Dear Parents,

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Did you know that our school staff is constantly engaged in Professional Development? We have a staff meeting every Tuesday after school and at one of these meetings each fortnight we hold a Staff Development session. Sometimes we have a short staff development session in our alternate week. To date this year we have had sessions on: Psychological support, Visioning for 2012, and "Blue Earth" (A Wellbeing based approach to Physical Fitness). This week we will learn more about "Helping children with Hearing loss". Our staff development may be presented by staff from our school, or staff from other schools, support services, outside presenters or on-line.

Staff have already attended a number of sessions beyond our in-house staff development. We have had staff attend days focussing on mentoring, literacy and anaphalaxysis and asthma management. Some staff are also engaged an on-line program looking at literacy and the Ultranet. Next week we have staff attending an after-school session focussing on Numeracy.

Much of this Staff development occurs after school, in what would be regarded at the teacher's "own time". We are fortunate to have staff that are prepared to go "the extra mile" in order to develop their teaching knowledge and skills.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES**

We have had a number of reports of congestion and illegal parking in Roberts Avenue before and after school. I have been in contact with the local police and they will be keeping a close eye on our school. Please be conscious of safety at all times as you drop your children off and collect them after school.

Is it really necessary for you to come down into Roberts Ave? Could you drop your child off in Ray St and have them walk down to the school? This would ease the congestion and also add a little bit of exercise to your child’s day.
PROPOSED HONG KONG TRIP FOR 2012

Winters Flat has a sister school relationship with Po Leung Kuk Leung Cho w Shun Kam Primary School, in Hong Kong. Last year a group of students came to Castlemaine and were hosted by families from our school. That visit will not be happening in 2012, however it is proposed that students from Winters Flat travel to Hong Kong later this year. We have received some costings for an eight night stay in November. This would involve five nights in a home stay with families in Hong Kong and three nights in a hotel, with a trip to Disneyland Hong Kong, and a tour of Hong Kong also included. The approximate cost of this trip would be $2,900, which would cover all travel, accommodation, meals and tours. Extra spending money and travel insurance, and passport costs would be extra. This costing is based on 8 students and three accompanying adults, of whom at least one would be a teacher from our school. Adults would pay the same amount as students.

At this stage we are looking to see if we have any interested students from grades 5 and 6. If you are interested in your child being part of this amazing opportunity, please complete the form included in Flat Chat and return to the school office. This is purely to gauge numbers to see if the trip is possible this year. This is not binding at all. If we get a positive response then further information will follow. The school reserves the right to select the students who would attend, and student behaviour would play a huge factor in these decisions.

FACEBOOK - SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

A large number of our students have active Facebook accounts. I would strongly encourage all parents to check the privacy settings on their children’s accounts and ensure that they are secure. Facebook opens your child to the world, and whilst there are many positives in the cyberworld there are also many negatives. Do you have access to your child’s account? Do you know what they do on Facebook? Could your child's personal information be tracked easily? (All anyone needs to know is name, school and parents or siblings details and an astute “stalker” can find work details, home telephone details and address). Watching an active account for a few weeks will bring up patterns of behaviours, recreation details - access to photos will enable identification of your child.)

Did you know that the terms and conditions of Facebook state that

1. **Registration and Account Security**
   You will not use Facebook if you are under 13.

By being under 13 and agreeing to the terms and conditions children under the age of 13 are breaking the terms and conditions.

I have heard stories of our students using Facebook late at night in their bedrooms, unsupervised. Would you allow your child access to millions of strangers without you knowing what they were doing?

This article from yesterday’s Age is worth reading and thinking about.

EMAILING ‘FLAT CHAT”

In the interests of saving paper, money and time we are keen to email Flat Chat to as many families as possible. Could families please complete the slip below and return to the school asap so that we can set up our distribution list? For children with parents living in separate houses we would like both email addresses please.

If you do not have access to email please let us know (by indicating on the form below) and we will still print your Flat Chat for you.

If your email changes you will need to let us know, “Flat Chat” is available on our school website every week, and we will still continue to upload each edition.

Best Wishes

Mary-anne Rooney
Principal

EASTER RAFFLE

Parents Club are running an Easter Raffle. We are seeking donations of Easter Eggs and Easter items.
If you are able to assist, please drop these off at the office.
Raffle books have been sent home today. (More books available from the office.)
1st Prize is a Family Movie Pass & Easter Hamper, 2nd and 3rd Prizes are Easter Hampers.
The cost of each ticket will be 50c. Thank you.

