Dear Parents,

Who? ALL parents ‘old’ and new
When? Tomorrow (Tuesday 11th) at 9am
Where? Julie’s Wellbeing Room in the infant wing
What? A cuppa and a catch-up!
Why? To meet one another & to help make new parents feel welcome

(see next page for further details about this initiative)

Random Acts of Kindness Week

We will be encouraging the students to do ‘random acts of kindness’ at school and at home all this week. The staff are going to get into it as well…..why not get involved yourselves at home????

Try it and see how it makes you feel. I bet you will feel great and the person you are kind to will feel fantastic too!

New School Website

Check us out at our new web address: www.portlandsthps.vic.edu.au

Thanks to Mrs Ryan who altered the home page so that it includes pictures and information about our school. Unfortunately, somehow, most other links and information have disappeared. Our technician will talk to the administrators of the website to see if they can retrieve the lost links!

At this stage the home page looks good and there is a calendar of events for Term 1 so take a look!

School Council

There are 3 parent category vacancies……..I have one nomination and would love 2 more…..please consider being part of our Council. I can provide more detail about what’s involved if you are keen to hear more!

Star Student Focus

Our focus this term is on GETTING ALONG and this week’s Star Students will be those who “share with others”.

Marg Millard, Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES/CALENDARS

Please see the school website for all the dates for Term 1: www.portlandsthps.vic.edu.au—add the site to your favourites!

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 11th
9am Parent Buddy Launch—all parents ‘old’ and new in Wellbeing Room for a cuppa and catch-up!

Wednesday 12th
Prep rest day

Monday 17th
Nominations close for School Council membership

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

The newsletter can be emailed to you at the “flick” of a button.

Please contact Dianne in the Office if you would prefer your newsletter via email instead of hard copy.

Supervision of students in the playground takes place at the following times on all school days:
8.45am to 9am, 11am to 11.20am, 12.30pm to 1.10pm, 2.10pm to 2.20pm and 3.20pm to 3.30pm
PARENT BUDDY LAUNCH

As part of our work on Parent Engagement we are launching our Parent Buddy program. The idea is that ‘old’ parents will ‘buddy-up’ with new parents to become Buddies (just like your children do at school).

Being a Parent Buddy means that you would help your Buddy to settle into the school community by:

- introducing yourself and introducing them to other parents you know
- being their ‘go-to’ person to answer their questions
- encouraging them to come along to get involved in school events
- having someone to talk to when they come to the school (there’s nothing worse than standing alone, not knowing anyone when everyone is milling around outside in the mornings or after Friday Assembly etc.)
- and generally making your Parent Buddy feel welcome!

Please come along tomorrow morning to get involved in this new initiative!

---

AWARDS

Congratulations to all those who received an award at our last assembly. We love to celebrate success at Portland South and love that there are many opportunities to do so.

HAPPY GRAMS

Aaliyah McGeary, Taylah Convy, Browdy Smith, Dean Penrose, Oliver Chow, Arianne Morgan-Haynes, Tarkyn Budde.

---

BOOKS & REQUISITES 2014

Invoices will be sent home this week.

Charges for 2014 are as follows:

- Personal Stationery & Requisites $125
- Special Programs (including Cultural Activities and Life Education) $25
- Grounds Maintenance Levy (Voluntary) $30
- Swimming Program $85

Parents are offered a variety of methods of payment, ie:

- Full Payment—Cash, Cheque or EFT.
- Payment by Instalment
- Education Maintenance Allowance for eligible families.
- Centrepay

Invoices are being sent home today.

---

BOOK CLUB

Book Club order forms have been sent home today.

Orders need to be returned by next Monday, 17th February

---

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by:

- 28 February 2014 for the first instalment

EMA payments this year are

- $200 for prep students; and
- $150 for students in grades 1-6.

Application forms for the EMA are available from the school office.

Please bring your Health Care Card with you.

---
SWIMMING PROGRAM

The swimming program will be conducted from Monday, 24th March until Friday, 4th April (last day of term).

The cost of this program will be **$85.00** per student.

Permission forms are being sent home today. **YOUR CHILD’S PERMISSION FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY NEXT MONDAY—17/2/14** if you wish your child to participate.

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE BY 17/3/14.** Please remember that you are able to pay by instalment.

---

PARENTS’ CLUB (CONT)

Ice Cream Sales  each Friday at lunch time.......  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRUMSTICKS</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADDLE POPS</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYCLONES</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUBES</td>
<td>50 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent helpers are required to sell ice creams each Friday from approx. 1.25—1.45pm (Term 1 only). Please let Dianne know at the Office if you are available.

---

Roster for February

**Friday, 14th February**
Volunteers Required

**Friday, 21st February**
Jackie Oliver & Leanne Paterson

**Friday, 28th February**
Volunteers Required

---

Ice Cream Sundaes

To celebrate the first Wednesday at school for the Foundation students (Wednesday 5th March) we are going to sell ice cream sundaes at lunch time........mmm yum yum!

An order form will be sent home next week so that everyone can pre-order and pay for a sundae. **We are looking for volunteers to co-ordinate this activity.**

Jobs to do include to price the items needed, design an order form, tally the orders and work out how much of everything we need to buy, then buy the items and finally make the sundaes for everyone who has ordered one!

Can you help? Please let Di know at the office if you can!

---

EVERY TUESDAY IS SCHOOL BANKI DAY

Don’t forget your Bank Book
COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Junior Basketball Registration Nights**

Wednesday 12th February and Friday 14th February
5.00-7.00pm @ The Stadium
Registration $31 .... Insurance $34
No phone or late registrations will be taken.
Season Start Friday 21st February
Teams and Draws will be in the Portland Observer and on the Sporting Pulse website
All enquiries to 5523 2884

**BMX Club**

On the 23rd of February we are holding a free national sign on day (Come and Try Day) at our local BMX track.

**Orchard Rise Creative Arts Studio resumes the week of February 10.** Check out facebook & website for the 2014 timetable as you consider sessions in Drama, Music, Art & Dance for your child. Contact Margot Bail 0411 105 949.

---

**Open Art Program**

**The Circle**
21 February - 26 April
The theme for this exhibition is very open...circles! You can make it simple or as intricate as you like, to suit your style and inspiration.
All media are welcome. Open to all ages and abilities.
Entries to be submitted by 17 February 2014

**The Raven**
9 May - 28 June
The Raven, by Edgar Allen Poe is a masterpiece of Gothic literature, full of inspirational language and references. Be inspired by this famous poem to create an artwork in any media.
Entries to be submitted by 5 May 2014

**Scribble**
4 July – 30 August
Don't think, just draw! Automatic drawing can help us tap into our unconscious mind, and free our imagination.
Begin by drawing (or painting) a classic scribble form.
Entries to be submitted by 29 June 2014