**WELCOME**

Welcome to a new year at South Geelong Primary School! Our teachers and educational support staff are excited to see everyone after the holiday break. A special welcome is extended to all our Prep students and new families who are continuing their child’s learning journey at South Geelong Primary School. Our School values an inclusive learning community for everyone based on **Respect, Responsibility & Relationships**.

This week each teacher has worked with their class to develop a shared understanding of what makes a good classroom and what agreements or rules need to be followed so students, teachers, parents and support staff all enjoy the mutual respect and caring essential for growth and learning.

This year we are required to implement a new Student Engagement Policy which will replace the DEECD Student Discipline Policy from 1994. To gain your views and ideas a family homework task has been set and will be sent home on Monday.

**BUILDING UPDATE**

Our Stage 3 building project goes out to tender this week! This 2 storey building project is for 2 new Prep classrooms and 2 new Year 3/4 classrooms. This final building work will ensure that all classes are taught in modern learning spaces suitable for young enquiring minds. The existing portables will be removed and the oval redeveloped. Further updates will be provided as we move into the construction phase later this term.

**REMNINDERS**

**ART SMOCKS:** Mrs. Carroll has many creative, fun and sometimes messy activities planned for art this year. To protect your child’s school uniform, every child is required to have an art smock. It can be an old shirt or top, as long as it protects your child’s clothing.

**EXCURSION MONEY:** Parents are reminded to ensure excursion money and the permission slip is placed in a clearly labelled envelope with your child’s name, grade and excursion they are attending.

**STUDENT BANKING:** Student Banking will commence again for 2010 each Tuesday. To those new families wishing to commence good saving habits, forms are available from the office. All new banking accounts need to be submitted at the school office.

*We thank you for your co-operation.*

**LUNCH ORDER PRICE LIST FOR 2010**

A 2010 price list for lunch orders from our Yarra Street Milk Bar was distributed to students on Monday. Please ensure that you are using the updated list when placing your child’s lunch order.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8th Feb</td>
<td>Netbook Computer Contribution for Year 6 students due.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Afternoons: 4.00 – 5.30pm.</td>
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<td>1/2T &amp; 1/2M (only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9th Feb</td>
<td>School Council Meeting 6pm.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Afternoon 4.00-5.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Not for 1/2M &amp; T)</td>
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<td>School Entrant Health Questionnaire to be returned by Prep parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10th Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Afternoons: 4.00 – 5.00pm</td>
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<td>(All classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 5th March</td>
<td>Community Fete/Carnival 4-8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8th Mar</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16th Mar</td>
<td>School Council AGM – 6pm. New Councillors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meeting 6.30pm</td>
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**PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

At South Geelong Primary School we strive to provide outstanding educational experiences for every child. To support the provision of a wide range of quality programs and facilities available to all students enrolled at our school, School Council is requesting a family contribution. This shared contribution of $130.00 per student will be used for resources and program development for the following specialised programs:-

- Visual Arts,  
- Music/Performing Arts,  
- Library.

We thank you for your contribution in supporting exceptional learning opportunities for all children. To those parents who have already paid this contribution, we thank you most sincerely for your support.

*John Quinane, School Council President.*

**MULTIPLE PERMISSION FORM**

Along with this newsletter is the multiple permission form. Please sign both sides and return to the school by no later than Friday 19th February, 2010.

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

The EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible to receive EMA 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 foster parent; and  
- submit your application to the school by the due date.

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school **NO LATER than 26th February, 2010** for the first instalment to be processed. Forms are available from the office. Just a reminder that this form needs to be completed each year.
SCHOOL SAFETY
Family pets at times are invited into our school, however a recent large gathering of dogs at the end of the day created a potentially dangerous situation which was frightening for young children and staff. Dogs that are walked to school should remain outside the school fence and not create a hazard for anyone entering or exiting the school. It is law for dogs to be on a leash and under control when out and about in the community. The best places to exercise your dog is at one of the local parks or by the river. Riding bikes or scooters is not permitted for any child in the school grounds. Please remind your child/ren to walk with their bikes or scooters when they enter the school gates.

