Dear Parents,

**2011 LEARNING & TEACHING AT WINTERS FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Welcome to the 2011 education year at Winters Flat. Special welcome to the forty-four new children and two teachers David Ruddick and Wally Malaeb. Wally and David will be working with the five/six children.

We shall profile them in forthcoming newsletters.

Sam Chapman has reduced her teaching time (0.6) to three days per week and will be working with all grades as a Physical Education Specialist.

Below are the teaching structures for term 1.

**Teaching Staff**

**Prep**  
Fiona Johnston

**Prep/1**  
Jeanette McMahon & Libby Twigden

**1/2**  
Wendy Walsh

**2/3**  
Mel Taylor & Cheryl Bottomley

**2/3/4**  
Karen Brooks

**2/3/4**  
Peta Firth

**3/4**  
Helen Weir

**5**  
Wendy Oates

**5/6**  
David Ruddick

**5/6**  
Wally Malaeb

**Specialists**

Art  
Judy Laycock

Performing Arts  
Desiree Underwood

Chess  
Harry Poulton

LOTE  
Peter Kuckhahn

P.E.  
Sam Chapman

Classroom Support  
Leigh Collins

Reading Recovery  
Peter Sharrock

Library  
Cheryl Bottomley

I.C.T.  
John Thomas

**Education Support Staff**

Business Manager  
Karen Mahoney

Office Assistant  
Liz Old

Anne Neath  
Classroom Aide

Cat Brennan  
Classroom Aide

Tim Young  
Classroom Aide

---

**COMING EVENTS**

**TUESDAYS – SCHOOL BANKING**

**FEBRUARY**

Mon. 14th  
School Assembly – Mac O.

Tues. 15th  
ECO/Gobble Gardening – 9.00am to 12pm.

Wed. 16th  
Open Water Learning – Grades 3-6.

Mon. 21st  
School Assembly – Mac H.

Mon. 21st  
Grounds & Buildings Meeting – 6.30pm.

Mon. 21st  
Finance Committee Meeting – 7.00pm.

Tues. 22nd  
Book Club orders due back at school.

Mon. 28th  
School Assembly – Mac F.

**MARCH**

Mon. 7th  
School Assembly – Mac N.

Wed. 9th  
‘Market Fresh Gardens’ – Grades P-6 am.

Mon. 14th  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Labour Day.

**No**. 01

**Tuesday 8th February, 2011**

---

**Prep students not required at school on Wednesdays for the month of February & First Week in March.**
EXCITING NEWS: COOKING AND CHESS

This year we officially become a Stephanie Alexander Foundation School. That means we will be conducting cooking and garden classes in line with the program and curriculum set out by the Stephanie Alexander Foundation. Presently we are reviewing programs and will be visiting schools such as Eaglehawk Primary School that has been involved in the program for a number of years. All cooking and garden programs require assistance from parents to ensure that we maximise the participation of all children. Please check this newsletter for how you can assist in the garden.

On March 10th we have arranged with the CEO of the National Bank Victoria, Michael Ullmer, to take children from Winters Flat and neighbouring schools to a special Chess Tournament at the NAB’s National Headquarters, Docklands, Melbourne. Our chess team will compete against the bank’s staff for the inaugural NAB Chess Cup. Other children will engage NAB members of staff in a range of chess activities. The NAB is kindly providing lunch and transport for the children.

HATS
Children are required to wear their school hat for term one when playing outside or on school excursions.

HEAD LICE
This time of the year it is most important that all parents check their children’s hair on a regular basis. The most effective treatment for hair lice is the use of conditioner and a fine toothed hair comb, which enables you to remove all eggs and lice.

REMEMBER THAT PREP CHILDREN ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY & FIRST WEEK IN MARCH

Best wishes,
Kevin Brown, Principal.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
Parents/guardians who hold a current Commonwealth Health Care card on the first day of Term 1 and Term 3 are eligible to apply for the Education Maintenance allowance. Application forms for parents/caregivers eligible to claim Education Maintenance Allowance, need to be submitted to the office by Friday 25th February, 2011. _No late applications can be accepted._ Even if you completed an Education Maintenance Allowance form last year, you are still required to submit a new application form this school year, if you are still eligible. _EMA application forms are available from the school office._ Please note that we will need to photocopy your card when you submit your application.

GRADE 6 NETBOOKS
A note was sent home with Grade 6 students last week regarding an information session to be held on **Wednesday, February 9th at 7.30pm in the Winters Flat Primary School Library.** We would like to see all Grade 6 parents at the meeting.

Sam Chapman & John Thomas (Netbook Co-ordinators)
Wally Malaeb & David Ruddick (Grade 6 Teachers).

