Friday 14/3 Uniform shop opens from 8.30am-9.30am.
Please note from 8.45 - 9.00am it will be closed due to staff photos
Friday 14/3 Year 1 Activity - Community Walk, Endeavour Hills
Friday 14/3 Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting, 2.30pm
Friday 14/3 Online bookings open at 9.00am Parent/Student Interviews
Friday 14/3 Staff Photo/Year 6 Group Photo
Monday 17/3 Year 1 Exc - 1BE/1LH/half of 1BR, Casey Safety Village
Tuesday 18/3 Year 1 Exc - 1IW/1NC/half of 1BR, Casey Safety Village
Tuesday 18/3 School Council Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm
Thursday 20/3 Online Parent/Student Interviews bookings close at 4.00pm
Friday 21/3 Harmony Day. Students can dress up in orange clothing to
celebrate the occasion and festivities, gold coin donation
Monday 24/3 Parent Teacher/Student Interviews – 3.50pm-7.30pm
Tuesday 25/3 Parent Teacher/Student Interviews – 3.50pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 26/3 Prep Activity- ‘Marvellous Me’ Interactive Production at TMPS
Thursday 27/3 4CM/4DH Excursion to Coal Creek Community Park, Korumburra
Friday 28/3 Last day for Yr5 Coonawarra Camp Deposit
Friday 28/3 4BS, 4HP, 4JT Excursion to Coal Creek Community Park, Korumburra

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

TIMES OF DUTY AT SCHOOL
Parents are reminded that teachers are on duty from 8.45am each morning and until 3.45pm each afternoon. Students who are at school outside these times are NOT supervised.

NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL
The following parents and staff have been appointed to our school council:

Parent Members Magdaline Goh, Andrea Lew, Michael Vekic, Jennifer Wallace

Staff Members Giselle Cassar, Jennifer Churcher

Council now comprises the following members:

Parent Members Magdaline Goh, Andrea Lew, Jason Jurrijens, Keetha Rajavel, Diane Tsagazones, Michael Vekic, Jennifer Wallace

Staff Members Kathie Arnold, Giselle Cassar, Jennifer Churcher, Tracey Etherington

Executive Officer John Hurley
**Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews**

These will be held on Monday 24th March, 3.50pm to 7.30pm and Tuesday 25th March from 3.50pm-6.00pm. Attached to this newsletter are instructions for making online bookings. Parents are encouraged to go online and make a booking or contact their child’s class teacher to arrange a time. These meetings are a very important part of your child’s education.

John Hurley, Principal

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**Notices Sent Home This Week**

- Year 5 Camp – Coonawarra Farm Resort
- Year 4 Excursion – Coal Creek Community Park
- School Interviews Online Booking Information
- Harmony Day Celebrations – 21st March 2014

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**2014 International Competitions & Assessment for Schools (ICAS) (Formerly Known as University of NSW) Competition – Years 2 – 6 as Indicated Below**

Thomas Mitchell Primary School will be offering the following competitions this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
<th>Close of entries &amp; payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 20th May</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th June</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Mon 16th – Fri 20th June</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th June</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th July</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>2 – 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th August</td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These competitions will be held from May to August. To enable us to process student’s entry fees and submit their names, entries will close on **Friday 28th March**. Unfortunately because of strict timelines set by the N.S.W University, **late entries cannot be accepted**.

Please return to school with correct money by Friday 28th March, 2014.

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**Uniform Shop Trading Days – Term 1**

**EVERY FRIDAY MORNING 8.30AM TO 9.30AM:**
14th, 21st, 28th March
4th April – Last Day of Term 1
**EACH 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY AFTERNOON 3.00PM – 4.00PM**
18th March, 1st April
**EFTPOS & Credit Card facility available (Minimum transaction of $15)**
SPORTS NEWS

TMPS CROSS COUNTRY

The date has been set for our annual TMPS Cross Country! This year it will run over two days. Year 4-6 students will participate on March 24th during sessions 5 & 6 and Prep- Year 3 students will participate on Friday 28th March during sessions 1 & 2. Parents and guardians are most welcome to come along to watch and encourage the children on the day. Teachers will be given all information in the coming week, for any questions in the meantime please see Miss Goder.

