



# Fawkner News

28 February 2017

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Principal: Roger Pell

Assistant Principal: Maria Weston

## Important Dates

### March 2017

10—Immigration Museum  
Excursion grades 3/4

13—Labour Day

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

**No School for Students**

14—Botanic Gardens  
Excursion Grades 5/6

17—Ride to School Day

31—Term 1 Ends

**2.30pm Finish**

### April 2017

18—Start Term 2

## TERM DATES 2017

Term 1: 31 January—31 March

Term 2: 18 April—30 June

Term 3: 17 July—22 September

Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

Dear Parents, It seems like we have just begun the school year, but this week marks the middle of Term 1. This term finishes on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> with a 2.30 finish. We also have the Labour Day public holiday on Monday March 13 coming up soon when the school is closed for the day.

All new children have all settled in beautifully, and all the children have made a very positive start to their schooling. On this day last year we had an enrolment of 189 children. This year we have 222 children, meaning our school has grown by 33 students from last year.

As always we continue to have an excellent tone of behaviour among the children, both inside the class and in the yard. It has been great to see the older children looking after the newer students, and generally acting out our motto of "Caring and Sharing".

Last week we farewelled Mrs. Pina DiNucci who is taking Leave for 12 months. We wish Pina all the best in her new venture.

Included in this newsletter is a full staffing list for your information.

**Breakfast Club.** On **Wednesday and Thursday** children can come along to the staff room, where we will provide breakfast of Uncle Toby's Cheerios, muesli, baked beans, fruit salad or toast. Children are welcome to come to the staff room between 8.30 and 9.00. **There is no cost for this.** Children will be supervised eating breakfast and will be able to go out to play or go straight to their classes after they have eaten (and helped clean up).

**Playgroup.** Our very successful Playgroup will continue to be held on Tuesday mornings in the Lorne St. Kindergarten. Playgroup operates from 9.00 – 11.00. Parents and young children who don't attend Kindergarten or school are welcome to attend.

**Canteen helpers.** Annette is currently organising our canteen, and is looking for volunteers to help do this very important task. New parents are always welcomed. We cannot run the canteen without volunteers, so we really do ask parents to consider helping out occasionally so the school can run the canteen. Parents can speak to Annette in the office at any time. We only do lunches and only sell quality food. We don't sell soft drinks, lollies, fatty foods etc., and we sell the food for close to cost price.

**Hours of supervision:** The school gates are normally opened between 8.00-8.15. However teacher supervision does not begin until 8.45 when there are teachers outside on Yard Duty. We encourage children to arrive at school between 8.45 and 8.57 when the line-up music begins.

At the other end of the day, staff are on Yard Duty from 3.30-3.45. Once the children leave the gates at 3.30 they are the responsibility of their parents. Children should be picked up on time. The gates are generally shut again by 3.45.

**Picking up children.** We ask that parents not enter the teaching areas while classes are being taken as it is very distracting for the children and the teachers. Children and parents should have a designated meeting place outside so that at 3.30 everyone knows where they are going and who is taking them home.

**Nut products.** We ask that parents not send products with nuts in them to school. We have children who have severe allergies to nuts and they could be put in grave danger if they come into contact with products with nuts.

**Lollipops.** Commercially available lollipops are very dangerous, as they are roughly the same size and shape as the airways of a child. Please do not give your child lollipops to have at school, or send lollipops for others. If a child has a lollipop that becomes stuck in an airway the result could be disastrous.

**Birthday celebrations.** We are always happy to help with celebrating childrens' birthdays. However we need to be careful if children bring lolly bags or cakes to share with their classmates (and teachers.) Obviously lollipops and nut products are not to be brought, but also you should let your child's teacher know the ingredients of any cakes or other foods that you bring. Likewise party poppers and balloons can be very dangerous for young children and shouldn't be brought to school.

**Medications/medicines.** If parents have medicines that children need to take during the day it is important that the parent brings the medicine to the office, so that we know the correct times and dosage etc. Children should not bring medicine to school.

**Getting children safely to and from school.** It is a major responsibility for parents to ensure that their children arrive safely inside the school gates and home again. Parents of young children in particular should ensure that their child is safe by walking them to school, or if they are driving ensure that the child gets out of the car on the safe side, and that they enter the school safely. **It is not the responsibility of the school to ensure that children cross the roads safely, even at the school crossings, or enter the school safely. As a small school we are not provided with crossing supervisors (lollipop ladies or men) and teaching staff are employed to teach children, not supervise them getting to school or to supervise traffic.**

**School Crossing flags.** Unfortunately lots of people don't realise that where there are orange School Crossing flags that people driving cars should stop to allow children to cross the road. We have a real problem with parents from our school driving across the crossing when children are waiting or even while they are crossing. **IF YOU SEE CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL CROSSING YOU SHOULD STOP TO LET THEM CROSS.**



**Apple computers.** We continue to provide an outstanding Information and Communications Technology (ICT) program across the whole school. After changing to Apple equipment in 2012 and 2013, we continue to provide great tuition in using modern computers and relevant, educational learning programs to complement our in-school curriculum. We have extended our laptop program to include children in Grades 3 and 4, joining those in Grades 5 and 6 to be provided with an Apple laptop for use at school. This means that while they are at school each child in these grades will have exclusive use of the same laptop and they will be the only one to use that laptop. **Children in Grades 4, 5 and 6 also have the opportunity to lease that laptop for the school year, allowing them to have 24/7 use of the unit.** The cost of leasing a unit is \$200/year, which is tax deductible. Parents are required to pay up front for either the whole year or \$50 for one term at a time. The Apple Mac Books are of the highest quality and represent fabulous value to the children and give a great boost to their education. We highly recommend parents take up this offer to allow their children to become confident ICT users in an ever increasing technological world.

