**Swifts Creek School Newsletter**

**October 9th 2013**

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**Assistant Principal:** Ms Barbara Napthine

**Flagstaff Campus:** Ph 5159 4267  Fax 5159 4484  
**Assistant Principal:** Ms Pauline Canfield

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**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as: uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

**How to Apply:** Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

**Closing Date:** You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

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**Whole School Dates to remember**

16th Oct—Choir perform for Seniors week  
17th Oct—Adamridginal Performance

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**Flagstaff Campus Dates to remember**

6-8th Nov—Gr 3/4 Camp Lakewood  
25-29th Nov—Gr 5/6 Camp to Gelantipy

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**Tambo Campus Dates to remember**

28th Oct—Big Breakfast Yr 12 farewell  
30th Oct—Year 12 exams start

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**Reading Circle**

Wednesday October 23rd Reading Circle will be held at Swifts Creek School Flagstaff Campus Library from 10am.

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**Hats**

Term 1 and Term 4 wide brimmed hats are required to be worn at Flagstaff Campus. This is school policy so please ensure that your child is bringing their hat to school.

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**Reading Tips**

Joke Books for Reluctant Readers  
Tell Me a Joke

If your child finds books daunting or you find it difficult to get them to read, try giving them a joke book and encourage them to memorise some, so they can develop a comedy routine.

The jokes are usually short and they can read a small amount at one time. Kids of any age love jokes and will relish the challenge. If your child is a joke collector, suggest they start a "joke journal."
Parents’ Group

As previously advertised we have the pub raffle in November
We have had some hands go up to volunteer but we still have some spots that need filling
Please consider
Thurs 7th - Gallaghers. Fri 8th - Gallaghers
Thurs 14th - ? Fri 15th - Coys
Thurs 21st - ? Fri 22nd - Canfield
Thurs 27th - ? Fri 28th - ?

Contact Kathy if you can help.

ARE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIR FORCE?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2014, please telephone Carry On (Victoria) on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available.

Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and applications should be submitted by 7 November 2013.