*Please return booklets and money by Friday 23rd March, 2012.*
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Nominations for our vacant School Council positions equalled the vacant positions, so we do not need to hold an election. Our Parent members of School Council are: John Reid, Esther Barneveld, Denise Button, Mark MacDougall, Chris Lawrence, Lisa Cushen, Lisa Dennis, Katie Wilson, Geoff Crosby and Catherine Forster. DEECD members are: Peta Firth, Fiona Johnston, Cheryl Bottomley and Mary-anne Rooney.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK  Week Ending – 02/03/2012
R02 (MAC W) Georgia – for her work on her “My Island” project and for being a great listener during class.
R03 (MAC K) Lily – for her excellent work ethic and for always doing her best.
R5A (MAC O) Reuben – for a wonderful attitude towards learning and a fantastic sense of humour. Well done Reuben!
R14 (MAC H) Bridie – for always being a conscientious worker and a great team member.
R15 (MAC J) Tom – for his inquiring mind and thoughtful attitude in class.
R16 (MAC P) Nina – for persisting with her classwork and always being positive.
R17 (MAC TB) Amelie – for being a great listener in the learning space and being willing to “have-a-go” at all times. An excellent role model to others. Well done Amelie!
R18 (MAC M) Cash – for working really hard on his writing and trying his best!!

INDONESIAN Rama & Indira – for an excellent attitude in class.

SOCIAL SKILL:
Last Week’s Social Skill was: Setting Goals.
The Winners are: Ella, Darcy and Chloe.
This Week’s Social Skill is: Putting in Effort.

PIANO LESSONS
Just a reminder to students that piano lessons with Christopher Whitehead will be $20.00 per half hour lesson. For further information, please contact Christopher on 5470 6668.

NEWS FROM THE STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN
Last week MAC H had a very exciting visit from some Melbourne friends, Josh and Gino. Josh is the sous chef from the famous Italian restaurant Di Stasio in St Kilda and Gino the Maitr’d, who has been in the restaurant and hospitality training industry for over 20 years. It was an incredibly positive day with the kids excited to have some “famous chefs” in their class. Our beautiful harvest was the focus of the menu which included herb grissini sticks, freshly made fettuccini with a tomato and silverbeet sauce, sautéed zucchini with currants, Tuscan salad (thanks to Cheryl Bottomley for the figs) grilled figs with gorgonzola and prosciutto. Yum, yum!!
The theme of the day was generosity. Gino spoke about this from an Italian perspective, letting the kids know about the wonderful aspect of food bringing people together and the idea that food is to be made with love or “amore”, as he explained.
It was a great day, and both Josh and Gino had a terrific time too. They have promised to come back again soon. Jake got Gardener of the Day, while Nick got Josh’s vote for the chef of the day. I would like to mention Camblar for his attention to detail for setting the tables and Grace for working beautifully on the fig dish. Well done MAC H!!!
We have been invited to come to ‘The Good Table’ for lunch one day soon, and also Sass and myself are organizing a trip to Annie Smithers garden in Malmsbury. We have set a date for the program celebration afternoon tea, so we will keep you posted on all these exciting happenings.
Also a big thank you to our volunteers old and new. Without you the program does not operate. Anyone wishing to come along for a kitchen or garden session, please do.
It’s fun and you can learn about fresh produce.
Please feel free to contact me on 0412 995 748.

Happy cooking Jane.
BULB FUNDRAISER
Junior School Council is holding a bulb fundraiser. Please support this effort by purchasing some bulbs. Orders must be returned to school no later than Tuesday 27th March, 2012.

SCHOOL SPORTS TOPS
There are still quite a number of school sports tops missing from our supplies. If your child still has a top that was borrowed for a sporting event last year, could it please be returned to the school as soon as possible.

Mount Alexander LOTE Network
Greetings to all Parents and Students.
As part of the LOTE Network in the Castlemaine District it has been decided that a biweekly newsletter be published by participating schools highlighting what is happening in the district, at your school by your LOTE teacher, some aspects of culture which are currently being studied and language that will help you, the parent, gain some understanding what your child is studying. The language and culture are based on a grade 5/6 level.
Currently in this district all year 5/6 students learning Indonesian are studying the same curriculum. This is a first and will enable the Secondary College to take into account past learning when planning a curriculum.
The Grade5/6 students are learning how to greet and ask a series of simple questions that are commonplace when visiting Indonesia. They are learning how to greet in the appropriate way for the time of day. Indonesia has 4 greetings that all basically say hello to the person addressed but mark a part of the day so...

- Good morning. Selamat pagi. (SEH-lah-MAHT PAH-gee) sunrise to midday
- Good day. Selamat siang. (SEH-lah-MAHT SEE-ahng) around 11a.m. to around 3 p.m.
- Good afternoon. Selamat sore. (SEH-lah-MAHT SOHR-reh) around 3 p.m. to sunset
- Good evening/night. Selamat malam. (SEH-lah-MAHT MAH-lahm) all night sunset to sunrise

Try these out on your child and see who is more accurate. If in doubt see your schools LOTE teacher.

The students are also beginning to learn about a special day called Nyepi. This is a day of total silence and a day where all must remain indoors for 24 hours locals and tourists. It only happens in Bali and is the start of their New Year. It will take place on the 23/03/12 and will begin the Year 1934 in Bali. Ask your child to explain to you the events that lead up to this day it’s quite amazing or go online and research it with them.

