Dear Parents,

**Reading Matters – creating a reading culture**

“I loved reading when I was young” said one of the parents to me today. It was certainly better than watching black and white TV or wandering around bored and aimless. I’m sure most of us have enjoyed the magic of being transported to ‘another world’ when reading an engrossing story.

Today our children live in another culture. There are so many things competing for their attention: X-box games, social internet sites and a range of interactive gadgets as well as DVDs and TV. How do we build in the culture of reading, with all its myriad benefits, into their world?

I suspect we need to be pro-active – we need to set aside time for reading and talking about reading every week day. Research shows that children who read for 30 minutes a day succeed at school and by inference, later in life.

*"The greater the volume of reading done by students the higher their reading proficiency and the more they will be inclined to read throughout their lives"*. – Dianne Snowball 2009. When is the best time of day in your home to make reading the highest priority? What stories do you want to share with your children? Why not join the local library?

**Reading Matters Poster Competition…**

This week students are creating a poster addressing the question ‘Why does reading matter?’ I hope parents put their child’s poster in a prominent place at home as a reminder to read. The best posters from each grade will be put on display in the school and the student will receive a great book appropriate to their grade level as compensation.

**School Photos – Mon 23rd March…**

School photos will be taken on Monday 23rd March; I ask that all students be here for their class photo. Payment is made via envelope **directly to the company on the day**. You will need to have the correct amount enclosed. Photo envelopes will be sent home on Monday 16th March.

**Star Lab experience for Grade 3/4s…**

Yesterday students in Grade 3/4 explored the solar system and beyond. First they walked to the ECA Centre, in grades where a portable planetarium was set up, then once inside, they were taken on a fantastic journey. They learnt about the Earth’s rotation, revolution about the Sun as well as some well known constellations. Many thanks to Maria Roach for organising the visit.

**Interschool Sport – a favourite…**

There is a buzz of excitement on Friday mornings among the Grade 5/6 students. This is day they have sport for most of the morning. Many students play bat-tennis or soft-ball against other schools; remaining students play a series of games among themselves.

Although we encourage students to play well and win, the main aim of the program is to give all students a chance to play and enjoy interschool competition. This means that for part of the year our more able sporting students do not represent the school. Results of games are announced at Monday morning assembly by the captain.

**School Council News…**

I am happy to announce that two parents have expressed interest in filling the vacancies on Council. I welcome Hien Bui and Lindsay Grant to Council and acknowledge the great work done by Glenn Stewart and Jodee Tetradis.

I thank Glenn for his four year contribution to School Council, his wit and sensitivity to children’s needs have been appreciated. I also thank Jodee for her two year contribution to Council where she has been a passionate advocate for student welfare and playground safety.

Have a great week

Paul Mulroyan
Police visit

Officer Domenica Primerano answers students questions about the work
& Ambulance

Grade 1 / 2's

The ambulance visited last week and students had a chance to find out more about the ambulance service. "It was great" said Adrian.
**Parents Please Note**
To help keep costs down we ask that every child bring a box of tissues to school for their grade.
If you could send one in it would be appreciated.
Classroom Teachers

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**
For the safety of all students and staff, please do not use the staff car park for dropping off or picking up of children. There is allocation for disabled parking which is for one of our students, we ask that only this parent enter the Staff Car.

**Judiz House of Hair**
Ph 9318 7137
11 Langham Street Avondale Heights

For the Months of February and March
Receive a **FREE** Haircut and Blow wave
With all colour services
10% of this service will be donated to the school’s Bush Fire appeal By appointment only

**Advertisements**
The advertisements in this newsletter are for community interest only. The school has no connection with, nor endorses, any particular business activity.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**
(subject to change check regularly)

**March**
- Friday 13th: 7.30am Finance Committee
- Monday 2nd - 13th: Senior Swimming Program (Maribyrnong MAC)
- Monday 9th: Labour Day Holiday
- Monday 16th: School Council AGM and monthly meeting
- Wednesday 18th: Gr 5/6 EKC Science session;
- Monday 23rd: School Photos
- Tuesday 24th: Prep-6 Auskick Clinic: 9am - 1.30pm

**April**
- Friday 3rd: Last Day Term 1
- Monday 20th: First day Term 2

**Canteen News**
The canteen only serves healthy food.
A very popular item is the Fruit Stick - delicious pieces of fresh fruit on a stick for 50c. A very healthy playtime snack. Also available is the Fruit Cup, it has a little more fruit for 60c and Fruit Wedges for 10c

**STUDENT WELL-BEING**
**YOU CAN DO IT**
The You Can Do It program aims to create positive habits of the mind to establish healthy relationships, success and well-being. Today we are looking at the foundation of “Confidence” and how as parents you can support positive habits of the mind with your child. We have included a leaflet with suggestions of how to encourage confident behaviour.

**HABITS OF THE MIND TO HELP MY CONFIDENCE**
1. Accepting Myself means not thinking badly about myself when I make a mistake.
2. Taking risks means thinking that it’s good to try something new even though I might not be able to do it.
3. Being Independent means thinking that it’s important for me to try new activities and to speak up even if classmates think I’m silly or stupid.
4. I Can Do It! Means thinking that even when my work is hard, I can still do it.

Attached to today’s newsletter is a poster for your child’s bedroom—it aims to promote confidence.

**Stockdale & Leggo**
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS
26 Centreway, East Keilor, Vic. 3033
Phone: 9331 6244 Fax: 9331 6277
Email: sam@stockdale.com.au