FROM THE PRINCIPAL

ACCIDENTS AT SCHOOL AND INSURANCE
We have been advised by the Education Department to inform parents that any costs incurred by students for accidents at school, including the cost of ambulance transport, must be at the expense of parents. The school and/or the Education Department will not be responsible for costs or medical treatment.

Parents would be aware that we provide the very best health care that we can for students with our wonderful school nurse – Nurse Anthea. There is no charge for this service, except that parents are requested to help us pay at the start of the year.

MONDAY 10TH MARCH – PUBLIC HOLIDAY – LABOUR DAY
A reminder that next Monday, 10th March is a holiday. There is no school on this day.

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.

SWIMMING STARS!
Congratulations to all the students who represented TMPS competing at the Endeavour Hills District Swimming Carnival last Thursday. A fantastic effort by our 27 team members saw Thomas Mitchell win the section two division of the swimming competition competing against 6 other schools. Good luck to all the students competing in next week’s Divisional Swimming Carnival.

John Hurley, Principal
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>Monday 16th – Friday 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.

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 read 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. The attached consent form must be signed and returned to the school by FRIDAY 20th June. 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.
Swimming

The Endeavour Hills District Swimming Carnival was held last week at the Noble Park Swimming Pool. Thomas Mitchell competed in the section two division and did an outstanding job finishing FIRST!!! A huge congratulations to all students who competed on the day and represented the school. We are all very proud of your efforts!!

Students who registered a time in the top four including both division one and division two will now move on to represent the Endeavour Hills district at the Divisional Swimming Carnival held next Wednesday, 12th March at the Noble Park Swimming Pool. The students that have qualified will be competing against schools across the Casey division. A huge well done to the following students who will be competing next week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joy, 3MM</th>
<th>Alissa, 4HP</th>
<th>Damian, 5LR</th>
<th>Bethany, 6CW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adhya, 3JC</td>
<td>Emily, 4BS</td>
<td>Naomi, 5MR</td>
<td>Ivo, 6CH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy, 4DH</td>
<td>Sharanaa, 5MR</td>
<td>Samuel, 6CW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloé, 5FH</td>
<td>Kaya, 6CH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matilda, 5LR</td>
<td>Bence, 6CW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marko, 5FH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done again to all the students who competed at the District Swimming Carnival last week and good luck to the above students competing at the Divisional Swimming Carnival next week. We wish you all the very best!

**SUPER STARS - ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to Ashleigh (3LP), Samuel (6CW) and Krish (5TP) who will be competing in the Victorian Little Athletics Championships in March. Samuel is competing in the boys under 12 high jump, where he came first at regionals. Ashleigh will be competing in the girls under 9 triple jump and 200 metre sprint. Ashleigh placed first in the triple jump at regionals and third in the 200 metres and Krish will be competing in the 400 metres. We wish them all the very best for the State Championships and congratulate them on their amazing efforts!

**HOUSE POINTS**

Results from Week 5 Term 1:

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

Total House Point Results for 2014:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Freeman (Blue)</td>
<td>200 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Bradman (Red)</td>
<td>130 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Perkins (Green)</td>
<td>120 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Fraser (Orange)</td>
<td>90 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a great week!

Olivia Goder, Physical Education Teacher
Head lice remain a problem in all school communities. The responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests primarily with parents (DEECD Head lice management policy).

Head lice can’t jump from child to child or crawl into your home, so preventing infestations isn’t as hard as it may sound. To achieve this, it is reasonable to expect Thomas Mitchell Families will:

- Regularly inspect their child’s hair to look for lice or eggs (this can be done while listening to your child read)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary

Although the focus of parents is usually on treating head lice infestations it is probably more important to teach your children to avoid head lice.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE THE RISK**

1. **CHECK YOUR CHILD’S HAIR AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.**
2. Review pictures of live head lice and eggs to help you understand what you are looking for in your child’s hair
3. Recognize symptoms of head lice which include an itchy, sometime red blotchy scalp.
4. Hair conditioner and a nit comb will make it easier to comb through your child’s hair.
5. I would highly advise girls tie their hair in a high ponytail, bun or braid each school day. Tying hair back does not prevent head lice but does help stop the spread.
6. Encourage your child to avoid sharing things that have been on or near another child’s head.
   a. This may include: hats, ribbons hair ties, Alice bands, hairbrushes, combs, scarves, towels, helmets, pillows, sleeping bags, soft toys etc.
7. Teach your child to avoid hair to hair contact during play and other activities such as sharing a book etc.
8. Teach your CHILD to hang clothing and hats on an individual hooks when they get to school.
9. Regularly clean items that your child’s head has been in contact with, such as car seats, pillows, headphones, back rests of couches, towels, brushes etc.. Remind your child to bring home their school hat to be washed.
10. If lice or eggs are found, bed clothes and pillow cases need to be washed in the hottest possible setting. Tumble dry and iron items to ensure all eggs are killed. Items that are not able to be washed can be stored in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.
11. Disinfect combs and brushes by soaking in hot water at least for 10 minutes.