DIVISIONAL SWIMMING

On the 12th March we had 16 TMPS students represent the Endeavour Hills District at the divisional swimming competition. Congratulations to all 16 students for making it into the team and an extra well done to Jeremy H, Joy G, Emily K, Alissa Y and Adhya K who were all place getters on the day. Well done to all!

Divisional Swimming Carnival - Noble Park Swimming Pool

HOUSE POINTS

Well done to all students who have been earning house points. Every point makes a difference and there is a big opportunity to earn extra points during the school Cross Country! Here is a reminder as to how the house points system works:

- Sports captains collect all house points on a Friday afternoon.
- They tally ALL of the points to see which house has finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.
- Houses then receive the following points: 1st = 100 points, 2nd = 50 points, 3rd = 20 points & 4th = 10 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>Bradman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results from Week 7 Term 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>Bradman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total House Point Results for 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freeman (Blue)</td>
<td>Fraser (Orange)</td>
<td>Perkins (Green)</td>
<td>Bradman (Red)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Olivia Goder, Physical Education Teacher
**PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE 2014**

The 2014 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is on again and Thomas Mitchell Primary School encourages all students to take part. The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is a great way to get students reading and talking about books. Students can discuss book lists with their friends to find out what they’re reading and what’s worth reading. The Challenge also encourages students to push themselves to read as many books as they can.

Students in Prep to Year 2 who accept the Challenge need to re-ad or 'experience' 30 books during this period. (This means books can be read to these students as well). Students in Years 3 to 6 who accept the Challenge, must read 15 books during this period.

Students must choose most of their books from the Challenge book list, and record their reading online. Consent forms must be signed and returned to the school by FRIDAY 20th June. Spare copies are available from the office. The school will enrol students and issue them with a password and user name. This is used by students to logon to the website and record what they have read.

The Thomas Mitchell Library Resource Centre has hundreds of books from the Challenge list, so it is easy for them to find books to borrow and read. Further information is available from the Library. The Library is open before and after school if any parents wish to find out more details.

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

Thank you to the year 6 students and parents for their patience whilst the printing on some Year 6 windcheaters was repaired. The suppliers have completed all requested repairs and they were returned to students last Tuesday 11th March.

*Please note tomorrow morning from 8.45am - 9.00am the uniform shop will be closed due to staff photos.*

**2nd Hand Uniform Sale**

The school is having a 2nd Hand Uniform sale on Tuesday 29th April 2014.

**FOR THE BUYERS**

Sale times will be: 8.30-9.30am

Please note it is **cash sales only**. No EFTPOS, credit card or cheques can be accepted.

**FOR THE SELLERS**

If you have items to sell, please wash and forward them to school prior to Friday 4th April (last day of term 1). We will not be able to receive any items after this date. Please ensure you complete the attached form and return this with your garments. We will price each item according to condition and sell them on your behalf.
Please note only school uniform approved pants, logo shirts, tops and hats will be accepted and they must be in a reasonable condition. If any of your items are sold, you will receive a note shortly after the sale day advising you to collect the money from school. Any unsold items will be retained, donated or returned according to your indication on the form provided with this newsletter. Please telephone Sally Opie at school if you have any questions. Sally Opie, Uniform Shop Coordinator.

OSHC OPEN DAY, 28th MARCH, 2014

We will be having an open day on the 28th of March from 8.00 am onwards. There will be lots of free activities, prizes and a chance for you to meet the staff and find out more about our service. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult if they are not booked in to attend the normal session at before school care.

The OSHC service number is 0402 728 789.

Janice 😊
PARENTS’ CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – PARENTS’ CLUB

Tomorrow, Friday 14th March at 2.30pm in the staffroom we will be holding our Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting. We’d like to see as many of our families come along. We welcome and encourage anyone to bring new ideas, fresh approaches and help be part of a committee that promotes the community spirit within the school.

