



27-33 Yana Street (P.O. Box 1109) Swan Hill, Vic. 3585
Phone: (03) 5032 3683 ~ Fax: (03) 5033 1886 ~ Email: swan.hill.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: Graeme Scoberg

Issue 03.08 13th February 2008

Wednesday	School Banking
Thursday	NO CANTEEN this week
	Swimming Program Room 1 & 2 -----3 rd -14 th March Room 3 & 4 -----18 th -29 th February Room 5, 6 & 7 -----4 th - 15 th February
Mondays & Thursdays	Active After School ----3pm- 4.30pm (After school) 11 th Feb Start ---FREE <u>NONE TOMORROW</u>
20 th February	Parents Club Meeting, 10.00am- at school
29 th February	Sunnies for Sight Day
Thursday March 13th	Swimming Carnival- Nyah Pool

Principal's Report

Reminder that tomorrow the 14th February, the school will be affected by teachers taking stop work action. Members of the Australian Education Union are stopping work as a result of no agreement being reached for a Certified Agreement covering class sizes, work load and pay rates.

Graeme

Parents Club Report

Meeting

Next meeting 20th Feb, 10.00am at school.

Fundraising for 2007

Catering \$5292.83
Easter Raffle \$718.30
Football Tipping \$244.00
Mothers Day \$549.00
Trivia Night \$2694.38
Fashion Parade \$1370.75
Christmas Hamper \$288.10
Chocolate Drive \$2178.70

Total \$13336.06

What a fantastic year!
Congratulations and thank you to all who assisted in any way to this incredible total.

\$10,000 went to the Therapy Pool and our Parent's Club provide the school hat for our Students. The remaining funds have been carried over to this year.

School Bags

The new school bags have arrived and are now available from the office or can be purchased by filling out the attached order form.

Pauline Wynne
Secretary

**No Active After School
Program
Tomorrow
Thursday
14th February, 2008**

Swimming Program

Rooms 3 & 4 will be swimming over the next 2 weeks.

If we have any parent volunteers who are able to assist in our program please let the school know on 50323683.

You Can Do It

Section One

Connor G is our Section One You Can Do It award winner for this week.

Connor received his award because of his confidence with his reading and for being an excellent role model to the new students. Excellent work, Connor, Keep it up.

Section Three

Kaylah G is our Section Three, You Can Do It award winner for this week.

Kaylah worked very hard during the swimming program and made excellent progress.

Well done, Kaylah. Keep it up.

Before School

Bill P has had a wonderful start to the year. Bill received this week's Before School award for his good behaviour on the bus and at school before the other students arrive.

Well done, Bill.

Healthy Value

Toby B is our Healthy Values winner for this week. Toby has had a great start to the year and has settled very well into class routine.

Congratulations, Toby.

PE Award

students participating in the home reading program each night. A tally will be kept of reading nights and certificates given out along the way.

Congratulations to Justin G. Justin is our PE award winner. Justin received this award for his enthusiasm during Huff 'n' Puff sessions and at Advanced Sport. Good work, Justin.

Music Award

Although we have not yet started the cooking program we have had a bit of a practice run. Mrs Hammond cooked up a storm with a scrumptious batch of fluffy pancakes. Students enjoyed eating them with jam and lashings of butter. This year Room 3 students will participate in a wide variety of learning activities

Lukas R is this week's Music Award winner. Lukas has progressed already this year as a result of his good listening and 'have a go' attitude. Well done, Lukas. Keep up the good work.

Room 3 News

Room 3 began the year on a positive note. We were very happy to see the return of Lachlan G to Room 3 this year. This year we will again set a reading challenge for Room 3 students, with all

including Art, PE, Huff n Puff, Sensory art and Advanced Sport as well as our everyday literacy and numeracy work.