SCHOOL BANKING – Operates every Tuesday
Application forms have been sent home with children in Prep today. Dollarmite Account Opening Kits are available from the office for any other students wishing to open an account.

LIBRARY
Any missing Library books that were found at home during the school holidays can be returned to the Library during school hours. Also if any parents/caregivers are able to assist with covering of Library books at home, please complete the form included in Flat Chat and return to the office.
Hello all. Welcome back and we hope you are all ready for another great year in our lovely garden. We have the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program to look forward to and hopefully, some more Healthy Lunch Days during the year.

The exceptional Spring/Summer weather has produced lots of growth, but has been too wet for some – like very few ripe tomatoes - and what has happened to our bonza sunflowers? Aaah well, the basil looks yummy, so get ready for pesto at some stage soon!

The garden needs more eager helpers for 2011. Gardening will be Tuesday mornings, from 9.00am until about 12.30pm – until we know more about the Kitchen/Garden Program. (The Kitchen/Garden Program will need lots of helpers too, so stay tuned.)

Please join us, even if it’s once in a ‘blue moon’. If you can offer other assistance, please speak with Fiona Johnston.

Thank you so much to all the lovely people who helped out with the large task of watering the garden during the holidays – Catherine Pilgrim, Fiona Johnston, Patricia Cridge, Marg Whittle, Lisa D’Onofrio, Gerry Gerrish and Libby Twigden.

Cheers for now from the ECO/Gobble Garden crew.

---

**BOOK CLUB**

Welcome back to another year with the Scholastic Book Club. I would like to encourage parents to look through the Book Club pamphlets, as there are many good books and educational items at very reasonable prices. Every dollar spent by students and parents helps the school earn points to purchase new books for our library.

It is very helpful to me if orders can be placed in an envelope with the child’s name and class on the front, and handed into the office by the due date.

Regards,

Donna.

---

**GUITAR LESSONS**

Guitar lessons will again be available to students in Grades 3-6, and are conducted by Laurie Nicol. The cost of each lesson is $10.00 (payable at the time of the lesson) or $100 per term (a 10% discount will apply if paid within 2 weeks of commencement of the program).

If your child is interested in learning guitar, please complete the form included in Flat Chat and return to school by this Friday, 11th February.

For further information please contact Laurie on 5423 2412.

---

**KEYBOARD LESSONS**

Piano Lessons are now about to commence during school hours in 2011 with Christopher Whitehead, who has been teaching students of all ages in Castlemaine for over twenty years.

Places are now available on Wednesday afternoons. Lessons are $15 per half hour.

Please contact Christopher on 5470 6668 to enrol.

---

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop will be open every Friday morning from 8.45am to 10.00am.

---

**STUDENT SUNGLASSES**

The school has available for purchase small and large children’s sunglasses, with a microfibre cover, for the price of $10.00. They come with a blue or green frame and comply with mandatory sunglasses standard AS/NZS 1067:2003. They also include 100% UV protection and a three year guarantee.

---

**SHOP LUNCH ORDERS**

Prices have increased. Please refer to the new Price list sent home with students today.
**GUITAR LESSONS**  
Grade 3 – 6 Children  
$10.00 per lesson

☐ Yes, my child/ren would like to participate in guitar lessons.

Child’s Name: ________________________________
Child’s Grade: _______________

Child’s Name: ________________________________
Child’s Grade: _______________

Contact No: ________________________________

Parent’s/Caregiver’s Signature: 

---

**MOVEMENT ZONE**

Come & Help Us Say Goodbye to 11 Years of Hip Hop & Breakdance!

Fri 11th & Sat 12th Feb 2011

Castlemaine Phee Broadway Theatre, Mechanics Lane

Featuring:

- Diversity Hip Hop Crew
- ME Dancers
- Special Guest Performances by Vocalists ‘Funn’
- Bendigo Parkour
- Special Encore Performance of the Drey MJ Tribute

3 Shows: Fri 11 Feb 7pm
Sat 12 Feb 2pm/6pm

Entry:

- $16.50 Adult
- $8.50 Child/Student
- $45.00 Family Ticket

Tickets on Sale Now

Buy at www.movementzone.com

Call Sarah for More Info
On: 0402 087 949
Email: sarah@movementzone.com

---

**BLUE LIGHT RAGE**

Friday 11th February

Castlemaine Theatre Royal

First Disco For 2011!

Juniors (Primary Age) 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.
Entry $5.00. For Enquiries Contact Dave Petrusma or Peter Lukaitis 54722099
Music by D.J. Katie. Door Prizes.

“WE DON’T JUST DANCE”

NO ALCOHOL - NO DRUGS - NO PASSOUTS