start this Term.

GLASS JARS WANTED!

Our Grade 4 classes are asking for some glass jars for a Science experiment. They can be of any size as long as they are clean. If you can help, please see Mrs Chidlow.
Just a reminder that it is not too late to register and take part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2014.

If there are any students that have not received their usernames and passwords please come and see me in Grade 3P or if you have any other questions. Well done to all the students who have already put books online that they have read.

Don’t forget Lachlan the Dog is the mascot for the challenge. It’s his birthday on Thursday May 9th. You can find ideas for activities you can do at home at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/lachlan.aspx about him. There are weekly videos for you to watch. At the moment you can watch one by Felice Arena, creator of the popular series: Specky Magee, Andy Roid and Farticus Maximus! Also there is one by Auryn MacMillan from the Melbourne Tigers, NBL.

Lastly PRC has its own Facebook page that you might like to check out. It has some great tips on it about reading.

FOUNDATION MOTHERS’ DAY
All mums (and Grandmas, if mum can’t make it) are invited to a special Mothers’ Day Afternoon Tea in the Foundation classrooms on May 9th from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. Please keep this afternoon free as we have some lovely activities planned.

Grade 6 Uniforms!

Don’t our Grade 6 students look great in their new uniforms! Parents, please ensure they are labelled in case they are misplaced.

For those who are interested, we are able to order more of both the polo shirts and Jumpers. Orders will be placed soon so please see the office for an order form!
GRADE 1 Excursion to Casey Traffic School and Casey RACE
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it.

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents bring optimistic kids; just as anxious parents can bring anxious kids.

The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nervousness that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:**
   - If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:**
   - Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:**
   - If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognizing how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:**
   - Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking; and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:**
   - One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practice.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.