Dear Parents & Friends,

Welcome back everyone! Term 3 is sure to be another busy term with many events already on the calendar. We are very excited about the official opening of the “Gratitude Garden” next Thursday at 2:30pm. An invitation is attached to this newsletter and on our website.

Our School as a Catchment project is still underway with final work to be completed in the near future. Thank you to those community members who came along to help on the planting day. It was a great success and with all the garden beds being filled with a variety of vegetables, fruit trees and native plants. The productive garden and wetland are valuable learning spaces for the whole school. This term they will be used to support the inquiry units for the Year 1/2s (What makes water precious?) and 3/4s (What are we eating?).

The Department of Education and Training has released an App which is designed to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day. The App, called SchoolMate, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets.

SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day.

Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community.

SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10.

I encourage you to download SchoolMate and to please talk with your teacher or myself if you are interested to find out more about how our school teaches the curriculum.

Kind Regards, Liz Balharrie
**Official Opening of The Gratitude Garden**

All members of our school community are invited to the Official Opening of the Gratitude Garden at 2:30 Thursday 23rd July. The garden will be opened by Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP - Parliamentary Secretary for Health Victorian Government.

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**Environmental Education at DPNPS**

After the successful ‘School As Catchment – Planting Day’ last term, staff and students are eagerly awaiting access to the new garden spaces for learning and enjoyment. Mr Navaretti (Mr Nav) will be working with the class teachers in a new part time role to support inquiry units and activities to develop a sense of caring for our natural world – our only home. The garden spaces will be used as teaching spaces and will give students new experiences to learn about our local and global environment.

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**NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY**

Deer Park North Primary School will be participating in the collection of data on Students with a Disability. The collection of this data will inform future policy & program planning in relation to these students.

Please consult the school’s webpage for additional information or contact the school on 93634600.

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**This year Book Week is Monday 24 – Friday 28 August**

We are holding a Book Fair!

Between **Monday 17th August – Thursday 27th August** books can be purchased in the Library Resource Room before school or during library sessions from Monday 24th August – Thursday 27th of August.

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**Jump Rope**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our school’s Jump Rope for Heart. Our Jump Off Day was a huge success thanks to all the students and teachers who helped out on the day. Thank you to those students who have raised money for the Heart Foundation and contributed generously for a good cause.

…… more details on the DPNPS website

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**2016 PREP enrolments are now open…**

Prep students must have turned 5 years by April 30, 2016.

Please make enquiries at the school office between 8:30am and 4:30 pm Monday - Friday

Enrolment packs are available.

Phone 93634600

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**On our website…**

Clocktower Performance – remember to save the date! (Monday 7th September!)

Physical Education news – interschool Athletics coming up on the 21st of August! And more

Art program news – including Lion’s Club Peace competition

Book Week - including more about the Book Fair

Community Hub news…

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Our Purpose: To engage each child's curiosity, build on their strengths and preferred learning styles to develop healthy, socially responsible, capable and resourceful life long learners.