2013 CALENDAR
June
28th   End of Term Assembly - all welcome 2:00pm
       Term 2 Ends - early dismissal 2:30pm

JULY
15th   Term 3 begins

School Office Hours
8.30am—4.00pm (Wednesdays unattended)

Absences - Phone the office or write in your Child’s communication book

Thank you to everyone for another wonderful term. We have achieved an enormous amount during the term and are very proud of our students.

Report time is a time of reflection and it is wonderful to see the growth that has taken place. All of our students are unique with special talents and personalities and I can say with confidence that all have made pleasing progress.

There are so many dimensions to learning and the Australian Essential Learning Standards attempts to acknowledge this.

Thank you to the parents who were able to participate in parent, student, teacher interviews this week. And thank you also for returning the parent comment sheet. We greatly appreciate the feedback you provide so if you haven’t yet returned the parent comment sheet please do. You are welcome to make an appointment to meet with teachers outside the interview timetable and / or with me at any time.

We are finally able to view our Solar energy online. Interested families can view our Solar Energy Feed-in and usage from our school website www.tooraps.vic.edu.au and click on the SMA icon on our homepage.

Mr Ken Height will commence work on the oval/laneway fence over the holiday break.

Thank you to our past students; Josh, Jaiden and Cody Migliorisi who kindly removed some fallen branches along our footpath. Always lovely to see past students drop into our school, particularly when offering to perform handy-man tasks!

Term 3 we welcome Walter Birkenbeil into our school. Walter will work as Acting Principal in our school for the first 8 weeks whilst I am on Long Service Leave. I wish all of our staff, students and wider school community a relaxing break and remind you that Term 3 commences on Monday 15th July.

- Barb Purvis, Principal

CHANGE OF BELL TIMES
We commenced our new bell times this week. Our school day and bell times are now:

9:00   -  11:00  Class time  \{No Change\}
11:00  -  11:30  Recess
11:30  -  1:00   Class time  \{Changed\}
1:00   -  1:50   Lunch time
1:50   -  3:20   Class time
3:20 pm  Dismissal

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS
School Council met last Wednesday and although there were a number of Councillors absent we did manage to review the draft Student Engagement Policy, and with a few minor tweaks it was passed by School Council.

LATE TO SCHOOL
If your child is late to school, please make sure that you sign in at the office. Late arrivals affect your child’s learning and impact on the rest of the class.

We have introduced our new bell times, which see our students dismissed at 3:20pm, this impacts significantly on our bus travellers (bringing us in to line with the surrounding schools and Secondary College) and our dance students, avoiding the early pick-ups which has been a necessity in the past.

LOST PROPERTY
There is a large amount of unnamed LOST PROPERTY in the Admin Foyer.
Please feel free to pop in and check if it belongs to your child. Also, please check your child’s clothing as some items of named clothing have gone missing, it may be that they’ve been mixed up and gone to the wrong home.

END OF TERM 2
We will be holding an end of term assembly at 2:00pm tomorrow to award Student of the Week certificates and Semester 1 95% Attendance certificates.
Students from Grade 5/6 will be giving a short Drama/Science performance. We welcome all parents to join us for our 2:00pm assembly.
Students will then be dismissed from their classrooms at 2:20pm.

GRADE 3-6 CAMP REMINDER
A deposit of $25 and your completed expression of interest form needs to be returned to school ASAP.

There are limited numbers so inclusion in our Wilsons Prom camp will be on a first in basis. $75.00 is due in by the end of Term 3 with the balance due prior to camp.
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

2nd INSTALMENT 2013

To be eligible for the EMA:
Your child must be enrolled at a primary Government or registered school in Victoria on 2nd August 2013 for the second instalment; and

You must on 15th July 2013, for the second instalment:
➤ be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
➤ be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
➤ be a temporary foster parent.

Submit your application to the school by the due date: 2nd August 2013 for the second instalment.
Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between February and August.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify that the cardholder is receiving a benefit.

SCHOOL KIDS BONUS

If school expenses are weighing you down, the Schoolkids Bonus can help lighten the load. It replaces the old Education Tax Refund and it is simple: there’s no need to collect receipts and you don’t claim it through your tax. If you’re eligible it will be paid straight into your bank account twice each year so you have the money when you need it most. Each year you will receive up to:

♦ $410 a year for each primary student ($205 paid in January and $205 paid in July)

♦ $820 a year for each secondary student ($410 paid in January and $410 paid in July).

Important news!
The second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus for 2013 will be paid by Centrelink from 4 to 17 July. If you haven’t received your payment by 18 July, but think you’re eligible, please contact Centrelink to discuss your personal circumstances.

If you receive Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum the Schoolkids Bonus will be paid after your Family Tax Benefit claim is assessed.

Need a boost to your mid-year school budget?
The second payment of the Schoolkids Bonus is coming in July. If you are eligible you could receive up to $205 for each primary student and up to $410 for each secondary student.
You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or you are a primary or secondary student receiving an income support payment.

If you think you are eligible and you haven’t already updated your child’s education details with Centrelink, then visit Online Services by 29 June 2013 to ensure you receive the correct amount and are paid on time.
The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in January 2013 so eligible families cannot claim education expenses in their 2012-13 income tax return.

To ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment in July, check your eligibility by visiting www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is now closed for this year. The response has been fantastic, so thanks to everyone who supported our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. We are now at the important stage of the program where the Woolworths Earn & Learn Points sheets need to be returned to school. Schools and early learning centres will then be able to choose from a catalogue of thousands of educational items – covering subjects such as mathematics, English, science, arts and crafts, music, sport and more. There is an unbeatable range of products available so schools and early learning centres will be able to order exactly what they need.

Please return all Earn and Learn stickers to the school office by no later than Friday, 19th July.

CYBERSAFETY

Another timely reminder about Cybersafety especially following on from recent incidents in our local news that has impacted on a community.

Potential signs of cyberbullying
Research has indicated that students are reluctant to report cyberbullying incidents, as they feel adult intervention may make the situation worse. It is important therefore to understand the following potential signs of cyberbullying and other social or mental health issues. These can include:

• decline in academic performance and social interaction increased social exclusion and peer rejection
• dislike and avoidance of school—sometimes resulting in higher absenteeism
• increased reluctance to participate in regular school activities, including classroom discussions
• poorer physical health and sleepiness
• complaints of feeling unwell although parents report no specific illness
• increased negative self-perception
• becoming withdrawn, appearing depressed or anxious, having mood swings, crying for no apparent reason
• suicidal thoughts—this should be reported to the administration and the parents/carers immediately for appropriate action.

Any significant concerns should be discussed with the student and their parents or carers.
Students should be provided with options for psychological support including school counseling or anonymous counseling through the Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800, or the Cybersmart Online Helpline.

WANTED - 8 ply left over balls of wool or 8 ply scraps of wool. Students are entering the “Wool Collage” section of the Melbourne Show and urgently require your assistance with oddments of 8 ply wool.
Please leave all donations in the designated box in the school Admin area.