Dear Parents,

*** Clayton Festival ***

Come one come all. We are going to be at the Clayton Festival from 12 noon to 4pm THIS Sunday 24th February. Clayton South Primary School is having their own stall where we are giving away FREE helium balloons, bags of goodies, bubbles, one bean seed in a pot plant to every child under 5 years of age and lots more!

Ask your neighbours, relatives and friends who are looking for a school for their child to come and talk to Mrs Foster, Mrs Halligan, PFA parents and myself.

It’s going to be a day of Clayton Celebration at this fantastic Festival. See the advertisement on the next page for more information.

Parent Information Afternoons

Your child/children’s classroom teacher presented an “Information Afternoon” this week. It was great to see so many parents attend where your child/children’s curriculum development programs were explained in detail. Please keep this close “home school partnership” going all year. Mrs. Foster and I enjoyed supervising our students and siblings.
Clayton street festival

12 noon to 6pm
Clayton Road, Clayton

Sunday 24 February

Clayton Festival Info Line 9518 3636
www.monash.vic.gov.au/events

Free Family Fun

3 stages packed with entertainment
Food and market stalls
Free rides and activities

This event is proudly supported by:
Housekeeping reminders for 2013

Working with Children Check

We would like to remind parents who are interested in assisting in our school in any way, that you will require a "Working With Children Check". You cannot assist in any capacity within the school unless you have a "Working With Children Check". This also includes excursions, incursions, camps and classroom helpers.

The forms are available at the Post Office and the check is FREE to voluntary helpers in schools. Please bring your card to the office and we will make it into a card for you to wear whenever you volunteer in the school. This will ensure an even greater level of security for your children. If you require assistance filling in the form we are happy to help at the office.

Education Maintenance Allowance - EMA 2013

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides assistance to eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

You need to be the holder of a current Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, or Health Care Card, or Pensioner Concession Card, or be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, or be a (temporary) foster parent. Eligibility dates (as per stated on card): Term 1: 29th January 2013 Term 3: 15th July 2013.

To apply for 2013 EMA please complete the new EMA Application Form (available from the School’s Administration Office) and present your Health Care or Pension Card for photocopying. Applications close Thursday 28th February 2013. No late applications will be accepted.

Student Details Information Form

ALL forms need to be returned to your child/children's classroom teacher by Thursday 28th February. This form contains the information we currently have on our school records for your family. Please check the form for the following and update all out-of-date information:

- Phone numbers
- Emergency contacts
- Employment details
- Medical information

Please return this form to the school, even if all the information is correct!

Prep for Parents

Are you a parent of one of our delightful preps? Would you like tips on how to support your child in their first year at school? Then subscribe to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s new weekly Prep for Parents email.

You will be sent an email every Wednesday during the school term that will include tips, advice and information about the day-to-day experiences children have in the classroom and things you can do at home to assist and encourage your child.

Student Daily Organisation Skills

There are always students that are naturally organised, but many must learn organisation skills. Some students develop an effective approach to getting things done. You, as the parent, are the best person to model these skills to your child. Most students are a little disorganised and may flit from one thing to the next - forgetting books at school, leaving towels on the floor and failing to finish projects once started.

Easy as A,B,C

For all students, tasks can be broken down into an A,B,C process.

A. Get organised means your child gets where he or she needs to be and gathers the supplies needed to complete the task.

B. Stay focused means staying on task and learning to say “no” to distractions.

C. Get it completed means to finish, check their work and put on the finishing touches, then place homework in school bag ready for the next day.

Once these steps are learnt, students can start tackling tasks more independently. This means homework, chores and other tasks will get done with increasing consistency and efficiency. Of course, students need parental assistance and guidance, but you probably won’t have to nag as much. Not only is it practical to teach these skills, but knowing how to get things done will give your child more independence. Students feel self-confident and proud when they’re able to accomplish their tasks independently and responsibly.

Early Learning Centre

We have always had the original Step Into Prep Program at Clayton South Primary for many, many years. Now I am excited to announce that beginning in a few weeks' time, will be our Early Learning Centre for 3-4 year old children. The children will attend the program on Tuesdays from 9.00-11.00am where the parents are NOT required to stay.

Our very successful Playgroup (operating on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) have requested that we implement an Early Learning Centre to prepare students for Prep in 2014. We have many families interested in this program that will operate in Terms 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Later in the year once you have enrolled your child in school, they will attend Step Into Prep. This involves coming for an hour session with the Prep students and teacher on Fridays from 2.30 -3.30pm.

More information in next week’s Newsletter.

Greek School

Naí! Greek School began this week at our school. On Wednesday from 1.30-2.30pm the Junior Greek School Session Prep-Year 2 is held by a qualified educator, our parent Eva Derzotis who was a teacher in Greece. She also conducts the Senior Greek School for Year 3-6 on Fridays at 1.30-2.30pm in the Language Centre. This is so exciting for our Greek students and for Eva. Please fill in the form coming home with the students who want to attend for your signature of approval and support.
** School Council Elections **

Each year half of the School Council retires and an election process is undertaken. There was an Information for Parents sheet attached to Issue 2 of the school newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything concerning the School Council.

The retiring members from School Council this year are as follows:

**Parent Representatives Category:**
Jo Tyson, Maria Pagomenos, Christine Mizzi, Lucy Nimorakiotakis and Dimitra Kiryakidis

**Department Of Education and Training Employee Category:**
Heather Kyle, Nerina Deathridge and Emma Dove

I take the opportunity to thank the above people for their time, efforts and willingness to serve on the School Council to ensure the betterment of Clayton South Primary School. The above retiring members are able to re-nominate for the vacancies.

From Thursday 14th February 2013, nominations were called for the 5 Parent Representative Category and the 3 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Category vacancies for School Council.

Nomination forms are available from the school office with nominations closing on Thursday 28th February 2013.

**Working Bees for 2013**

There will be Year Level working bees per term beginning with Level 4, 3, 2, 1. The date is Friday 15th March from 2.30 – 5.00pm. Level 4 students will be asked to complete this working bee. Students will be asked what they would like to do in our school grounds. There will be a Sausage Sizzle at the completion of the working bee with our wonderful families. More information later!

Tasks to include:

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Our students are fantastic! Please read to your child every night! They love it! Ask them about CAFÉ reading and IPICK books that we do from Prep—Year 6 as our Reading Program.

Keep Smiling and stay cool!

Lynne Dickins
Principal

18–24 March is Harmony Week!

What is Harmony Week?

Victoria leads the way when it comes to people from different faiths and cultures living side by side in harmony, thanks to a range of initiatives. Since 2006, the Victorian Government’s community harmony investment has instituted a range of initiatives to support multi faith activities, promote respect and understanding of different faiths and cultures in order to enhance community harmony.