At the AGM, all office bearing positions will become vacant and will be opened up for election. Please consider nominating for the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. No prior experience is necessary.

Please note your attendance at our meetings does not ‘commit’ you to an ongoing role. If you are available for only a short period of time, or wish to assist just for one fundraiser, your participation will be valued. Every little bit counts towards your child’s educational environment.

EASTER RAFFLE!!

Remember to get your tickets in for our Easter Raffle. Tickets cost just 50c each or 10 tickets for $4!!! Please be sure to put your name, class & contact phone number on the LEFT HAND SIDE OF EACH TICKET. All tickets sold need to be returned to the school by no later than Tuesday 1st April.

The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 2nd April and prizes will be distributed on that day. Extra ticket booklets are also available at the front office.

DONATIONS FOR THE RAFFLE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND CAN BE LEFT AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THANK YOU!

STUDENT BANKING

The new reward system for 2014 is now fully operational! A new Deep Sea Savers theme has been introduced, with all new rewards. A sample of each new reward will be held at the school office if anyone wishes to view them. Information packs are also available at the office for anyone who wishes to sign up for Student Banking. It’s a great way to help with school fundraising, while teaching your child the importance of saving at the same time!

Rewards available for redemption in Term 1 are a Handball or Scented Pencils.
Next week we will be drawing and pasting to make a funny face picture.

The school runs a Playgroup for 0-5 year olds each Thursday morning in the Prep Rooms near our school gym. Please ask for directions from the school office if you are unsure.

Fun activities are held at playgroup such as playdough, painting, pasting, stories, music, singing and games just to name a few. Please bring a snack for your child and a gold coin donation. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents of children attending the school and for your younger children to meet other children who may be joining the school in the future.

Feel free to bring a friend, or if you know someone with younger children who would like to join this group please let them know.

Hope to see you next Thursday.

Jenny Wallace, Playgroup Coordinator

FRUSTRATED BY LOST CLOTHING? SICK OF SEARCHING THROUGH LOST PROPERTY?

Name labels on clothing are a great way to ensure any lost items are returned to your child. Any clothing found that is not named will be placed in our Lost Property.

Labels are available for purchase online and twenty percent of all sales will be donated to the school.

You can view the range of labels available by logging onto www.nametapes.com.au
Labels can be ordered online or by calling the toll free number 1800 020 204.

When placing an order online, please enter TMPS in the Fundraising field of the Nametapes Shopping Cart.

Brochures are available from the school office and uniform shop.
Please return this form with the goods for sale to the school.

Family Name: ..............................  Child’s Name: ....................... Class: ..............
(Please Print Clearly)

Items submitted for sale (Must be school uniform pants, logo on tops, hats etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>ITEM OF CLOTHING</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Use Only</td>
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- All items have been washed and placed in a plastic bag prior to delivery to school.  
- I acknowledge the school will attempt to sell my uniform items at a cost based on condition of quality. (Each article will be inspected and priced according to quality)
- I acknowledge the school will retain $1.00 per item as sales commission. This amount will be deducted from the money due to me from sales.

Please choose one of the following items only (tick relevant box):

- I would like to donate these items if not sold at the sale
- Please retain any unsold items for next sale (to be held each term)
- Please return unsold items if not sold at this sale

Signature: _______________________________  Contact Phone No: ________________
SEAL Opportunity for Current Year 6 Students 2014 (Year 7 Students in 2015)
Gleneagles Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL)

Gleneagles Secondary College is one of 36 schools accredited to offer Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL) in Victoria. One SEAL class of 25 students is offered at each Year level from Year 7 to 10.

The SEAL program provides an opportunity for high potential students to undertake a challenging, concept-based curriculum in the company of like-minded peers. Instruction is designed to stimulate and inspire this highly motivated group, and emphasis is placed on developing creativity, independent inquiry and research skills.

