Dear Parents,

Welcome Michelle Portelli…
I welcome Michelle Portelli to staff as the Grade 1/2A teacher. Michelle is an experienced teacher whose last appointment was at Calder Rise Primary School. Michelle was introduced to students late last term and commented on the wonderful attitude our students had to learning. Wendy Shen is still in China attending to her mother who is in an Intensive Care Unit. At this stage Wendy is on leave for an indefinite period.

Term 3 an exciting time for students…
There are plenty of wonderful, educational activities planned for our students this term. These include the ever popular Footy Day (26 Aug), Junior School Swimming Program (10-20 Aug), Book Fair (24-28 Aug), Week Parade (28 Aug), Grade 5/6 camp (2-4 Sept), Prep/One Fathers Breakfast (4 Sept) and the Grade 3/4 camp (14-16 Sep). The Term 3 calendar can be viewed on the web at: http://www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au/aps/documents/term2-calendar.pdf

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle—Sunday 2nd August
On Sunday 2nd August, our school will operate the barbeque outside Bunnings Maribyrnong Store. This is a great fundraising opportunity. We are looking for 3 volunteers to fill the roster. The commitment is for three hours, we are looking for one person to work from 11am to 2pm and two people to work from 2pm to 5pm. If you can assist please leave your name at the Office. I hope families get a chance to pop over and buy a snack on Sunday 2nd August.

Hip Hop lessons start soon…
Susan Martinez will lead the every popular Hip Hop dance lessons soon. I invite students in Grades 3—6 to enrol in these enjoyable classes. Students will learn dance routines and get an extra spot in this year’s concert. Traditionally we have had the Hip Hop dancers as first act.

Premier’s Reading Challenge…
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is still running and I encourage all students to participate in this wonderful program. Prep to Year 2 students need to read 30 books with at least 20 from the challenge list; Years 3-6, 15 books with at least 10 from the list. A hard-copy of the list is available in each corridor and library. The Challenge and finishes on Monday 17th August, 2009.
To view the challenge list, you can go to: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/ then select the “Books” tab (left side) and click on your child’s grade-list by author or title.

Supervision in the school yard…
Students are supervised by a number of staff during every recess period. Before school, a teacher is on ‘yard duty’ from 8.40am. I ask that parents avoid bringing students to school before this time. After school, a teacher is on duty till 3.30pm. Teachers wear a fluorescent vest and carry a pack to administer minor first aid while on duty. The pack also contains Epipens in case of an anaphylactic emergency.

Canteen News…
The Canteen Committee met yesterday to review prices and the menu. It was decided to expand the menu, from 22nd July to include all-beef, flame grilled burgers. The plain burger with lettuce and sauce will be $3.00, cheese-burger $3.20 and burger with the lot $3.50. There are no price increases on any items. A new price list including a description of the burgers is attached to this week’s newsletter.

I hope you have a great week.

Paul Mulroyan
Students Need Many Opportunities To Read, Read, Read.

Parents Can Make A Real Difference!!

By Kerry Baud & Kim Metelmann
Teacher-Coaches.

Research tells us that by providing many opportunities to read at school and at home, students can greatly increase their achievement. Children in Grade one, who are good readers, actually read approximately twice as many words during the year as poor readers. This pattern holds fast through to Grade 4. For struggling readers, more time for real reading is imperative if we are ever to narrow this gap.

- Reading improves students’ comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, grammar skills and sophistication of writing.
- A positive relationship occurs between the amount of voluntary reading completed at home and at school and gains on standardized reading achievement tests.
- When students increase their reading for pleasure, performance also increases.
- Reading for longer periods of time helps to increase the stamina of students when they come to sit tests.
- Students need to read consistently throughout school holidays or there is a measurable setback.
- Students can be well-supported in their reading if they borrow regularly from their local library as well as books supplied by the school.
- By showing interest in what their child is reading and modeling their own reading, parents will create a ‘positive reading atmosphere’.

COACHS’ CORNER

Mr. Scarfo’s Grade 3/4 students made muffins on Tuesday. This is a review by Joseph ‘Matt Preston’ Paglia. Well let me say this is the most excellent muffin I’ve tasted in years. The flavours just burst in your mouth, its beautiful. The only criticism is that it could be a little more moist. It looks magnificent; golden brown, just as it should be; when you go to rip it open it just breaks. Excellent, I’m very happy with that. Now the smell is good! It just makes you want to rip it apart with your teeth. When I was watching the team, I saw one person doing all the work while everyone else just stood around; finally when it was time to put the batter in the muffin tray everyone was trying to get a turn just so they could lick the mixture. But overall they worked well. So to me this dish I would give a 9¾. A standout dish!

Newsletters can be found every Friday on our website - www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au. You can also check this site for the term Calendar.