Acceptance
Children are supervised between the hours of 8:50am and 3:40pm within the school grounds

Respect

Calendar

February
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
Fri 28th – EMA applications close

March
Tue 4th - Pancake Day
Wed 5th - Bus Safety Talk 10.30am
Fri 7th - School Triathlon
          Parent Assembly
Mon 17th - School Council 6:30pm

Respect  Commitment  Honesty

Principal’s report
There has been lots of activity in the school grounds over the past week. A group of keen parents came in on the weekend and cleaned up around the wood pile, did some repairs to the amphitheatre and whipper snipped long grass along the fence line, and it looks fantastic. This weekend there will be another group weeding and planting the garden beds and painting stumps to use as stools and tables around the big tree. Details of a massive school wide garden working bee will follow in next week’s Stratchat, many hands will make light work!

On Monday we had two educators from the Kathy Walker Learning Approach Centre work in the classrooms with our teachers to set up the investigations centres. Their presentation to parents was very well received by those who attended and we are looking forward to their visit in term two to assist us implementing the next stage of the program. The students love being involved in the investigations and sharing their learning with one another and taking home some great creations. If you would like to visit the class rooms to see the investigations in progress please contact me at the office so we can arrange a suitable time.

Darren Chester the Federal Minister for Gippsland attended the weekly student meeting on Monday and presented our student leaders with their certificates, celebrating their election to their leadership roles. He was most impressed by the student’s behaviour and commented on how they were demonstrating the school values throughout the assembly. He particularly highlighted the value of respect and how pleased he was they had shown respect to him, the visitors to our assembly as well as one another. Congratulations everyone.

Zonda Lynn – Principal

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

Trashless Tuesday
The scores for this week’s Trashless Tuesday are as follows:
Prep – 78%
1/2 – 65%
2/3 – 68%
3/4 – 44%
5/6 – 50%
Congratulations to the Prep class!

**Green Team**
Friday the 28th February is ‘clean up Australia Day’ for our school, so please get ready to tidy and clean up our school grounds!
Fact: in the past 20 years, Aussie’s have collected over 200,000 tonnes of rubbish.

**Triathlon**
Our annual school triathlon will be held on Friday 7th March. We will have two visiting schools participating which will be a wonderful experience for our students. To help prepare for this event all students will be required to bring their bikes to school on Monday. Bikes can remain at school until the end of the Triathlon. Bike riding will be included on our fitness program to help build endurance & stamina.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY**
A reminder to staff, parents, visitors and students that private belongings brought to school are not insured and the Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

**Family & Friends**
Family & Friends held their AGM on Monday 17th February and the following people were elected:
President: Emma Brooks
Vice President: Jo Giblin
Secretary: Penalla Elmer
Treasurer: Louise Perett
General members: 12 members
Our first item for family & friends is to put in an entry for the Maffra Mardi Gras held on the 22nd March. A brainstorming session for the float entry will be held this Friday 21st February in the dining room at 2.30pm. Anyone who would like to help with costumes/designing the float please come along, our theme is Batman!

We would also like to know if your child would like to participate in the Mardi Gras so we know how many costumes we will need.

**Mrs Schultz – Instrumental Music Tuition**
Each Thursday all instrumental music students must bring their lesson books to school. Effective lessons cannot happen without the correct lesson materials, so I ask parents to check that books are packed into schoolbags on lesson day please, thank you.

**Shaping eating behaviours**
Teaching kids positive eating behaviours during childhood can set them up with healthy eating habits for life. Developing a positive relationship with food, as well as a balanced approach to eating, can lead to better health outcomes in the long run. Parents often underestimate their role in the development of healthy eating habits. Speaking positively to your children about healthy foods and role modelling balanced eating is the first step in helping kids develop a healthy relationship with food. And remember, actions speak louder than words! Children watch, listen and learn through observation, and then follow what they see. Set your children up for life by being a positive role model and create healthy habits from the start.

**Stratford Playgroup**

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**
The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 28th February 2014 for the first instalment.
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 March 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

If you have to leave your car, even for a minute, always take your children with you

This week our Grade 5/6 students certainly did their bit for recycling & rubbish removal, they cleaned up the bin area now that we have our new rubbish removal service in place. What a fantastic effort in taking care of our school grounds, well done!

Please note: a grade six T-shirt order form has gone home today.
Investigative learning station – senior building