2013 Term Dates

Term 1
January 30 – March 28

Term 2
April 15 – June 28

Term 3
July 15 – September 20

Term 4
October 7 – December 20

This week …
Friday 1 March
Community Night
here at the school from
6.00 pm

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SCHOOL VALUES

- Care and Compassion – Care for self and others
- Honesty and Trustworthiness – Be honest, sincere and seek the truth
- Respect – Treat others with consideration and regard: respect another person’s point of view
- Responsibility—Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non violent and peaceful ways; contribute to society and civic life, take care of the environment

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Just a reminder that we will be conducting Parent/Teacher Interviews next Tuesday, 5th March 2013 from 12 noon till 6pm. Please return your preferred timeslots to school as soon as possible so we can organise times for all families. There will be no school on that day for students but care will be provided for children while their parents meet with teachers.

Also a reminder if you are interested in taking part in the school Community Playgroup please return the questionnaire to school as soon as possible so we can continue with the initial planning of the project. If you know of anyone in the community who has little ones and might be interested please let us know or forward on the information to them (Marie has extra information sheets in the office if you need them).

Next Friday, 8th March 2013 the Life Education Van will be visiting Eppalock PS. There will be a half-hour parent information session in the morning and then all grades will have the opportunity to visit the van throughout the day.

Lessons in the van are always age appropriate and the children will be covering a wide range of drug and health related topics, ranging from the human body and how it works, healthy eating and nutrition, medicines and drugs, bullying, resilience and social skills. Healthy Harold, the much loved Life Education giraffe mascot is always a much anticipated element of the Life Education visit. The sessions are always fun, interactive and really extend and develop the children’s understanding of the topics covered. We will be further broadening these topics in class both prior to and after the Life Education visit with the student workbook which is included in the cost of the visit. It is important that your child attend this session. Permission slips are attached to today’s newsletter as well as an attendance slip for the parent information session.

I look forward to seeing all families on Friday night at our first community night for the year.

Have a great week everyone. Mrs Ryan

Note—CLUBS this Friday will involve all grades preparing the school and grounds for our Community Night on Friday night.
Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week ...

- Prep / Grade 1 / Grade 2 students for terrific organisation in the classroom
- Silver for working hard in school
- Harmony for working hard, always doing her best and being a great role model

Values Award
- Jordan T for being kind, caring and thoughtful

Acts of Kindness ... (the following comments were drawn from the ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ box)
- When Henry’s lunchbox broke open and his lunch fell over the ground, Kobi was the first person to pick it all up and help Henry without being asked.
- Riley for encouraging the younger children in sport at lunchtime
- Jordan R for packing up the room without being asked (from Ms Hartney)
- Mackenzie told Donna that she had a nice dress

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?
If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.
The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursion.
Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
A reminder that nominations for School Council close this Friday, 1st March. Please consider becoming part of this important group in our school.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2013
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. Applications must be submitted by Thursday 28th February 2013. Forms are available from school office.

School Banking Day is Tuesday
## IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your diary

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<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Prep Students Day Off</td>
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<th>MARCH</th>
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<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>MARC LIBRARY</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Life Ed Van</td>
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<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>12th</td>
<td>SCHOOL BANKING DAY</td>
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<td>Swimming (1.10 pm start at pool)</td>
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<td>School Council AGM</td>
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<td>Bullying No Way Day</td>
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<td>Kooka Visit</td>
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<td>SCHOOL PHOTOS</td>
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<td>TERM 2 COMMENCES</td>
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<td>Parent Club Meeting 9.15 am</td>
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Hi and welcome back to the MARC van library,

MARC van borrowing will start again this week. Students may borrow two books from the library for two weeks. Please remind your child to bring a book bag on MARC van days (a plastic bag is fine). Also make sure your children return their books on time, so that they can re-borrow and avoid overdue payments for missing books.

Your library lesson/borrowing day will be Thursday every two weeks starting next week – 7th March.

The MARC van library has lots of new books thanks to the funding provided by the Abbott Foundation in 2012. Look out for the new and exciting books with a silver sticker! The new MARC van truck is busily getting loaded up ready to visit your school. Encourage your children to make the most of this fantastic resource and to read, read, read!!

Take time to read together!

Ms. Sandra H

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**FOR SALE**— SAUCE TOMATOES $10.00 per 10 kg box - Contact Michele McLaughlin on 0428 397 699

**Strathfieldsaye Junior Football Club - 2013 New Player Registration**— Player vacancies still exist in our U9 & U10 Teams. For registration forms please email strathfieldsayejfc@bigpond.com or phone Angela Gamble 0409 304 654
The Parent Club Annual General Meeting was held yesterday. All position were declared vacant and the only position filled was that of Secretary—thank you and congratulations to Donna Bowe.

The positions of President and Treasurer are available if anyone is interested.

After lengthy discussions it was decided that we would run one fundraiser per term and advertise in the newsletter for volunteers to assist with the running of the event.

This term the fundraiser will be Hot Cross Buns. (details and order forms attached)

The next two meetings of Parent Club will be held on Monday 25th March and Monday 15th April (first day Term 2) in the staff room commencing at 9.15 am. Even if you cannot take on an executive role, just come along have a cuppa and enjoy everyone’s company (pre-school children most welcome).

Special thanks to the retiring executive and committee of Parent Club—your hard work, dedication and support of our school is very much appreciated.

**COMMUNITY NIGHT— THIS FRIDAY, 1st MARCH**

A wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the start of 2013 school year. The evening will commence with a shared meal. Families are asked to bring a main dish & salad or a main dish and dessert (suggestions .. cold meat, lasagne, crock-pot meals, quiche).

- Families with surname A-M—main dish and salad
- Families with surname N-Z—main dish and dessert
- BYO plates, utensils, cups, drinks

Family BINGO, Cricket Match and lots of fun will be included in the evening. Everyone attending is asked to donate three small items (wrapped in newspaper if possible) to be used as ‘lucky dip’ prizes.— eg chocolate bar— small toy car—can of baked beans—the value need only be 50cents or $1.00.

A great family community night for everyone to enjoy!

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**New Road Safety Education Initiatives**

New Traffic Safety Education resources have been developed as part of Victoria’s Road Safety Education Action Plan 2012-2012. The new resources include storybooks with free apps, a play mat and a road safety education web portal.

Information on the storybooks, storybook apps, road safety play mat and road safety education web portal is available below.


**Storybooks for children aged 4 to 8 years**: Written by renowned Australian author Danny Katz and illustrated by Mitch Vane, *That’s the Sound the Street Makes* is about walking safely to school. *Click Clack* promotes the use of booster seats as fun and the safest way to travel. They are available for $7 each from:


**Storybook apps**: VicRoads has brought the two storybooks to life by releasing them as free mobile and tablet apps for Apple and Android devices. The apps turn the storybooks into an interactive experience by adding narration and bringing the characters to life with sounds and animations. The tablet versions have bonus games to download for free at iTunes and Google Play (search for VicRoads).

**Road safety play mat for children aged 2 to 10 years**: Depicting Victorian roads and signage, the road safety play mat encourages conversation and learning about road safety and is available for $20 from:


**Road safety education web portal**: A ‘one stop shop’ for traffic safety education resources and road safety information for early childhood educators, school teachers and families; see: