Swifts Creek School
Newsletter
August 10th 2011

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Web: www.swiftscreeksc.vic.edu.au
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Wellbeing

It is important that we are all conscious of each other’s health particularly during winter. As that advertisement on TV suggests, make sure you cover your mouth if you are coughing, and if you are sneezing don’t spray it over anyone. If you are unwell then make sure you get to a doctor to get help with your recovery. School is great but there are some times when you do need to rest up and return to good health so you can take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are presented.

Robert Boucher

Whole School Dates to Remember
August 22nd-26th Book Week and Book Fair
August 23rd Parents’ Group Meeting
Sept 22nd Parent Teacher Interviews
Sept 23rd Last Day of Term

Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember
August 10th Skiing
August 11th Skiing
August 17th Skiing
August 18th Prep-1 Snow Day
August 23rd Community Reading event and Book Week Dress Up day
August 24th Skiing

Tambo Campus Dates to Remember
August 10th Year 12 Biology trip
August 11th Skiing
August 16th Skiing
August 23rd Skiing
August 23rd Book Dress Up day
August 24th Careers Expo & Party Safe events
August 31st Skiing
August 31st Inspiring Young Women Event

Parents’ Group
The next meeting of the Parents’ Group will be held on Tuesday August 23rd at 7pm in the Flagstaff campus staffroom. New parents very welcome.

Book Week and Dress Up
August 22nd to 26th is Book Week. We will be holding many activities, including a Book Fair. We will also have Book Dress Up day on Tuesday August 23rd. All students from Prep to Year 12 are encouraged to come to school dressed as a character from a book. So, start planning now!

Firearms Safety Course
There will be a firearms safety course on Tuesday the 16th of August at 7.30pm at Swifts Creek School Tambo Campus. Any enquiries please phone Senior Constable Gavin Murphy Omeo Police Station 51591222
VCE Exam Preparation and Revision lectures
It is the time of year when the school receives many flyers advertising exam preparation and revision lectures in a range of subject areas at VCE level. Many of these are run in Melbourne and there are various levels of cost for attendance per lecture. There are also some which are run at Monash Gippsland, and VCE teachers will be encouraging students to attend these. The school, with the help of the Parents’ Group, may be able to support students to attend one lecture. We will be looking into the possibility of organising some transportation so students can access the lectures at Monash Gippsland in 2011.
Andrea Shepherd, VCE Coordinator

INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN EVENT
This is an annual event where students from Year 10 and 11 have the opportunity to meet professional women from the local area. They will share their pathways with you, including their education, careers and lifestyles. You will be able to ask them questions, particularly if they work in a career that interests you. You will be treated to a formal dinner with guest speakers, games and career information.

There is no cost to attend this inspiring event.

Students will be transported to the event by car or mini-bus.

The people attending will be approximately 55 young women from East Gippsland Secondary schools, and 25 professional women from the East Gippsland area.

The details of the event are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 31st August 2011
Time: 6pm to 8.30pm
Venue: Lakes Entrance Bowls Club

Please see Mrs. Shepherd if you are interested.

Surround yourself with reading material
Books don’t belong only in libraries and classrooms. Make the written word a part of your living space. Have interesting books, hobby magazines, and newspapers readily available throughout your home for you and your children to browse through at leisure.

Swifts Creek Pony Club
Swifts Creek Pony Club’s August rally is this Sunday 14th—a trail ride starting from Omeo footy grounds 11 am sharp; ride leader Amanda Pendergast; ride should take about 2 hrs; BYO snacks, lunch, and refreshments. If you aren’t able to attend or need any further information please contact Amanda on 51591536 or Lesley 51594544.

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UNIFORMS

Uniforms for both Flagstaff and Tambo campus students are no longer available from school. From next week, they will be able to be purchased from:
‘Bairnsdale Menswear and Corporate Apparel’
88 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale

The following are uniform that are available from the school at half price as a Clearance Sale. Please contact Nola Boucher at the Tambo campus on Fridays.

