STRATCHAT

ACCEPTANCE          RESPECT          COMMITMENT          HONESTY

CHILDREN ARE SUPERVISED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:50AM AND 3:40PM WITHIN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Calendar

February
Fri 7th - Parent Assembly 9am
Mon 10th - Parents & Friends meeting @9.10 am in the stadium
Kath Walker Parent Information night 4.45pm
AASC begins – Mon AFL & Wed Netball
Tue 11th - Ice-Cream Day, run by Grd 5/6
Thur 20th - School Swimming Carnival
1.00pm – 3pm
Fri 21st - Pizza Tuck Shop, run by Grd 5/6
Mon 24th - Melb Camp 5/6
Wed 26th - HDSSA Swim Sports

March
Tue 4th - Pancake Day
Wed 5th - Bus Safety Talk 10.30am
Fri 7th - Parent Assembly

Parent Assembly date for 2014:
Feb Fri 7th Mar Fri 7th Apr Fri 4th May Fri 2nd
June Fri 6th
Parents are welcome to stay for coffee & a chat

On Wednesday the year 4-6 water safety program commenced at the Stratford Pool.
Thank you the parents who are assisting Mrs Keil with this program, without you it certainly wouldn’t be as enjoyable or effective for the students.

Mr Fitzgerald took his first classes at Stratford Primary School on Wednesday. He is teaching Indonesian to grades 2/3, 3/4 and 5/6 and Physical Education and motor skills to grades Prep and grade 1/2. These grades will continue to have Indonesian with Miss Hayes.

Our school leaders for the 2014 school year were elected by the students and staff. This week they will be presented to the school community and receive their badges on Friday (tomorrows assembly). This year we had a large group of students nominate for school leadership positions and it was particularly pleasing to see so many grade 5 students try for House Captain. If you are interested in the role of School Leaders there is a copy of the expectations and duties they perform under ‘Polices’ on the school website.

Unfortunately the extreme weather prevented the mowing and tidying up of the school grounds before the start of the year and the school certainly looked messy. The maintenance of the grounds was discussed at School Council on Monday night and it was resolved that we go back to having a regular mowing and gardening service as despite the best efforts of many families the job was becoming too much to keep up. The new contractor started today and by lunch time there was a great improvement. Families will be offered the opportunity to ‘adopt a garden bed’ and be responsible for weeding, keeping an eye on the watering and assist with the planting up of the bed. If you are interested in

Principal’s report

Our grade 1-4 students along with approximately 600 primary school age students enjoyed Tuesday’s ‘Super Clinic’. Over the hour students were organised into groups and had a go at tackling, marking, bouncing, and kicking drills. Some lucky Carlton supporters were able to get Carton jumpers signed and have photos taken with the players. The Carlton Website has photos of the day.
looking after a bed please contact the office. Students will still be involved in gardening but on a more manageable scale. While the revised uniform policy has been on the school website since October when it was ratified by school council and many parents had input into its development, I understand from speaking with a number of parents the changes came as a bit of a shock. Apart from the introduction of the new shirt and a house shirt for PE and changing the supplier to JSM in Sale the only other difference to the previous policy is that black school shoes or runners are compulsory, not preferred. Some parents have indicated to me that they have just purchased new coloured runners and are not in the financial position to immediately purchase a pair of black shoes and this I understand and we have been able to work out a solution to the problem. Temporary exemptions can be made so please come and see me. It is also important to note that school policies are developed with input from parents and ratified by school council; the Principal does not do it on their own. They assist in the process by making sure it follows departmental guidelines and then to implement and manage the policy.

PE and Sport Classes - The timetable for these classes will be finalized after the senior swimming program has finished and this will be sent home to all families.

Prep and Grade 1/2 information meeting - This will be held in the junior building at 4.45pm on Monday 10th February. This will be a great opportunity for parents to listen to the Teachers from the Walker Early Learning Foundation and how they will be involved in your child’s education.

Zonda Lynn – Principal

School Council Elections
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on 11/02/2014. The ballot will close at 4.00pm on 20/02/2014. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Parent member 3

DEECD employee member 2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Family & Friends
Family & Friends is holding a meeting Monday 10th Feb in the School Stadium at 9:10am. Items on the agenda include: election of committee members, Mardi Gras entry objectives for 2014.

SWIMMING SESSION FOR STUDENTS TURNING 9 THIS YEAR AT STRATFORD POOL
On Tuesday 11th February all students who are turning 9 this year will be given the opportunity to attend a training session at the Stratford pool. They will need to bring their bathers, towel, goggles (if needed) and a water bottle. They will also be required to bring $2.80 for pool entry to school or their season ticket at the pool.

Grade 1/2
At assembly this week the students will be performing a Chinese New Year song for us all, this is to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Senior Swimming program
Just a reminder that the senior aquatics program began on Wednesday, and will continue until the 19th Feb, expect for Fri 14th & Tue 18th there will no swimming on these two afternoons. The school swimming carnival will follow on Thursday the 20th from 1pm to 3pm.

Grade 5/6
Our annual collaboration with St. Patricks for the Shakespeare production will begin in February after the senior swimming program. This year we are performing ‘Julius Caesar’. More information will be put in stratchat as soon as rehearsal times have been finalised. A reminder for the whole 5/6 class – please remember to bring your diary to school every day.
The school still has firewood for sale for $60 a 6 x 4 trailer load, if you would like to purchase some please come to the office to arrange a suitable time.

We also have some concrete bricks for sale @40c a brick – please contact the office.

Sale Women’s Basketball Association
Looking for new members from beginners to experienced players
Wednesday morning – Ladies comp @9.30am
Sports complex, Cobains Road Sale
Playgroup available – Sarah 0478227521

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, Airomir 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

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28th February 2014 for the first instalment.
Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2014, you must: be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent. * i.e. – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.
The eligibility criteria must be met as at 28 January 2014 (Instalment One) and 14 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA provides an annual amount of $200 for prep and $150 for grade 1-6 primary students.
Prep Years 1 - 6 Instalment One $140 $105
Instalment Two $60 $45
Annual Total $200 $150
EMA application forms are available from the school office.

Do you have a close family member with a disability?
Are you entitled to mobility allowance?
Do you know what the Disability Support Register is?
Do you understand what NDIS, ISP and other acronyms mean?
Are you missing out on knowledge, information and wisdom?

Then you’ve come to the right place!
At the Wellington Special Needs Network Inc we are a group of parents of children and adult children with disabilities who get together over a coffee and supper, to share knowledge, experience and information.

We are currently seeking new membership.
Come along and join us if you are interested.
For more info contact Rosemary 0413 010 047
Anita 51444408 bennell@vic.australis.com.au
Although we are an informal parent support group, we have a wealth of knowledge and we would like to share this with you. Being parents, we understand your struggles and triumphs so would like to extend a warm invitation to share a cuppa with us.

Next meeting is at 5 Star Housing, Community Room – Between Howard & McCole Streets in Sale on Monday February 3rd from 7:30pm – 9:30pm
If you can’t make it but interested to make contact please let Rosemary know and you’ll be kept in the information loop. All family members welcome