**PRINCIPAL’S NOTES:**

**INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

We do thank parents for their ongoing support in what has become a prolonged negotiation with government regarding the next enterprise bargaining agreement for school based employees (teachers and non-teachers). Reaching a final agreement between associated unions and government is already two years overdue.

Important to understand, the current dispute is not just about pay rates and increases. There are some interesting beliefs from government and beaurcратs that need to be challenged in a time of reducing resources (human and financial) to schools. One for example, is the notion that when teachers go on a camp, anything beyond their eight hour working day is ‘free time.’ For any parents who have gone on camps in the past, you will have noticed that a teacher’s day simply doesn’t stop at the end of 8hrs! Taking responsibility for up to 100 students, supervising and assisting them on camp is non-stop for the duration of the camp, night time included. Free time? I don’t think so!

Nor is the current dispute about teachers being paid overtime even though one of the current workplace bans currently sees some staff not working longer than an 8hr day. The ban on working longer than 8hrs is simply to demonstrate to both government and the wider community the enormous amount of ‘good will’ in teaching that by and large has come to be expected. When staff attend late afternoon, evening or weekend activities they do so knowing that they are working longer than an eight hour day. Meet & greet sessions, parent-teacher meetings, parent info sessions, camps are examples of these ‘after hours’ activities. When staff stay at school until late afternoon and/or take work home to correct, plan, read, write reports etc., they do so in their own time and beyond their normal working day. There would be very few teachers who work a 38hr week and the higher the level of responsibility, the greater the hours worked. The average working week for many teachers is 44+ hrs and for principal class employees, 56+ hrs. Why do we work longer than a 38hr week when we only get paid for a 38hr week? We do it because we take the job of educating children seriously. Children are our future and they deserve to be educated well for their future. Constantly in schools we have to battle with doing more with less. Those who have read the Gonski report into education funding will know that Australian children are being disadvantaged with lower funding levels per capita compared with funding models of other countries where education (and teachers) is more highly valued resulting in much stronger educational and academic achievements and outcomes for students.

One would hope that there is a positive resolution to the current dispute in the not so distant future. Regrettably though, until there is an outcome, there will be some disruption to classes and activities that we would normally run. The longer term goal though is definitely to value the work that teachers and non-teachers do to a much higher degree rather than simply take it for granted.

Again, our sincere thank you to our families for support that is being widely shown and our apologies for disruptions caused to your normal routines.

**Jill Ramsay**
Steps To Learning

Come join us for our official kick start into 2013 LEARNING!

Monday 18th February is our Launch into Learning Assembly.

It is the first assembly that our new Prep children will be attending and we have a presentation organised from each Grade Level that will highlight something that they have been learning about during our Steps to Learning Program.

***Please note: Presentations may not include all students during this morning but a selection of students to represent Grade levels.

Our STEPS to LEARNING Program has been the core focus across our school during the past few weeks. We began the year in every classroom exploring why learning is important and what types of good learning behaviours help us learn best.

Our students have been discussing positive and negative choices that can be made during the day and at home that impact on how much we learn. By making positive choices and developing good learning behaviours, we are STEPPING in the right direction and have a far better chance of achieving our personal goals.

Our school values have been the foundation from which the program has been developed, and will continue to be highlighted in classes throughout the year.

To all our teachers and students, from our very new Preppies who are learning all the routines and expectations of school life, through to our impressive Grade 6 Student Leaders who have spent days exploring what it means to be buddies and role models in our school, I say thank you for thinking about what is most important everyday we are together—LEARNING!

I can’t wait to see what we can all achieve together this year.

Leanne Tingwell
Assistant Principal
I hope everyone in Grades 1 to 6 has received their Welcome Back Special Lunch Order. It will be held on Wednesday 27th March and the orders must be in by Thursday, 21st March. Please ensure that you have your name and grade on the order and that you have selected your choice of a cheese or a cheese & bacon roll. Anyone wishing to help on the day, it is Wednesday so ignore the request to ‘circle Thurs or Fri’ – cut and paste gets me every time!! Baker’s Delight Greensborough will be supplying the rolls and Canteen Specialist (97204845) the drinks & wagon wheels if you have any queries about the products.

