Writer's Festival / Victoria Heights Visit
The children had a wonderful day last Friday at the Bendigo Writer's Festival. They listened to two great writers who shared their experience in writing children's books and provided tips on how to build on an idea and turn into a great story. The afternoon at Victoria Heights was a wonderful experience for all. The children sang beautifully and were great representatives of our school. The look of delight on the faces of the Victoria Heights residents was wonderful to see and our students had the opportunity to mingle and chat to many of the residents. It was a fantastic experience and one that we will be repeating later in the year.

Parent Opinion Survey
Thank you to all the parents who completed the Parent Opinion Survey. We will be sending them off to Melbourne this week to be collated and analysed and we should have our results by early October. I will keep you informed on this topic.

Wanted – Outdoor Cushions for the Sensory Garden
Are you able to help? We are after some large, colourful, outdoor cushions for the Sensory Garden. If you (or a family member or grandparent) have some cushions you don’t want or are able to sew and have some colourful canvas etc to make into cushions the school would greatly appreciate them. Please let me know if you are able to help out.

Parent/Teacher Interviews & Student Led Conferences
Just a reminder that the Parent/Teacher Interviews and Student Led Conferences are on tomorrow. All students should have taken home a letter advising of their timeslot. If you can’t make it tomorrow please let your child’s teacher know some dates and times that may suit and we can make alternative arrangements. Grade 5/6 students will be required at school during their allocated time only and Prep – 3 students are not required at all on the day but care will be provided for these children while their parents meet with teachers.

School Funding Reform from the Government - Information about the Agreement between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments
How much extra funding is there?
In total, additional public funding of $12.2 billion will be allocated for Victorian schools between 2014 and 2019. Of this, the Victorian Government will contribute an additional $5.4 billion and the Commonwealth will contribute an additional $6.8 billion.
When do schools get extra funding?
Schools will get more money next year and every year of this agreement, subject to enrolment numbers and the individual needs of their students. The individual needs of students will determine the funding each school gets and the government will work with all school sectors to continue to refine needs funding systems to make it even better.

In the last week of Term 3 (mid-September) each year, Government schools receive their Indicative Student Resource Package (SRP) for the following school year. Per student funding will grow in 2014, but it will be a year of limited change as the government consult and refine the funding systems.

How will funding be allocated?
As currently occurs, funding will be allocated to government and Catholic systems and directly to independent schools. Funding for government schools will be allocated according to Victoria's existing needs-based funding model, the Student Resource Package (SRP).

Victoria will work with the Commonwealth and non-government school representatives in four-way discussions to develop a long term and sustainable roadmap to better target resources to student need. Additional targeted funding may be provided for additional initiatives to deliver on the Victorian education reform agenda.

What does this mean for individual schools?
Assuming the same student mix and numbers, funding will grow in every school in every year.

What does this mean for students?
This means that every Victorian student can expect to make accelerated progress in learning, improving on their previous outcomes. The Government school system will attract and develop motivated, high performing teachers, who will support and challenge students to become great learners and to develop a lifelong love of learning.

Consultation needs to occur on the best use of the additional funding to ensure it is targeted at the things that are going to have the greatest impact.

Is this truly going to go to areas of need?
Yes. The agreement between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments provides needs-based funding to minimise educational disadvantage and facilitate a high quality education for every student in every school.

What can the extra funding be used for?
Consultation will occur on the best use of the additional funding to ensure it is targeted at the things that are going to have the greatest impact. Funding will be directed to the Victorian education reform agenda outlined in major policy statements including New Directions for School Leadership and the Teaching Profession and Towards Victoria as a Learning Community.

We will consult with schools about how to provide students with the extra support they need, but this will include things like specialist teachers and intensive support for students with additional needs.

What does this mean for teachers?
Quality teaching is at the heart of the Victorian education reform agenda. Through consultation the government will determine opportunities to apply additional funding to the things that will make the biggest difference to learning outcomes for Victorian students.

