Welcome back to school and what will be another outstanding year of teaching and learning for our community. This year we welcome 3 new staff members, please make them welcome when you see them in the schoolgrounds. Mark Catterson in Prep, Yvette Montgomery in Grade 1 and Jessica Levett in Grade ¾.

Our sincere thanks to the oval watering crew who ensured regular watering during January. Karin & Craig Moore, Robbie Allen, Vince Andreana and the multitude of other families who also helped out and were vigilant in putting out hoses and keeping the grass green when the tanks ran out.

Please note that the Meet the Teacher sessions have been scheduled much earlier this year due to the very short term. A notice advising of appointment times is attached. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and exchange information regarding your child to assist with their learning. Please return the form by Tuesday.

Last year we shared with you in the newsletter our excitement over being involved in the CASEA program, run through the Royal Children’s Hospital. The program looks at assisting young children from Prep to Grade 3 who may present with challenging behaviours. The program promotes positive self-esteem, positive social behaviour, social skills, problem solving skills and assertiveness. Flemington Primary School is proud to be part of the CASEA program run by the Royal Children’s Hospital. Any work covered in this program will be incorporated into our CARE program running in terms 2 & 3. An information pack will go home tomorrow with permission forms allowing the school to possibly work with your child and a survey for families to complete. If you are unsure about the program you can see your class teacher, Lesley, Sandra or Nujum.

The permission forms and surveys must be returned to school by the morning of Friday 8th February.

Chinese Language classes will be held again this year. The proposed day is a Wednesday after school in the Library. If you are interested, please complete and return the attached form by Friday 8th February.
Due to a reduction in admin staff hours, there will not be anyone to respond to telephone calls or window enquiries between 9.30-11.00 daily.

Payments

When making payments at the office, please complete the details on a payment envelope and place in the cash box. Please make sure you include your child’s name, grade and the reason for the payment. If paying in cash, we cannot guarantee that there will be change available if required. Unfortunately we do not have the same facility as a bank as all monies are banked up at the end of each day. Hence, correct money would be appreciated.

Early Leavers Book – if you need to take your child from school before 3.30pm the Early Leavers Book must be signed at the Office.

Visitors Badges

All visitors, including parents, need to pick up and wear a badge when visiting the school at any time. If parents are helping in classrooms or attending meetings please call at the Office first.

Chess Club

Commences next Tuesday, 12th February. Forms are available outside the office.

In Touch Newsletter Emails

Every InTouch is available on the school website and an alert will be emailed to you advising when it is available. One week a hard copy is sent home with the youngest child and the other week it will only be on the website.

A few hardcopies of the newsletter will be available from the office for you to collect. If you have not already done so, you can be added to the email distribution list by either going direct to the schools website www.flemingtonps.vic.edu.au click on notices on the left hand side and then click on subscribe to mailing list then click on enter your details here and follow prompts or by returning this form.

In Touch Email Request

Your name: ________________________________________________

Email address: ________________________________________________

Youngest child’s name: ________________________________________________

Youngest child’s class: ________________________________________________

2013 Education Maintenance Allowance

FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE NOT YET LODGED THEIR EMA APPLICATIONS, PLEASE NOTE THEY MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2013

No late applications can be accepted

If you applied for the 2013 EMA at the end of 2012 you DO NOT need to reapply.

If you are a holder of a Health Care Card and wish to apply for the EMA, please come by the office, sign a form and we will photocopy your Health Care Card for you.
**Assistant Principal’s Corner**

**Sandra McOrist**

**Sun smart**

Welcome back to the new school year, it’s that time of the year when all children need to be wearing a **broad brimmed hat** whenever they are outside.

**No hat No play - We are a sun smart school.**

I am thrilled to see that all children have hats and they are clearly labelled. If you do need to write your child’s name on their hat please ask for a permanent marker from the office to do so.

If any child comes to school without a hat they will be asked to spend their play and lunch times in the covered area outside the prep learning neighbourhood. They will also be asked to sit in the shade during sport time.

**Drop off area at 8:45am**

Each morning there is a teacher or parent manning the drop off area at the end of the car park at the lane way. The person will ensure that your child enters the school grounds safely.

**Before and After School Supervision**

A teacher is on yard duty in the main court yard from 8:45-9:00am every morning. We encourage families to have their children at school at this time. Before school care is available if you need to bring your child earlier.

Two teachers are on duty in the afternoon, one at the bollards at Flemington Street the other in the main court yard from 3:30-3:45pm. After school care is available if you need to collect your child later. If you are unable to collect your child after school for any reason please contact the school in order to make arrangements.

**Pickups at the Flemington Street Bollards…..**

This pickup area on some afternoons can only be described as a complete nightmare for the yard duty teachers, Leonie Isaacs and myself. It would really be appreciated if parents held their child’s hand when crossing the road and actually walked with them.

