

Deer Park North Primary School Newsletter

Learning for Life

Edition 12 - 30th of JULY 2015

Respect

Care

Responsibility

Honesty

Trust

Principal - Liz Balharrie

Assistant Principal - Teresa Woods

General Office Contact Details

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

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Calendar of Events



Term Three

Thursday 30 July

1/2 Excursion - Melbourne Aquarium

Thursday 6 August

3/4 Incursion - Healthy Bodies

Wednesday 19 August

5/6 Excursion - Immigration Museum

Friday 21 August

Athletics - Interschool at Keilor Park

Monday 24- Friday 28 August

Book Week

Tuesday 25 August

Prep Incursion - Designing a Billy-cart

Wednesday 26 August

Poetry Workshops: Prep - Year 6

Friday 28 August

Book Week Character Parade

Thursday 3 September

Fathers' Day Stall

Monday 7 September

Clocktower Performance Year 3/4 students

Friday 18 September

End of Term - Early dismissal at 2:30pm

2015 School Terms

Term 3

July 13 - September 18

Term 4

October 5 - December 18

Student Playground Supervision

The school offers yard supervision from 8.45am & after school until 3.30pm. Children should not be sent to school before 8.45am; and picked up by 3.30pm.



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Friends,

The official opening of our Gratitude Garden at a whole school assembly last Thursday afternoon was a resounding success. We were honoured to have a number of dignitaries attend the ceremony including Ms Mary-Anne Thomas, MP Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Ms Marlene Kairouz, MLA, Member for Kororoit, a representative from the office of The Hon. Brendan O'Connor MHR, Federal Member for Gorton, Mr John Watson, Brimbank City Council and a number of special guests and parents and friends.

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas officially launched the Building Healthy Communities in Melbourne's West report and opened the School's Gratitude Garden.

The "Building Healthy Communities in Melbourne's West" Project was a 12 month project sponsored by Western Melbourne Regional Development Australia (WMRDA) in conjunction with the Macedon Ranges and North Western Melbourne Medicare Local, Brimbank Council, The University of Melbourne and Victoria Police.

Following the official proceedings and tour of the Gratitude Garden, our visitors gave very positive feedback about our school and the warm welcome they received and complimented our students on their positive behaviour. Congratulations to everyone for contributing to the success of this special event!

So why the name, 'Gratitude Garden'?

The school landscape is critical for supporting health and wellbeing of students and adults, as well as creating a place of 'belonging' for the school community. Design of the school landscape and learning environments should cater for a range of learning styles including outdoor learning, student outbreak, and 'place to think' space (Fisher, K, 2005). Mindfulness practice in children has been shown to improve physical health, mental health and academic performance and behavioural outcomes.

Research has indicated that gratitude is strongly associated with wellbeing. By increasing awareness of the experiences in our lives we're grateful for, we can shift our thinking to a calmer, more content perspective, which can uplift and comfort us. Making the expression of gratitude a regular practice we can make a shift to a positive mind-set and maintain a healthier, more optimistic perspective.

At Deer Park North, as we nurture our Gratitude Garden and watch it grow, we can also look forward to the cultivation of a 'gratitude attitude' within our community and its positive benefits for improved health and wellbeing.

Kind Regards,

Liz Balharrie

Department of Education - Parent Opinion Survey 2015

Each year a group of randomly selected parents is asked to respond to a brief questionnaire about the school their child/children attend. Responses to this survey are entirely anonymous.

Questionnaires were sent home recently to the DPN families selected and should be returned to the school office by Wednesday August 5. **Parents who return their survey will go into a draw for a supermarket voucher!**

Environmental Education at DPNPS

This term students have been participating in a new innovative program to learn about our environment and how we interact with it. Classroom teachers and have been collaborating with Mr Navaretti to provide new learning experiences which will utilise the new garden spaces at school. In the last few weeks students have been learning about where our food comes from, what parts of the plants we eat, the flow of water on different surfaces (concrete, roofs and garden beds). The Preps have been considering the materials which are used to make everything around them and which all come from the Earth.



BOOK WEEK - Books light up our world!

This year Book Week is Monday 24 – Friday 28 August

- ◆ We are holding a Book Fair between Monday 17th August – Thursday 27th August in the school library.
- ◆ We are having a Book Character Parade on Friday August 28 at 9:30am. All welcome!! Each class will be working together to plan their Book Character costumes!!!
- ◆ We have poetry writing sessions organised for our students and teachers on Wednesday August 26 facilitated by Mandy Tunica!

Prep Program

This term the Prep inquiry topic is 'What can we make?'. Prep students will explore and use different materials and objects in their school and classroom environments to create and construct. We will be working towards creating and constructing a large igloo made entirely from plastic milk bottles! Stay tuned for this large construction.

On Tuesday 28th July, the Prep students participated in an incursion called 'Brickworks'. We will be exploring construction, materials, developing our fine motor skills and working with others to explore our imagination.

Jodi Woodward

Beehive

This term the Preps are learning about 'Buildings' in the Beehive. They have been discussing their house as a building and exploring what items and rooms a house needs. Over the next few weeks, Preps will be encouraged to make a house in small groups using a range of materials including drawing, cutting & pasting and 3 Dimensional objects.

Physical Education

Preps are practicing their running skills, remembering to look forward, and bend their arms and legs. They are using this skill during relay races and a range of games, where they encourage each other. The Preps are given the chance to use positive language such as 'congratulations', 'good try' and 'better luck next time'.

Music

In terms 3 & 4, Preps are having Music on Mondays. Students have been exploring different instruments and discovering the many sounds they make. Preps have begun putting simple sounds to the beat of songs using rhythm sticks and singing.

Ms Auld-Callinan

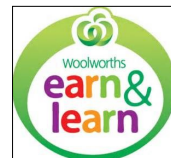
SCHOOL BANKING

Last week we had some special visitors at our whole school assembly - Susan Brailsford, Commonwealth Bank - School Banking Specialist, Pru, one of the Dollarmite characters and our school banking volunteers! Pru presented banking awards to some well-deserving students. Congratulations to our student bankers!

Students can open a Dollarmite account at any Commonwealth Bank. Information packs are available at the school office. If you would like to help our parent volunteers with student banking please contact Michelle on 93634600.



Thank you to our school community for collecting Earn & Learn stickers.



We can purchase educational equipment with the points collected: 1 sticker for every \$10 spent.

More on our website...

www.deerparknthps.vic.edu.au

[Book Week](#) - including more about the Book Fair ...

[Community Hub](#) news...

[Science news](#) - Three states of matter: Solid, Liquid and gas and more....