What does this mean for principals?
The Victorian reform agenda is delivering a range of actions aimed at empowering principals to make decisions about the best ways to improve learning outcomes at their schools. Consultation will shortly commence about opportunities to apply additional funding to the things that will make the most difference to learning outcomes for Victorian students.

What changes are being made to the Education Maintenance Allowance?
The Government has prioritised education funding for schools which benefits all students. In order to manage the State's budget and provide the additional funding for School Funding Reform, the Government has had to make the decision to change the way it helps low income families with education expenses. The government will now distribute the funds previously used for the EMA through the SRP to schools.

In 2013 parents receiving the EMA were able to choose to sign the EMA payment over to their school. Seventy per cent of parents chose this option with the school then using the funds for a range of expenses for their child. The schools that will benefit the most from this funding deal are those which have the neediest students – the same schools with most students getting EMA.

This reform also takes into account the recent creation of a Schoolkids Bonus of $410 a year for primary students and $820 a year for secondary students – which is paid directly to families by the Commonwealth Government.
Cybersafety … continued …

To continue our Cybersafety information articles please find below some information about another common and popular app – Kik. I have also included in today's newsletter a document that provides information on App Ratings, what they mean and how to restrict access to certain apps by rating. We all live in a fast paced, high tech world and to keep our children safe in that world we need to be fully aware of what they are doing online and what the features of the apps they are downloading provide – knowledge is power!

What Is Kik?

Kik is a free mobile messenger app. With this app, kids can text friends who are also using Kik. Kids love Kik because it is more than typing messages. They can add videos and pictures to their text. They can also send Kik cards. These cards let them include YouTube videos, GIFs, or their own drawings in their conversations.

Kik is a fun way to communicate with friends. The problem is some kids share their private Kik username on public social networks. Kids post their Kik username on their Twitter, Instagram or Tumblr pages. Once someone knows their username, anyone can send them a message.

This app is especially popular among younger teens who have a limited texting plan or only an iPod Touch. By downloading this app, they have free messaging. Although a great deal financially, parents should know this app is aimed at older teens.

The new version of Kik is rated +17 in iTunes. With the recent addition of Kik Cards, kids can now share YouTube videos, images, Reddit pics and GIFs, and create sketches. The ability to share any type of content raised its rating from 12+ to 17+.

- **Kik is always on.** Kik does not have a logout button. Kids should make sure they set a strong passcode for their phone or device to protect their account.

- **Deleted messages are still out there.** If kids accidentally send a message they regret, they can delete the message on their end. However, the people included in the conversation still have the message. Once it is out there, it can never be completely erased.

Have a wonderful week …… Mrs Ryan

KidsMatter- Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative

Over the last few days the students have been discussing what it means to be mentally healthy. Here are some ideas that the Little Kids came up with. We think they are terrific and are amazed at what they came up with.

To love one another. To be happy. To have friends and family. To have fun when we are playing and working. To have some time just to think and dream. To be proud when we do something really well. To forgive mistakes. To help one another. To forget about little things that has annoyed us.

All students have been using this theme of ‘what it means to be mentally healthy’ to create artwork for a postcard competition- great prizes are to be awarded. Please find a permission form attached if you consent to the school entering your child’s art work in the KidsMatter competition. Thanks. Diane

Below is the link for all the information regarding the positive postcards campaign —


Also attached to this newsletter is a Parent Permission Form giving consent to the school to enter your child’s art work in the KidsMatter competition.
App Ratings – What they mean and how to Restrict by Rating

One of the parental control features on the iPod touch (and iPad and iPhone) is restriction by content rating. Apps have ratings similar to movie ratings — G, PG, PG-13 and R. You can decide which apps your kids can download from the App store or iTunes based on their rating.

What are the ratings?
Here are descriptions of the ratings, straight out of iTunes.

- **4+** Applications in this category contain no objectionable material.

- **9+** Applications in this category may contain mild or infrequent occurrences of cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence, and infrequent or mild mature, suggestive, or horror-themed content which may not be suitable for children under the age of 9.

