Dear Parents/Carers

Our Earn and Learn resources came yesterday and the class representatives on our Student Voice Council along with Linda Fuller helped unpack the boxes. Thank you to Stephanie Nash, her trusty team of helpers and the whole school community for the great work in collecting over 39000 stickers! A fantastic effort. **The 2013 Earn and Learn Program starts again on Monday 8th April more details will be available next term.**

**End of term Early Dismissal** Just a reminder that the last day of term 1 is Thursday 28th March and that it is an early dismissal at 2.30pm, please take note of this as it means buses will arrive at your home earlier.

**Long Service Leave**
At the beginning of Term 2 I will be taking 4 weeks Long Service Leave to travel through Europe with my husband. Assistant Principal Sue Page will be the Acting Principal during my absence.

I wish everyone a happy Easter and a safe and relaxing holiday.

Robyn Simmonds
Principal

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**Easter Bonnet Parade**
Parents/Carers, you’re invited to come along and watch the Easter Bonnet Parade, on the 28th March at 9.30am. Don’t forget your camera.
Dear Parents/Carers

You may have read about the new resources that the Victorian Government has recently released to support all of us in helping to stop bullying - *Bully Stoppers: Make a stand. Lend a hand*

Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences.

We know that when the whole school community commits to addressing bullying, less bullying occurs. At our school we are committed to ensuring all students feel safe, that everyone is treated respectfully and that staff have the knowledge and skills needed to best support every child’s wellbeing, safety and confidence.

Research, however, tells us that only 10 per cent of children involved in bullying actually report the incident. We also know that while there is broad awareness of the seriousness of bullying, most people would like more information on what to do to prevent it.

The *Bully Stoppers* online toolkit is designed to address this and provide advice to teachers, parents and students on what to do if they see or are targets of bullying. Developed with the support of leading experts, and tested with students and teachers, the resources offer advice for students, parents and teachers alike on dealing with challenging behaviour, bullying, discipline and cybersafety. Resources come in a number of different formats including fact sheets, learning modules and vodcasts.

As a mark of how important this issue is to the wider community, the Victorian Government is also running a community information campaign. The clear message is that bullying can happen to any child but together we can help stop it by actively standing up for and supporting victims. As a further mark of our commitment to preventing bullying, our school is also joining other schools across the state in pledging to become a *Bully Stoppers* school.

I encourage you to learn more by going online at [www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers) and share the commitment to stop bullying in our school and local community.

*Robyn Simmonds*
*Principal*

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**Hi everyone,**

**Room 8 students are going to build Billy Carts for our school!**

We need donations of wheels, timber, rope, seats, hammers, nails, bolts, screws and anything else that may be any use to help us complete our big project,

Thank you, from

*Tom, Daniel, Vicky, Lucy, Haydn, Jordan, Dylan, Ben, Chris & Angela*
Room 2
This year in Room 2 our classmates are Skyla, Mavrick, Sajjad, Keely, Deegan and Jacob. Anna is our teacher on Monday and Tuesday then Suzanne on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Judith is in Room 2 all week. Our very favorite subjects so far this term are Buddies with Room 10 on Mondays, horse riding on Tuesdays and swimming on Fridays. Our timetable is so busy we couldn’t fit home crafts in until next term!

Our unit of study for term 1 is Math’s in the Garden and we have enjoyed picking the huge tomatoes which we planted last year, then tasting them -yum!

Deegan absolutely loves these tomatoes and loves watering them too! Deegan’s very favourite subject areas are cooking, Ipad and the interactive whiteboard. His favourite singer is Justin Bieber.

Skyla brought her new bird into show us; she is called Sunny and is a yellow ring neck which Skyla and her family are training. Sunny wears a harness so she doesn’t fly way. Skyla wanted to make kites so we made butterfly kites in our science lesson to learn -what makes kites fly? and because we have butterflies in our garden! Skyla has started horse riding. Her horse is brown with a black tail, go Skyla, hi ho Silver and away!

Skyla celebrated her 7th birthday at school on Friday and we had a party. We had party games which were great fun! Jarrod and Andrew made Skyla a card. Jemma loved the streamers. Congratulations Skyla.
Keely has the biggest news this year; she has two brand new brothers called Jaguar and Steel. Her mum gave birth to twins just 4 weeks ago. The boys weighed 7.5 and 8.6 pounds. Tammy brought the boys to school to show us and we were all so excited. Keely showed us how to hold the babies and Suzanne had a long nurse of Steel. (Suzanne needs to share!) Deegan really liked their very soft hair and little feet.

Keely is also horse riding, I think she’s telling these volunteers how it’s done- go Keely!

Sajjad and his family have been visiting some of Victoria’s sights and loved the great ocean road. Sajjad’s favourite activities at school include Huff and Puff, morning circle, ICT and swimming. He is a natural in the pool already using the kick board and powering along in the water. He can also put his face in the water and blow bubbles - well done. Sajjad’s favourite TV character is Chuggington and he has a bag with the train on it.

Jacob with his kite
Jacob is up to 5 laps of the oval, he is very fast and can run with the big boys in Room 10 when we do ‘buddy’ activities. Jacob’s newest activity is horse riding and he looks so confident these volunteers don’t have to do a thing!
Mavrick is a young man with a huge smile every day, particularly if iPads are on our timetable! Mavrick has started horse riding, a really special activity. It helps him with his balance and coordination and it’s fun! See that smile! Toes in Mav!

So as you can see Room 2 is having lots of fun while we learn and experience new things.

