I would like to warmly welcome everyone in our school community back to school for what we hope will be an eventful and successful 2017.

To our teachers; Ann Howard, Anne Gilbert, Jane Higgins and Jayne Berry, I hope you feel rested and ready to deliver great teaching to our students. Naomie Phillips will be teaching three days a week this year and I hope you enjoy your complicated but nevertheless important role at our school.

An especially warm welcome to Mary-Ellen Evans (Year 1) and Susie Gibson (Year 2) who begin teaching at Dunkeld Consolidated School. I hope you both will grow to love your classes and our school.

Welcome also to our new Prep students. The journey begins at school but your child’s learning has been going on for a long time. Congratulations parents … you have managed to teach your child to speak a language already. I hope you can help with their reading also.

We welcome back our Italian friends to take Years’ Prep, One, Two and Three for Italian. ‘Grazie’ in advance for your work this year, Marco Antonelli.

Our ‘Play Is The Way’ program continues. It carries a simple but succinct definition about coming to school: We come to school for 3 reasons –

We come to school to learn about ourselves
We come to school to learn about others
We come to school to learn about the world

Finally, a reminder that your child’s teacher wants to do the best they can for him or her. Please, communicate with your child’s teacher. Understand that we get it right most of the time, but not all of the time (this is the business of people, and that means we all see things differently). Consider the power of encouraging and positive messages, and that this works for adults too. Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Welcome to the adventure, boys and girls and welcome to our school.
On behalf of School Council, a warm welcome is extended to new and returning families to our school. Our current school councillors are Todd Burger, Anthony Graham, Anne Gilbert, Ally Gordon, Luke Balkin, Mark Lazzari, Trent Adams, Terrie Nicholson and Paul Jeffreys. Please do not hesitate to contact any school councillors if you have any queries.

The School Council is the governing body of the school. It has representation from parents and staff. School Council is responsible and accountable for determining policy, approving budgets, overseeing tendering and construction of building works, purchasing of equipment and organising fundraising events.

Sarah Crawford, School Council President.

SHEEP DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to Luke Balkin and Trent Adams for organizing a sheep drive fundraiser at the end of 2016. An amount of $4641.23 was raised for the School Camps/ICT programs.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welcome to all!!  Do you know anything about coding? Ever answered NAPLAN questions from a Year 5 test? Curious? Well these are just some of ‘cool things’ the P & F get to do so come along to the meetings! The first meeting for 2017 will be the AGM on Monday 6 March commencing at 7.30pm at the school. A General Meeting will follow. There is no better way to become involved in your child’s school than to become a P & F member. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and are kept as short as possible. If you require any further information about the P & F Association please contact Ally Gordon, President on 0429 900 747 or Naomie Phillips, Secretary on 0429 998 504.

SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Visitor and Student Sign In and Out requirements

All visitors to our school, including parents and relatives of our students, are required to sign a Visitors Book at the school administration office upon arrival. Similarly visitors are required to ‘sign out’ in the Visitors Book at the end of their visit. As a Child Safe School this is a requirement of Ministerial Order No. 870.

Under the Summary Offences Act 1966 and subsequent amendments, the Principal reserves the right, and has the authority to prohibit any potential visitor from entering or remaining within the school, and also has the authority to invite or exclude people from using or being within the school boundaries outside school operating hours.

SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT REGISTER FOR EARLY DEPARTURES, LATE ARRIVALS etc

If you (or an authorised adult) wish to collect your child during school hours for a medical appointment etc the parent must report to the office and complete the Sign In/Out Register, as a Child Safe School requirement.

Whole School Assemblies for 2017 will be held on Fridays at 2:45 pm.

Pupil Free Day – Friday 10 February. No students are to attend school on this day.

Welcome BBQ – Friday 17 February at the Swimming Sports

Parents and families are invited to join us for lunch, in the form of a ‘Welcome Barbecue’ at 12:00 noon in the Dunkeld Memorial Park. A free sausage sizzle (and icy pole) will be conducted by the Dunkeld Consolidated School Council and P & F Association members. (Families are also welcome to bring their own lunch if they wish). For catering purposes, could you please complete and return the ‘Swimming Note’ which included numbers for the Welcome BBQ.

Perfect Attendance for 2016

On the last day of 2016 the following certificates were presented:


100% Perfect Attendance for the 2016 School Year: Sarah Symes, Maxi Graham and Oliver Fenwick

eSmart

Dunkeld Consolidated School has achieved eSmart status. To find out about eSmart, please go to the school website http://www.dunkeld.vic.edu.au and click on the eSmart link.
Social Service 2016
During 2016, the students (with their families amazing support) have raised over $3542 through the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal, School Disco and the Fathers' Day, Mothers' Day and Christmas Stalls. This is a fantastic result, from a small school. But even more special is that the senior students decide which charities/organisations to donate to, and why. They have demonstrated a great deal of knowledge and compassion, and we are very proud of them. Thank you all for your support of this very worthwhile activity.

