Welcome back everyone, I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday. Lots of things are already underway this term. Rooms 1, 2 and 6 are practicing for the Special School Music festival which is only two weeks away and today a group of Woodleigh students came along for the first session of our partnership of working together on the school concert. Everyone is very excited about this new venture. Literacy and Numeracy Week is next week and teachers are getting prepared to celebrate this. (more details further in the newsletter).

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNERS RISK
Just a reminder about personal property being brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, iPads, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Should a student need to bring electronic devices such as mobile phones, DS players and ipods these will be handed in at the office first thing in the morning and then returned to the student at the end of the day.

Please note that the school is unable to charge students individual electronic devices.

STUDENTS PERSONAL iPad
If your child brings an iPad to school for use as a communication tool in the class please write in the daily communication book that you are sending it in. iPads will be signed into the iPad register in each classroom at the beginning of the day and signed out at the end of each day. Every care will be taken at school to look after the students personal iPads but the school does not hold insurance or accept responsibility for private iPads brought to school. All iPads should be charged at home prior to the student bringing them to school.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS
Student Support Group meetings have commenced this week and are well underway, if you haven’t already made an appointment with your child’s class teacher please do so as soon as possible as this is your opportunity to discuss your child’s educational program.

Robyn Simmonds
PRINCIPAL
PARENT OPINION SURVEY will be sent home on Monday 29 2013

Each year the school conducts an opinion survey of the school community. Parents are randomly selected to participate and we use the information to support future school planning and improvement.

The survey is designed to take no more than 20 minutes to complete and your feedback and opinions are important. Please be assured that your responses are completely confidential. The survey is conducted anonymously and it is important to us that you complete the survey as honestly as possible. Your comments in the final, open-ended question will be scanned and provided back to the school.

I ask you to take the time to complete the survey as your opinions are important to us and will contribute to the future management and organisation of our school. For example, feedback from parents has helped to change the way many schools structure parent-teacher interviews.

When completed please seal your survey in the envelope provided and write your child’s name and year level on the back of the envelope. Your child’s name will only be used to record that you have returned the survey. The sealed envelope will not be opened by the school and will be sent to an independent organisation for collation and reporting. The results will be shared with parents via the School Council later in the year.

Robyn Simmonds
Principal

The Music Festival rehearsals are in full swing and the students are practicing very hard to perfect

The Music Festival will be held on the 7th August at City of Kingston Town Hall, Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin

Parents/Carers welcome
Room 6- In The Garden.

The students in Room 6 are all very interested and keen to work in our Edible Garden.

In Term 2 we planted some bean seeds outside our classroom and we have watched them grow and begin to flower! Zac and Bailey made the frames with Chris always eager to help out.

We were also responsible for setting up the worm farm. The students had to find the best location to set it up. They then fitted the legs, put the trays together and emptied the worms into their new home. The students also joined in when Jenny came from Bunnings to pot up some seedlings for home and school!

Kara plants a seed with Jenny
Billy, Chris & Will set up the worm farm.

Kara & Jacinta check out the worms.

Each Thursday we spend some time weeding, watering when necessary, collecting snails and picking any veggies that are ripe and ready! We also check the rain gauge the class made during Education Week.

Basketball has started again with Kara, Jacinta, Will, Bailey, Jack and Chris all joining Teams for the first time! These students all very proudly wear their Basketball uniforms and are beginning to display great sportsmanship while on the court. It is great to see their progress and have some families come along to support them!

Team 3
The Students are all very interested in craft activities, spending time when they have finished their lunches to make a range of items. Zac has made a fantastic model of a car, Jacinta a storage unit for her bedroom, Jack a bird feeder, Bailey a ‘Sun & Rain’ mobile, Kara a Bird Scarer, Will, Frank and Chris enjoy stick weaving and bombing.

Cooking is also a favourite activity every Thursday.
Zac from Room 6 has been very creative and made a model car out of cardboard boxes! His design was so detailed it even had a instruction Manual

Zac showing of the battery with the negative and positive points

The engine is a five cylinder and fits snugly under the bonnet

Zac showing Robyn the instruction manual and windscreen wipers

Well Done Zac.
Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Crazy Hat/Hair day, what a fantastic display of weird and wonderful Hats and Hair.
Money raised from this special day will go towards restocking our Vegetable Garden.
NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

29TH July – 4th August

Please help us celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy week in Term 3!

On Wednesday July 31st from 11.00 to 12.00 students will be playing Numeracy games and doing activities outside on the basketball court or on the verandah.

On Thursday August 1st for Literacy Day, each room will be featuring a favorite book. Students will visit each room, listen to the story, and have an activity to do.

We would love students to come to school on Literacy Day wearing something to do with their group’s featured book. Activities will be from 9.30am to 10.30 and 11.00am to 12.00.
DISABILITY
Respite & Recreation
EXPO 2013

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
LIVING IN THE SOUTH DIVISION

Find out more about opportunities for people with a disability
- Respite Options
- Recreation & Arts Info
- A Large Variety of Stalls

Thursday 29th August
10am - 2pm
Dandenong Market
Cnr Clow & Cleeland St
Dandenong
MELWAYS REF: 90 D7
FREE EVENT

For more information contact the MOIRA Expo Coordinator:
Ph (03) 8552 2222 Email: respiteexpo@moira.org.au
Interpreters available on request
To the Principal
Mornington Special Developmental School
Robertson Drive
Mornington 3931

Re: Accessible Holiday/School Camp Accommodation.

The Oakleigh Centre owns and manages the Tootgarook Holiday House. The Tootgarook Holiday House is a purpose built holiday home that is fully accessible with three bathrooms, one with an electric shower/bath and two shower chairs and a mobile hoist. There are six bedrooms with 2 kings and 10 singles (2 are high bed or 2 single beds – no bunks).

There are two lounge rooms, and a fully equipped kitchen. An outdoor undercover BBQ area with barbecue table.

The Tootgarook Holiday House is located a 5 minute walk to the beach on the Mornington Peninsula and in the garage are two off-road wheelchairs for persons with mobility constraints to use on the beach and in the water.

Enclosed is a brochure for your information, and some for families. If you would like more copies please contact REC-LINE 9564 0888.

The Tootgarook Holiday House is only rented to families or groups. We have a $200 deposit which is payable if the booking is confirmed and accepted.

If you would like more information go to www.oakleighcentre.org or to make inquiries about availability or costs please contact REC-Line 9564 0888 or email el.koala@oakleighcentre.org.

Yours Truly,

Yvonne Skoda
Executive Manager, Recreation and Leisure.
Sample Newsletter Article

Education Maintenance Allowance

Instalment Two

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid-August onwards for parents/guardians who chose the 'direct deposit' or 'pay direct to school' payment option on their application form.

Parents/guardians who chose the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 28 February 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application form. Applications close on 2 August 2013.

Eligibility information can be obtained from: www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeschool/ema/default.htm

Contact: School Office for an application form and further information.

Key Dates:

- Eligibility day - 15 July 2013
- Parent applications close - 2 August 2013
- Direct Deposit payments - Mid August 2013 onwards
- Cheque payments - Late August / Early September 2013