STUDENT ILLNESS: Gastroenteritis
Gastroenteritis is life threatening for a child at this school, as a community it is vital that all families comply with the following Departmental Health School Exclusion rule: Any child with signs or symptoms of gastroenteritis are to be kept at home until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Unwell children are not to be sent to school. Parents and/or emergency contacts will be contacted to promptly collect their child if they appear unwell during the day.

YARD SUPERVISION
We have two yard duty teachers supervising students in the yard at all recess times and one duty teacher before and after school – 8.45am - 9.00am and 3.30pm - 3.45pm. Students in the yard earlier or later in the day are not supervised therefore parents are reminded to make alternative care arrangements for their children, such as OSHC or suitable drop off and pick up times within these supervised periods. At lunchtimes, the Library is also opened and supervised for any children who wish to quietly read, use Library resources or play board games.

ANAPHYLAXIS
Due to an increasing number of students being diagnosed with a peanut allergy, parents are requested to adopt the following recommendations:
- There should be no trading and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers.
- Ideally children with severe food allergies are to eat lunches & snacks that have been prepared at home.
- Bottles, drinks & lunch boxes should be clearly labelled with the child’s name.
- Parents of children in years P-2 are asked not to send peanut butter sandwiches, as there may be higher risk of contact between younger children.
An individual action plan is also in place for students with Anaphylaxis. We thank you for your co-operation. Copies of our Anaphylaxis Policy can be obtained from the office.

MUSIC LESSONS
Did you know that music lessons are being held at our school during school hours? Lessons are available in piano, keyboard, guitar & drums. To make a booking or just to enquire about what may be most suitable for your child call Louise on 0412712701.

WANTED
Grade 5/6 students are undertaking a unit involving shoes/boots. They will be sketching, painting and remodelling them. We need a variety of sandals, shoes, stilettos, boots, gumboots, runners etc. Please send along to the art room any old shoes/boots that you no longer want and we will turn them into new creations. Thank you for your support.

Clare Carroll, Visual Arts Teacher.

GREEN THUMBS
Green Thumbs is an activity held each Friday at lunchtimes. It is run by parent volunteers. Any parents who would like to join us, even if only occasionally, would be most welcome (we meet at the Vegetable Garden Rotunda at 1:30pm). Green Thumbs aims to introduce children to the enjoyment of: gardening, growing food and caring for the environment. Children also learn teamwork skills and develop their fine and gross motor skills.

MUSIC PROGRAM – TERM 1
As part of the singing focus in Term 1, students from levels 2, 3 and 4 will be exploring a range of songs, some of which may be performed in the Talent Idol event at the school Carnival on Friday, 5th March. To encourage our students and provide them with an opportunity to practise, the usual Choir time slot of 2:30pm on Wednesdays will become the Talent Idol rehearsal time. Choir will resume in Week 6 of Term 1. Thank you, Martina Golding, Music Teacher.

BIRTHDAY LIST
Congratulations to those students who have celebrated their birthday over the school holidays and this week.

JANUARY
1st Dylan 3rd Emma
4th Bella 6th Josh
6th Cory 7th Hannah
7th Lincoln 8th Nathaniel
9th Tayla 10th Manasi
10th Nicholas 13th Noah
12th Hamish 14th Saavi
14th Jimmy 14th Halley
16th Kavishi 16th Carly
16th Simon 17th Monique
19th Elisha 19th Hugh
19th Jacob 20th Jesse
20th Jacob 24th Thomas
25th Phoenix 25th Ryan
28th Tara 28th David
28th Alexander 28th Christopher
30th Serena

FEBRUARY
1st Eliza Mason 1st Brittany Fowler
4th Morgan Boseley 4th Henry Vo

COMMUNITY NOTICES
RAINBOW RIDERS: Beginners horsemanship and riding lessons. All proceeds go towards helping disadvantaged children within the Geelong community. Contact Rainbow Riders on 52641175.