Dear Members,

Next Swan Hill Parents Support Group
Meeting is on Thursday 14th February
At 7.00pm for dinner
At the Swan Pasta Inn,
Campbell St, Swan Hill

Agenda

Special Guest:-

Tasha Frame

From the Swan Hill Specialist School

RSVP ASAP for numbers

Thanks,

Pauline Wynne

Group Leader

5030 2156

It should be a busy but enjoyable year which we are all looking forward to.

Bus Levy

At the November School Council meeting, it was resolved to increase the cost of the Bus Levy from \$60.00 to \$80.00. This is a community access levy and money collected is used solely for the maintenance, fuel and running costs of the school buses. .

The buses are used daily by all classrooms so that students can participate in a variety of different programs, such as shopping, going to the Library, swimming, workskills, etc. Unfortunately the school does not receive any financial assistance from the Department of Education to assist with the costs of running buses.

This levy is not school fees. Swan Hill Specialist School does not charge students any fees to attend this school. It would be appreciated if all families could pay our bus levy and as stated in last week's and this week's newsletter that if you receive EMA, the allowance may be used to pay for this year's school bus levy.

Grow "n" Glow Canteen

There will be NO Canteen tomorrow.

Glow 'n' Grow Canteen will commence the week after next when Vicki (Our Canteen Co-ordinator) and Room 5 have completed their swimming program.

Cost for a healthy lunch will be \$4.00.

School Bags

The new school bags have arrived and they look great. The cost of the bag is \$26.00. You are welcome to call into the office to view/purchase the bags at any time or fill in the attached purchase slip.

Swan Hill Junior Soccer League



Registrations for Swan Hill Junior Soccer League competition open on 21st February and close on 13th March 2008. No late entries accepted.

All players who are interested in playing must register and if they are new to the association they must also provide a photocopy of their birth certificate. Registrations need to be signed by either a parent or guardian.

Players will be able to register between 4.30 - 7.00 pm at the Harrison Sporting Ground clubrooms with the following playing fees also required at the time of registering.

\$90.00 1st child \$80.00 2nd child
\$70.00 3rd and subsequent child/ren
from the same family.

Enquiries to Kylie Bailey – Registration Officer 5037 6962

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being called for this year's School Council.

Nomination forms are available from the general office and should be completed and returned to school by 4.00pm on Friday the 29th February

We ask you to please consider joining School Council and play a part in key decision making which helps to shape the direction of our school. No experience is required, just an interest in the education of your children and other children attending our school. Parent members provide School Council with a parent perspective. Any parent who takes an active interest in their child's education has the knowledge to fill this role.

The commitment is not huge - just one meeting per month (2nd Tuesday of each month) of approximately 1 ½ hours. The role is most satisfying as councillors get to see their ideas put into practice and have a positive impact on students, teachers and parents in our school community.

School Council Elections 2008

What is a school council and what does it do?

All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within Departmental provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

• **A mandated elected Parent Category.**

More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

• **A mandated elected DEECD Employee Category.**

Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

• **An optional Community Member Category.**

Members of this category are

co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that

can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying

in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year.

However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are

positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council

- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent Category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are **not** employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the timeframe

stated on the Notice of Election Schedule.

You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt

in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Active After School

We had a successful first session on Monday where we used our new pool for the first time with 13 of our students. It is great to see so many varied ages of students

involved in this program. Thank you to all the parents who support this program. Judging by the noise and activity level on Monday the program is a huge success.

Due to the strike on Thursday there will be no program on this day.

A reminder that students need to bring their bathers and a towel to both the Monday and Thursday sessions for Active After School Program this term. We provide the healthy afternoon tea, the fun and the supervision.

Advanced Sport

Attached to this newsletter is a yearly outline of what our Advanced Sport students will be doing throughout the year. 27 students are involved in this program. Could parents please return the payment slip ASAP.

Swan Hill Specialist School Payment Slip

ف Bus Levy (Community Access) \$80.00

ف Swimming \$35.00

ف I am an EMA Recipient and will use EMA to fund the above payments.

