



# Deer Park North Primary School Newsletter

Learning for Life

Edition 2 - 11th February 2016

**Respect**

Principal - Liz Balharrie

**Care**

**Responsibility**

Assistant Principal - Teresa Woods

**Honesty**

**Trust**

## General Office Contact Details

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Address:** 18 - 36 Mawson Avenue, Deer Park, 3023

**Phone:** 93634600 **Fax:** 93636243

**Email:** deer.park.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Web:** www.deerparknthps.vic.edu.au

## Calendar of Events



### Term One

#### Monday 29 February

Travelling Kitchen Prep incursion

#### Wednesday 2 February

Mind & Body Prep incursion

#### Monday 7 March

Grade 1/2 Drumming Incursion

#### Wednesday 9 March

Swimming Carnival Year 3-6

#### Tuesday 15 March

Cultural Diversity Week

#### Thursday 24 March

End of Term 1

Early dismissal at 2:30pm

### 2016 School Terms

#### Term 1

January 27 - March 24

#### Term 2

April 11 - June 24

#### Term 3

July 11 - September 16

#### Term 4

October 3 - December 20

### Student Playground Supervision

The school offers yard supervision from 8.45am & after school until 3.30pm. Children should not be sent to school before 8.45am; and picked up by 3.30pm.

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been no time wasted in getting back into our school routines! Students have quickly settled into their new classes and we are looking forward to a very productive year ahead!

We warmly welcome the following staff members to the Deer Park North team: Kate Zemunic (Year 5/6 Team Leader), Vanessa Grossi (Year 5/6 teacher), Heath Ellis (Year 5/6 teacher), Aaron Page (Physical Education and Sport Teacher), Tahleah Mondeil (Integration Aide) and Josette Tsouflidis who has returned to DPN this year in the role of Teacher Aide.

DPN's School as a Catchment project was featured in last Friday's "Australian" newspaper. The transformation of outdoor spaces into "green and growing natural playgrounds" has been recognised as a successful pilot project in the development of a resource kit for other schools to follow. We are working to improve our water management through the use of tank water, rainwater collection and reuse, and efficient irrigation. Students are learning about water conservation and the natural environment through our Science & Sustainability Program. The article is displayed at the school office.

### **School Council Elections**

School Council election process is held each year at this time. The composition of the Deer Park North Primary School Council is as follows:

- ◆ School Principal (Executive officer)
- ◆ 5 parents representatives
- ◆ 3 DET employee members
- ◆ 3 community representatives (Community members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members)

On behalf of the Deer Park North community we thank our 2015 School Council members for their commitment and wonderful support.

**This year there are 3 parent representative vacancies and one DET employee vacancy. Positions are generally two-year terms.**

**Nominations are now invited for these council positions. Nomination forms are available from the school office and must be received by 4.00pm on Thursday 18th February 2016.**

***Please consider getting involved in School Council to support the provision of the best possible educational outcomes for our students!***

Kind regards,

*Liz Balharrie*

## POSITIVE SCHOOLWIDE BEHAVIOURS Update Number 1

The first two days of the school year were Pupil Free Days giving staff the opportunity to meet and plan for the learning programs of our students.

Following our School Review in late 2014, it was recommended that consideration be given to the implementation of a student well-being program called Positive School Wide Behaviours. This program has been broadly successful in other schools and will refine our practices in promoting a positive and safe learning environment for all. The School Leadership Team organised a professional learning day for staff on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January facilitated by a consultant from Melbourne University. Part of the work was to revisit our values, beliefs and practices. We were guided through a range of activities which included reflecting on the current school values with a view to determining whether they were actually meeting the needs of our current staff and students.

Through a range of directed activities, staff members were asked to identify the values and attitudes that they felt were necessary to support the development of a positive learning environment. A weighted vote was conducted, which saw each person's highest rating value/attitude being given a score of 5, the second rated value received a score of 4, the third received 3, the fourth received 2 and the fifth received one point. After completing the vote scores were tallied. **Respect** was identified as one of the most important values.

Staff then spent time breaking down the list of identified values and attributes and looking at how they might be demonstrated across the school to promote a positive and safe learning environment.

The students will soon be asked for their thoughts and will also participate in a weighted vote to enable their thoughts to be reflected in our revised school values and attributes.

