From the Acting Principal

Dear Parents /Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to start by welcoming all our new families to Dinjerra for 2013 and welcoming back everyone else to what I believe is going to be a great year at Dinjerra Primary School. Up to date, it has been a very smooth and pleasing start to the school year.

I have been informed that there is a very nasty and untrue rumour going about the neighbourhood that Dinjerra is going to close. I can assure you that Dinjerra is not closing. Take no notice of these sorts of rumours as they are started by people who know nothing and who like to cause mischief.

Over the holidays, Leanne Sheardown, the substantive principal of Dinjerra Primary School resigned from the Department. Leanne has been on leave since early in 2012 due to ill health. I would like to thank Leanne for her years of service to Dinjerra Primary School, her tireless work on behalf of the students, parents and staff and for the professional manner in which she conducted herself with the Department and the many organisations who are connected with Dinjerra. On a personal note, I would also like to thank her for the well organised school I found when I moved into the principal’s position in late August of last year. It made it much simpler to ‘hit the ground running’ as they say. I would also like to wish her well in whatever endeavours she undertakes in the future and hope that her commitment to Government school education is able to continue in some form.

School Council will now be able to advertise the principal’s position for take-up in Term 3 of this year. I expect that this will happen following the School Council elections later this term.

The on-going industrial dispute between the Government and the Australian Education Union unfortunately continues into this new school year with work bans and a state-wide stopwork called for February 14, Valentine’s Day. The work bans include teachers working to a 38 hour week, meaning ‘out-of-hours’ work beyond the teacher’s school day will not be happening for union members. This will impact on how we run parent teacher interviews, camps and even school council meetings. Once I have more information about how this may impact I will let parents know.

Also over the holidays, it was also announced that the new South Western Region of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has an Acting Regional Director, Mr Malcolm Miller. Mr Miller has previously been Regional Director of the Grampians Region. The new Region stretches from Port Phillip Bay to the South Australian Boarder via Ballarat with small offices in key centres and follows a year-long re-structure of the Department by the Government when thousands of public servant positions were culled.

Catherine Leahy, who teaches Prep/One is trying out a new initiative this year. She has set up a twitter account for her class. You can follow them on @Dinjerraleahy. Their bio states ‘We’re a Prep/One class keen on learning about the world and making new global friends. We can be creative with our learning. Follow us & you will see our magic’. Here is your big chance to find out about the ‘twittersphere’ as well as some of the fantastic things that occur daily at Dinjerra.

Regards,

Graeme Smith – Acting Principal

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School Canteen

The school Canteen is no longer open at Dinjerra. Please make sure that you send your child to school with a healthy and delicious lunch and playtime snack each day.
**Physical Education News**

For your children to participate safely in Physical Education, they need to wear runners and a hat in Terms 1 and 4.

Your child has Physical Education on the following days:

- P/1A Ms Leahy  Monday, Tuesday
- P/1B Mrs Leach  Monday, Thursday
- 2/3A Ms Dunstan/Mrs Mellusco  Tuesday, Thursday
- 3/4A Ms Barnes  Monday, Wednesday
- 4/5A Ms Watts  Wednesday, Thursday
- 6A Ms Rasmussen  Tuesday, Wednesday

Please make sure your child has their runners and a hat on these days.

Thank you.
Debbie Domas
Physical Education Teacher

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**Playgroup**

Parents and community members are welcome to come along to our playgroup on **Wednesday mornings** from 9.00am-10.50am in Room 13, near the front office.

Lots of fun activities and events are planned.

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**Take Home A Big Brother Or Big Sister**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan and Spain, will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

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**School Banking Reminder**

Students should bring their weekly deposit in the yellow wallet and hand it to their teacher or at the Office on **TUESDAY mornings**. Your child will receive a silver token for each deposit and when they have 10 tokens they will receive a cool prize!

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**Dinjerra Primary School No. 5450**

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

Acting Principal : Mr Graeme Smith
Acting Assistant Principal : Ms Ros Mancer
Keeping focus on the 2013 school year

As the kids settle into the new school year, did you remember to tick off ‘see the optometrist’ on your ‘back to school’ list? Many young people experience undetected vision problems as they often assume that how they see is normal.

It is estimated that 80% of learning is experienced through vision and so children with undetected vision problems can have trouble keeping up and as a consequence might become impatient, lose focus and start misbehaving or not enjoying school.

The most frequent vision problems experienced by children are those affecting the ability to see clearly and sharply. These include short-sightedness (blurred distance vision), long-sightedness (difficulty focusing up close) and astigmatism (the distortion of vision due to the irregular shape of the eye). These conditions can be very easy to correct, with a simple measure: glasses. Other vision problems need to be detected and addressed early to reduce risk of long-term vision concerns such as a turned eye (strabismus), or a so-called lazy eye (amblyopia). These conditions require management by an eye health professional, such as an optometrist. Untreated amblyopia can even lead to permanently reduced vision in the affected eye.

Incorporating regular eye examinations with an optometrist into your child’s health routine can give peace of mind and the best start to the school year – you don’t need a referral from a doctor and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. For more information or to find an optometrist in your local area, visit www.optometrists.asn.au/victoria.

5 interesting facts about your eyes:

- Your eyes are made up of more than 2 million working parts.
- The human eye will focus on about 50 things per second.
- Your eyes actually ‘see’ images upside down and then they send these images to the brain where they are flipped around correctly for us.
- The human eye can distinguish about 2.7 million different colours and 500 shades of grey.
- The human eye can process 36 000 pieces of information every hour.

EMA

If you are eligible to receive the EMA, you must bring your Health Care Card or Pension Card to the school Office and sign an application form.

Your card must be valid as of 29 January, 2013 for the first instalment. The first instalment is $140 for Prep children and $105 for children in grades 1 to 6.

The cut-off date for applications is 28 February, 2013. No late applications can be accepted.
A reminder about our School Uniform Policy
At Dinjerra we believe a school dress code will promote our school and present our children in a positive manner. The wearing of a school uniform:

- Promotes a sense of belonging to the school
- Develops pride and school image
- Is readily identifiable on school excursions and sporting activities

All students are expected to wear uniforms when attending school. **The wearing of school uniform is compulsory at Dinjerra.** The school uniform consists of:

- Navy blue track pants
- Navy blue shorts
- Maroon polo shirt with school logo
- Navy blue windcheater with school logo
- Navy blue bomber jacket with school logo
- Blue and white checked gingham dress
- Hats – peaked cap – (legionnaire design) – navy blue with school logo / or wide brimmed navy blue. **Please note the wearing of hats is compulsory in terms 1 and 4.**
- Appropriate footwear – school shoes / runners

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11 February</td>
<td>‘Noises For Kids’ performance – whole school</td>
<td>11.30am to 12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13 February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11 March</td>
<td>Labour Day public holiday – no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 March</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15 April</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day public holiday – no school</td>
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