Welcome back to all our returning students and their families as well as new students and their families. Fifteen very excited Preps joined our school community today and after waving their parents goodbye settled into the many interesting and creative activities that their teacher Ms Bradley had ready for them. Their buddies took over at recess and ensured that they were all having fun in the playground.

Our new staff members this year are Mr Tim Fitzgerald who will be teaching Indonesian and PE and Mrs Julie Gopel who will be working in classrooms as Education Support (Teacher’s Aide).

Term one is always a busy term with the senior swimming program commencing next week. Years 1-4 will attend a football clinic in Sale on Tuesday conducted by the Carlton Football Club and we are already organising the Shakespeare production.

This year we are introducing the Walker Learning Approach in our junior school and there will be a parent information session on Monday 10th February at 6.00pm. More details will follow next week.

Private music lessons are available and commence as soon as your child is enrolled. For more details please contact the school office. Remember my door is always open and teachers are available if you wish to discuss your child’s learning and school experience.

Zonda Lynn – Principal

SAKGP
Thank you to all that have helped in the kitchen last year to help make it very successful. Cooking will be starting on Wednesday the 5th February and we will be needing volunteers again. If you, or someone else you know who may be interested in volunteering your time for this fantastic program, please contact the office on 5145 6554. I am looking forward to seeing you all again and some new faces.

Jo Knight – kitchen Specialist

Senior Swimming program
The senior aquatics program will commence on Wednesday 5th February for grades 4-6. This program will continue until Wednesday 19th February.

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

Principal’s report
Welcome back to all our returning students and their families as well as new students and their families. Fifteen very excited Preps joined our school community today and after waving their parents goodbye settled into the many interesting and creative activities that their teacher Ms Bradley had ready for them. Their buddies took over at recess and ensured that they were all having fun in the playground.
Please bring permission notes back by tomorrow (31st January).

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Instalment One</th>
<th>$140</th>
<th>$105</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
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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 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

Have you ever thought about fostering children or young people?

Anglicare Victoria Gippsland is looking for couples or single people who can provide a safe and secure home for children aged 0 - 18 years needing care for weekends, emergency, short term and long term.

Our next Foster Carer training is being held on:
**Saturdays 15th February, 1st & 29th March 2014**
10am – 4pm
65 Church Street, Morwell

Bookings are essential. For further information and to receive an information package please contact the Carer Recruitment Team on 5133 9998 or email gippsland.carers@anglicarevic.org.au