This week, we have commenced our formal learning program and all children have settled in well. With the newsletter, we have sent home the curriculum plans for each grade for the rest of this term. They will also be on the school’s website. Part of our Discovery Curriculum work this term will also include a Grandparents Day. We have set this down for Monday 24th March. So those of you with families some distance away will have plenty of time to organise them to come up for the visit. We would love to see as many grandparents on that day, as possible.

There appears to be some confusion about the use of the school bus. The bus is available for daily travel for those children who are eligible for the bus and live on or close to the bus route. This includes town based families if there is space on the bus. If bus travellers are having a friend to play at their house, that friend may not travel on the bus. This is Education Department policy. This is particularly relevant in an emergency if the identity of all children travelling on the bus is not known.

And on the subject of emergencies, the Education Department requires us to inform you of our procedures. Whatever the emergency is, we will contact you and this will usually be by text message. Please do not reply to these messages as this number is not monitored. If a reply is needed we will supply a number. Please do not ring the school on our land lines as we are required to keep our phone lines open so that emergency services can contact us. Unless we ask for you to pick up your children during an emergency, please do not rush to the school and take your children, as in many instances this creates a bigger problem. We may not even be at the school, depending on what the emergency services tell us to do. Please keep to the normal school pick up arrangements unless advised otherwise.

Applefest
A dedicated newsletter about the Applefest is with this newsletter, please make sure you read it carefully and help us out as much as you can. Our target is again $5000 as we want to finish the kitchen.
Attendance or is it absence?
Absences notes are available at the school office or online at:

Absence data this week:
- Grade Prep: 0.5 days
- Grade 1/2: 1 day
- Grade 3/4: 8 days
- Grade 5/6: 7 days

Cool to be at school winner is Grade 1/2
Early Bird winner is Grade 5/6

Every day counts – school attendance

From 1 March 2014, new laws will 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.

Information Packs
Every family have received their information pack. We are still waiting on 12 “students information details” to be returned. All fees and forms are due by Friday 28th February.

Education Maintenance Allowance
- Submit your application to the school by 28 February 2014 for the first instalment
Please check with the school office for further details and to obtain a form for EMA and Conveyance Allowance

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Victoria
Student accident insurance/Ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school
- Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance / transport and any other transport costs.
- Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Fundraising: Bulbs—Garden Express
Order forms sent home with this newsletter, this is a great fundraiser with the school receiving 50% profits from the sales. Pass the order form around to family and friends.
Order forms due back by Friday 17th March 2014
Delivery of bulbs by: end of term 1
With help from our wonderful school families and community our fundraising efforts for this year will help in improving our school facilities and program with the following:
A new kitchen bench/cupboards and vinyl flooring.
In term 3 a Hip Hop program for the whole school.

School Council Elections
The election processes commence today and Dianne Selwood, Genevieve Ward and Andrea Brasher are retiring at this election. They are all eligible to be re elected. Lynda Wilson is retiring as community member and is able to be co opted onto council again. The nomination process concludes next Thursday 27th. Nomination forms can be collected from the school office.
**Students Of The Week:**

*From the last week of 2013*

**Grade Prep:**
- **Llewellyn:** Enthusiasm & consistent effort in French
- **Beatrice:** Excellent focus & courage in the French play

**Grade 1/2:**
- **Owen:** Excellence in narrating for the French play
- **Piers:** Excellence in narrating for the French play
- **Rhian:** Excellent work skills in French
- **Megan:** Excellent work in French

**Grade 5/6:**
- **Avalon:** Calm & concentrated stage presence in the French play
- **Brayden:** Amazing memorization of your lines in the French play
- **Rebecca:** Consistently excellent effort in French
- **Jade:** Consistently excellent effort in French

**2014**

**Grade Prep:** **Koby:** A very focussed start to the year

**Grade 1/2:** **Xavier:** Trying hard to improve his writing

**Grade 3/4:** **Neroli:** for a big improvement in getting here on time every day

**Grade 5/6:** **Whole Grade:** for great leadership during the wildlife park and at school. Great Job!

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**Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

**Harcourt Valley Primary School**

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **27/9/2014** (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on **13/10/2014** (insert date and year).

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal
Harcourt Valley Primary School does not endorse any advertising that appears in this newsletter

**Community Corner**

The single most important step you can take to help your child learn is to be an active participant in your child’s education. Active participation includes: talking to your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep.

The second step is to become involved in your child’s school. This is harder than ever due to work and other commitments, but you can still be positively engaged in the life of your child’s school even when you work. Here’s how:

1. Find out what your child’s school is trying to achieve and show your support for it’s aims. What is your school focusing on over the following three years? What are it’s specific values? Answer these two questions and you’ll be streets ahead of most parents I know.
2. Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers a variety of experiences rather than a program that narrowly focuses on the 3 Rs.
3. Direct conversations through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Thoughtless gossip and car park committees merely tarnish a school’s reputation.
4. Get the school diary and place open days, interview days and other important days in your own diary so you can plan ahead.
5. Meet with your child’s teacher at the start of the year and ask for practical ways you can help at home. Every teacher has their own style and way of doing things so understand the expectations they have of you and your child. Make sure your child’s home work routine fits that of your child’s teacher.
6. Encourage your child to take pride in their school, and don’t ‘bag’ it yourself. Your positive advocacy of your child’s school will send a powerful message about school and learning.
7. Model learning and reading. Your kids need to see you learning new things and reading so they become normalised. In particular, boys are more likely to latch on to reading when their dads read to them and also read at home themselves.

There are lots of ways you can support your child’s learning. However you can’t go too far wrong if you start with these basics; take a real interest in what kids do at school and be an active, risk-taking learner yourself. Get more back to school information to help your children shine.

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**Presents**

**Movie Night on the Oval**

**Applefest Weekend**

Saturday 8TH March 2014

Grounds open at 7pm

BBQ and salads, hotchips, popcorn

Bar drinks available (no BYO)

FAMILY NIGHT WITH 45 MINUTES OF KIDS MOVIES FOLLOWED BY THE FEATURE – MAN OF STEEL 2013. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF FOOD TO BUY AND A JUMPING CASTLE FOR THE KIDS PRIOR TO THE MOVIE.

MOVIE PRICES $20 FAMILY $8 ADULT $5 CHILD – UNDER 15

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**6-A-Side Family Fun**

**Morning**

for all skill levels, genders and ages

Just turn up by 9am

- teams will be picked and mixed on the day

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

9.00am-12.00pm

Soldiers Memorial Park, Chewton

Followed by Castlemaine Men
Division 1 & 2

Vs

Melbourne University

BBQ lunch & kiosk

Information on registration and competitions for 2014 available

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ON HOT DAYS, NEVER LEAVE KIDS ALONE IN CARS
NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSES.