**Around the Grades—Term 1**

**Science**
This term, we will be looking at different aspects of the Chemical Sciences. Each grade will be studying materials and their properties.

On Tuesday…
Grade 5 & 6, as part of their “What’s the Matter?” Unit observed the properties of 8 different substances and discussed whether they were solid, liquid or gas. Grade 3/4, as part of their “Melting Moments” Unit observed the differences between melted and unmelted candles. Grade 3/4 also took home their “Run, run, runny” project sheets and will be presenting their findings to the class on 18 March.
Grade 1/2, as part of their “Spot the Difference” Unit observed the differences between melted and frozen icy poles.
Grade Prep/1, as part of their “What’s it made of?” Unit took a walk around the school to gather data for a class map of our school environment.

Prep/1 This term we will be focusing on “How can I keep myself safe?” in different environments and situations. We will concentrate on learning about bus safety, being sunsmart, safety at school, at home and in town. We also have a live butterfly chrysalis that we have to look after until it hatches, so our main literacy theme will be around the story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”.

Grade 1/2 In Grade 1/2 this term we will be investigating “How do I keep myself safe?” This will be based upon keeping safe at home and in the community. We will be using our own town as a demonstration and utilising the many experiences our class have had out of Fish Creek. Our safety learning will include safety around the house, water awareness, bus safety, road safety, sunsmart and people in an emergency.

Grade 3/4 We will be busy setting up and tailoring our reading and writing workshops. As well as starting our spelling and word study programs. In maths we will be looking at operations in particular addition and subtraction and lots on shape. In our integrated studies our guiding question will be “ How do I lead a healthy, safe balanced life?” and of course not forgetting Camp. Looking forward to touching base with everyone.

Grade 5 & 6 During Term One the 5's and 5/6's will be investigating how to make safe choices in our lives. We will be looking closely at fire safety, water safety and technology safety within our own environment and in other countries. We look forward to working closely together as we work through our theme.

**Community Noticeboard**

MEENIYAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL
Meeniyan Junior Basketball would like to invite any new players 7 - 17 years of age to come join our competition.

For further information, please contact Kim 0427343604/56636252 or Darlene 0417640035/566640035.

**Important Dates**

**February**
- Tuesday 11th School Council 7.30pm
- Thursday 13th Swimming Trials Toora Pool Selected students
- Tuesday 18th Footstep Dance Prep -6
- Thursday 20th District Swimming
- Wednesday 26th St Johns First Aid All students

**March**
- Tuesday 11th School Council
- Wed-Fri 19 -21st Grade 3/4 Wilsons Prom Camp
- Tuesday 25th Waratah Athletics
- Wednesday 26th Life Ed

**Principal Comment**

The sign says it all! I would like to personally welcome everyone back and in particular our new families and staff. We have had a great start to the year and it was fantastic to see everyone at last Thursday’s assembly and for coffee after that. Our new students and gorgeous Preps have settled in well...who said 13 was unlucky!

2014 will see lots of positive changes and developments as we embark on our KidsMatter journey beginning with creating a positive school community. Our main curriculum focus will continue to be on Literacy, with the emphasis on word study and writing. As detailed in last week’s letter, our staff will be working more collaboratively as we become a Professional Learning Community. As always we encourage and value your input! There are some friendly reminders in today’s newsletter. Please check with the teachers or at the office if you have any questions. Looking forward to a great year!
Parent Payments
A reminder that these are due by **tomorrow**. You may pay at the office or directly deposit the fees into our new Bendigo Bank account. If you would like to organise a payment plan please make an appointment to discuss this ASAP. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bus Reminders
Bus stops have been determined based on safety, usage DEECD and PTV guidelines. Students should be using the allocated stops. Failure to do so impacts on other users and bus drivers. Please ensure students are waiting at their allocated stop at **least 5 minutes prior** to the pick up time. If you are unsure of your time or pick up/drop off stop/time please contact the school. A parent should be waiting for a student when they are dropped off in the afternoon.

Kitchen Garden
All interested parties are invited to a meeting next Monday 10th Feb after assembly in the Music room.

EMA Applications
The Education Maintenance Allowance applications must be returned to the office by 28th February. If you are the recipient of a Health Care Card or a Foster Parent you are eligible for this allowance. Forms are available from the office.