Double parking is an issue here as well, once again we ask parents to take care and park in the allocated zones. We will be contacting the council and police again if this does not improve. **Please take care especially when you have the most precious possession with you, your child.**

**Getting to school on time**

The first bell goes at 8:55am and this is when we would like all children to be lined up. The second morning bell will go at 9:00am when the classes will be heading to class. Please endeavour to get your children to school by 8:45am to stop any last minute panic.

**Allergies**

We have several children who may suffer severe life-threatening reactions to some foods. As part of our management of these student’s allergies we are requesting the co-operation of all parents in providing a safe environment at our school. We are requesting **NUT PRODUCTS**, including peanuts, peanut butter and all tree nuts such as cashews are not part of any child’s lunch. In previous years we have had fantastic support by all the school community and we are very appreciative of the co-operation of all families in caring for the well being of others.

**Keeping focus on the 2013 school year**

As the kids settle into the new school year, did you remember to tick off ‘see the optometrist’ on your ‘back to school’ list? Many young people experience undetected vision problems as they often assume that how they see is normal.

It is estimated that 80% of learning is experienced through vision so children with undetected vision problems can have trouble keeping up.

The most frequent vision problems experienced by children are those affecting the ability to see clearly and sharply. These include **short-sightedness** (blurred distance vision), **long-sightedness** (difficulty focusing up close) and **astigmatism** (the distortion of vision due to the irregular shape of the eye). These conditions can be very easy to correct, with glasses.

Other vision problems need to be detected and addressed early to reduce risk of long-term vision concerns such as a **turned eye** (strabismus), or a so-called **lazy eye** (amblyopia). These conditions require management by an eye health professional, such as an optometrist. Untreated amblyopia can even lead to permanently reduced vision in the affected eye.

Incorporating regular eye examinations with an optometrist into your child’s health routine can give peace of mind and the best start to the school year – you don’t need a referral from a doctor and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. For more information or to find an optometrist in your local area, visit [www.optometrists asn.au/victoria](http://www.optometrists.asn.au/victoria).

**5 interesting facts about your eyes:**

- Your eyes are made up of more than 2 million working parts.
- The human eye will focus on about 50 things per second.
- Your eyes actually ‘see’ images upside down and then they send these images to the brain where they are flipped around correctly for us.
- The human eye can distinguish about 2.7 million different colours and 500 shades of grey.
- The human eye can process 36 000 pieces of information every hour.
Curriculum News
The Homework Policy at Flemington PS follows the guidelines set by DEECD. We expect:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/older siblings or independent reading of fiction and non fiction texts of 20-45 minutes daily.
- Mathletics of a minimum of 1000 points over each week
- Reading Eggs {P-4}
- 200 Most Used Words sight reading and spelling {as per year level}


Due to the ongoing Enterprise Bargaining negotiations with DEECD, no other homework will be set or assessed this term.

Art News
Karen Leopold

During terms 1 & 2 the art room will host an Artist in Schools program for students in grades ¾. The artist, Robert Davis will develop a series of assemblages about our school for the foyer space outside the Prep rooms.

Each student will also create an individual assemblage about themselves. To create these we will need sufficient biscuit tine or wooden boxes for each student. Donations of these items would be gratefully accepted at the artroom. The program will begin mid March.

Art Extension for this semester will be lino cutting to create a shared artwork for entry into The Silk Cut Lino Printing Awards. We have submitted several entries to these prestigious awards in previous years. There are 14 places available. Students will work on this project one lunchtime a week. Expressions of interest should be emailed through to me over the next 2 weeks. I will confirm student place in this project by 19th February.

E & Sports News
Brendan Newman

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Flemington Primary.

As I write this we are already preparing for the District Swimming Sports. The Carnival will be held at Queens Park Swimming Pool on Friday 1st March. Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 turning nine THIS YEAR or older will be eligible to try out for the events. All events are 50 metres, comprising of Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly.

This opportunity is for children who are competent swimmers and would like to represent Flemington Primary School at the swimming sports. Event lists will be circulated during their PE lesson and students are welcomed to try out for ALL events in their age group. We will be holding trials at the Travencore Pool at 7:30 am on Friday 15th February. Parents will need to drop children off there at this time (Sharp – events begin the moment the doors open). There will be a charge of $2:00 per child to cover the cost of hiring the pool. All necessary notices will be forwarded on to you at the appropriate time.

Green Travel Plan
Welcome to all those new Prep students and parents. Flemington Primary School encourages and supports children riding, walking and scootering to school.

The research shows that children who ride, walk or scooter to school are more likely to more mentally active and ready to learn.

The school has a Green Travel Plan that sets out actions to build healthy and independent travel to school and lessen the impact of car travel.

Each Friday there is a walking school bus that runs along Kent St. Meet 8:30am at Kent & Turnbridge St in the morning and at the school hall at 3:30pm in the afternoon. Let Jutta Drier know if your child will be "catching" the bus. Mobile 0407 841 267.

