Swifts Creek School
Newsletter
June 15th 2011

Tambo Campus:
Ph 5159 4366  Fax 5159 4408
Assistant Principal: Ms Barbara Naphthine
Flagstaff Campus:
Ph 5159 4267  Fax 5159 4484
Assistant Principal: Ms Pauline Canfield
Email: swifts.creek.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web: www.swiftscreeksc.vic.edu.au
Twitter: twitter.com/swiftscreekp12

Principal: Mr Robert Boucher

Parents Morning Tea at Flagstaff Campus
All parents are welcome to join us for morning tea on Thursday 16th June. This is a great opportunity to catch up with other parents. Renee Grant, Uniting Care Gippsland will also be there, holding an activities session for preschool children so parents can relax and socialise whilst their children are busy. So come along and join in with a morning cuppa and chat in the staff room from 9.00 – 10.00 am. We are looking forward to seeing lots of parents there.

Social Skills
This week’s social skill is ‘Giving Appropriate Feedback’. This will be a focus in the classroom and playground. Please discuss this social skill with your child.

Reptile Show
On Wednesday 22nd June Flagstaff Campus will be visited by Mike Alexander from Black Snake Productions. He will be providing workshops for students P-6 and kinder aged looking at different reptiles. Forms went home on Tuesday 14th May. Please return your child’s form by the 21st May.

Great Vic Bike Ride
We are sorry to inform you that Energy Breakthrough will not be running this year. However, Swifts Creek School is providing Tambo campus students with the opportunity to take part in the Great Victorian Bike Ride 2011. This is a 9 day bike ride from Swan Hill to Castlemaine from Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December. This program has run in previous years and is always a great. More information coming soon.

Primary School Nursing Program 2011
The School Entrant Health Questionnaire will be sent home this week for all prep children. The school nurse performs routine health assessments of all prep children in Victorian schools to provide advice and health information. This questionnaire will assist the nurse with her visit in term 3. Please complete the Questionnaire and return it to school by the 22nd May.

Whole School Dates to Remember
July 1st  Last day of Term 2,  2.30pm finish

Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember
June 15th  Year 6 - 7 Transition Info night 7.30pm
June 17th  Winter sports—Netball
June 22nd  Reptile show

Tambo Campus Dates to Remember
June 14th-22nd  Year 12 exams
June 21st  Gipps Cross Country
June 23rd  Winter sports Year 7-10
June 24th  Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing
June 29th  House Athletics
June 30th  Winter Sports Year 11-12

School Council
We have been waiting for approval from the Minister of Education for the new structure of our Council as a new school. This approval has now been given, so we are now able to proceed with School Council elections. Please read the information overleaf, and consider standing for Council so that you can contribute to the successful operation of our school.

Music Students
Please bring your instruments tomorrow Thursday 16th June. Kees travels up to provide you with music class so please help him out by attending with your instrument.

Primary School Nursing Program 2011
The School Entrant Health Questionnaire will be sent home this week for all prep children. The school nurse performs routine health assessments of all prep children in Victorian schools to provide advice and health information. This questionnaire will assist the nurse with her visit in term 3. Please complete the Questionnaire and return it to school by the 22nd May.

Whole School Dates to Remember
July 1st  Last day of Term 2,  2.30pm finish

Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember
June 15th  Year 6 - 7 Transition Info night 7.30pm
June 17th  Winter sports—Netball
June 22nd  Reptile show

Tambo Campus Dates to Remember
June 14th-22nd  Year 12 exams
June 21st  Gipps Cross Country
June 23rd  Winter sports Year 7-10
June 24th  Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing
June 29th  House Athletics
June 30th  Winter Sports Year 11-12

School Council
We have been waiting for approval from the Minister of Education for the new structure of our Council as a new school. This approval has now been given, so we are now able to proceed with School Council elections. Please read the information overleaf, and consider standing for Council so that you can contribute to the successful operation of our school.

Social Skills
This week’s social skill is ‘Giving Appropriate Feedback’. This will be a focus in the classroom and playground. Please discuss this social skill with your child.

Reptile Show
On Wednesday 22nd June Flagstaff Campus will be visited by Mike Alexander from Black Snake Productions. He will be providing workshops for students P-6 and kinder aged looking at different reptiles. Forms went home on Tuesday 14th May. Please return your child’s form by the 21st May.

Great Vic Bike Ride
We are sorry to inform you that Energy Breakthrough will not be running this year. However, Swifts Creek School is providing Tambo campus students with the opportunity to take part in the Great Victorian Bike Ride 2011. This is a 9 day bike ride from Swan Hill to Castlemaine from Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December. This program has run in previous years and is always a great. More information coming soon.

Parents Morning Tea at Flagstaff Campus
All parents are welcome to join us for morning tea on Thursday 16th June. This is a great opportunity to catch up with other parents. Renee Grant, Uniting Care Gippsland will also be there, holding an activities session for preschool children so parents can relax and socialise whilst their children are busy. So come along and join in with a morning cuppa and chat in the staff room from 9.00 – 10.00 am. We are looking forward to seeing lots of parents there.

Social Skills
This week’s social skill is ‘Giving Appropriate Feedback’. This will be a focus in the classroom and playground. Please discuss this social skill with

Reptile Show
On Wednesday 22nd June Flagstaff Campus will be visited by Mike Alexander from Black Snake Productions. He will be providing workshops for students P-6 and kinder aged looking at different reptiles. Forms went home on Tuesday 14th May. Please return your child’s form by the 21st May.

Great Vic Bike Ride
We are sorry to inform you that Energy Breakthrough will not be running this year. However, Swifts Creek School is providing Tambo campus students with the opportunity to take part in the Great Victorian Bike Ride 2011. This is a 9 day bike ride from Swan Hill to Castlemaine from Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December. This program has run in previous years and is always a great. More information coming soon.

Parents Morning Tea at Flagstaff Campus
All parents are welcome to join us for morning tea on Thursday 16th June. This is a great opportunity to catch up with other parents. Renee Grant, Uniting Care Gippsland will also be there, holding an activities session for preschool children so parents can relax and socialise whilst their children are busy. So come along and join in with a morning cuppa and chat in the staff room from 9.00 – 10.00 am. We are looking forward to seeing lots of parents there.

Social Skills
This week’s social skill is ‘Giving Appropriate Feedback’. This will be a focus in the classroom and playground. Please discuss this social skill with your child.

Reptile Show
On Wednesday 22nd June Flagstaff Campus will be visited by Mike Alexander from Black Snake Productions. He will be providing workshops for students P-6 and kinder aged looking at different reptiles. Forms went home on Tuesday 14th May. Please return your child’s form by the 21st May.
School Council Elections 2011

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Robert Boucher for further information.