Prep Parents
A reminder that all Prep parents are invited to join us for a "cuppa and chat" tomorrow morning from 9.00am in the staff room. You will meet your child’s buddy and have a chance to catch up with each other for a chat. We will have a helpful parent on hand to answer any of your questions about the first year at school. Looking forward to seeing you then.

School Council
Attached to this week’s newsletter is the timeline for school council elections. Please collect a nomination form from the office if you are interested in becoming a parent member on school council.

Due to the overwhelming support and feedback for Signme this will be our preferred permission system for now on. Please be patient with us as we get it set up for 2014 (some paper notices may come home during this period).

First Aid and Medications
Temporary medications e.g. antibiotics, anti-histamines etc. can be administered when accompanied by a note signed and dated by a parent. All medicines must be in original packaging with instructions and student’s name attached. Pain relief medication such as Panadol, Aspirin etc. is not permitted to be administered as First Aid. It can be administered at school if presented as a Doctor’s prescription or as part of a Medicine Management plan. Students suffering from asthma or other severe medical condition are required to submit a School Asthma/Severe Condition Management Plan.

Uniform
It’s great to see everyone in their summer uniform. Just a reminder that

- long hair needs to be tied up and hair accessories should be in school colours where possible.
- nail polish, temporary tattoo/make up and dangly jewellery are not part of school uniform.
- hats need to be worn this term.

Music
We are still in the process of finding a suitably qualified choir teacher and will let you know ASAP. Instrumental lessons with John Rees will begin tomorrow. If your child is new to the school (or have recently developed a passion for music) and would like to play a musical instrument please see John in the morning. If you are interested in pursuing private music lessons outside of what we offer then our preference is that these occur outside of school hours to minimise the interruption to student learning.

Thank You
Thanks to the Kronen family for donating 2 comfy couches for our Year 5/6 lounge and Joanne Farr for the leather lounge. We are still looking for a toasted sandwich maker and fridge/freezer.

New Staff
Hi - I’m Kath Gilbert, a mum, a step mum and a teacher with over 20 years’ experience. I play tennis and enjoy being part of a book group (though I never seem to finish the book!) In my role of Primary Welfare Officer I will be implementing the eSmart cyber safety initiative and I am a member of the KidsMatter Action Team. The KidsMatter initiative aims to improve students’ wellbeing and mental health which in turn improves their learning. The initiative focuses on four key areas and the first of these is “A Positive School Community.” My role is to support the Action Team, staff, parents and students by co-ordinating programs and activities with the aim of furthering the relationships between all. On a Tuesday I will be teaching ICT - Information and Communication Technology. The students and I will be looking at ways to stay safe on the Internet (eSmart), how to become efficient users of the internet as well as developing skills such as saving work effectively on a network. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Hi I’m Michelle Richards and I will be teaching PE this year. I am married with 3 kids and live in Inverloch. I have lived in SA for the past 2 years and prior to that lived in the Caribbean for 3 years. I am looking forward to providing the students a well rounded, skills based curriculum with an emphasis on the importance of physical activity in life and most importantly FUN. This term we will be focussing on athletics beginning with the basic skills in the junior years and progressing to more complex skills in the senior grades. If you are around on Thursdays come and say hello!

Hi Everyone, It is my great pleasure to be the new grade 3/4 teacher at Fish Creek and District Primary. I suppose I should tell everyone a little bit about myself. If you have not already gathered from my accent, I am from Dublin, Ireland. Myself and my partner Erin have 2 kids Harper and Zoe, so when I’m not busy with my family or teaching, I love surfing and playing soccer.

KidsMatter Primary
What is KidsMatter Primary?
KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

Who are the key partners for Kids Matter Primary?
KidsMatter Primary is a national collaboration between the education and health sectors. It was jointly developed by the Principals Australia Institute, Beyondblue, and the Australian Psychological Society (APS), with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and Beyondblue.

For more information see their website and Facebook page.

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/

https://www.facebook.com/#!/KidsMatterForFamilies

Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative
Our First KidsMatter whole school community event will be held on Friday 21st February at school from 6.00-8.30pm. We will be having a family BBQ with activities. More information will come as we finalise details. Please put this date in your diary. Looking forward to seeing you all!