



Newsletter



Drouin West Primary School

'Nurture, Enrich, Inspire, Succeed'

Issue 39/14 Hours of supervision: 8.45am—3:45pm

17th December, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

Thursday	December 18th	Picnic Sports day. 9am to 1:30pm. All families are welcome to attend. Assistance on the day would be appreciated.
Friday	December 19th	Last Day of school for 2014. Students finish at 1:30pm No assembly today.
Friday	January 30th	First day of school in 2015 for all students.
Parent handbooks are available online or as a hard copy from the office		



From The Principal's Office

Graduation Dinner

Our Graduation Dinner was held on Monday night. Students and their families enjoyed a delicious dinner before being entertained by the students with skits, jokes and music items. After scholarships and certificates were presented, students attended a disco set up in the classroom. Congratulations to Rachael Willig, Sarah Ronalds, Josh Mills, Lilly Henderson-Carbery and Sarah Robins our 2014 scholarship recipients.

It was really lovely for all students to be able to attend and be the focus of attention with members of their family. Thanks to Leanne Johnstone, Angela Brown and Ann Webster who organised the evening and made this a very special event for our graduating students.



Farewell to our Year 6's

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our year sixes and their families who no longer will have students attending Drouin West in 2015. This includes the Bertoli, Brown, Carrison, Custance, Grimley, Henderson-Carbery, Mills, Norris, Osseweyer, Regulski, Ronalds, Simpson, Stevens, Willig and Whitford families. On behalf of the Drouin

West community we wish you all the very best for your future and look forward to hearing about your achievements. Thank you for your involvement and loyalty to our school community over the years.



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From The Principal's Office continued

As this is the last newsletter for 2014, I would like to thank the wonderful individuals who have contributed in numerous ways to the school throughout the year. It has been a productive and exciting year for our school with a positive focus on learning in all classrooms. To see evidence of students learning throughout the year is a real highlight for me as I've witnessed the achievements for all students in each classroom.

I wish every Drouin West family a safe and restful holiday break, a joyful Christmas and look forward to a fantastic year of learning ahead in 2015!

Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays

Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed.

And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It's also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students' learning losses over the summer break.



Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn.

When they are not at school, however, that 'tap' is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to

be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn't be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers' Reading Challenge booklists, visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx>

Staffing for 2015

We are very excited to have appointed Cathleen Ryan to the 5/6 classroom vacancy. Cathleen is hoping to visit our school before the end of the year to meet her grade and our staff.

Transition Day 2014

It was very exciting to meet some of the new families joining Drouin West next year on Transition Day. We have a number of families moving into the area as well as families attending other local school transferring to Drouin West. Please help us to make these families feel welcome when you have the opportunity.

Transition Meetings 2015

Student/Teacher/Parent transition meetings will be held in the third week of school next year to enable parents to meet teachers and share information about their child/children. All class teachers will be available on Tuesday February 17 and Wednesday February 18 from 3.30-5.30pm. Appointments will be for around 10 minutes. Parents will be able to arrange an appointment time from the first day of school, by filling in their name on the timetable outside their child's classroom. Parents will be responsible for coordinating their times if they have more than one student.

Student Reports

Student reports have been sent home with students yesterday. Please take the time to go through the reports with your child and acknowledge the achievements made in the second half of the school year. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress, please contact the class teacher to arrange a convenient time.

From The Principal's Office continued

Library Books

Thank you to those families who have continued to return all their library books.

School Accounts

It is great to have families settle outstanding accounts. Please ensure all accounts are paid as soon as possible.

Lost Property

Parents are urged to check lost property to ensure that all items are collected before the end of the year. Lost property is housed outside Mrs Barson's classroom.

Student Free Days/Staff Development and Planning Days

Each year, schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes.

The first two days of Term 1 will be student-free days at Drouin West which will allow for appropriate professional development and planning to take place. **All students (Prep to 6) will start back at school on Friday January 30.**

Happy Birthday !!!!!

Happy birthday to the following students and staff who celebrate their special day during the weeks of Monday, 15th December to Sunday, 1st February.

Ronan Reddick, Stephanie Bottom, Joshua Hall, Ethan Hall, Keenan Shanks, Patrick Griffin, Jacob Harvey, Evelyn McIntyre, Cooper Belsham, Makai Maroney, Callum Pemberton, Harrison Mills, Alanah Hansen, Zach McMillan, Alex Murphy, Bailey Osseweyer, Keira Apps, Sharnee Willis, Dakota Roden and Chloe Regulski



HOUSE OF SECRETS

Author: Chris Columbus

This book is about the Walker kids and Will Draper (from their last adventure) who go on an adventure through Denver Kristoff's books caused by the Wind Witch.