**Assemblies to be held on Fridays.** This year we will continue having our Assemblies on Friday mornings, at 9.10. All parents, family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Our assemblies are held in the new building. At this week's assembly we will present our School Captains and Junior School Captains with their badges, as well as introduce the students who are on the Sustainability Team. We will also have visitors from the Commonwealth Bank come along to talk to parents and children about the school banking program that operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank.

**Art smocks.** Our Art teacher, Mrs. Arena, has asked that parents check that their child has an art smock to use during Art lessons, to protect their school clothing. An old shirt or light jumper is perfect.

**School Council vacancies.** We currently have vacancies for two parent members. The School Council is the governing body that is given power to run the school. In theory the council is able to make decisions on all matters, but in reality the Principal and teaching staff make most relevant day to day decisions on teaching, and curriculum issues as they are the people with the responsibility for teaching the children. There are 4 staff members and 8 parent/community members on our Council. School Council has the responsibility to ensure the school is being administered properly and in line with Ministry guidelines. Important issues are brought to council for discussion and if necessary decision-making. Council usually meets twice a term, generally for about an hour. If you would like some more information on the role of School Councillors or you would like to become part of the School Council please speak to one of the office staff.

**Arriving on time.** Could parents please ensure children are at school before 9.00 as it is important that every child is here ready for the day by the scheduled start. It gets them into good habits and they don't miss out on important learning time.

**School hat.** Please note that during Terms 1 and 4 all children and teaching staff should be wearing a school hat whenever they go outside while at school. This is part of our School Sun Smart program, that helps children learn about positive life habits. Hats are available to be purchased from the office.

Upcoming events:

**Thursday March 2:** St. Johns First Aid for Children program

**Friday March 10:** Grades 3/4 A and 3/4G attending the Immigration Museum

**Tuesday March 14:** Grades 5/6K and 5/6D visiting the Botanical Gardens

**Friday March 17:** Ride To school Day.

## School terms 2017

- Term 1: January 30- March 31 (2.30 finish)
- Term 2: April 18 – June 30 (2.30 finish)
- Term 3: July 17 – September 22 (2.30 finish)
- Term 4: October 9 – December 21 (1.30 finish)

**HATS** Term 4 and Term 1 are when we need to be sunsmart and you will need a hat to play outside.

Please remember to bring your hat to school every day!



melbourne  
city mission  
Early Links

# FLAP

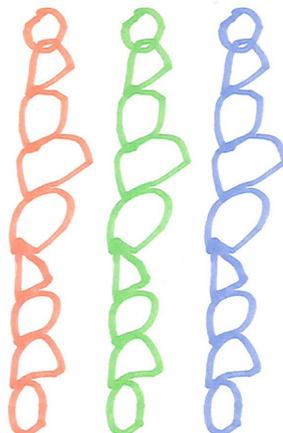
Families Learning and Playing  
After school activities for parents, grandparents, carers  
and their primary school aged children  
Afternoon tea provided

**FREE**

Wednesdays 3.45—5pm  
8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March

St Peter's Church Hall  
Seacombe St, Fawkner  
(behind church next to park  
near corner Winn Grove)

Contact 0437 128 638  
mdedek@mcm.org.au



The Early Links Program receives funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services



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### Fundraising for your school

As a local business, Peter Leahy Real Estate values relationships with the local community and we are dedicated to supporting local children in their education.

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## Staffing 2017

Roger Pell                      Principal  
Maria Weston                 Assistant Principal

Hannah Carmody	Grade Prep	Room 6
Catherine Athanasiou	Grade Prep	Room 8
Stephanie Murdaca	Grade 1/2	Room 5
Nabiha Rustom	Grade 1/2	Room 14
Ellen Sturrock	Grade 1/2	Room 15
Jaime Winchester	Grade 1/2	Room 16
Ayhan Akin	Grade 3/4	Room 31
George Saisanas	Grade 3/4	Room 32
Rashelle Kelly	Grade 5/6	Room 34
Donna Darmanin	Grade 5/6	Room 36

Joe Mills	ICT, Literacy support
Vicky Viscuso	Italian, Literacy Support
Pina DiNucci	Phys. Ed./Personal Development , until mid Feb
Brody Ricardi	Phys. Ed./Personal Development, 0.6
Rosa Arena	Visual Art/Performing Arts
Belinda DePropertis	Curriculum support
Nahren Carniato	Curriculum support
Anne Watson	Gardening program teacher / integration aide

Janice Miskimmin	Office	Annette Pell	Office
Robyn Zibell	Admin. assistance		
Carmela Ballato	Primary Welfare Officer		
Ellen Glynn	Integration Aide	Janine O'Brien	Integration Aide
Paula Northey	Integration Aide	Kim Graham	Integration Aide
Louise Mifsud	Integration Aide	Naomi Serratore	Integration Aide
Donovan Pell	Integration Aide	Craig Higgins	Integration Aide
Rob Don	Integration Aide		

Joe Vella	Maintenance
Suzana Bardic	Contract Speech Pathologist

## **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

### **Application Forms Now Available!**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

#### **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef) expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

## *Associazione Culturale "L'Aurora"*

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981: Registered No. AOO28192Z

Italian Language classes run by Associazione Culturale L'Aurora will begin at St Matthew's Primary School, 97 William St, Fawkner North, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Classes will run during school terms and will be of 2.5 hours' duration from 1:30pm to 4:00pm every Saturday.

Students from Prep to Year 12 are welcome to enrol. The tuition fee for the year is \$200.00 per student. A discount of \$15 per child is allowed for families with additional children attending.

If you require further information please phone: 9898 4707 or visit our school website [www.lauroraschool.com.au](http://www.lauroraschool.com.au)