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Second hand uniforms are available for a Gold Coin Donation!
Party Safe Skills - Drug and Alcohol Awareness program

Years 9 – 11 students
Wednesday 24th August 1.30 - 3.00pm
Venue: Albion Hotel
Swifts Creek

Students in years 9 -11 will take part in a workshop that aims to raise awareness of the harmful effects of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, and provide information on strategies to reduce harm whilst out at parties and venues that serve alcohol; while empowering the students to make choices that will reduce their risks. The information will be important to them as they reach the legal age to consume alcohol and be driving.

Parents are invited to attend, afternoon tea will be provided.
The program involves Police and Ambulance services, representatives from Omeo District Health, Liquor Licensee – Albion Hotel, Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre, parents and the students.
It is based on programs that have been successfully delivered in regional areas, over several years.
The event will take place in a licensed venue with the aim of helping students develop an understanding of the laws surrounding the responsible serving and consuming of alcohol and different expectations placed on young people at different times and to behave appropriately in different social situations.

By participating in the program it is expected that students will be able to:
Clearly identify the risks and harms of drugs and alcohol on the body
Have increased knowledge and awareness of themselves as decision makers
Have an understanding of ‘harm minimisation’ as an approach to dealing with alcohol and drugs.
Know how young people can keep themselves and friends safe in a party environment
Know what to do when they or a friend has their drink spiked.
Know what to do if a young person has taken a substance that puts them at risk
Know what to do if a friend lapses into unconsciousness - knowledge of the recovery position and ringing emergency number ‘000’.

It also provides an opportunity to engage parents in a community forum that will increase their awareness of alcohol and drug issues for young people and facilitate communication with the students.
Students will walk to and from the Albion Hotel and School.
Heather Daly
Adolescent Health Nurse.
For further information please contact the School – Tambo Campus : 51594366

Don't forget next Monday 15th August
LITTLE GROOVERS with Maryanne
SING, DANCE, PLAY AND DISCOVER
A fun 45 minute program for preschool children that aims to build your child’s rhythm, coordination, memory, timing, creativity and group play skills.
At the Swifts Creek School – Flagstaff Campus Music Room from 10:30 am.
For enquiries phone: Rowena Turner, Schools as Hubs Coordinator , PH : 5159 4323
Community Reading Event 2011

Tuesday 23rd August

Families are welcome to join in with our Book Week Celebrations.

Start with a Book Character Parade at 9.15am at Tambo Campus, then hear original books written by the Year Eights, and a reader at the skate park before morning tea and a Book Fair at Flagstaff.

Then join Prep to 6 for a walk around town to hear stories read by community members.
Cows Create Careers 2011

This term students from year 8 are participating in the Cows Create Careers (CCC) program. CCC is a program in which students are given two calves to look after for three weeks, also where they learn about the dairy industry and possible job opportunities open to them. The program invites schools from around Australia to participate and students are rewarded with a presentation day and some friendly competition between schools in their area. Swifts Creek School has won several times before, and our Year 8s hope to be able to enjoy the winning feeling again this year.

We have several people who have been invited to the school to talk to us about their position in the Dairy Industry. Bridget, who is an industry advocate, will be talking to us about her position and involvement in the pork and dairy industries. She will also be talking to us about the different types of jobs which can be taken up within the dairy industry. Both Bridget and the owner of the cows, farmer Ron Cornell, will talk about the cow husbandry and their many experiences.

The work that we need to get done during the CCC program is plenty:

- We need to clean out the area where the calves will be living
- Straighten the shelter for the calves to sleep in
- Work on a range of theory based topics, including researching aspects of the dairy industry to inform content for a Power Point presentation, writing letters and creating advertisements.

Students need to feed, care and generally look after the calves throughout the three week period. Our calves will live in/outside the shearing shed in the Ag/Hort section of the school. Feeding will happen twice a day with students in pairs doing the feeding with teacher, Miss Nikki Murphy, in charge. Several dedicated students have also agreed to come into the school on the weekends. Of course these students are local so they can travel into school easily.

If you would like to know more please contact one of our dedicated and involved Year 8s, or our Year 8 Home Group teacher, Nikki Murphy.

By Sarah O’Brien