One night Nell, Deil, Brendan and Will go back home from the Bohemian Club the Wind Witch was sitting there like she was waiting for them. Suddenly, they all blacked out. Magically, they turn up in the streets of Rome surrounded by robot army men. After surviving what they have been through, now they have to face their fears and defeat the Frost Beasts. Wangchuck believed in himself to defeat them and he uses a spell to make all of the Frost Beasts explode. Now the Walker kids will have to find the portal within the darkness.



Even though I haven't finished the book yet I can infer it's an excellent book because it doesn't have pictures but is very detailed so you can visualise what is going on in the story.

By Blake Little

Drouin West Primary School would like to thank the following generous sponsors who have already donated to our 2015 Fair.

Please support these companies in appreciation of their assistance.

The fair will be held on Sunday 15 March 2015 from 11am to 3pm.

Company	Contact Ph:#	Donation	Value
B&B Automotive	5625 2350	1 x Wheel alignment	\$66
J H Cuthbertson Pty Ltd	5625 1504	Donation	\$350
Drouin Gourmet Café	5625 2255	3 x vouchers	\$10 each
Drouin Health Barn	5625 4344	1 x voucher	\$10
Drouin Dental Service	5625 1718	Donation	\$50
Gippsland Vacuums	5625 5065	Coffee Machine	\$350
Gippsland Bulk Supplies	5625 2637	2 x bags of fertiliser	\$52
Graeme Arthurson Real Estate	5625 5803	Food & Wine hamper Real Estate voucher Hardcover book signed by author	\$200 \$500 \$29.95
Home Hardware Drouin	5625 2955	Trestle table	\$35
JigSaw Hairdressers	5625 9463	2 x vouchers	\$50 each
Robin Hood Hotel	5625 4884	Meal voucher	\$40
Saferoads	5625 6600	Donation	\$100
TNT Auto Parts	5625 2777	Car cleaning products	\$35
Tony Pisa Motors	5625 3339	Donation	\$50



Chaplain's News

Hi everyone,

We have seen some tragic news this week as we have watched the events unfold in Sydney. We send our sincere condolences to all impacted by this most dreadful tragedy. And to those families who are being destroyed by grief we are so sorry.

I was listening to an educational counsellor, named Sharon Witt, on the radio this morning who was sharing how we support our children process this news. She was saying it is best if young children do not watch the images on the TV. They do not have the capacity to process this information and it would not be helpful for them to watch.

For adolescents who may have witnessed the events unfold, she said try and have a conversation with your teenager. Talk



about what happened and how dreadful it is. Reassure them that this is an unusual event in this country and generally we are safe. The counsellor suggested lighting a candle to remember the victims might be a helpful thing to do or some people like to pray for the people involved. Every family has their own way of dealing with grief and responding to it, by these little ways may help someone in your family process it.



On a lighter note I would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas time with their families. Even though it's always a busy time of year in our Australian culture, as schools finish up, it's a time to show kindness to others and to express gratitude for all we have.

May the message of Christmas fill your life with joy and peace.

Best wishes to you and your family during the holiday season.
Merry Christmas to you all

Take care

Wendy Ronalds School Chaplain (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday)

Acknowledgement: National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program have been funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Vocabulary Connectors Openers Punctuation

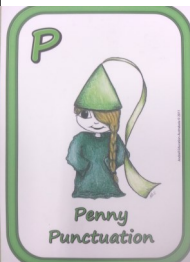


VINNIE VOCAB

Midnight black fur, floppy ears and a tufty tail but his eyes are what **intrigued** me most.
By Shelby Thoonen 3/4A

OLLIE OPENER

I was sitting on the couch laying down. Suddenly, an airbag blew up and flung me into the Lego Movie.
By Tom Smith 3/4B



PENNY PUNCTUATION

"What's your name?" I asked. "My name my name my my name is" he muttered. "I don't know what my name is."
By Holly Anderson 3/4B

CONNIE CONNECTIVE

Santa, I should get an Xbox1 **because** I have been a very good boy this year. They may cost a bit **but** you should still get me one Santa. By Callum Pemberton 1/2A





Do you miss me?

These two lovely toys have found their way to the office and are waiting patiently for their owners to come and collect them.

Pizza making with Mrs. Ware. Students who save 30 'B' awards are able to book a lunch date with Mrs. Ware to make Pizzas.



Merry Christmas and a Safe, Fun and Restful holiday to all the students and families of Drouin West Primary School.

We look forward to many exciting events and happenings to share in the newsletter during 2015.

See you all on Friday 30th January which is the first day back at school for all students in 2015.