Please make note of the following changes to the Canteen Price List: Vanilla Dixie Cups will no longer be available once the current stock has sold out due to the supplier no longer stocking them, & the Chocolate Smartie Pants Cookies are available for $1.00 and can be purchased over the counter at lunch recess or through the lunch orders.

I still have quite a few days with no or little help and I would like to fill them as soon as possible:

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th MONDAY – 1 HELPER NEEDED FOR EACH OF THESE DAYS
2nd, 3rd & 4th TUESDAY – 1 HELPER NEEDED FOR THE 2ND & 4TH TUES, 2 HELPERS NEEDED FOR 3RD TUES AS I HAVE NO HELP ON THIS DAY AT PRESENT
2nd & 3rd FRIDAY – 1 HELPER NEEDED (I need at least 3 helpers on each Friday but am happy to have an extra if anyone is free!) If you are available on any of these days or for our emergency list, I would really appreciate hearing from you. I am in the canteen 8.30am to 12.30 pm every day. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!

Cheers, Suzi

SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

For the benefit of any ‘new’ parents to interschool sport – I have included some information about the sport policy of our governing body – School Sport Victoria (SSV).

The code of conduct is very different from what is acceptable in children’s sport outside of school. Please be aware that there is to be no coaching by teachers or parents during affiliated events. This policy becomes more important as children/teams progress towards the state finals. Sometimes however, at the lower levels, coaches agree that the main emphasis of the game should be on educating the children about the game (rules, positioning etc.) If you come along to watch your child compete, please be aware that telling the children where to position themselves, who to pass to, when to run etc, is deemed inappropriate. Abusing umpires and opposition players is totally unacceptable. Of course applauding good play is quite OK. Everyone who attends our games and events needs to be aware of the difficult position the teachers could potentially be placed in if parents/spectators break the ‘code’. Children (and teams) who have deemed to have been coached during events (such as swimming and cross country) can be disqualified.

Please come and see me if you have any questions or would like to read the SSV code of conduct in full.

Sport this week – Rd 2
GK Darks vs Plenty Valley (Away)
GK Lights vs Yarrambat (Home)

David Blackburn
PE & SPORT COORDINATOR

GRADE 5/6 CAMP

Parents in grades 5 & 6 would have received camp documentation this week regarding the planned 5/6 Kinglake Ranges Wilderness Camp for Apr 15th - 19th. In spite of current industrial bans seeing some staff not working longer than 8hrs daily, teachers at the 5/6 level have committed to this camp going ahead for the same reason as always - they value the opportunity to expand student learning beyond the classroom. A camp experience, although extremely exhaustive, is about enriching the learning of our students. That’s why so many of us are prepared to do extra, we know that the children are the beneficiaries.

Thank you to the 5/6 staff involved for considering their position and agreeing to continue making arrangements to plan for and attend this camp in the first week of term 2.

Jill Ramsay
Glen Katherine participates in a Book Club for students which is run in conjunction with Scholastic Australia. This operates eight times a year and offers you a convenient way to purchase books and computer software at reasonable prices.

There are five main catalogues sent home with students according to their year level.  
- WOMBAT - Pre School & Prep  
- LUCKY - Prep/Grades One/Two  
- ARROW - Grades Three/Four  
- STAR - Grades Five/Six

Sometimes there is an additional special catalogue throughout the year suitable for all ages. By participating in this Book Club our school benefits by receiving useful teaching materials, free posters and books for the use of both students and teachers.

Catalogues have been distributed to students this week. If you would like your child to make a purchase, simply complete the coupon on the back page of the catalogue and return it to the school, with the correct payment in a sealed envelope which is marked “Book club” and includes their name and grade. Method of payment can be by cash, cheque or the credit card option on the order form. Please follow the phone instructions as per form and ensure you complete all required details on that section and return to school. AT NO TIME IS THERE ANY OBLIGATION TO PURCHASE.

