We have had a very good start to the year with students and teachers settling into their classes very well. Prep students have also made a calm transition to school, showing the benefits of the extensive transition program.

At this time of year there are many new routines for children and parents as well as school processes to be revisited. Some of these will appear during the weekly newsletters, others will be distributed through class newsletters. It is very important that parents make their classroom teacher the first point of contact for any concerns or queries. Your classroom teacher is the person who knows your child best at school and is also the person who can provide the appropriate response, information or direction.

On Monday, I had the pleasure of presenting this year’s Student Leaders with their badges of office. They were well supported by their families and enjoyed the first Student Leadership meeting on Monday afternoon. Congratulations to them all.

Despite ongoing industrial actions and EBA negotiations, our dedicated teachers have committed to the Meet the Teacher sessions this year. Yesterday, they worked until almost 7pm in the first set of meetings and will work overtime again this evening to meet the second group.

This is an example of the dedication and extra time and effort they are willing to go to for their students; and as those of you who have attended camps will know, it is a 24 hour a day role without time off or compensation. Any parents who are willing to write to Ministers or the Premier on the teachers’ behalf are encouraged to do so.
Pupil of the Week
Week beginning 4 February 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoe</td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>For displaying confidence and working hard to complete his work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katia</td>
<td>1S</td>
<td>For confidently counting by 2’s to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvette</td>
<td>1Y</td>
<td>For being a team player by helping others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonie</td>
<td>2I</td>
<td>For being organised and working at her best on tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>2N</td>
<td>For confidently sharing her weekend writing with the grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>2T</td>
<td>For sharing his ideas about what a strength with confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicola</td>
<td>34D</td>
<td>For striving for accuracy in the planning and organisation of our classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed A</td>
<td>34J</td>
<td>For creating, imagining and innovating especially thinking of great ideas for our classroom rules. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Wallwork</td>
<td>34L</td>
<td>Striving for accuracy in setting high standards and checking and finding ways to improve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yahaya A</td>
<td>34M</td>
<td>For striving for accuracy during the prep buddies PE lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy W</td>
<td>34T</td>
<td>Applying past knowledge to new situations when working on solving a problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke G</td>
<td>56C</td>
<td>For remaining open to continuous learning by getting to know new routines and making new friends. Welcome to FPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miranda G</td>
<td>56F</td>
<td>For striving for accuracy and setting high standards in all tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinicius F</td>
<td>56M</td>
<td>For extending himself in every task and blowing Dave away with his mathematical genius.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Y</td>
<td>56T</td>
<td>For remaining open to continuous learning during our investigation of the Australian Stock Exchange.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 order forms that were sent home recently are due back to the office by Wednesday 13th February by 9.00am. No late orders will be accepted.

Please note, that orders sent before this date will now be sent to Scholastic as received (except cash which will be processed on the final day). The office will now process orders a couple times a week (for credit and cheque payments only) so the earlier the order, the earlier the children will get their book.

Office News

Office Hours, 8.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday

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.

Welcome back to School Banking for 2013.

Thursday is our Banking Day.

Please ensure all yellow wallets are handed into your child’s teacher first thing in the morning to ensure their deposit is processed.

All money should be securely enclosed in the yellow pocket and deposit slip MUST be completed. See that as little as $5 per week.

Each deposit earns a SILVER TOKEN which should be kept safe at home.... when they collect 10 tokens they can redeem for exciting rewards!

If your child would like to join the program please visit your local Commonwealth Bank with photo ID for yourself and your child’s birth certificate – too easy!

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.
Assistant Principal’s Corner
Sandia McOrist

All parents are reminded that it is illegal to leave children in parked cars. Yesterday 2 cars were discovered with small children locked inside and unsupervised. If we are advised of this we will have no hesitation in making a police report.

Drop off
When dropping children off in the morning in the lane way it important to stay on the road and not park behind the parked cars. Staying on the road ensures that all children getting out of cars do so safely and efficiently. It also allows a steady and even flow of traffic through the lane way.

Pick up
When collecting children at the end of the day in Flemington Street is important that parents park correctly and in appropriate areas. Double parking or parking behind parked cars is not legal and dangerous around schools. With this warm weather it is also important to remember not to leave young children unattended in cars, it can often be 10-20 degrees warmer in a parked car an can prove to be fatal.

Parking
If parents wish to park and walk their children into the school it is important that you do so in the surrounding streets. The school car park is for teachers only. When parking please ensure that you do so in the appropriate zones as there are many restricted and no parking zones around a the school. Please do not park in drive ways as that prevents residents from getting in and out. The council regularly visits the area and will instantly book anyone parked illegally.

Hats
Remember that we have a no hat no play policy at Flemington, hats must be broad brimmed in order for children to be protected from the sun. Sun block is also available in all classrooms.

