Welcome and welcome back to the 2014 School Year. We look forward to another exciting year for our school. Welcome to our new families, we hope you enjoy your partnership in learning with us over the next few years.

As you know we are running our “Building Our Learning Community” program again and urge you to join us for whatever you are able to. Remember details were provided in the huge package of information which was sent home. We will however provide reminders over the next few days.

Firstly I hope we will see you tonight at our welcome barbecue and cricket match. The staff are hoping to have a win tonight in cricket, given the massive defeat last year.

We are holding a pancake day next week, even though it’s not pancake day. If anyone wants to come along and help we would welcome this. Please ask your classroom teacher what time they need help.

Our parent information exchange is on next Thursday and you can book your interviews online as we did last year. Go to the website: www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter code: ZJ22L

We are also having a pool afternoon on Wednesday (sorry Preps! We are giving you time to get used to school first). Children can be picked up from the pool at 3.30 and the school bus will leave from there too. If your child is walking home or there are special arrangements on that day, please send along a note. The details and permission forms are on a separate note.

Congratulations to all the children on being “a walking talking advertisement for our school” yesterday. We had a great day at the Ballarat Wildlife Park and the behaviour of all children was fabulous! Well done!

Parents—check out the “Kid President” on YouTube. We have been watching this in Grades 3-6 and there are some wonderful messages and ideas told in a very funny and enjoyable way.

Don’t forget the “Early Bird Discount” if you pay your fees before the end of February. As the school has paid out a significant amount of money for supplies, we would appreciate payment by parents as soon as possible.

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Diary Dates

**FEBRUARY**

- 6th Family Bbq 6-8pm
- 11th Pancake Day
- 11th Woodwind program form due
- 12th NO PREPS
- 12th Swimming & town walk
- 12th School Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 13th Assembly: Grade 6
- 13th Parent Information Exchange
- 14th Special Lunch
- 18th Arts Performance—“What Style”
- 19th NO PREPS
- 20th Assembly: Grade 4
- 26th NO PREPS
- 27th Assembly: Grade 2
- 28th School Fees due
- 28th EMA claim forms due back
- 28th Conveyance Allowance claim forms due back

**MARCH**

- 6th Assembly: Grade
- 8th Applefest
- 10th Public Holiday

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Harcourt Valley Primary School

“THE P.I.P.”

**PARENT INFORMATION PAPER**

Wilkinson Street, Harcourt 3453 Tel: (03) 5474 2266
Website: hvps.vic.edu.au
Email: harcourt.valley.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Newsletter No. 1 Thursday 6th February 2014 Principal/Editor: Annette Smith
Parent and carer information: French class program outlines for 2014

Bonjour tout le monde! Hello everyone!
This year the French program will be building on its strengths from last year. This means that we are continuing on with the AIM gesture method which all classes have become competent in. I noticed the positive impact of singing on our students’ pronunciation and vocabulary acquisition through the learning of songs combined with the plays. This year the program has more singing and more culture as last year was really about establishing the AIM method and instilling a French speaking and singing confidence in our students.
This year there will again be two performances per class over the course of the year however one performance will have a singing focus and the second based on a play, all in French again of course! The first performance will be the singing in Term Two and the second performance will be the play in Term 3, this is the same for all classes.
This year all students will be provided with a small French workbook with written work to support the cultural, language and grammar aspects of the course. They will also receive scripts of their play and transcripts of their songs, to be kept in their French file folders stored at school.
Please don’t hesitate to come and talk with me if you have any questions about your child’s work in French or about the French program. I also love any long or short exchanges in French with those parents and carers who wish to speak a little French with Madame.
Here is a list of the songs and the plays per class:

Prep-1
- Performance Songs: 1, 2, 3 Petites Fleures (1, 2, 3 Little Flowers); Fait Dodo (Take a Nap)
1-2
- Performance Songs: Fait Dodo (Take a Nap); Ah Les Crocodiles! (Oh, The Crocodiles!)
3-4
- Performance Songs: Promenons-Nous Dans Les Bois (Let’s Go Walking in the Woods); La Claire Fontaine (At The Clear Spring Fountain)
5-6
- Performance Songs: J’ai Demande a La Lune (I asked the moon); Ca Va, Je T’aime (It’s fine, I love you)

School Banking starts again on 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!

Attendance or is it absence?
Absences notes are available at the school office or try our new online service at:

Absence data this week:
- Grade Prep: 0.5 days
- Grade 1/2: 0 days
- Grade 3/4: 2 days
- Grade 5/6: 1 day

Cool to be at school winner is Grade 1/2
Early Bird winner is Grade P/1
Parent Information Exchange

Thursday 13th February
Website: www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Code: ZJ22L
Classroom teachers would like to catch up with all parents, to discuss goals for your child for this year. Currently out of 51 families we only have 16 parents that have booked.

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 is being sent home with this 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. Some forms have a return date of 28th February but don’t leave it until the last day to return all the information.

Conveyance Allowance

To be eligible a student must:
Attend their closest government or non-government school/campus, appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and is located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary
Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended (government and non-government students) and Reside within the Designated Transport Area (DTA) for the government specialist school attended (government students only)

Education Maintenance Allowance

To be eligible for the EMA:
Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
- be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
- be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
- be a temporary foster parent.

- Submit your application to the school by the due date:
- 28 February 2014 for the first instalment
- 1 August 2014 for the second instalment

Please check with the school office for further details and to obtain a form for EMA and Conveyance Allowance

Castlemaine Woodwind Program

Details of this year’s program has been sent home with Grades 4, 5 & 6 students. Return slip to the school office by Tuesday 11th February.

Town Walk and Pool Day

Grades 1 to 6

DATE: Wednesday 12th February 2014
DEPARTURE TIME: 1.00pm (town walk depends on weather)
PICK UP: 3.30pm PARENTS & BUS TO PICK UP FROM POOL
COST: Free
VENUE: Harcourt Swimming Pool
Harcourt Valley Primary School does not endorse any advertising that appears in this newsletter.

Let The Music Begin...

**Piano Lessons**

for beginners and those with experience who wish to appreciate the joy of making music

I am now taking enrolments for 2014 in my studio in central Castlemaine

if you wish to learn with a teacher of over thirty years experience

very reasonable rates

please contact

Christopher Whitehead 5470 6668

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**What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?**

If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently,

- ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school

- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan

- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly

- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms

- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool)

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)

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Castlemaine Circus Inc. are proud to announce our children’s circus classes commence this Thursday February 6. We offer three classes - 5-8 yrs at 3.45 - 4.45, 9-12 yrs at 5.00 - 6.30pm and 13+ (open to adults) at 7.00 - 8.30pm. Classes are held at the Castlemaine Secondary College Junior Campus. Please contact castlemainecircus@gmail.com or 0490 182 403 for more information.

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**Milo Cricket**

Catch up session will commence Wednesday 12th February at same place and the same time.

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**Cars and young children in the summer months**

Melbourne and greater Victoria will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period. Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.

Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious 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.

If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.