If you require any further information regarding the Book Club please inquire at the school Library. Arrangements can be made if you require the purchase as a “surprise” gift at any time throughout the year. Orders for this first issue close on FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY. Delivery takes approximately 1 to 2 weeks from the closing date.  
Astrid Bathen  Gail Elliott

Welcome to Art 2013!

A warm welcome back to all the budding artists! An exciting year lies ahead as we embark on double sessions of Art for students in grades one to six. Preps will continue to attend weekly fifty minute art sessions. Mrs Hollyoak will be teaching grades prep. one and two. She will be at school on Thursdays and Fridays. I will be teaching grades three through to six on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Children in Preps and Grade One will be busy learning about Art Room values and procedures. They will be participating in activities designed to develop skills, concepts and basic understandings.

Students in Grade Two will continue to develop their understandings of the art elements of line, colour and shape.

Students in Grade Three and Four will be doing activities to deepen their knowledge of the element of colour. Each student will construct their own fold out “Artist Book of Colour” which will become a reference for future artwork.

Students in Grades Five and Six will begin the year with a drawing unit followed by a 3D modelling unit.

Just a reminder to parents that children do require an art smock during art sessions and it needs to be clearly labelled with your child’s name and current grade.

We are looking forward to a fun, joyous and creative term. Many thanks for your continued support.

Nadia Cosma and Susan Hollyoak  
Visual Arts Teachers
Rosters have now been put up in the office area for helpers **ON FETE DAY**. Please put your name down on the lists ASAP – if everyone volunteers for 1 or 2 hours we will have everything covered and the stall organisers will be able to take a break. Every stall holder below needs help with their roster so please register asap.

We also need a **SET UP CREW** to move tables and chairs, etc on the morning of the fete. We will need muscle power from 7.30am on Sunday 17 March. The list can be found with the roster board.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the following people for volunteering to run a stall/activity & their many friends who are being coaxed to help. They need your support so please help on the day:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stall/Activity</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Stall/Activity</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Kerrie Billings</td>
<td>Honey</td>
<td>Antony Boxall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Farm</td>
<td>Fete Committee</td>
<td>Kids Competitions</td>
<td>Amanda Ciurlino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auction</td>
<td>James Stickland</td>
<td>Kid's Stage - “Open Mike”</td>
<td>Lucy Dineen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badge Making</td>
<td>**** Vacant ****</td>
<td>Kiss A Pig</td>
<td>Fete Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ</td>
<td>Renae Widdicombe &amp; Natalie Uwland</td>
<td>Lollies</td>
<td>Carrie Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Second Hand Goods</td>
<td>Christina Dalton</td>
<td>Lucky Dips</td>
<td>Shannon Whelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café</td>
<td>Michelle Cotter &amp; Kylie Longley</td>
<td>Main Stage/Music</td>
<td>Kylie Rodgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cake Stall</td>
<td>Kylie Longley</td>
<td>Mystery Bags</td>
<td>Rachael Colautti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal Spit</td>
<td>Antony Boxall</td>
<td>Pacer Karts</td>
<td>Fete Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choc A Block Coin Toss</td>
<td>Clint Ramaekers</td>
<td>Painted Nails &amp; Coloured hair</td>
<td>**** Vacant ****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Fete Committee</td>
<td>Photographer</td>
<td>Bridget Ramaekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft Stall</td>
<td>Shona Park &amp; Rebecca Evans</td>
<td>Plaster Painting</td>
<td>Teone Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cup-cake Decorating</td>
<td>Josie Minnelli &amp; Luisa Rinaldi</td>
<td>Rides Manager</td>
<td>Paula Griggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorations</td>
<td>Sally Wade</td>
<td>Science Room &amp; Gully</td>
<td>Carolyn Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration Arena/Stage</td>
<td>Kylie Rodgers</td>
<td>Scouts</td>
<td>Scott Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>Antoinette Ribchester</td>
<td>Shave for a Cure</td>
<td>Sam Pauli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunk the Teacher</td>
<td>Wayne Russell</td>
<td>Show Bags</td>
<td>Penny Gaskill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Services - Fire, Ambulance, Police (if avail.)</td>
<td>Helen Giannakos</td>
<td>Side Show Alley - Basketball Shootout</td>
<td>Damian Uselioates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Painting</td>
<td>Margie Haynes</td>
<td>Side Show Alley - Clowns</td>
<td>Graham Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Floss</td>
<td>Carrie Davies</td>
<td>Side Show Alley - Pigs in Mud</td>
<td>Wayne Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Fiona Davies</td>
<td>Snow Cones</td>
<td>Michelle Garner &amp; Nikki Ramos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid</td>
<td>Helen Giannakos</td>
<td>Sponsorship/Donations</td>
<td>Fete Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Handling</td>
<td>Helen Giannakos</td>
<td>Spruiker/MC (Main Stage)</td>
<td>**** Vacant ****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden / Plants</td>
<td>Emma Tenni</td>
<td>Stall Holders Requirements</td>
<td>Helen Giannakos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Raffle</td>
<td>Kate Arnot</td>
<td>Tattoos</td>
<td>Margie Haynes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRADE LEVEL DONATIONS
Thank you to the MANY families who have already brought in their donations. The response has been FANTASTIC.

