Welcome back to term 4 and what a busy term it will be to round off the year. Don’t forget it is a SunSmart term and all students must wear their hat whenever they are outside.

Booklists for 2015 will be out soon to allow families plenty of time to pay them off before the Christmas rush, also taking into account that families no longer receive EMA (see further details on page 2).

Middle school camp is coming up towards the end of October (23rd & 24th) and it is great to see so many students attending. This can be a difficult choice for some parents as for some students this is the first time they have had a night away from home. For this reason we only have a one night camp for middles and do it as late in the year as we can. Camp is a fabulous opportunity for students to enjoy some great activities whilst spending a night away from home whilst in the good care of staff who they know and feel comfortable with. I am looking forward to attending camp myself to join in the fun with the students along with the middle teachers and Matt Brand.

During October we also celebrate World Teachers’ Day (Friday 31st October). This is a great opportunity to recognise and share your appreciation for the dedication and hard working efforts of our staff. Please don’t forget to thank a teacher on this day.

Some other important dates for the term include our curriculum day on Monday 3rd November (this is the day before Melbourne Cup Day). We chose this day as many families tend to organise other activities over a four day weekend leaving us with many student absences on the Monday. Staff still come to school on this day for professional learning time.

December is not far away. Year 6 parents please lock the date Tuesday 16th December into your calendars for the Grade 6 Graduation Evening to be held at River Gum Performing Arts Centre. Further details will be sent home in a few weeks. This year we are having a whole school end of year celebration fun day. In the past, year levels have gone to different venues to celebrate their year of success, this year we are celebrating all together at Casey Fields with lots of fun activities. Don’t forget that learning time begins at 9am so students MUST BE IN CLASS BY 8.55am. Towards the end of last term, too many students were beginning to arrive late too often. All late students must present to the office and must have a valid excuse for being late, sleeping in is not a valid excuse. Please remember that the DEECD are now able to issue infringement notices for invalid reasons for non-attendance. Well done to those who continue to arrive on time every day and have very few absences. Keep up the great work!

Regards, Gill
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance.

Dear Parent

The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Yours sincerely

Adina Horeau, School Council President

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school. If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools' Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school Principal.

Principal’s comments on EMA changes:

I note the information provided to School Council Presidents as above and further comment:

Parents who received EMA at Coral Park did not ‘elect to provide the money directly to the school’. Parents who elected for their EMA to go through the school account did so after consultation and reaching agreement on how their EMA would be allocated to support their child’s education including payment for booklist items or excursions. Unused money was returned to parents at the end of each year or rolled over for use by them the following year.

I also note that not all schools who received funding to assist families that would have received EMA assistance in the past.

I understand the concern that some parents will face in regards to this cut in funding. School Council will need to examine the details of our budget and consider what is practical and possible to put in place to support all families in our community to ensure the continued standard of teaching and learning continues to improve.

Please note that this was a political decision to maintain some funding coming in, it was not a school decision. For further information about these changes, please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/ema.aspx or visit the school website at www.coralparkps.vic.edu.au to read the article from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Coral Park is excited to be taking part in VicHealth’s Walk to School from 6-31 October.

Walk to School encourages primary school students to walk to and from school every day in October to highlight the ways walking improves children’s health and wellbeing. Walking to school is a great way to help kids achieve the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

We’ll be encouraging families and students to walk to and from school as often as possible during October to help students learn healthy habits for life. Teachers will help students to record each time students walk to and from school. VicHealth offers some great prizes to schools with high participation, and runs fun walking themed competitions for students throughout October.

You can also visit the Walk to School website for more information: www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au

Not sure how to get started?

There are lots of ways families can get involved. You might like to:

- walk with your child to and from school and enjoy the chance to talk, help your child learn road safety skills, and get to know the local neighbourhood together
- arrange for your child to walk with other families or friends, giving them time to socialise and share their journey
- drive part of the way to school and walk the rest, particularly if you live a long way from school, or have limited time
- mix it up – if your child enjoys riding their bike or scooter, that’s great too!
STUDENT BANKING DAY-REMINDER

Student banking is processed each Tuesday with the Commonwealth Bank. If you wish to open a school bank account, please collect a form from the school office. The Commonwealth Bank offers incentives and certificates for junior savers. They include collecting tokens and redeeming them for bookmarks, erasers, pencil cases, a school bag and much more.

Don't forget, school banking day is Tuesday!

CORAL PARK NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE!
Would you like to read the newsletter online? You can subscribe to an environmentally friendly version of our school newsletter by following the links on our website www.coralparkps.vic.edu.au

Every day counts - ensure your child attends school every day

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future - a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school - each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

It is a legal requirement that children attend school every day. It is also a legal requirement that parents inform the school of the reason for a child’s absence. Shopping, birthdays and visiting relatives are not legally worthwhile reasons for your child missing a day of school. If your child attends a doctor due to illness, it is best to ask for a medical certificate to validate your child’s absence. From 1 March 2014, new laws mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Parent responsibilities

Parents are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child’s absence from school, and the principal must record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent. The principal must be able to determine from the records if the excuse given was reasonable in terms of the parent meeting their legal obligations.

Parents must inform the school of the reason for their child’s absence so that the school can:

- determine if the child’s absence needs to be excused by the principal, in line with school policy and these guidelines
- determine the appropriate follow up to ensure the child’s education and wellbeing is supported
- record if the parent has a reasonable excuse for not meeting their obligation to ensure their child attends school each day.

Where possible, parents should inform the school in advance of upcoming absences.

School responsibilities

The school must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and in every class in secondary schools and record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements
- discharge schools’ duty of care for all students
- assist calculation of the school’s funding
- enable the school governing body (school council in government schools) to report on student attendance annually
- meet Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements (for VCE students).

Accurate and comprehensive student attendance records, including the reasons for any absences provides evidence for any further enforcement proceedings including issue of an Infringement Notice (and any appeal) and court proceedings if it appears a parent may not have met their legal obligations to ensure their child attends school.

Birthday Books

Thank you to Satwat, Mrs Heard, Lana, Zach and Archer for donating birthday books to our library. We hope you had a wonderful birthday.

If you would like to donate a birthday book to the school, please see Linda in the library.

If you would like to read the newsletter online? You can subscribe to an environmentally friendly version of our school newsletter by following the links on our website www.coralparkps.vic.edu.au

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REMINDER
September to May
No hat = No outside play
Hats are available at the school office for $10

A BIG THUMBS UP and THANK YOU to:
The families who used our school over the holidays and kept an eye out for us.
The community members who visited the school over the holidays and placed their rubbish in the bins.

Remember:
Once a Week, Take a Peek for Head Lice!
Don’t forget to let us know if your child has live lice.

NARRE WARREN SOUTH TENNIS CLUB
School Court Off Ormond Rd NWS
upcoming tennis events

TERM 4 LESSONS, TENNIS RACQUET & T-SHIRT OFFER FOR ONLY $160
In our structured 8 week program children are taught all aspects of the game from stroke fundamentals, skill development and game play in a fun and safe environment. Term starting from Tuesday 7th October.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
for all programs to register, please contact
Program Coordinator Adrian
on 0417 591 911 or on email info@mtennis.com.au
For more information please visit our website www.mtennis.com.au

Healthy Lunchboxes are GREAT!
*Sandwiches       *Fruit
*Water           *Sultanas

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day — missing school puts them behind.

Visit our website www.mtennis.com.au for more information. NWS Tennis Club is an Approved Provider for the NAPLAN Program. AAC support for students with special needs.

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