We now are seeking input from our parent community. Attached to this Update is a shortlist of the values & attributes that contribute to the development of responsible lifelong learners. Please consider these values/attributes and select your top 5 and put them in priority order. Number 1 is the value that you feel is most important.

We ask that you take the time to complete this activity so that we can ensure the school values are reflective of all in our community. Please return the attached form to the school so that we can include your thoughts in our tally.

The current values of Respect, Care, Honesty, Trust and Responsibility will continue to be promoted within any program offered at the school. They are attributes that we hope all members of our community aspire to but our emphasis may change slightly to cater for the feelings of our current community members.

This is the first step in clearly identifying expected behaviours and the subsequent promotion of positive behaviours across the school in an effort to build a more positive environment for all. Regular updates will be issued to ensure that families are informed about our progress. We seek your feedback & your support. Please feel free to talk with any of our staff members to share your thinking about our school values and the programs and practices that are implemented over the course of the school year.

Teresa Woods  
Assistant Principal



# HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

Year of the MONKEY 2016

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of February rings in a New Year for the Chinese and Vietnamese Community who celebrate the beginning of the Lunar New Year.

Deer Park North Primary School  
would like to wish all families good luck, good health and good fortune!



FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN IN  
Year of the Monkey  
CELINE DION, ELIZABETH HURLOCK,  
GEORGE HUCKS, DANIEL CRIBB,  
KYLE MINOGUE, WILL SMITH

MONKEY YEARS  
1956 1968 1980  
1992 2004 2016



## Prep Team

Welcome to all the Prep students and new families to Deer Park North Primary School. The Grade six students have been a huge help in making the Preps feel welcome and safe in the playground by accompanying their Buddy at recess. In the classroom we have been getting to know each other and establishing what makes a happy classroom. We have explored what good listeners do and have enjoyed singing songs and nursery rhymes. Prep Students will start specialist subjects on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. Students will participate in resilience and music on Monday with exception of P.I.V who will attend resilience on Friday. Physical Education is on Tuesday, The Beehive on Fridays. Starting in March all Prep classes will attend Library on Wednesday.

Rebecca Stokes

## More on our Website...

[www.deerparknthps.vic.edu.au](http://www.deerparknthps.vic.edu.au)



Welcome back to term 1  
and what's on at the Hub  
Term 1

Interested in an activity?  
Simply fill in a Hub ex-  
pression of interest form  
and return to school  
For more information  
about any of the Hubs'  
activities

Please come and see  
Carolyn –Hub Leader or  
alternatively you can  
contact me on:  
**PH: 9363 4600**

## “Hub is the word..”

### **Welcome back parent's and friend's to the Community Hub—Term 1**

#### “Roses' hub interview”

**1) What does the hub mean to you?**

“It's good because you feel a sense of happiness and  
togetherness.”

**2) What is your favourite hub program? And why?**

“Would say Under 5 in the Hive because I like to watch my  
daughter Charlotte have a good time interacting with her peers.”

**3) What new skills have you learnt since accessing the hub?**

“ Some of the new skills I have learnt at the hub are painting,  
making cards and making softy dolls in arts 'n' crafts.”

**4) Since accessing the hub, do you feel more connected with  
your school community?**

“ Yes! :) I love the hub ladies!”

Thank you Rose for your kind words! :)



## BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS

Welcome back everyone, just a reminder that Breakfast Club is open daily from 8.30am-8.50am.

Our breakfast menu is Vita Brits with fruit, hot toast, or oats with fruit.

Here is what some students have said about Breakfast Club:

Sharryn SSZ- " I tried Vita Brits with fruit for the first time and it was yummy".

Zena SSZ- "It was nice to choose from a healthy breakfast menu".

Our thanks to Bakers Delight Brimbank and Food Bank Australia for their donations towards the Breakfast Club



## LIFE EDUCATION VICTORIA

### 2016 VISIT

As part of our drug and health education this term we are having the Life Education mobile classroom visit our school from:

**Tuesday 23 February to Tuesday 1 March 2016**

The program helps to facilitate the development of life skills in students to prevent and minimise the harm of drugs and misuse. The **cost of the incursion is \$9.00**. The permission form and money will need to be returned by **Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February**.

The program is also offering a parent information session which will be held on-- **Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at 2:15pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to discover what your child will be learning during the program and ask any questions that you may have in regards to health and drug education.

If you are interested please fill in the Parent Information Note (Attached with the newsletter) and return to the office.

Hope to see you there!