- **12+** Applications in this category may also contain infrequent mild language, frequent or intense cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence, and mild or infrequent mature or suggestive themes, and simulated gambling which may not be suitable for children under the age of 12.

- **17+** You must be at least 17 years old to purchase this application. Applications in this category may also contain frequent and intense offensive language; frequent and intense cartoon, fantasy or realistic violence; and frequent and intense mature, horror, and suggestive themes; plus sexual content, nudity, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs which may not be suitable for children under the age of 17.

How do I restrict apps by content rating?
Here are the steps that will prevent your child from downloading apps based on their rating. Note that they will still be able to SEE all the apps in the App store; but the option to download or buy them will be disabled if the rating is higher than what you allow.

1. From the child's iDevice, go to **Settings > General > Restrictions**.

2. If you’ve already set up restrictions, you’ll be prompted for the passcode. If not, choose **Enable Restrictions** and enter a passcode. Be sure to use a **4-digit passcode that you will remember** and your kids will not guess.
3. Scroll down to the heading “Allowed Content”. Click on Apps.

![Image of Restrictions settings]

4. On the “Allow Apps Rated” screen, click the highest rating that you want to allow. For example, in the screenshot above where it is set to 12+, I would click on 9+ to remove the check mark from 12+. The ratings shown in red will not be allowed. At this point you may want to refer to the rating descriptions. Your child’s age and what you are comfortable with will help you decide which to choose. For example even the 9+ rating allows for “mild realistic violence”, so if you are not comfortable with that for your child, choose 4+.

(While you are in restriction settings, you may want to turn off In-App Purchases too.)

5. Once you’ve made your changes, return to the home screen. You may find (and your child will most certainly find) that some apps they had previously loaded are nowhere to be found! If they had previously installed a game rated 9+ and you set restrictions for 4+, that game is no longer accessible.

Other sources for finding apps for kids

If you are in doubt about whether an app is right for your child, check Be Web Smart online for a review. Some other sites you can try:

- **Common Sense Media App Reviews** - Common Sense media is a very helpful site for, well, common sense reviews! Their app reviews suggest an appropriate age range as well as a quality rating. I didn’t find a review for Bakery Story, but did find a review of Fashion Story, by the same developer. While Fashion story is rated 4+ in the App store, Common Sense recommends it for age 9 and older.

- **Moms with Apps** – On the Moms with Apps website, they list a number of app review sites on their Appreciation page.
IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST
Wednesday 14th  PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEW DAY
Thursday 15th  ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Multi-skills
              SCHOOL COUNCIL—6.00 pm
Friday 16th  LOTE
            CLUBS

MONDAY 19th  SPECIAL LUNCH DAY—Build-your-own TACOS

Tuesday 20th  DRAMA / MUSIC
              BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES
              ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Cricket
Thursday 22nd  ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Multi-skills
              BSE MUSIC INFORMATION (Grade 6 students)
Friday 23rd  LOTE
            CLUBS

27th August—September 4th—SOMERS CAMP (four of our students attending)

Tuesday 27th  DRAMA / MUSIC
              ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Cricket
Thursday 29th  ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Multi-skills
Friday 30th  LOTE
            CLUBS

SEPTEMBER
Monday 2nd  ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Cricket
Tuesday 3rd  MELBOURNE EXCURSION (whole school)
Thursday 5th  ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—Multi-skills
Friday 6th  LOTE
            CLUBS

PLEASE NOTE—
PLAYGROUP is CANCELLED this week (Wednesday 14th) due to Parent /Teacher Interviews
Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week ...

