Swifts Creek School Newsletter

Wednesday Feb 16th 2011

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Principal: Mr Robert Boucher

Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember
Feb 16th Swimming sports
Feb 18th District Swimming Sports Bairnsdale
Mar 1st Logo/Uniform committee meeting at 7pm
Mar 3rd Billy Tea Bush dance workshop and Family Bush dance
Mar 4th Performance Tour in Omeo
April 6th School Photos
April 8th Last day term 1

Tambo Campus Dates to Remember
Feb 16th Swimming Sports
Feb 15th-18th VCE Camp Traralgon
Feb 18th Art/Textiles Yrs 8 &9 visit Sale Art Gallery
Feb 20th-21st Chemistry Workshop Monash Yr 12
Mar 1st Logo/Uniform committee meeting at 7pm
April 6th School Photos
April 8th Last day term 1

Philosophy studies
Distance Education Centre Victoria is offering students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the opportunity to study Philosophy. Philosophy is about the big questions in life; you explore the ideas other people have had about things like the purpose of life, and you get to form your own opinions. If you are interested in this, please see Ms Napthine for more information.

Prep student finishing times February
Just a reminder that Prep students have an early finish time during February of 1.30pm. A sign out book is located in the admin building for you to sign before taking your child home.
Pauline Canfield

Parent Afternoon Tea
An afternoon tea will be held for parents on Monday 28th February at 1.05pm to 1.30pm in the Flagstaff library. This is to allow prep parents to meet other parents from our school. Younger siblings are encouraged to attend. We will set up some activities for them.

ICAS tests
The University of New South Wales is again conducting its International Competitions and Assessment for Schools program. The university offers tests in Computer Skills, English, Maths, Science, Spelling and Writing for students in Years 3 to 12. The uni assesses the tests and students receive detailed results and certificates of achievement.
Most of the tests cost $7.70 per student, with Spelling at $11.00 and Writing at $16.50, which parents would need to pay.
If you would like your child/ren to participate in any of these tests please give their names/s and the test/s they would like to do to the office.

Pick up and Bus Arrangements
Can all parents please be aware that there are many activities that happen after school including Active After School and Football/Netball Training. If you could let either campus know what your child’s arrangements are this will help bus drivers and staff with sending your child in the right direction. Bus Passes are needed if they are getting off buses and going straight to trainings (one pass will cover the season).
**SCHOOLS AS HUBS**

**Little Groovers Music Program 2011**

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Crisp as our new leader. Join in with her for a fun, interactive music session aiding and enhancing development in your child. All Pre-School families are invited to come along. Sessions are no cost.

Dates for Term 1 are as follows:

- **Omeo Recreation Reserve** – Kinder Gym Room - Prior to Kinder Gym
  - Friday – 18th February

- **Swifts Creek Primary School Music Room**
  - Thursday - 17th February - 10.30 a.m.

For inquiries phone: Rowena Turner Schools as Hubs Coordinator 5159 4323

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**Reading Circles 2011**

This year we will continue with our Reading Circles held each month at Swifts Creek School – Flagstaff Campus, and Omeo Primary School libraries.

We are looking forward to listening to some more fantastic stories read by community members and including some interesting themes and celebrating events.

- Omeo – Thursday 24th February – 10.00 a.m.
- Swifts Creek – Wednesday 9th March – 10.00 a.m.

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**Parent Reading Helpers at Flagstaff Campus**

We are looking for Reading helpers for the 2011 school year. It was great to have a number of parents assisting with our reading program in 2010 and we would like to build on this. If you have 1 or 2 hours to spare each week and would like to assist us by listening to students read please contact the school. A Working with Children Check is required before you can commence helping at school and usually takes 2-3 weeks to process. These are available at Australia Post outlets. Please let Pauline (AP) or Sarah (Admin) know if you are interested.

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**Billy Tea Bush Dance workshops and Family Bush Dance evening**

As part of our Schools as Hubs program on March the 3rd we will be having bush dancing workshops for students at Swifts Creek P-12 School Flagstaff Campus and Omeo Primary School during the school day and a Family Bush Dance in the evening. The workshops are facilitated by The Billy Tea Bush Band.

- **BBQ** – 5.30 p.m.
- **Family Bush Dance** 6.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

The band is one of Australia’s most experienced school bush dance bands, taking their highly successful Bush Dance Workshop Program to hundreds of schools Australia wide.

**Bush Dance Program...**

**All Day Workshops and Early Evening Family Bush Dance**

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**Performance Tour - “Imagine Believe Work Together”**

On the 4th March students from Flagstaff campus and Omeo Primary School will participate in the Performance Tour - “Imagine Believe Work Together”. The performance links to the Personal Development, Humanities (History), Thinking and Arts areas of the school curriculum. The performance will look at how individuals have worked together throughout history in much the same way we still do today to create and maintain a society that we enjoy. Florence Nightingale and some Aesop’s fables will be featured. Please ensure your child has their playlunch in a named plastic bag as we will be travelling to Omeo for the first half of the day.

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**Flagstaff Campus Social Skill**

This week’s social skill is ‘Making and maintaining friendships’. Classroom activities will focus on this skill and it will also be a focus for observations of positive student behaviour in the playground. Please discuss this social skill with your child at home.

Next week’s social skill is ‘Identifying the feelings and needs of others’.

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**Logo and Uniform Consultative Committee**

The Logo and Uniform Consultative Committee will meet on Tuesday the 1st of March at 7.00pm. We will meet at Flagstaff campus in the staff room. New parents wishing to join the group are most welcome. We will be looking at possible uniform suppliers. Please bring along names of suggested suppliers with you to the meeting.
Reading at Swifts Creek School

Reading is one of the most important ways that students of all ages learn. For this reason we have a major focus on helping our students be more effective readers. To do this, we have been using the reading strategies developed by Professor John Munro – the seven High Reliability Literacy Teaching Procedures.

This year we are reviewing each of these procedures so that everyone is good at all of them. We are starting this fortnight with a focus on the first procedure:

**Getting Knowledge Ready**

*Getting Knowledge Ready* is about what to do before you start reading. It means that, if you prepare your thinking before you start reading, then the reading will be more effective because the brain will be more receptive to the new information as you read.

*Getting Knowledge Ready* helps you to better understand what you read, and to remember it better.

**What you can do at home:**
To help your child/ren to use this procedure all the time, you can remind them of some of the things they can do before they start reading.

**For all ages, you can remind them to look at the title and / or illustrations, and then ask:**

- What do you already know about this topic?
- What pictures come to your mind?
- What do you think might be going to happen?

**For older students you might add:**

- Can you say the title in another way?
- What do you think this is going to tell you?
- What are some words you might expect to find as you read?
- What are some questions this reading might answer?

**Senior students should also be thinking about:**

- Why am I reading this?
- What is my purpose?
- What was the author’s purpose?
Social Drawing classes (Adults)

Beginners, anyone, Experts welcome

Where: Tambo Campus Art room (former secondary school site)
When: Monday nights from 21st Feb–28th April
Time: 7PM–9PM
Cost: $40 (this cost will cover paper, and basic drawing equipment)

Please bring along any materials that you would like to use, as we understand people have a huge range of styles.
If you know of anyone that would be happy to model for us (clothed or not) please let us know

If you’re interested in participating...
Please contact Nikki or Pauline
51594366 (Tambo)
51594267 (Flagstaff)

Ever Wanted to be a Rock Star?

Guitar and Vocal Lessons at Lunchtime coming soon
Interested? See Mr Johnston in staff room Tambo Campus