Witches’ hats
Most families would have noticed orange witches’ hats in the first two school car parks every Monday and Wednesday night. They are placed there to ensure enough space for the rubbish truck to collect our blue bins. It would be appreciated if parents refrained from parking in these spaces if the witches’ hats are there. School before 3.30pm the Early Leavers Book must be signed at the Office.

Early Leavers
Should you need to collect your child from school before 3.30pm, you must sign the Early Leavers’ book in the office.

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

Term One Discovery topics
Prep ~ All About Me
Grade 1/2 ~ Past, Present and Future Schools
Grade 3/4 ~ Puppets
Grade 5/6 ~ Let’s Build

Grade 5/6 Camp
Expressions of interest for the Grade 5/6 camp to Portsea in Term 2 were sent home on Monday. The deposit needs to be returned asap to enable the booking and deposit to be confirmed.

Due to the ongoing industrial negotiations, we are unable to communicate how the camp will work at this time, but I am confident that an agreement will be reached before Term 2 ensuring an exciting experience for students.

Parents are reminded that there are many excellent education resources available on the school website. http://www.flemingtonps.vic.edu.au/page/76/Curriculum The DEECD website also has many interesting and useful articles, ideas and tools for parents and children. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/primary/Pages/default.aspx

Term 1 lessons & timetables
Term 1 lessons commenced this week, and each child should have a copy of their timetable.
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 or to the office.

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.

Group singing classes have been introduced for 2013. Singing is a useful skill to develop and provides a strong aural foundation for any student who learns an instrument. In group 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.
Please note incorrect finishing time of 6.15pm was provided in last week’s newsletter please take note of correct time 6.00pm

Before & After School Care
7.00am – 8.45am
3.30pm – 6.00pm
0403 704 181

Customer Service
8.00am - 6.00pm
Monday to Friday
1300 105 343

Camp Australia Website
www.campaustralia.com.au

Accelerated Learning Program
An intellectually challenging and rewarding program that caters for girls with exceptional academic ability and gifted and talented learners

We invite you to attend an information session to gain a better understanding of the Accelerated Learning Program and what it can do for your daughter.

Thursday February 28th, 2013
7.30pm – 8.30pm at St Aloysius College
31 Curran St, South Melbourne

Contact the College on 9329 0411 to register your attendance.
Enrolments are now open for 2014

For further information please contact the College Learning, Engagement & Assessment Office on 03 9329 0411

Family fun day
Bring the family down to the NMHC Aquatic facility for a great day filled with;
- Summertime fun from DJ
- Face painting
- Soft Play
- Art competition winner
- Food trucks
- Face painting
- Pool available

When: Saturday 16 February
Time: 11am to 3pm
Cost: Member - FREE
Non-member - $5 per family entry
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.
We provide a free Karate uniform on joining.
Call Amelia on 0407320333, see Gabby at classes or visit www.artofdefence.com.au

CHESS – Tuesday 3.45 in the Library
Forms were distributed last week.
There are 2 classes: Beginners and Advanced. The cost is $63 for 7 weeks.
Chess develops logic and higher order thinking skills, strategy, patience and problem solving skills.

Classes are run by state and national champions, David & Brunton.

FITNESS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
– see Rory on Tuesdays at 3.45 in the Hall.

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 language form by Tuesday 12th February.
The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling, or your friend’s children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity, but it’s hard to resist as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers?

Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. It’s the first group that can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a month ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years, and seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognize that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths.

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokavic, even though your neighbour’s child can.

Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests, and also to recognize that children may have strengths and interests completely different than those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride on your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones such as, taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or in their milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parent pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons- to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as ‘unconditional love’.

“Winners compare their achievements with their goals, while losers compare their achievements with those of other people.”

~Nido Qubein
OLYMPIC FENCING
Learn the basic skills of this dynamic sport.

Classes held at 1st Floor, 204 – 206 Arden St North
Melbourne 3051.
Monday 4.15 – 5.15 or Wednesday 4.15 - 5.15

All equipment provided. First session is free.

Term 1 11/2 – 25/3 (7 weeks)
Suits age 8+

Questions: Pieter - 0403 320 817 (business hours)
Or Register your interest by email
maitre@internode.on.net

M.L.C Hot Shots
Term 1 2013 starting 4th February
Little Joey (4 – 6 years)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Saturday and Sunday Cost $145 for 10 weeks 30
min class
Hot Shots (7 – 17 years)
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Saturday and Sunday
Cost $165 for 10 weeks 45 min class or $195 1
hour class
Cardio Tennis Adults (17 – 80 years)
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Saturday and Sunday
Cost $22.50 per week or $195 1 hour class, 10
weeks

VENUES:
North Park Tennis Club – Gladstone Park Tennis
Club – Kensington Banks Tennis Club

PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO FUNDAMENTALS
FOR PROGRAM ENQUIRIES CALL 0418 178 328
e:mail ttpt@optusnet.com.au