Dear Parents and Guardians,

I was told yesterday that the first term is half over. Things move quickly in schools. Overall, it has been a very smooth start to the year. Children have settled into their new classes quickly and the teachers are quietly going about getting your children focused on the work at hand. I have been into all classrooms and have been most impressed with the enthusiasm students are showing for their work and with the excitement they are getting from their learning. Each day small groups of students come down to the office area to show off their work. They are proud of their achievements and so am I.

The yard has also been a most welcoming and friendly place at both recess and lunchtime. Doing yard duty is something of a pleasure at the moment. We have a dedicated group of students in the sand-pit, creating a labyrinth of tunnels, passage-ways and channels in a cooperative and creative way. There is always a game of soccer or basketball, sometimes both, and of late cricket has emerged for the first time in a number of years. There are also the children who like to skip, play down-ball, climb on the jungle-gym or simply sit and talk with their friends. We are really happy with the number of students now wearing their hats. It is only a very small group who seem to forget to bring them meaning that we have to ask them to stay in the shade in accordance with the school’s Sun-Smart Policy.

We recently had a performance from a musical group who call themselves ‘Noises’. They were very entertaining and very well received by the students and staff alike. I took a series of photos of the performance and the reaction of the students. The photos are currently showing on the screen near the front office if you get a chance to view them.

School Council elections are currently taking place with nominations due on Thursday 21 February. If you are interested but didn’t get around to nominating, please let me know as there are occasional consequential vacancies that arise where Council has to appoint someone into the vacancy.

Regards,

Graeme Smith, Acting Principal

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**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.
Physical Education News
It was wonderful to see so many children with their hats and runners for PE last week. We are a Sunsmart school and apply the “no hat no play” rule. Running shoes are the best footwear for your children to move around safely and freely at school. ‘Material’ type shoes and flat type skate shoes are not nearly as good as proper supportive runners. Your children have Physical Education and sport at least 2 times per week.

What’s on in Health and Physical Education so far for 2013....
Some dates to write on your family calendar (Sometimes dates can vary due to the weather)
1. Visiting Melbourne Storm school coaches for Prep - 6 touch rugby clinics – 6th, 13th, 20th March
2. Life Education Van lessons for Prep – 6 on 21st & 22nd March
3. Metro trains – train safety for Prep – 6 on 23rd April
4. Whole school skipping event for Jump Rope for Heart – 19th June.
5. Netball clinics for grades Prep – 6 – 18th July
7. Dinjerra Swimming Program at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre for Prep – 6 children with permission – 8 day program from the 6th – 15th Nov.
8. Stay tuned for the Annual Sports Carnival date later in the year when Green and Gold Houses compete in good, fun competition for the House Cup.

Thank you.
Debbie Domas
Physical Education Teacher

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.

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!

Yarnsmiths
Yarnsmiths is a modern craft group of fibre artists who come together to contribute to yarnbombing projects and charity knitting projects in Melbourne.
Dinjerra Primary School is going to be involved in one of their latest projects!!! ... to make the school look more colourful and fun with a colourful Spring garden theme focusing on the front entrance of the school. There will be lots of shades of green crochet and knitting - with flowers, butterflies, rainbows, bees and anything else that makes people smile.
We would love anyone in the school community to help or contribute. If any students, teachers or parents would like to help out that will be great.
Email KookyKraftKlub@gmail.com or go to our facebook page http://www.facebook.com/groups/yarnsmiths/#!/yarnsmiths?fref=ts

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.
Student accident insurance arrangements 2013. A message from the Education Department.

- Parents are reminded that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the costs of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.
- Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.
- The Department cannot advise parents & guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that parents seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

News from Assistant Principal – Ros Mancer

What a very exciting start to the 2013 school year it has been! The children and staff have settled into the classroom programs without any hiccups – and some assessments have commenced with the children so that learning continues, taking into account each student’s individual needs.

