The P.I.P.

Parent Information Paper

This is an uninterrupted week!

- We welcome Ruben Christie (in Grade 3) to our school and we wish him and his family a happy time at Harcourt Valley.

- Thank you to the many families who have paid their school fees in full or set up payment plans. This is a great help to us in getting the year off to a good start. Families can still access the Early Bird discount until the end of the month. Parents are also reminded that holders of a current Health Care card can present this at the school office to get assistance of $100 in lieu of EMA which now no longer exists.

- Last Friday, all families received notification of the School Council elections. This process has now started and nominations close on Friday. We are looking for three councillors. Thanks to Jacq, Rob and Todd for their work on council over the last two years. They are all eligible for re-election.

- Apple pie baking has started today and a big thank you to all the parents who have turned up to help out. We look forward to seeing more and different parents in the next few weeks. If you can’t come in, please collect some jars from the school and help out by making jams and preserves.

- We still have a lot of mulch to spread around our two playgrounds. If you can spare an hour or so to help spread it, the children would appreciate it.

- Remember “Every Day Counts” We expect all children to be at school unless they are ill, to ensure that they get maximum learning opportunities and also to build their friendships.

What’s Happening This Week?

Wednesday No Preps

Friday Parents Apple Pie Baking—parent help required
Closing date for School Council nominations

Monday 23rd Music Lessons for those students enrolled with Drew

Tuesday 24th Parents Apple Pie Baking—parent help required
Student Banking Day

Apple Pie Baking Days begin at 9.15am and we need lots of parent helpers!!
360 Project
This year, interested students in Grade 3-6 are joining together during Tuesday lunchtimes to make Christmas gifts for charity. Our aim is to have 360 gifts – for a variety of ages – to donate to the needy in our community. Some examples are: knitted jumpers and crochet knee rugs, unwanted/recycled gifts (new), donated new toys/games etc. We will be working on sock puppets and diaries in the next few weeks. I would also encourage any interested parents to help us out - either on Tuesdays or by making suitable items to be included. The YouTube link for the Sock Monkeys is [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LVreZWi5fSc](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LVreZWi5fSc)

This Tuesday we will be watching the YouTube clip for making monkeys and starting a cover for a 2016 Diary to be given out when the choir does their tour of the Retirement and Nursing Homes at the end of the year. There is no obligation for children to come every week, although I do insist that they stay until the item they have started is completed.

We would welcome donation of the following:

- New socks- either long socks for a large monkey or a medium length sock for a smaller one. Bright colours are best and the quality of the sock (cheaper the better…$2 at K-Mart) is not important.
- New polyester filling
- Christmas boxes (shoebox size) These will have dual purpose as gift boxes and a “bed” for the monkey.
- Scraps of ribbon

Thanking You for your Support

Vicki Coghill

Items needed for Art Room
CAN YOU HELP? URGENTLY?

For our Visual Arts sessions on Wednesday February 18th we are seeking lids, bottle tops, small containers/boxes …anything we can adapt or attach in bright colours for our Castlemaine State Festival masks.

They are to be glued on to the children’s designs which are 60cm diameter, the plans for which are on display in the school.

In anticipation, thank you.

Suzan Redlande.

Harcourt Pool NEWS

Come along and have your say about your local swimming pool.

Council is seeking patron feedback on what is working well at our pools and areas for improvement.

Staff are hosting another series of listening posts this month to give pool patrons the chance to discuss their feedback or any questions they may have about the 2014/2015 pool season.

At Harcourt Swimming Pool, Thursday 26 February 5.00-6.00 pm.

Anyone unable to attend a listening post are invited to complete a survey throughout the season, or send comments and queries to pools@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Hard copies of the survey are available from pool offices. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders and users to communicate with Council staff in regards to the pool season. If you could please pass this information out to others in your community via word of mouth and social media should you have it, would be greatly appreciated.
THE TANGLED MAZE AT CRESWICK
DREW THORPE MUSIC

Drew will be available at our school this year for group music lessons on Mondays. Drew offers tuition on electric, acoustic & bass guitar; piano & keyboards; drums & percussion; saxophone, clarinet & woodwind; trumpet & brass; violin & cello; singing/vocals. Lessons are $20 for half an hour, and you must contact Drew directly to book your child in on 0407 502 438 or email him on drewthorpemusic@gmail.com.

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop has been very busy with new children starting and others growing over the holidays! We are a little behind in our Size 8 and 10 items in particular, so please be patient. If you have ordered items, and still owe for them, please pop into the office to pay and collect.

If you have to leave your car, even for a minute, always take your children with you.

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car.

The temperature inside a car begins to rise as soon as the door closes, and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.

If it is 30 degrees outside, it can be 60 degrees or more inside a car in just a few minutes.

Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death.

Young children’s smaller body sizes and underdeveloped nervous systems places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

If a child is left in a car on a hot day and the parent or carer is not nearby, call 000.

STUDENT BANKING

is Tuesday, and every deposit your child makes entitles them to a silver token.

Once they have accumulated 10 tokens they can exchange these for a reward gift from the display cabinet in the office.