**Swifts Creek School Newsletter**

**May 1st 2013**

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**NAPLAN**  
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests.  
NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.  
NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.  
An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

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**Whole School Dates to remember**  
**May 13-17th** NAPLAN  
**May 20** Pupil Free Day  
**May 23rd** Author Visit  
**Jun 7th** Pupil Free Day  
**Jun 10th** Queen’s Birthday Holiday

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**Flagstaff Campus Dates to remember**  
**May 29th** Year 5/6 Body Image

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**Tambo Campus Dates to remember**  
**May 3rd** Outdoor Ed water skiing  
**May 8th** Yr 12 TIS Day  
**May 6-10th** Outdoor Ed Sailing Camp  
**Jun 11-14th** Yr 10 to 12 Exam week  
**Jun 12th** GAT

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**Pupil Free Day – Monday May 20th**  
Students will not be attending school on Monday May 20th, as on that day staff will be undertaking some professional development. Staff will be working with a language expert, Dr Tonya Stebbins, on improving our skills as teachers of writing. Writing is a vital part of what teachers and students do, both in school and outside of school, so we are looking forward to working with Dr Stebbins.
Year 6 to 7 Transition
Year 6 to Year 7 Transition forms for your child will be distributed this week. Parents are required to identify the school they would like their child to attend in 2014. If transport is required, an application for permission to travel on a school bus must be completed. Please return to school by no later than the 17th May 2013.

The package includes
• Letter regarding placement in Secondary Colleges 2013/2014
• Application for Enrolment (Year 7) Form
• Contract school bus and Conveyance Allowance policy
• Student Eligibility Guide
• TR701 Application for permission to travel on a contract school bus
• Conditions of travel – safety requirements for parents & guardians
• Stay Bus Safe Around The Bus Stop flyer

If you have any questions or need assistance completing these forms please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

Pauline Canfield

Swifts Creek P-12 School Purpose and Values
The Swifts Creek P-12 School’s all new Purpose and Values were presented to Council at our April 18th Meeting.
The Purpose and Values statements have been crafted by all the school community over the past 12 months. The evolving discussion was guided by facilitators John Crofts and Colin Pidd from Conversant, High - Performing Conversation.
So, what resulted?
By now many of you will have been introduced to our Purpose and Values but here they are again!

Purpose Everyone learning to be the best they can be, academically and as global citizens.

Values We will succeed together by showing Courage, Joy and Kindness.

Councillors liked the simplicity of the wording and felt students at all levels would relate to them. They also said the statements were very positive and that they would encourage consideration, recognition and generosity amongst the school community.

More broadly, Values provide ideals to guide us; they become reflected in the choices we make and offer a way forward for us to act on consistently and repeatedly.

The challenge ahead for our school community is to demonstrate our Purpose and Values on a daily basis. For example: students at the Middle Years Open Day last Tuesday were working on collages and power point presentations to integrate the values into their learning.

Council was delighted to recommend the Purpose and Values statement for adoption and recognised the hard work of all contributors – the students, staff and our school families.

Don Shaw, School Council President
Swifts Creek School has been lucky in acquiring a number of complimentary tickets for Legally Blonde – The Musical, the new block busting show which will premiere in Melbourne in May. Our tickets are for May 22nd which will mean an overnight stay in Melbourne where we’ll have dinner before the show.

We will be staying at The Claremont Hotel in South Yarra, a respected, safe venue which specialises in accommodating school students. 2 teachers – Gary Johnston and Sarah Carr will supervise the group which will travel by self drive mini bus.

The cost of the trip will be $100 per student - good value when you realise the tickets themselves are worth $60.00 each.

Drama students will have first priority but it is expected that there will be extra tickets which will be offered on a first come best dressed basis. A deposit of $50.00 secures your place.

For further information or to book contact Gary Johnston.

Reading Tips

Give your child lots of opportunities to read aloud. Inspire your young reader to practice every night.

Pick books that are at the right level. Help your child pick reading material that is not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences. Make it fun and watch their confidence and interest in reading grow.

Swifts Creek Midget Netball

We have been asked if grade prep and one children can participate in netball training sessions. We are excited so many want to learn netball skills and we are happy to have grade 1 students come and join in on Monday nights only. Sorry this offer is not open to preps. Please note parents of the grade one students are required to be present during this time. Due to the range of abilities and ages we will need to split the children into groups. Extra helpers would be appreciated.

Midget netball coaches.
Outdoor Ed/Sport

Waterskiing
This Friday all Outdoor Ed students who have returned notes will be water skiing and tubing in Paynesville with Clint’s Ski School. We will be leaving at 11 am and returning at 5 pm to Swifts Creek. Please make sure you bring the correct gear (bathers/boardies/rashie/towel) and lunch and drinks. As this trip is returning after buses, please make sure you have organised someone to pick you up.

Geelong Sailing School
Next Monday 6th of May we are heading to Geelong to the sailing school. Please make sure that your notes are in by tomorrow (Thursday) so that we can confirm numbers for the bus. We are looking forward to what will be a new experience for us and hope that this is something we may be able to do again. We will leave at 9.00 Monday and be back in time for buses 3.25 on Friday 10th. If you have any queries please call Susie Grinter at school.

Volleyball
Congratulations to the Intermediate boys volleyball team who went to Regional finals last week and placed second. The boys played really well and their sportsmanship and great behaviour was a credit to them and our school. Well done!

Athletics
We all had a really great day at the High Country Primary Athletics at Omeo on Monday. It was great to see all students participating and doing their best in what was a nice day weather wise. Thanks to all parents and staff for assisting on the day with groups and support. Also very big thank you to all who turned up for the working bee on Sunday.

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<tr>
<th>6 &amp; Under Boy</th>
<th>Colten Pendergast</th>
<th>6 and Under Girl</th>
<th>Lily McCole</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Kayleb Bradley</td>
<td>7 y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Tyrah Pendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Sam Coy</td>
<td>8 y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Amy Dickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Robert Crellin</td>
<td>9 y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Taylor Anthony</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Declan Mason</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Ben Jobling</td>
<td>10 y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Catherine O’Brien</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Jai Hayward</td>
<td>11 y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Mirella Mason</td>
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<tr>
<td>12+ y.o. Boy</td>
<td>Taledo Russell</td>
<td>12+ y.o. Girl</td>
<td>Ebony Silvey</td>
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Results for Age Group Champions
Those students in the 10,11 and 12 year age groups who placed first have the opportunity to attend the District Aths in Bairnsdale on Monday 13th of May. We will let students know if they qualified for this. Transport arrangements can be made with parents. We will offer a 12 seater mini bus for students from both schools at a cost of $10 per head, if required. Please let Raymond of Susie know if this is your preferred option.

AFL Footy Clinic-(Carlton players) Lakes and Bairnsdale
We have the opportunity for our grade 3-6 students to participate in an AFL footy clinic next Tuesday 7th of May. The clinic will be at Lakes Entrance with a group of Carlton players coming to the football ground to run this. It will begin at 10-30 but if the kids would like to meet the players they need to be there by 9-45. There is also a clinic in Bairnsdale at the Bairnsdale football oval at 1-30. Parents would need to take students to these. If you are interested and can transport your child please let Susie or Raymond know by Friday so we can give the organisers numbers.