Some of the special curriculum programs we are able to provide at Dinjerra Primary School in 2013 are:

- Professional learning for the staff at our school with:-
  - A continuation of Literacy coaching under the expert direction of Rachel Rasmussen. This ensures that our teachers across every class in the school work in their classes with current approaches to literacy acquisition – in reading, writing and speaking and listening.
  - Re-introduction of Numeracy coaching with Christine Barnes providing expertise in this curriculum area. We look forward to exciting approaches to engage our students in mathematical knowledge and understandings.
- All students having access to a high quality specialist Health and PE program which Deb Domas facilitates – included here are a great number of Sports Clinics held throughout the year.
- A Science specialist program which this year is being taught by Patricia Mellusco. This is a great opportunity for all our year levels to have a dedicated science program.

Additionally our classroom structures support the students’ learning in all areas of the curriculum.

- Year Prep/One with Ms Ivy Leach
- Year Prep/One with Ms Catherine Leahy

This year these two classes will work closely together in an open learning space.

- Year Two/Three with Ms Joy Dunstan and Ms Patricia Mellusco
- Year Three/Four with Ms Christine Barnes
- Year Four/Five with Ms Seany Watts

These three classes are already working well in the BER building.

- Year Six with Ms Rachel Rasmussen

For the first time in many years, Dinjerra is able to have a dedicated Year Six class which is located in the main building.
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

Spotswood Football Club

Register and meet the coaches on Sunday March 17th from 10am until 1pm. Sausage sizzle available from 11:30.

Online registration for past players now open: register and pay before March 17 to receive a training top.

Auskick registration: Search for Spotswood on www.auskick.com.au

Single Parents Active Kids

Brings to you a FREE Single Parent Family Fun Day on Sunday, 7 April 2013 at the wonderful Logan Reserve in Altona. Melways reference is 54 H11.

Free bbq and drinks. Free activities and games. Free face painting. Membership specials and much more!

Entertainment for all! Please RSVP to Moush on 0430 504 119 or info@singleparentsactivekids.org
**SOCCER SKILLS TRAINING FOR DINJERRA STUDENTS**

The Genova International School of Soccer has approached the school about offering once a week soccer skills program after school classes for our students. Cost per session is $10 and each session runs for 1 hour. The classes would take place at Dinjerra immediately following school on a day yet to be decided. They are looking for boys and girls from Prep to Grade 6. Students do not have to already have any experience with soccer. All they need is a willingness to learn.

Their skills acquisition program is based on fun activities for both boys and girls and it builds confidence as well as fitness in a positive, supportive and familiar environment. All their coaching staff have the necessary working with children checks and are qualified coaches who have the relevant experience with children.

If parents are interested in finding out more, can you please get your child to tell our PE teacher, Ms Debbie Domas and let her know before Tuesday 26 February. We need a minimum of 15 students to make this happen. Once we have enough interest, we will ask the Genova people to come back and meet with parents to fully explain the program.

Graeme Smith

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**Dinjerra Primary School  No. 5450**

PO Box 4005              WEST FOOTSCRAY  3012  
44 South Road           BRAYBROOK  3019  
Telephone : 9311 1598     Fax : 9312 3182  
email : dinjerra.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au  
website : www. dinjerra.vic.edu.au  

Acting Principal : Mr Graeme Smith  
Acting Assistant Principal : Ms Ros Mancer

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 February</td>
<td>No School for Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 March</td>
<td>Melbourne Storm rugby clinics – whole school</td>
<td>All Day</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>Wednesday 13 March</td>
<td>Melbourne Storm rugby clinics – whole school</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19 March</td>
<td>Mixed activity afternoon with WELS</td>
<td>2.00pm to 3.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 March</td>
<td>Melbourne Storm rugby clinics – whole school</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 March</td>
<td>Harmony Day – ‘Many Stories – One Australia’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 March</td>
<td>Life Education Van – whole school</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22 March</td>
<td>Life Education Van – whole school</td>
<td>All Day</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>Tuesday 23 April</td>
<td>Metro Trains – train safety for whole school</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day public holiday – no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26 April</td>
<td>School resumes at 8.50am</td>
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