◊ Ellie for working very well in class
◊ Sam for always being a happy and well mannered member of our Grade 3/4 class
◊ Jordan for being a kind and helpful member of our school
◊ Values Award—Responsibility—Will
◊ Values Award—Responsibility—River

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

• In class Jaiden fell over Sam and Joe was caring and asked Sam if he was ok (Jazz)
• Jessie for helping me pack my lunch box up when it fell down (Kobi)
• Nikiah helped Abby get organised by putting her things away for her when she arrived late to school (Jackie H)
• Great effort by all in getting the Sensory Garden built and beautified (Meredith)

BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES – Tuesday 20th August

Book Week is held nationally across Australia every year and is a time to celebrate books and authors. The theme this year is ‘Read Across the Universe’. To celebrate Book Week we will be holding a ‘bring your favourite book from home to share’ session on Tuesday morning followed by an afternoon of activities centred around the Children’s Book Council of Australia nominated books for 2013. Students will then be placed into cross age groups where they will rotate around three different activities centred around these books.

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE—The Challenge finishes in early September and I need all books to be recorded by Wednesday 4th September to ensure I have enough time to verify them on the system. Unfortunately I will be unable to access the system from September 12th. Congratulations to those that have completed and for those that are still reading keep up the great work. … Mrs Lindhe

PARENT CLUB MEETINGS

• Monday, 19th August—9.15 am in the old school building
• Friday, 13th September—12.30 pm at Axedale Tavern for lunch

AVAILABLE—GOLD COAST RESORT VOUCHERS $20.00 EACH

VARIOUS RESORTS & DEALS: EXAMPLE - $169 TO PAY FOR 2 ADULTS, 4 NIGHTS (CHILDREN $15 EXTRA PER NIGHT). FULLY TRANSFERABLE – MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

For further details please see Marie in the office.

SPECIAL LUNCH DAY—MONDAY 19TH AUGUST—Build-your-own TACOS—$3.00 for 2 Tacos

Fillings include … meat sauce, taco sauce, tomato, lettuce, cheese
Orders and money must be returned to school by Friday 16th August
Our school will be used as a **POLLING VENUE** on this day and we plan to take the opportunity to hold some fundraising events ....

- Sausage Sizzle
- Tea & Coffee Stall
- Plant Stall (calling all gardeners to pot cuttings and plants for this stall)
- Cake Stall (disposal plates & bags will be sent home—all ingredient must be listed and **NO Cream**)
- Memorabilia Stall

We will be asking for families to volunteer an hour or two to man/woman the stalls

We are also considering hiring out tables for a market stall to outside vendors. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested, please contact the school.

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**TRIVIA NIGHT THANK YOU ...**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Trivia Night, we hope you had a great time.

I have a few extra ‘thank yous’ which weren’t mentioned in last week’s newsletter.

**THANK YOU TO:**

- Deb Lee (Barnard) for the loan of the tables.
- Kevin Reade for the loan of the chairs.
- BUNNINGS for donation of Tool kit.
- STRATHFIELDSAYE IGA for donation of coin toss prize.
- BRAIDIES TAVERN for donation of Meal voucher.
- ROSE WILD for donation of two Babysitting vouchers.
- JACKIE HEBBLE’s Father for donation of woodwork prizes for our raffle.
- JACKIE, NIKKI, JAZZ, ABBY & HARMONY for helping to set up.
- JASON for picking up tables and returning them and for helping to pack up.
PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS
Private lessons are held every Tuesday at Eppalock Primary School
Guitar lessons—Vocal lessons—Bass lessons
For more information, please contact
Mel on 0430 042 405
Email: sina_rox@hotmail.com

Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

In 2001 (over 12 years ago), the Government introduced the ‘Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

HAVE YOU MISSED OUT ON THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS?

If your child was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has now put a deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au to receive more information.
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, the U.S.A, South America and Japan will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

AXE CREEK PLAYGROUP
Wednesday morning 9.00 am—11.00 am
Eppalock Primary School (old school building),
149 Patons Road, Axe Creek.
All welcome—morning tea and activities provided

THE PALE ALTERNATIVE
Installation by Melanie Erin Power
OPENING NIGHT
15th August 2013, 7.00 pm—9.00 pm
At Chonk Gallery, 97 Bridge Street, Bendigo
Open until 29th August
Wednesday—Friday 1 pm—6 pm
Saturday—Sunday 11 am—3 pm