Dear Parents,

Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families as well as our returning families to the 2015 school year at Thomastown Meadows. We have had an extremely smooth start to the year with our new Preps settling in as if they had always been here. Every year I am very pleased with the confidence levels of our Prep students. All of the children are looking fresh in their school uniforms and are well equipped with new supplies. I would like to thank families for their prompt payment for book packs. This really helps us with our financial commitments. We are looking forward to this being a fantastic year at Thomastown Meadows!

Parent Association

Parent Association is a group of dedicated parents who do a lot of work around the school including selling icy poles and fundraising. They hold a monthly meeting, the first of which is on Tuesday 10th February at 9:00am in the staffroom. Parent Association members are a very friendly bunch, who are always looking to welcome new members from our school community. Without the support of many people, the Parent Association has difficulty conducting the activities they do as it then falls to only a few very dedicated and willing (but overworked) people. Everything that the Parent Association does has the children of our school at the heart of it. They want your children to have the best. I would encourage you, especially our new parents, to come along and be part of this wonderful group.

Icypoles

In Terms 1 & 4, our Parent Association sell icypoles to our students. These sales occur on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Icypole sales can only occur if we have sufficient volunteers to do the selling. You do not have to be a member of Parent Association to sell icypoles, you only have to be a willing worker with a couple of hours to spare on one of the days, who does not mind getting sticky!

If you would like to be a regular volunteer on one of the days, please leave your name at the office. We cannot begin icypole sales until we have a full complement of volunteers.

School Council

School Council is the governing body of our school, whose members are elected. The first meeting of School Council will be on Thursday 26th February at 7:00pm in the staffroom. Even if you are not a member of School Council, you are welcome to come and observe the meeting. I would encourage you to do this, especially new members of our school community, to see what happens at School Council. Later this month we will be conducting School Council elections where we will be asking for nominations to join the council. Attending a meeting would help to inform you, if you considering nominating as a member of School Council.

Continued Page 2
Principals message continued.

Playgroup

Again this year we will have a playgroup operating at our school. This will be on Thursdays at 9:00am in Room 17 beginning next Thursday 12th February. Brooke will again be facilitating the sessions. The playgroup was very popular last year with a large core of regular attendees.

If you, a neighbour or a friend has a pre-school aged child you are more than welcome to come and join the group. You do not have to have a child attending our school. There is no cost for attendance. The playgroup is lots of fun for children and is a great way for parents to form new friendships within our school. Please join us if you can!

Safety with Cars

With the beginning of the new school year I need to remind you of car safety in the area surrounding our school. When dropping off and picking up students, you should:

- allow plenty of time to drop off and pick up your child so that you are calm and relaxed, not in a rush
- respect the speed limits around the school grounds
- respect the parking signs – never double park near the school as this just causes more congestion and makes it unsafe for everyone
- respect all road rules, especially talking or texting on a mobile phone whilst driving, as this can easily distract you
- look out for other children and be aware that they may run across the road in front of you without warning.
- always keep the children’s crossing near the school clear, as blocking the crossing makes it difficult for other children to see the road and cross safely

let your child know that if you’re running a few minutes late picking them up from school, they should stay in the school playground with a teacher until you arrive.

Robyn Baker - Principal

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday the 10th of February is “Safer Internet Day”. This day is to promote safer and more responsible use of online technologies, especially among children and young people across the world. The phrase for this years Safer Internet Day is “Let’s create a better internet together”.

We all have a role to play in helping to keep our children safe whilst online. Here at Thomastown Meadows Primary School we do our best to ensure that we are keeping our students safe by:

- including cyber safety content into our curriculum
- Providing students with strategies and tools to protect themselves from online dangers
- Setting expectations of student computer behaviours at the beginning of each year through our student Computer code of Conduct
- Continuing the process of becoming an eSmart school to be proactive against cyberbullying
- Monitoring computer usage of all students within out school

If you would like more information on what you can do to help keep your children safe on the internet, you can find information for parents at the following websites:

Bully Stoppers

If we work together we will hopefully be able to make everyday “Safer Internet Day”

Raema Barker - ICT Coordinator
CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE STAFF IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS, HOME/MOBILE NUMBERS.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR CHILD’S INFORMATION UP TO DATE SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN HURT OR BECOMES ILL...

Thank you, Office Staff

ICE TUBES!!!

ICE TUBES WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS TERM. PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

If we don’t get any volunteers we will have to cancel the sale of Ice Tubes. We need more helpers for Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

If you can spare an hour between 1:15pm - 2:15pm on any of the days please call the office on 9466 1322 or call in when you collect your children. Office Staff

Shorter Hours for 2015 Preps

Shorter working hours for the first few weeks have been shown to make it easier for children to adjust to school.

Dismissal times:

- 1:30pm until 27th February
- 3:30pm from Monday 2nd March onwards.

Please do not be late to pick up your child. This causes them a lot of stress.

It is also important that your child arrives at school on time in the mornings. Arriving late to school is disruptive to the whole class, including your child, and develops a bad habit.

Thank you, Prep Teachers

Sun Smart

Just a reminder to parents that we are a SunSmart School. To qualify as a SunSmart School students are expected to totally cover their heads, ears and neck.

School hats are available from the office for $7.00.

Students who do not have a hat are required to sit at a designated shady spot during play times and also cannot participate in their weekly PE session or Sport times.
TERM DATES FOR 2015

Term 1 28th January 2015 (Staff Return)

29th January 2015 (Pupil Free Day)

30th January 2015 (Grades 1-6 commence school—Friday)

2nd February 2015 (Preps commence—9.30am—Monday)

To 27th March 2015

Term 2 13th April to 26th June 2015

Term 3 13th July to 18th September 2015

Term 4 5th October to 18th December 2015