If you are in GRADE 6 and you haven’t brought anything in yet can you please bring PLASTIC CUPS instead of sauce.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; wrapped lollies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; stickers or wrapped lollies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; Cake Decorating supplies (eg. Icing sugar, sprinkles, mini marshmallows, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; a Prima/Tetra Drink Pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; small plastic bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; Paper Plates OR Alum. Foil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Block of Chocolate &amp; Tomato Sauce OR BBQ Sauce Plastic Cups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUCTION ITEMS
If you have any items suitable for the auction please let us know asap.

WEBSITE
Make sure you visit the GK Mega Fete website for more information and a copy of our latest newsletter. While you are there, play our “Spot the Difference” game with Megy and see how quickly you can find the differences.

FAMILY FUN PACKS
These will be sent home on Monday 18th February and contain the raffle tickets, unlimited ride ticket order form and competition entry forms. Copies will also be available from our website from Monday.

There are fabulous prizes to be won in the raffle and the unlimited ride ticket is great value if purchased before fete day. Keep an eye out for it.

CRAFT STALL
Our craft ladies have been busy over the holidays and have some fabulous creations to tempt you this year. If you think this “tooth fairy pillow” is cute wait until you see the rest of it!

SECOND HAND GOODS
If anyone can help sort & price items during the couple of weeks BEFORE fete day, please contact Christina on 0468 466 731. Donations are still being accepted at the uniform shop on Monday and Friday mornings between 8.30 & 9am. 2013 Fete Committee Contact Info:

EMAIL: gkfete@gmail.com
www.glenkps.vic.edu.au
Amanda Fraser 0405 718 770
Fiona Davies 0418 611 311
Helen Giannakos 0438 588 894
Tracey Russell 0412 581 887
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS NOTICE 2013

Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

◊ A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

◊ A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

◊ An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. School Council nomination forms are available from the school office. Once completed, please return the nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the week following close of nominations. Remember .... If you are interested and need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact the Principal.

Schedule 4 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Glen Katherine Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school website or office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm Wednesday, 27th February, 2013. A ballot (if required,) will close at 4.00 pm on Friday, 8th March, 2013. Following the close of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted in the foyer. 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>No. of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Category</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD Employee Member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GK Twilight Carols

It may seem a distant memory however we would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all the students, families and GK staff for making our first 'GK Twilight Carols' event such a great night. It was lovely to see the community come together to support the students and celebrate the festive season.

A special thank you goes to Philip Basil for supplying the sound and assisting with the music. Your efforts and time are greatly appreciated. Thank you also to all the parents and PFA for supplying us with a delicious sausage sizzle!