ف School Bag (EMA CANNOT be used to pay for school bags.) \$26.00

Student's Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

RDA Riding Develops Ability Expression of Interest

I would like my child to be part of the RDA program for 2008; I understand the costs and paperwork involved.

I also understand that students are selected for this program on the basis of individual needs and the horses available.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

SWAN HILL SPECIALIST SCHOOL

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE IN 2008

Dear Parent,

RE: CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2008:

The Department of Education makes available each year a conveyance allowance to parents/carers who transport their child/children to school or to a bus stop to catch a recognised school bus.

Parents/carers who have not claimed a conveyance form in the past and transport their child/children to a bus stop by car are required to complete an application form.

Please complete the form attached and return to school TOMORROW as the Department requires this information by the end of the week.

Unlike other government schools there is no minimum distance requirement for Specialist Schools but parents/carers must demonstrate that they transport their child/children to a bus stop by car daily.

If you are unsure if you qualify for this allowance please contact Anne Webb at school on 50323683.

PARENTS/CARERS WHO CLAIMED A CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE IN 2007 DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE A CLAIM FORM FOR 2008

Rates:

Less than 4.8km to 10km	\$450.00 per annum
10-15km	\$550.00 per annum
15-20km	\$650.00 per annum
20-25km	\$750.00 per annum
25-30km	\$850.00 per annum
30km-35km	\$950.00 per annum
35km -	\$1050.00 per annum

Application

For Conveyance Allowance Students attending a Special Setting

Deaf Facility, English Language School/Centre/Unit, Language Unit, Secondary Teaching Unit, Social Adjustment Unit, Social Integration Unit, Special School, Special Developmental School

<p>1. Before completing this form, please refer to guidelines and information on the reverse side.</p> <p>2. Complete the form and return to the school/centre/unit attended.</p> <p>3. Attach additional documentation where applicable.</p> <p>4. Identify travel cost calculations on reverse side.</p> <p>NOTE: Claimants to complete all sections except Section F. To be eligible for a conveyance allowance a student must attend the area designated special setting or statewide/regional provider for which travel has been approved by the regional general manager (schools).</p> <p>There are no distance requirements for the use of public transport or private transport to a special school or special developmental school.</p> <p>A distance requirement of 4.8 km applies for private transport to all other special settings.</p> <p>Full advantage must be taken of fare concessions that are available when using public transport.</p> <p>The payment of the conveyance allowance is subject to audit. The School/Centre/Unit is to retain all documentation for a minimum period of six years.</p>
--

A STUDENT INFORMATION:

please use BLOCK LETTERS

<i>Student Name:</i>		<i>Date of Birth:</i>	
<i>Residential Address:</i>		<i>Postcode:</i>	
		<i>Phone NO:</i>	
<i>Date student is to commence travel:</i>			
<i>Date student is to complete travel:</i>			

B APPLICANT INFORMATION:

<i>Name Parent/Guardian:</i>	<i>Mr/Mrs/Ms:</i>		
<i>Residential or Postal Address:</i>		<i>Postcode:</i>	
		<i>Phone No:</i>	

C SCHOOL/CENTRE/UNIT FOR WHICH CONVEYANCE IS TO APPLY:

<i>School/Centre/Unit name:</i>		<i>School/Centre No:</i>	
<i>School/Centre/Unit address:</i>		<i>Postcode:</i>	
		<i>Phone No:</i>	
<i>Distance of place of residence to centre for which conveyance is to apply</i>		<i>Km:</i>	

E ELIGIBILITY TO TRAVEL CERTIFICATION:

<p>* Particulars noted on this form are true and correct.</p> <p>* The special setting attended is the area designated setting or statewide/regional provider for which travel has been approved by the regional manager (schools).</p> <p>* Parents are to notify any changed circumstances within seven days.</p>	<p><i>Signed Parent/Guardian:</i></p> <p><i>Date:</i></p>
<p><i>Signed head of school/centre/unit:</i></p>	<p><i>Date:</i></p>