Sampai kita bertemu lagi
Pak Peter
E-Mail: Kuckhahn.peter.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

ROMA IVETIC SCHOOL OF DANCE
When: Tuesdays – 3.30pm.
Where: Faulder Watson Hall, Barker Street, Castlemaine.
Classes in Classical Ballet, Creative Dance, Jazz and Song and Dance.
For further information please phone 5439 5921.

NETSETGO! – Junior Netball – 5 to 11 Year Olds
Registration 31st March 2012 - 9am to11am - McGrath Street Stadium foyer.
When: Commencing – Wednesday night - 18th April 2012 until 20th June 2012 – 4.00 to 5.00pm.
Where: Wesley Hill Courts.
Cost: ($60: includes VNA Insurance & pack)

EMAILING “FLAT CHAT”
I would like “Flat Chat” to be emailed to

Email 1

Email 2

Child’s Name & Grade: 

☐ Our family does not have Internet access, therefore we would like a copy of “Flat Chat” to be printed for us

Signed:
HONG KONG TRIP 2012
Grade 5/6 Students

My child .......................................................... is interested in the proposed Hong Kong trip in 2012.

Grade: ..........................................................

Signed: ..................................................................

Our Local Launch of the 2012 “LET’S BUILD BIG SOLAR” Campaign

All are invited this Saturday, March 10 at 11 am to the front of the Castlemaine Market Building to launch the "Let’s Build Big Solar" campaign and make 2012 the year of definite action for renewable energy. Please be there if you can for the "big solar" photo to send to politicians and media. Many schools like ours have already shown our willingness to have solar energy with the panels on our roof.

Last year many in our community went out door-knocking asking people what they thought about renewable energy as part of the national 100% renewables campaign - nearly 90% of Australians want renewable energy. Our work helped establish a $10B new body to finance renewable energy.

Well know it’s time to make sure that money is spent on renewable energy like big solar. So we are launching a campaign in Castlemaine to see that $10B used to make Australia, the sunniest nation on earth, become powered by the sun.

However strong action by our leaders will need a lot of us to step up and participate in a broad people’s movement. Please join us and 50 other communities around Australia to launch the message that in 2012 we expect action to reflect community wishes and actually build large scale solar power stations.

These are already commercially operating in Spain and around the world and now store energy to run all night long. (Google, solar thermal power plants & gemasolar). As we know with solar panels the price of solar is coming down and the price of sunlight will never go up!

Please bring your family members and invite your friends to the launch and be part of the BIG photo to send to local, regional and National media and to Canberra. (Bring a hardhat / overalls / a building tool to hold for the big photo or just bring yourself!) It won’t take long, and you can sign up if you wish to join the local committee, participate in the community polling or just to stay in the loop to hear about how you can help with more action! You are welcome to stay for a picnic in the park afterwards.

See you there! For more info ring Bernard, (Grade 6 parent) on 0459 472 558, 54723934 and visit www.100percent.org.au/bigsolar

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Students and visitors are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Reminders

- Playgroup every Friday morning here at Winters Flat in Parent Room.
- Honey – 1kg $10.00 ($9.00 Refill) – 500g $5.00 ($4.50 Refill).
- School Banking every Tuesday.
- Lunch orders available on Wednesdays & Fridays only.
- School commences – 8.55am.
- Recess – 10.55am to 11.25am.
- Lunch – 1.35pm to 2.15pm.
SCHOOL PHOTOS – Monday 26th March 2012
Our school photos will be taken on Monday 26th March. We are trying out a new photography company this year that provides many choices plus the new concept of a photo book. Please take a moment to have a look at the choices. There are the usual options of family photos and the added option to order online prior to photo day.
Students will receive their individual order forms one week prior to photo day and these need to be brought back with payment on the day.

Family order forms can be collected at the office. Please ensure that your child is wearing school uniform for photo day. Thank you.

Package choices – Monday 26th March
Select which package you would like to order, enter the quantity required and the total cost. Complete the student details section on the other side of this envelope and return to school with your payment, on or before photo day.

A Bonus Package
PLUS 1 - 30 x 26 cm Combo style group photo, 1 - Larger size 25x18 cm portrait,
1 - Personalised Photobook,
4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits, 1 personalised calendar & 3 personalised bookmarks.

B Value Plus Package
PLUS 1 - 30 x 26 cm Combo style group photo, 3 - 18 x 13 cm portraits,
1 - display mount, 3 - 8 x 5 cm portraits, 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits,
1 personalised calendar & 3 personalised bookmarks.

C Value Photo Package
3 - 18 x 13 cm portraits, 1 - display mount, 3 - 8 x 5 cm portraits, 4 - 4 x 2.5 cm portraits,
1 personalised calendar & 3 personalised bookmarks.

D Personalised Photobook Package
1 - Personalised Photobook which includes images of the student, their class group photo & composite presentation of the students in their year level, all in one convenient booklet, PLUS 1 - display mount & 2 - 18 x 13 cm portraits

E Basic Package
1 - 30 x 26 cm Combo style group photo, 1 - 18 x 13 cm portrait, 1 - display mount.

G Group Only
1 - 30 x 26 cm Combo style group photo.

TOTAL COST OF THIS ORDER $