It would be great to have your feedback to assist our future planning. Please fill in the following survey and return to your child's class teacher by Fri 22nd February. Many Thanks,

Lucy Miller (on behalf of the Arts Committee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you feel that the location was suitable for the event?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was the timing of the event suitable? (Monday 17th December 5 pm - 8 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel the stage setup was appropriate to see most of the students?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did your child/children enjoy the experience?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you and/or your family enjoy the event?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any further suggestions / comments:

Signed: ____________________

Child's Name: ________________
ELTHAM LACROSSE CLUB
33rd Annual Schools Competition
WEDNESDAYS—FEBRUARY 20TH TO MARCH 13TH 2013
5.30PM TO 6.30PM
LOWER ELTHAM PARK, MAIN ST, ELTHAM
• This is a free activity provided by Eltham lacrosse club
• All necessary equipment supplied for the competition.
• Wear appropriate footwear, shorts/skirt & school sports t-shirt.
• Transport is to be provided by parents/guardians.
Ask your PE teacher for more information!
ELTHAM LACROSSE CLUB
Pauline Maher Junior Director
9432 0769 juniordirector@elthamlax.com
www.elthamlax.com

ST HELENA SAINTS BASKET-BALL CLUB
Looking to recruit new players, both boys and girls teams. In particular, under 8, 12 and 14 boys, but all new players welcome. Very community focused club, teams play and train locally. A great way to keep fit, make new friends and have loads of fun. For more info, please call 0409 561 452

MONTMORENCY JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
JUNIOR CLUB OF THE YEAR 2011
REGISTRATION DAY
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17 2013
9.30-1PM AT PARA RD CLUBROOMS
Come and play at Montmorency in 2013. This season the Magpies have
AUSKICK
3 GIRLS TEAMS (U12, U15 & U18)
BOYS TEAMS FROM UNDER 9 - UNDER 17

We are actively seeking new families in all age groups in 2013 to become part of a progressive and highly awarded Junior Football Club. Our Club has outstanding facilities and excellent coaches. The Club place a premium on participation and enjoyment for the entire family. For more information visit
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Montmorency-Junior-Football-Club/149809768445100
www.Montyjfc.com or contact President Peter Gray phgmjfc@gmail.com or 0412 480 809

DIAMOND CREEK SWIM CLUB
** NEW MEMBERS NIGHT **
Thursday 14th February 2013
6:15pm – 8:00pm, Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool, Gipson Street, Diamond Creek
Suitable for swimmers from 7 yrs
Swim for Fitness or Competition
Family Orientated Club
Sausage Sizzle available during evening
For more information contact 0412 581 887

ELTHAM COMMUNITY CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKET
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17th.
8.30am - 1.00pm
PANTHER PLACE, ELTHAM
Guitar and Drum Lessons

There are still 3 more spots ON MONDAY in this year’s music lessons. If you are interested call Adam now to book your spot. Lessons are held during the day at GK.

Adam 0412 816 564
Diamond Creek

**Junior Blue Light Disco**

Friday, 15th February, 2013

**new venue**

Community BANK STADIUM - Diamond Creek

7.00pm ~ 10.00pm

**Admission ~ $6.00**

No Pass-out – ages: 8 to 13

Soft shoes no heels please

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The Blue Light committee seeks assistance from parents of youth sporting groups and parents associations each disco to provide fifteen supervisors to the event. The committee donates $500 to the groups who provide the supervisors and we are always seeking to expand our network. If your group would like to volunteer to provide the supervisors for an event, please contact Sergeant Joanne Jamieson at the Diamond Creek Police Station 9438 8300.

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"Want to play netball in 2013"

Eltham Netball Club is now taking registrations for the 2013 seasons. We cater for all ages from 9/u to open and all abilities from beginner to experienced. We train on Tuesdays and Thursday nights and games are on a Saturday commencing 16th March.

If you would like any information please contact Julie on info@elthamnetballclub.com.au Players are welcome to come to training for a "come and try" session.
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16. From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points. In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250. The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years. From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option
From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPi) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent. * i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis. Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.