• **Applefest** is not far away, so we would love the support of all of our families to make this as successful as possible. We will be baking all week at school next week, so any help that you are able to give would be appreciated. The pre order form for our school families is with this newsletter. Families are asked to pay for and pick up their pies BEFORE the Applefest.

• On Monday I had the pleasure of taking our school captains—Caitlin, Jade, Avalon and Ashlee to the Young Leaders Day in Melbourne. It was a very enjoyable day with interesting speakers including John Marsden and Kevin Sheedy. The girls were wonderful and demonstrated clearly why they have been chosen as our student leaders.

• A reminder that Tuesday 11th is a Curriculum Day and no students will be at school on that day. Teachers will be undertaking professional development on Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.

• **Nominations** for School Council close this week and so if you are interested in being on council, please nominate yourself by filling out a form at the office.

• The next School Council meeting is on 26th March and is our Annual General Meeting. All families are welcome to attend if they wish.

• A reminder that children are encouraged not to bring **valuable things** to school as there is always a risk associated with this, in that it could be lost, stolen or broken. The school and the Education Department will not take any responsibility for any personal property of families of the school.

• **Things financial .....** We appreciate that many families have made to pay their fees early and make the most of the Early Bird discount. Remember that this finishes tomorrow. The school relies very heavily on families paying this money to fund our purchases of back to school supplies. We would appreciate it if all fees could be paid by the end of the term.

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**Applefest**

**Target $5000**
Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help out with the baking for Applefest. We are aiming for 150 pies (or more would be great!) which works out to be 3 pies per family, sounds pretty easy right? We will be baking at school from 9am every morning next week, we always have fun so please join us if you can and help out. If you are unable to come, feel free to stew apples (collect them from school) at home or make pastry to assist us to get things moving quickly or bake whole pies and bring them in. Recipes and pie tins are available from the office. And just for a bit of fun check out our 'Pie Tally' displayed at school to see how many pies we are up to!
See you next week!

Jacq

**Recipes:**

**Apple Pie Filling:**
Stew apples and sweeten with white sugar to taste
Approx. 1 cup of sugar to stockpot of apples

**Pastry: makes approximately 4 pies**
4 cups Plain flour  
250g Butter  
1 tsp Salt  
2 tbsp Caster sugar  
1 cup Cold water (approx.)
Mix ingredients in food processor or dough mixer. Gradually add cold water
Let pastry rest in fridge for 30 mins. before rolling. Bake in moderate oven until golden

*Applefest newsletter No 1 was sent out last week, we need more help in organising our major fundraiser, return the form attached to the bottom of the Applefest newsletter asap or contact the school office*

**Friday 28th February 2014** (not just the end of the week)
Tomorrow is the last day to:
Pay school fees (unless on payment plan)  
Return completed EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance) forms  
Return completed Conveyance Allowance forms  
Return Student Information Full Details and returns book.  
If you need any assistants regarding the above please contact the school office.

**FYI**
Currently we have cases of Head Lice amongst our students, please check you children hair regularly and if lice is found treat asap.  
Also a case of Whooping Cough is currently in our school community.

**Fundraising: Bulbs—Garden Express**
Order forms have been sent home, spare order forms at the office.  
Order forms due back by Friday 17th March 2014  
Delivery of bulbs by: End of term 1
**Students Of The Week:**

- Grade 1/2: **Hannah:** for her bravery
- Grade 3/4: **Rhian:** for taking little steps to achieve the big goal.
- Grade 5/6: **Tristan:** for asking questions and participating in class.

**Reading Nights**

Students that have achieved 25 nights of reading: **Sammy & Llewellyn**

Well Done!

**Attendance or is it absence?**

Absences notes are available at the school office or online at: [http://hvps.vic.edu.au/page/73/Notices](http://hvps.vic.edu.au/page/73/Notices)

Absence data this week:

- Grade Prep: 5 days
- Grade 1/2: 7.5 days
- Grade 3/4: 5 days
- Grade 5/6: 7 days

Cool to be at school winner is **Grade 3/4**

Early Bird winner is **Grade 1/2**

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At Harcourt Valley Primary School, we are committed to providing your child with an excellent education. The building blocks of a great education begin with all students coming to school each and every day.

Regular school attendance is vital and missing school days can have a big impact on a child’s future - 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.

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 early 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.
“There’s been a shift from where kids had to fit into adults’ lives to one where adults have to fit their lives into their childrens’ lives.”

Michael Grose, Parentingideas

From the DEECD:

Despite a recent drop in temperatures, parents are still urged to be aware of the dangers of leaving children alone in motor vehicles, so if you need to get out of the car, even for a moment, always take your child with you.

No Exceptions. No Excuses.

A recent survey conducted by the Victorian Coalition Government found that despite sweltering through one of the hottest summers on record, one in three parents admit to leaving their children alone in a parked car. The research also demonstrated most parents underestimate how quickly the temperature inside a parked car can rise and the devastating impact this has on a child.

Even if the outside temperature is 30 degrees the temperature inside can reach up to 50 degrees in a matter of minutes. The Victorian Government is reminding all parents travelling with a child that if you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

A reminder to parents and carers:

A car’s temperature starts to rise from the moment the door is closed and can be double the outside temperature in minutes.

Even when it’s 30 degrees outside, your child could be sweltering in up to 60 degree heat.

It is not worth the risk – if you are travelling with a child and you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

Young children are more sensitive to heat than adults and their body temperature can reach dangerous levels quicker than expected.

A young child’s body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult, placing them in extreme danger of life threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other health risks if left alone in a parked car.

Never leave a child alone in a car. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria