We have had a smooth and productive start to 2013. All classrooms have been discussing our whole school classroom values of Responsibility, Acceptance, Respect, Honesty, Cooperation and Resilience. These values ensure a safe and happy learning environment.

Preps
The Preps have started their life at school beautifully and are enjoying learning lots of new things. Preps don’t attend school on Wednesdays during February.

Welcome
We also welcome Maddi Smart to Irymple South PS. Maddi is in Grade 2/3D with Mrs D. and is making new friends and enjoying her new learning environment.

Student Accident Insurance
This is a reminder that the Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance for students and that parents are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students. The department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that they seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

Catholic Religious Instruction
Catholic Religious Education will begin on Monday March 4th at 2:15pm. If you would like your child to attend please fill in the form on page 6 and return to school as soon as possible. This program is offered to children in Grades 1 to 6 only.

Photos
Our school photos will be taken on Thursday 21st February. If you wish to have family photos taken please collect an order form from the office. All notes and money need to be brought to school by Friday 15th February.

Grade 4 Lake Cullulleraine Camp
The Grade 4s are heading off to Lake Cullulleraine very shortly. On Wednesday 13th February the students will travel to the lake for three days of fun activities. Permission notes were sent home yesterday and need to be returned as soon as possible.

Payment for the camp is required by Friday 8th February. The cost of the camp is $175.

Student Leadership
At Monday morning’s assembly we will be presenting our School Captains and House Captains with their badges and certificates.

Attendance and Punctuality
Regular school attendance is vital for your child’s progress. All children need to attend school daily. The school teaching program starts promptly at 9:00am, so we suggest that you make sure your child arrives before this time to get themselves organised and have a chat with their friends.

Please endeavour to make dental and medical appointments outside school hours.

Road Safety
Please ensure that you are leading by example when crossing the road. If you are parking on the other side of 15th Street, please use the crossing to cross the road.

Night Amongst the Vines
On Friday 22nd March we will be holding our second ‘Night Amongst The Vines’. If you are interested in being part of the organising committee, a meeting will be held at 3:30pm on Friday February 8th in Room 11 (Mr Milsom’s classroom). If you can’t attend the meeting but are interested in helping out, please contact Ben Milsom (milsom.ben.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Fundraising for 2013
All parents are invited to attend a ‘brainstorming’ session for fundraising and events for 2013. This is an open meeting to be held in the Library tonight at 6:30pm.

Extreme Weather
An extreme weather day timetable will be enforced when the predicted temperature is 38C or above. This decision will be made by the Principal or Leading Teacher.

If the day is declared an extreme weather day the following will occur;
- Children be able to go outside from 1:30pm – 1:50pm
- Lunches will be eaten inside during the usual class time (1:20pm – 1:30pm)
- Children be able to go outside from 1:30pm – 1:50pm

For all your Industrial Bins, Cardboard & Plastic Recycling Clean up bins (all sizes), Grease Trap & Hygiene Services Free Public Drop off of Cardboard, Paper & Plastic film at our Mildura Depot.

93-95 Gureton Ave East, Phone 0350229544 mildura@ellwaste.com.au
The Melbourne Storm representatives showed a video answered lots of questions and held a replica of NRL Grades 4 visited our school and talked to all the students in Mahe Fonua and Junior Sa’u from Melbourne Storm Melbourne Storm

Exciting happenings at Irymple South P.S in Term 1!

Fruit and nut popcorn
Preparation time: 5 minutes
Cooking time: 0 minutes
Makes: 4 x 400ml serves

Ingredients
5 cups air-popped popcorn
3/4 cup sultanas
3/4 cup currants
3/4 cup dried apricots, diced
1/4 cup roasted cashews or walnuts (optional)

Cooking method
Combine popcorn with sultanas, currants, apricots and cashews and then divide into 4 containers.

For nutritional facts for this recipe visit: http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

The kids are back to school and you are probably wondering what healthy snacks you can send along in their lunchbox. Well here is an easy snack from the Better Health Channel.

Active Afterschool Communities

We will be running the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program again this term. The program will run on a Wednesday after school for seven weeks from February 13th. This Australian Government program is run by the Australian Sports Commission and provides opportunities for primary school children to participate in free sport and other structured physical activity, after school. The students will be provided with a healthy afternoon snack before each session.

During Term 1 the AASC has put together a Beach Volleyball and Cricket program for the students to enjoy. The program will be run by Penni this term at Lifestyle Plus and school. The students will travel by bus to Lifestyle Plus. The activities focus on increasing physical activity and improving skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment.

