FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Karyn Forge

A Great Start to the New Year
Welcome back to all our students and families for the start of the 2014 school year. A special welcome back to those families and students who are new to Yarrunga Primary School. I am sure it won’t take long to make new friends. Remember that Judy Byrne or myself are always available. Appointments can be made through the office. The office is open between 8.30am – 4.30pm each day. If your child is absent please contact the office and let us know either by phone 57 212 682 or SMS your absence 0405 5268 775 with the name of the student, class and reason for the absence eg ill.

Settling into School
With the start of the school year children are anxious and excited about what the year will bring. Generally, the teacher will be different, the class will be different and some of their friends will be different to last year. Their ‘best’ friend may now be in another class. This is all part of supporting the students to learn valuable life skills. Just because something is new or different doesn’t mean that its bad or wrong or that things will never be good. As grown-ups we have to help our children build resilience and confidence in themselves to cope with change. We have to support and encourage them to try new and different things. In most cases when we try something new after a while we like it, its great and we want to do it all the time. There are many experiences that you have already helped your child to master. Learning to ride a bike is one that often starts with fears but once they have mastered it they feel proud of their achievement and it becomes a great thing to do.

So with the first couple of weeks of school support your child and talk with them daily about what was good about school and the friendships that they have made.

White Envelopes
Last Thursday you would have received a white envelope containing a copy of the personal information we hold about each child attending school. Please check this information and update where necessary. I ask that you particularly check your contact details, and those of your Emergency contacts, as phone numbers often change. Remember that these forms need to be returned to school by Friday 7th February.

Swimming
This year there will be a swimming program every Wednesday and Thursday during February. We will be attending the Yarrunga Pool. Please return the permission note and money to your child’s classroom. If you are able to help out at the pool as an extra set of eyes, for some of the time please let Mr O’Keefe know. With this hot weather - the pool is the place to be.

Insurance
Please note that the DEECD does not hold insurance coverage for personal items that are brought to school from home if they are stolen, broken or misplaced at school.

School Banking
Hume Building Society has approached the school seeking to establish student banking accounts for students at Yarrunga. Please indicate below if you would be interested in your child having a Hume Building Society Savings account at our school. If there is sufficient interest we will register the school.

__________________________ would be interested in opening a savings account with Hume Building Society.
Yarrunga Primary School Values

1. Be a learner
2. Be responsible
3. Be respectful

CLASSMATES OF THE WEEK

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Congratulations to all our classmates. Have a great week!

NETBALL NEWS

Hi all it is that time of year again when we need to organise netball teams. This year all children from the ages of 5-12 can participate. A new program will commence on Friday nights for 5-7 year olds. The first session is on 28th of March from 4:30 -6:30. This is a come and try night. You can also register on the night, as yet I am unsure of the cost.

The 8-10 years program (grade 3 and 4) and 10-12 years program (grades 5 & 6) Saturday morning netball commences on the 22nd March and is $85. Interested players can put their names up on the lists outside the library. Registration forms and further information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

This year players will also be asked to pay $2 each week to pay their teams umpires. Anyone interested in umpiring or coaching please contact me at school. All volunteers must have a current working with children's card.

Thanks
Melissa Campbell
Greg Cherry

Chaplain’s Chunk

Welcome back to a new year at the awesome Yarrunga Primary School! Here’s hoping you had a great holiday. Here’s also hoping that the year ahead is a good one. But of course it’s not much use just hoping that we have a good year, we have to also believe it. Even then, it’s not much use just believing it, we also have to put the belief into action. In his book, Rhinoceros Success, Scott Alexander talks about charging at opportunities with snorting enthusiasm and determination. So if opportunities are there for learning stuff, making things, making friends, swimming, sport, growing things and cooking them, getting better at reading and writing (just like at Yarrunga), we ought to charge at them! Then we’ll reap the benefits sooner or later. The more we put into life the more we get out of it. So let’s overcome the inertia, laziness and fears, get charging at those golden opportunities and enjoy the gallop!

Nick Taylor

What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Alromir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool)

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au
Being a Good Learner is when...

- We listen to everybody. – Gemma W
- We make eye contact when people are talking. – Jack K
- We sit on the floor to listen. – Larry
- We are quiet and concentrate when someone is talking. – Ayden & Sheldon
- We help other people. – Gemma L
- We take turns, like put up our hands. – Michael
- We share equipment and ideas. – Izabelle
- I listen to the teacher and do what they say. – Shantelle
- Follow the teachers/aide/volunteers instructions. – Teagan

Friday Fun – Seniors Social Games Afternoon

Each Friday at Pangerang we will be holding a social afternoon for members of the community to come along and have a cuppa, practise your computer skills, bring along a game or your craft. Or just join in with someone who is playing cards etc.

Starting Friday 14th Feb

Time: 12.30-2.30

Cost $ Gold Coin

Make Your Place Their Second Home

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

Find out more!

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager - Inbound Exchange Programs
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

Nihongo News

Hooray! School has started, at last. This week we’ll be looking at a very significant JP cultural event. I’ll leave the details to the professor in his section below. Grade 3 kids start the year in LOTE with a new workbook, so they took their old books home last week. A lot of the work we do in Japanese class is verbal, just the same way we all learnt our first language, so there’s not a huge amount in the littles’ workbooks. They are worth keeping, though, as they reflect the themes the kids covered in those first 3 years. You might even like to use yours as a JP scrap book to collect other stuff about Japan.

Monoshiri Sensei’s Culture Tips

So the kids are looking at “...a very significant cultural event.” For 2014’s first nazonazo, tell us what that cultural event, held around this time every year, might be. The first correct written answer to me or to the main office will be the winner.

OAK FM COMMUNITY RADIO

Tune in and listen to our Grade 5 & 6 students on Mondays between 1 and 2pm during the school term.
## CALENDAR 2014

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**SMS Absences: 0405 268 775**