Watch out Mavrick - is that a bite or a kiss?

Hop on down to Sorrento this Easter weekend for a very important date, an Alice in Wonderland themed charity art show.

Saturday March 30- Monday April 1
Studio Sorrento, 823 Melbourne Road Sorrento

$5 entry, children free

Easter Saturday, there will be an Alice in Wonderland play. It will be themed around a Mad Hatter Tea Party. In the Watts Cottage Garden.

Make sure you have your pocket set to the right time, the play starts at 11.00am, if you find yourself late, you will be late for a very important date.

Alice, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit and the Queen of Hearts will be in attendance with plenty of Easter goodies for all.
Families, a friend to offer a helping hand might be closer than you think!

**Extended Families Australia** is a not-for-profit incorporated association that provides volunteers to children with disabilities and their families across Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula. Our volunteers can offer support, respite, significant social relationships and community participation for your child. Through our programs, Extended Families Australia facilitates positive connections between people within a community to provide support to children with disabilities and their families. We seek to widen social networks, empower individuals, promote inclusion and strengthen the bonds people have within their local area. The volunteer provides the child with caring friendship and inclusion support whilst parents receive flexible respite, feel supported and enjoy having someone to share their experiences with.

Children and families who are supported by Extended Families have access to a number of flexible support options founded upon volunteering models including individualised volunteer matching for social, recreational and respite support, supported play groups, friendship groups and social events. Any child with a disability between the ages of 0 – 17 years and their family has the opportunity to access our service, provided that the child’s care needs can be safely met by a volunteer in the community. People from any race, culture and religion are welcome.

If your family think you might benefit from our service or if you would like to volunteer to become a friend to another family please call Kerrie Brown at our Mornington office on 03 59501055 for information about our programs.

*Extended Families Family Match and Live your Community programs are supported by financial assistance from the Victorian and Australian Governments – through the Department of Human Services and under the HACC program.*

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**Swimming**

Term 1 swimming has just finished, with all students showing a great improvement.

Learning to swim has many benefits for our children. It’s great for their health and well being; it enhances their self esteem and importantly teaches them a respect for water. Remember never leave children unsupervised around water.

Thank you to Parent helpers who came along to assist in the pool and with the dressing.
Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services

School Holiday

Wednesday 3rd April
Ten Pin Bowling
Rosebud Bowling Centre
Depart Shed 11 at 10.15am & returning to Shed 11 at 4.30pm or as per drop-off timetable on reverse

Wednesday 10th April
Luna Park
Depart Shed 11 at 10.15am & returning to Shed 11 at 4.30pm or as per drop-off timetable on reverse

Thursday 11th April
Ice-skating
Melbourne Icehouse
Depart Shed 11 at 10.15am & returning to Shed 11 at 4.30pm or as per drop-off timetable on reverse

Friday 12th April
Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre
Depart Shed 11 at 10.15am & returning to Shed 11 at 4.30pm or as per drop-off timetable on reverse

- All activities are open to young people aged 10 to 16 years. No exceptions.
- Spots are limited on a first in best dressed policy
- All activities are fully supervised by qualified youth workers
- Cost for all activities gold coin donation
- BYO Lunch or money for lunch
- Proudly supported by the Office for Youth National Youth Week grants program
- For more information visit www.m pys.com.au or contact ph: 5950 1666
Holiday Programs Easter 2013
Looking for something to do over the school holidays? Here are some ideas for some holiday fun!

Frankston
- Check out what is happening at Youth Central! Over the holidays Youth Central is providing a wide range of activities – from mini-golf to a round-robin sports day. Check out http://youth.frankston.vic.gov.au/library/pdf/aprilholidayprogram2013.pdf for more information.
- Feel like swimming? Jubilee Park Aquatic Centre is open during the holidays between 5:30am to 7:30pm weekdays, and 7:00am to 6:00pm on weekends.
- Remember the Frankston Foreshore has a Liberty Swing and Beach Wheelchair for use. Head down to the Frankston Visitor Information Centre or call 1300 322 842 to find out more.

Mornington
- The ECHO All Abilities Basketball Tournament is being held on the 13th of April at Somerville Recreation Centre. Go down and show your support between 10am – 4pm.
- Pelican Park Recreation Centre has a range of activities for people of all ages to enjoy. For more information and holiday program details call 1300 850 197.

Dandenong
- The City of Greater Dandenong Youth Services has an Autumn Action Holiday Program. See http://www.greaterdandenong.com/Resources/SiteDocuments/sid1_School%20holidays%20April%202013%20%5BSynke9CD%5D.pdf for more information.
- Dandenong Oasis Leisure Centre swimming and gym facilities will be open throughout the holidays. The centre also has a school holiday program for primary aged children.
- Have you been to the Dandenong Wetlands? Take a picnic and enjoy a walk or bike ride around the creek and natural wetlands. The park is open daily and has accessible facilities.

Kingston
- Have you been to Braeside Park? The Accessible Self-Guided Trail is a must for the holidays. Take a picnic and check out the heathland and picturesque ponds.
- The Kingston City Council’s Vacation Care Program operates in five locations across the locality over the school holidays. Children can participate in activities such as taekwondo, treasure hunts and excursions. See http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Files/VACCAREProgram_Brochure_April_2013.pdf.
- Waves Leisure Centre will be open for the duration of the holidays. There will also be an Aqua Disco and Splash Attack activity – call 9559 7111 for more information.
Find us on Facebook or check out our website www.leisurelink.info.