To ensure children can take advantage of this excellent opportunity, we encourage parents to allow their children to participate for the full hour and to pick them up after the program concludes.

If you would like to enrol your child in the AASC program please fill in the expression of interest below and return to the office. As numbers will be capped, please get this in as soon as possible.

TERM 1 PROGRAM IS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-6

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Fundraising Meeting</td>
<td>8 ‘Night Amongst the Vines’ committee meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I would like my child/children to participate in the AASC program in Term 1, 2013

Child’s name: ___________________________Grade ___________________________

Child’s name: ___________________________Grade ___________________________

Signature of Parent or Guardian: ____________________________________________
Education Maintenance Allowance in 2013

The EMA is being restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents. Prep students will receive a higher EMA payment.

The changes to the EMA starting in 2013 include:
- EMA payments to parents increased
- $117.50 to $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $117.50 to $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students

For 2013, the applicant payment amount for primary prep students will be $200 and the applicant payment amount for primary years 1-6 students will be $150.

School-based EMA payments will be discontinued ($117.50 per primary school student; $235.00 per secondary school student)

Changes to the EMA will be effective from the start of the 2013 school year. The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August). These changes apply to government and non-government schools.

Eligibility

The EMA provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink/Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

Payment Options

From 2013, an EMA application form must be completed to have your EMA payment:
- Paid by Direct Deposit (Electronic Funds transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

The EMA application form includes a section for you to tick which payment option you would prefer.

EMA application forms are available from your child's school.

EMA schedule of payments - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment to Parent</th>
<th>Instalment 1 (70%)</th>
<th>Instalment 2 (30%)</th>
<th>Annual Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(per child)</td>
<td>from March 2013</td>
<td>from August 2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary - Year Prep</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary - Year 1 – 6</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REQUISITES AND PROGRAM CHARGES 2013

There are three categories of items or services that school councils can request payments for from you:

- essential education items, which you need to buy for your child or pay the school to buy for you, these include stationery, text books and school uniforms
- optional extras, which are offered on a user-pays basis and you can choose whether or not your child will use, such as school magazines or extracurricular programs
- voluntary financial contributions, which your school may ask you to make

School Council has set the requisite & programs charges (school fees) at $165 per student.

These fees are set to cover most of the programs within the school (excluding school camps)

Your fees include:
- All work books, writing materials which may include Pencil case and items such as pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks, highlighters, colouring pencils, textbooks, etc
- Reading diaries & reading bags
- Calico money bags
- Swimming program in Term 4
- School incursions i.e. ‘Going Green with Dr Deane’ in Term 2
- Bus travel for all sporting events
- Bus travel for Prep/One in Term 4
- Bus travel as required during the year i.e for concert rehearsal in 2013
- Supplies for Art program
- Apps & Programs for Technology programs
- Mathletics registration.

EMA

Families that hold a Health Care Card or pension card are eligible to claim EMA. The EMA has been restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents and School-based EMA payments will be discontinued. However, parents can tick the option on the application form to have their portion directly deposited into the school bank account to use towards your child's fees.

EMA payments to parents are:
- $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $150 for parents of eligible year 1 – 6 primary school students

All families are asked to make their payment by Friday 1st March 2013.

If not making full payment by 1st March could you please return the payment option list, attached to your family statement, with the preferred option ticked.

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Yes, I would like my child/children to receive Catholic Religious Education this year 2012.

Child’s Name ___________________________ Grade _______
Child’s Name ___________________________ Grade _______
Child’s Name ___________________________ Grade _______
Signature ___________________________ Date _______

St. Joseph’s Red Cliffs, Sacremental Program

The Sacremental program is beginning early this year. A meeting of parents is being held on Thursday 7th February at 7:00pm in the Library at St. Joseph’s Primary School. The Sunday morning classes commence on Sunday 10th February at 9:00am. Please contact Father Flanagan (05241966) or Kim Hawkes (052216264) for more information.

Check out the new and improved website!

www.irymplesouthps.vic.edu.au
Introducing the 2013 Preps

Prep R

Harry
Jayah
Jeremy
Gabriella
Georgia
Danica
William
Dane
Emma
Claire
Christian
Harvey
Cooper S
Luca
Nicholas
Rose
Cooper T
Hanna
Grace
Ned
Rhiannon
Hope
Jelena
Rueban

Prep P

Reece
Zac
Kiara
Josh
Kayden
Hannah
Mikael
Maddi
Matt
Piper
Tyler
Hunter
Jelena
Bana

Introducing the 2013 Preps