Principal’s Pen

Student Dress Code Policy
A copy of our school’s Student Dress Code Policy is attached to today’s newsletter. A reminder that this term students are to wear sun brimmed hats. Hats should be named on the inside just in case they are lost. Please do not put the students’ name on the outside.

The Student Dress Code Policy is up for review this year. If you would like to make any suggestions for changes please forward them to the office.

Homework
Our Homework Policy is also up for review this year. Last year Mr Wight conducted a survey regarding homework to ascertain parents’ opinions as to the value of homework. Information below. When reviewing this policy we will be taking parents’ feedback into consideration as well as looking at research on the benefits of homework. Please feel free to provide us with feedback on the current policy. This policy can be found as an attachment.

School Council
This week we are calling for nominations for School Council. This is also attached to this email. We have 3 parent vacancies. School Council is an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about what is happening around the school. You do not need to have any experience to be on Council. To assist parents in understanding what School Council is about I have added an ‘Information for Parents’ section to this week’s newsletter. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Evacuation drills and lockdowns
All schools have an Emergency Management Plan. As part of this plan our school participates in regular evacuation and lockdown drills. We conduct drills each term and the children know exactly what to do. During our last evacuation drill to the oval we were able to clear the school in under 5 minutes which was excellent. In the next few weeks we will be having our first evacuation drill as per our usual schedule so please do not be alarmed if you hear the school siren. For evacuations the alarm may continue to sound until the drill is completed (or in a real situation, when the police arrive).

In a real emergency once our students are safe in an evacuation situation, we will be directed by the police as to whether or not to contact parents. Please be assured that the safety of students, staff and volunteers is our highest priority.

We are currently investigating an App that will be used to contact parents (as well as do a range of other things) in an emergency situation.

Connie vanderVoort, Principal.

Homework
In Term 4 last year we asked parents to complete a survey about the amount and type of homework we give at Narre Warren North Primary School, the results were definitely not conclusive.
Below is a summary of results for the questions asked:

The type of homework my child receives is appropriate – 90% Yes 10% No
The amount of homework my child receives is appropriate – 70% Yes 30% No
Do you think homework improves student learning - 66% Yes 34% No
For homework I would prefer my child had:
- Same as now
- Just reading
- Just reading and maths facts
- Other

Each option had a similar number of responses however there were slightly more for reading and maths facts. Three people said no homework at all.

There is much talk in the media and in educational circles about the effectiveness of homework. This is something we will spend more time investigating over the course of 2016. Certain things, like reading every night, are proven to improve results for students, we want to ensure that all learning tasks are having the same impact. If having less homework or different homework is going to make our students healthier, happier and more successful, then that is what we need to do.

Adam Wight, Assistant Principal

2016 Student Leaders

Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to schools

The Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Just a reminder that parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Also, the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. We advise that expensive toys should not be brought to school by students.

Parents’ and Friends’ Club News

Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting of the Parents’ and Friends’ Club will be held in the Staff Room on Thursday, 18th February at 9.30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like more information about the Parents’ and Friends’ Club or any of the committee positions, please contact our school office or a current member of Parents’ and Friends’ Club.

Casey 2016 – Relay for Life Fundraiser
Casual Dress Day
Friday 26th February – Gold Coin Donation
This event is to raise money for the Cancer Council. If you would like to make a larger donation towards this worthy cause please come and see me or drop the money in an envelope to the office. I am able to provide receipts for tax purposes on request.

Thank You, Mrs Shannon Anderson, Grade 3A Teacher

Camp Australia – Outside School Hours Care

Welcome back!
We all have settled into the new term and all the children are having a great time at both before and after school care. Children are encouraged to explore and experience new things and have been kept busily engaged in various activities aimed at expanding their horizons.

We welcome you all to our service, so come and join the fun with us. Before school care runs Monday to Friday 7.00am to 8.45am and After school care runs Monday to Friday 3.30pm to 6.00pm.

If you are new to Camp Australia and you wish to make a booking you can register online via the website. Alternatively, you can contact our friendly Customer Service team on 1300 105 343.

Note- Please remember to bring your hat when you’re coming to the OSHC if you wish to play outside during Terms 1 & 4. Himesha – OSHC Coordinator