What a great week we have had. We had lots of fun with our Pancake making on Tuesday and the pool was a perfect way to spend yesterday afternoon. Tomorrow we finish “Building Our Learning Community” with a launch of our Better Buddies program. In addition to the activities we will be celebrating with corn dogs, thanks to the “Kid President”

At the time of writing this column, we still have 11 families who have not registered for the Parent Information Exchange, this afternoon. If you can squeeze it in this afternoon, please get onto the website and book in. Because of the shift in classroom teachers, we would like to see all families.

At School Council last night, a Curriculum Day was approved for 11th March. The focus will be Spelling. There will be no children required at school on that day.

With this newsletter, there is a permission form for the Arts performance on Tuesday. Please return the form and money (if you have not paid the Arts and Excursion levy) by Tuesday morning

A reminder that Wilkinson Street is a courtesy one way street during school drop off times. This goes from Binghams Road to Coolstore Road.

Attendance
At a Principal’s briefing I attended this morning, we were given information about the new attendance guidelines and regulations which come into effect as of 1st March. In a nutshell, if your child is absent for 5 days (not necessarily consecutively) without good reason, parents can receive a fine of $70. We were also given data that shows schools in the Mount Alexander Shire had the worst attendance record in the state. This is not something to be proud of! Please make sure that your children are here every day they possibly can be.

Applefest
It’s Applefest time again! We are just three weeks away from it. Shortly we will commence our baking of pies and collecting other items for sale. If you are able to make jams, preserves, chutneys, relishes, cakes, slices and other baked or apple goods we would appreciate donations of these. They were very successful last year on our stall.

As a further service to our families, we will be offering a pre order service on apple pies, which means you can order your pies, purchase them and pick up before the actual day of the stall. Order forms will be distributed at the end of next week, as will the request for assistance forms.
Attendance or is it absence?

Absences notes are available at the school office or our online at:  

Absence data this week:
- Grade Prep: 1.5 days
- Grade 1/2: 1.5 days
- Grade 3/4: 6.5 days
- Grade 5/6: 0.5 day

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

Every day counts – school attendance

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.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

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.

Applefest approaches

As always we begin the year with the fun of Applefest and while we all enjoy the social side of it, it’s also our greatest opportunity to raise funds for the school so we can finish off our kitchen and start other projects to benefit the kids.

So please keep your eye out for notes asking for help and consider coming along, we always have great fun working together and it will be great to see some new faces!!!!!!

Jams and preserves sold well last year, so if you are able to make some to donate that would be great.

School Council President
Jacq Cue
BookClub Issue 1, 2014

A collection of book club order forms went home to each family on Wednesday. The school gets substantial rewards from this program, so if you purchase a book for your child, or use this as a great way to start your Christmas and Birthday gift shopping, we are able to add free books and resources to our classrooms and library.

Each brochure is graded in expected age-level ability to make things a little easier for you, plus one that covers some great extra-specials. This order is due in to school Monday 17th Feb. Late Orders can not be processed. If you have any questions about this program, please speak to Nicki on a Monday or Tuesday.

Arts Performance
“Tony Sowersby: Workshops”

DATE: Tuesday 18th February 2014
TIME: 2pm
COST: $9.00 per student (unless excursion levy is paid or on payment plan)
VENUE: At School
GRADES: P-6
TEACHERS: All staff

Parents and toddlers are welcome.

A Permission form will be sent home with students that have not paid the excursion levy and MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL BY Monday 17th February 2014.
CHILDREN NOT RETURNING PERMISSION SLIP AND MONEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

Emailing Newsletter

In the interest of saving paper, money and time we are keen to email the newsletter to as many families, relatives and friends of Harcourt Valley Primary School as possible.

A form was sent home with last week's newsletter. If you do not have access to email please let us know (by indicating on the form ) and we will print the newsletter for you.

Also for readers already receiving the newsletter if your email address has changed please let us know asap.

Information Packs

Every family received their information pack last week. This pack included 2014 Education Investment information sheet and family finance statements. These fees are due by Friday 28th February. Also ensure all forms especially the student information details are sent back to the school.
We are still waiting on 17 students details to be returned.

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

School Banking every Tuesday

This year the Dollarmites treasure is hidden in the Deep Sea so be on the lookout for your School Banking pack which will be sent home soon.

The new rewards are fantastic, so don’t forget to keep your rewards card in a safe place, ready to order when you have saved 10 tokens.

Happy Saving Everyone!

Brain food and Drinks

Water only in a push down reusable bottle, send a fresh bottle into school each Monday for the week.

Brain food to be sent to school each day for students to graze on between 9am and 1.30pm, some examples are carrot sticks, dried fruit, celery sticks, pumpkin seeds, pepitas, popcorn (unpackaged), sliced up apple.
No rice crackers, savory shaped etc. (to messy).

Remember we are a rubbish free school, no packaging to be brought to school, please use containers.
Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.
On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car.
The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.
Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death.
Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.
If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.
For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria

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

Respiratory experts talk to parents about asthma
Ever wondered what the experts would say about a cure for asthma?
Or how to get your teenager to take their medication?
If you want to find out the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about children and asthma, watch The Asthma Foundation’s new video series – available from http://forum.asthma.org.au/

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au