At the end of last year the students discussed and allocated the funds to the following charities:

Ivy's Army $708.05, Peter's List $57.25, Make a Wish Foundation $650.80

The following amounts were allocated or raised earlier:
Royal Children's Hospital Appeal $387.00
Cancer Council of Victoria (Disco) $131.65
Leukaemia Foundation (Funky Hair Day) $132.00
Alannah and Madeline Foundation (National Buddy Day) $120.00
Jump Rope for Heart $1355.30

Book Club Orders
When submitting your Book Club orders to school could you please ensure that the following sections are completed:

- Name of Student and Class i.e. Prep, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5/6.
- Quantity of items ordered.
- Amount due.
- Total Quantity of items ordered.
- Total Cost of the order.
- Credit Card receipt number to be completed if paying online.
- Ensure the whole order form is returned to school, including orders that have been placed online.
- Any cheques to be made payable to the “Dunkeld Consolidated School”.

SPORT

School swimming program and swimming sports

The Dunkeld Consolidated School Swimming Program (supported by Jen and Lea McArthur) for this year will commence on Friday 3 February and run for two weeks. The PREP class will change at school so they will require footwear (we suggest a pair of thongs to wear to and from the pool). Please ensure all items ARE CLEARLY NAMED and a waterproof/plastic bag is provided for wet swimming gear. Parents’ assistance during the swimming program is required. If you are able to help, please complete the 2017 School swimming program form.

* Please ensure your child comes to school with their swimming gear each day as it will not be possible to give advance notification of whether swimming lessons are to be cancelled on the day. Installation of solar heating at the Dunkeld Pool has made the water temperature very pleasant.

* If children have a ‘Swim and Survive’ log book could you please send it to school.

* The HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS will be held on FRIDAY 17 February at the Dunkeld Swimming Pool. The school is looking for people to assist at the swimming sports. Tasks will include judging and timekeeping. We will also require assistance with setting up marquees and banners at the pool.

* Further details regarding the format of the swimming sports will be sent home in the near future.

Sports houses for Preps and New Students

Each year it can be difficult placing students into houses. New students automatically go into the same sports houses as their siblings then the remainder of students are allocated to either house.

STURGEON House (House Colour: Royal Blue)
Clementine Blackwell, Lachie Gordon, Charles Kelly, Gemma Kyle, Patrick Lomas, Mhairi McDonald, Ned Peters, Max Russell

WANNON House (House Colour: Red)
Esther Adams, Mia Hanna, Mac Jackson, Freddie Jury, Jack Oldfield, Lachlan Oldfield, Charles Prentice
AFL Clinic

Students from Years 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to attend an AFL Players clinic on Monday 13 February. Reigning premiers the Western Bulldogs will be holding the clinic at Melville Oval, Hamilton from 10:45am to 12:00pm. Parents will be responsible for transporting their own child to and from the clinic.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

From the Kitchen... by Clare Kennedy

To ensure the success of the SAKG program, we require volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Kitchen Garden program, please complete the attached form and return it to by Wednesday 8 February.

From the Garden... by Lisa McIntyre

As we begin a new year in our garden, we have much to be thankful for. The following families looked after our chooks and watered our plants over the holidays, and without their help we would have been in strife! To the (Valetta) Jacksons, the Potters, the Huls, the (Kate) Jacksons, the Frasers, the (Emma) Gordons, the Jurys, the (Ally) Gordons, the Aarons, the Crawfords, the Glazebrooks, the Linskens, the Comers, the Callenders and the McIntyres, we thank you so much. If you’re wanting to know more about our program, and/or perhaps are interested in becoming a “Friend” who helps the children in their classes, I’d love to invite you to contact me. We aim to make our classes very relaxed, interesting and enjoyable, both for the students, and their adult helpers. I am wondering if anyone has some ice cream, yoghurt and/or margarine containers (and especially their lids) they can spare? Any help will be greatly appreciated! Thanks again to all our wonderful school and community families for their summer help - as always “You’re Fantastic!”.

Notice Board

Slip, Slop and Slap

The beginning of the year seems an appropriate time to remind families to check that children are coming to school wearing correct uniform. Wearing hats is compulsory from September through to April. Details surrounding uniform and hats can be found in the 2017 Student Information Booklet, which has been uploaded to the school website: www.dunkeld.vic.edu.au

Australia Day Celebrations in Dunkeld

As one of our School Captains, Ella Jackson proudly represented our school at her first official function at the Dunkeld Australia Day ceremony on Thursday 26 January.

New Arrivals

* Marli Louise Mibus arrived on December 29th 2016. A beautiful little girl to be spoilt by big brother Zander and big sisters Indi and Ruby. Congratulations to Paul and Jacqui on your new arrival.

* Three very excited big brothers welcomed little brother Harry James Prentice into their family on January 11th 2017. Congratulations to Derek, Alison, Alexander, Hugh and Charles.

Forms Attached to the newsletter

Please find enclosed forms as indicated below. Could you please complete and return by the indicated dates.

- Swimming Permission Form – Return by Friday 3 February
- Photography Permission Form – Return by Monday 6 February
- Headlice Inspection consent Form – Return by Monday 6 February
- Parents and Friends Membership Form – Return by Monday 6 February
- SAKG Friends of the Kitchen Garden Program – Return by Monday 6 February