SEAL students complete the same subjects as other students in the year level but curriculum delivery is differentiated to provide faster paced instruction and minimal repetition. The concepts explored in class are often more complex, abstract and challenging.

Entry into the SEAL program is via formal testing and interviews. To be eligible for the Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program, students need to apply and complete the selection process.

Prospective students and parents are encouraged to attend:

SEAL INFORMATION NIGHT (FOR YEAR 7 2015 STUDENTS)
TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL 2014, 7.00PM
GLENEAGLES SECONDARY COLLEGE, THE SHED

Come along and hear more about the program and collect an application package. No booking required. All family members welcome.

For further details, please visit the Gleneagles website:

http://www.gleneagles.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-process/ or contact the SEAL Manager, Julie Mullins on Tel 9708 1319 or email gleneagles.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Applications close for Year 7, 2015 SEAL program on midday on Tuesday, 29th April 2014.

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Monday 24th March (3:50 - 7:30pm) and Tuesday 25th March (3:50pm - 6:00pm). Some teachers have times available outside of these dates, which will be made available to you when you log in.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.

Bookings open – Friday 14th March at 9am
Bookings close – Thursday 20th March at 4pm

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Enter THIS school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don't have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend's house or on their phones, administration staff will be able to assist you with your booking from Monday 17th March onwards.

Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require, or phone the school on 9706 2254.

When booking an appointment with a specialist teacher please indicate the class your child is in.

Interviews are strictly 10mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 9706 2254.

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the 'contact us' button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.
Thomas Mitchell students will be participating in Harmony Day celebrations on Friday the 21st of March.

participating in Harmony Day celebrations on Friday the 21st of March.

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

Students are allowed to dress in ORANGE on the day (The Harmony Day colour). A gold coin donation on the day will be collected to go towards San Isidro School in Bohol, Philippines.

We also encourage students on the day to bring a story to share to celebrate their cultural identity or history. This may be a photo, a story book, a special artefact, a cultural dress, a family member or a prepared story that has been passed down.

For more information on Harmony Day you can visit:
- www.harmony.gov.au

We would like to congratulate the winners and the runners up of our Harmony Day Poster Competition:

P-2 Winner: Charlotte B 2HB
P-2 Runner-up: Umi W PMS
3 & 4 Winner: Laya L 4HP
3 & 4 Runner-up: Kai X 3JC
5 & 6 Winner: Annie W 6RQ
5 & 6 Runner-up: Resi S 6RQ

Well done to everyone who entered the competition. We were inundated with many outstanding posters. It was good to see the efforts, everyone put into creating the posters and delivering messages of cultural diversity and harmony. The winning posters will be displayed around the school and a selection of outstanding posters will also be displayed outside rooms 7 and 6. Well done everyone!

A big thank you to Miss Byers for organising the competition.

We look forward to a great day of celebrating cultural diversity and harmony.

Wasantha Ramanayake and Renee Bilston
Johnny Raath

Q: Why did you come to Australia?

A: Well the atmosphere in South Africa was tense. Many people felt alienated in our own country. After Nelson Mandela came into power many changes happened, as a result we felt insecure about the future for our children. As poverty and unemployment rose and social problems increased, the farmers who produced the food for the nation were murdered every day.

By Dilhan Simsek 6CH
Dasha’s Story

Dasha was born in Moscow, Russia and lived there until she was 5 years old. Dasha lived in a flat, her home was on the 6th floor. Lots of people didn’t have cars so trains were used a lot. Life in Moscow was becoming unstable. Terrorists were bombing trains and many people died.

Dasha’s family decided to leave for Australia. They wanted a better life.

Life in Australia was different. Dasha went to many schools and studied hard in English.

Dasha loves her life in Australia and wishes that she’ll have a successful future.

Kwiciwos’s Story

Kwiciwos is from Sudan. She left her country because there was war there.

Kwiciwos’s dad left first to Libya and left his family behind.

Then Kwiciwos and her family went to Libya and joined.

They then went to Australia together.

They liked Australia so much, they even decided to become