We are also looking for parents willing to help with a walking school bus along Wellington St.
If you are interested in helping with the Green Travel Plan please contact me.

Bart Sbeghen
(father of Ellie (gr2) and Hannah (prep))
E: macbart@bigpond.com; M 0418231686
**Instrumental Music News**

**Vern O’Hara**

**Term 1 lessons & timetables**
Term 1 lessons will commence next week, commencing on Monday 4th February. A copy of term 1 timetables will be sent home this week attached to a music newsletter. If your child doesn’t receive one, please contact Vern at school or on his mobile. Per, Gavin, Anna and Vern(after school) will be teaching next Monday.

If anyone is interested in enrolling their child for lessons, and didn’t do so at the end of last year, please collect an expression of interest form from the music corridor and hand the completed form to Vern. If you have any questions you can contact Vern on his mobile 0403777050 or my email Ohara.vern.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Singing classes**
In 2012 we added singing lessons to the instrumental program. Students who participated in the lessons found the experience very rewarding and a noticeable improvement in the quality of the singing in the schools Senior Choir and Rock Bands was evident.

The music committee is conscious of the fact that the lesson fee structure may be unaffordable to many families. I’m sure there are also families that have a child already learning one or more instruments and would like them to be able to participate in singing lessons. As such we are introducing group singing classes in 2013.

Singing is a useful skill to develop and provides a strong aural foundation for any student who learns an instrument. In group classes from three to six, students will learn correct posture, healthy singing technique and will practice exercises to develop pitch, agility, vocal tone and aural skills.

Each student receives a CD to take home and practice with. They will sing a range of repertoire with the emphasis on learning to work together and sing as an ensemble. Students will practice part-singing and harmonizing, have opportunities to sing solo, and develop their performance skills and confidence.

The group classes are available to students in grades 3 to 6 and will cost $9.00 per lesson for groups of 4-6 students.

Lessons will be held during the day on a Thursday. Participating students will be invoiced for the lessons by mail.

If you are interested in your son/daughter participating in a singing class, please collect an information sheet from the music corridor and return it to Mr O’Hara.

**OSHC News**
Camp Australia now manage the Before & After School Care program. All bookings, absences and payments need to be made through the Camp Australia website. **Do not leave messages on the school answering machine.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before &amp; After School</td>
<td>7.00am – 8.45am</td>
<td>0403 704 181</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.30pm – 6:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Customer</td>
<td>8.00am - 6.00pm</td>
<td>1300 105 343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Monday to Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Australia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.campaustralia.com.au">www.campaustralia.com.au</a></td>
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Community News

Flemington PS is pleased to advise of the many fantastic after school activities available at our school. Why rush from venue to venue? Enjoy the activities held here and save yourself the travel.

"Come and try Karate"
Specialised children's classes in the school hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school from 4pm.
2 free sessions for everyone. Learn self defence, increase your personal confidence and have fun all at the same time with many FPS students.
Free Karate uniform on joining. Call Amelia on 0407320333 or visit www.artofdefence.com.au"

CHESS – Tuesday 3.45 in the Library
Forms were distributed today.
There are 2 classes: Beginners and Advanced. Cost $63 for 7 weeks.
Classes are run by state and national champions, David & Brunton.
Meet the Teacher Evening
Grade 1-6

The ‘Meet the Teacher’ event will be held on:
**Wednesday 6th February and Thursday 7th February between 4-6.30pm**

These interview times are optional and in order to allow for all parents to meet their child’s new teacher, times will be strictly limited to 10 minutes.

Parents are encouraged to complete and return the ‘Additional Information Form’ in order to share extra information highlighting specific issues or needs regarding their children. I encourage parents to complete the additional information form even if you do not require an interview.

**If you are unable to attend at these times, please see the classroom teacher to make an alternative time.**

Times will be allocated in order of receipt.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Please circle the suitable times and send this section back to the classroom teacher by this Monday 4th February. You will receive notification of your interview time on Tuesday 5th February.

**Grade 1-6**
**Wednesday 6th February**
4:00pm-5:00pm 5:00pm-6:00pm 6:00pm-6:30pm

**Grade 1-6**
**Thursday 7th February**
4:00pm-5:00pm 5:00pm-6:00pm 6:00pm-6:30pm

To assist with organizing appointment times please list your child’s name and any brothers or sisters and their grades.

Name                     Grade
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

Interpreter required Yes/No Language ________________________________

Sandra McOrist
Assistant Principal
Please return this sheet to your child’s classroom teacher.

Additional Information

Child’s Name: _________________________________     Grade_________

What do you consider your child’s strengths?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Are there any areas of concern that you have regarding your child – academically, emotionally, behaviourally or socially?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

What goals do you have for your child this year?
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________________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Other issues
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Any additional information you would like us to be aware of.
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________