At Thomas Mitchell Primary School we aim to provide practical advice and a sympathetic attitude so as to avoid stigmatising families who are experiencing difficulty with the control measures.

**HEAD LICE CAN BE CONTROLLED – IT TAKES A CONSISTENT SYSTEMATIC COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH.**
Visit by Constable Bennett Ashton

As part of our Integrated Unit about ‘Our Community and It’s History’, Constable Bennett Ashton will visit the Year 1s on Wednesday 12\textsuperscript{th} March after recess. It will be a pleasure to see Mr Ashton again in his official capacity.

Year 6 Windcheater Orders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We are now offering year 6 students a second opportunity to purchase the specially printed year 6 2014 windcheaters. Please note this will be the final opportunity to purchase a garment for the year and no late orders can be accepted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment may be made by cheque (payable to Thomas Mitchell PS), cash (please send correct money as we are unable to give change) or by coming into the office to pay by EFTPOS or credit card by tomorrow, Friday 7\textsuperscript{th} March. Order forms are available at the school office.

These garments will take 6-8 weeks from the date the order is submitted by the school, therefore delivery is expected late April / early May. Please choose styles and sizes carefully as we are unable to exchange items.

| Every Friday Morning 8.30AM to 9.30AM: |
| 7TH, 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) |

Thomas Mitchell 6\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

OSHC OPEN DAY, 28\textsuperscript{th} MARCH, 2014

We will be having an open day on the 28\textsuperscript{th} 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

Please keep Friday 14th March at 2.30pm free for 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!!

Last week all students received a booklet of 10 tickets 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. As previously advised, students have only been able to carry over a maximum of 9 tokens from last year (due to the change in the Rewards system). Please ensure all tokens you currently have are in your child’s bank book next week so we can amend the total held against the bank’s records. Any discrepancies will be discussed with the Commonwealth Bank School Banking Help Desk.

Rewards available for redemption in Term 1 are a Handball or Scented Pencils.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Thomas Mitchell Playgroup – Thursday 13th March, 9.00am – 10.15am

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

ZUMBA® is coming to Thomas Mitchell Primary School.

TUESDAY 11th March – OPENING NIGHT and it’s a FREE CLASS

Adult Zumba® Fitness classes starting on TUESDAY 11th MARCH 2014 with Zumba® Licensed Instructor: JULIE FAIRWEATHER

Hi, I’m Julie and I love instructing Zumba® Fitness classes. The reason is simple: Every class feels like a party! Come join me and you’ll see what I mean. You don’t even have to know how to dance. Just move your body and follow my lead. It’s easy!

WHEN: TUESDAY EVENINGS  7pm – 8pm
WHERE: TMPS SCHOOL GYM (Thomas Mitchell Drive, Endeavour Hills)
Cost: $10.00 per casual Class (cash only)  (discounts for multi card purchase)
WEAR: Comfortable workout clothes bring your water bottle & Sweat Towel.

Grab your friends and come join me for an hour of fun, laughter & sweat! You will have so much fun; you won’t even realise you’re working out!

For further information please contact Julie on 0431 920 384
Homework at Thomas Mitchell Primary School

At Thomas Mitchell Primary School we believe that homework provides opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.

Homework should be:
- Appropriate to the student’s skill level and age
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
- Revise and practise previously taught concepts and skills
- Enhance learning skills
- Deepen the understanding of concepts and skills already covered in class
- Have a clear outcome and be well explained and clearly understood
- Be capable of being completed with minimal resources

Homework tasks set by teachers:
- Reading for pleasure at least 30 minutes, 5 days per week
- Practising spelling words/high frequency sight words
- Writing essays/assignments/projects
- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics

These will be explained more explicitly in each year levels term overview.

Parents and carers can support their child by:
- Providing a suitable environment in which homework can be done
- Encouraging the child to complete and submit the homework
- Encouraging the child to ‘have a go’ before stepping in and providing assistance
- Contacting the teacher if their child is not receiving regular homework
- Reading to, by and with their child
- Discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- Helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- Discussing their child’s responses to set texts and asking to see their completed work
- Ensuring middle years and upper primary students keep a homework diary

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development describes successful homework practice as:

Years Prep to 4
- Should not be seen as a chore
- Enables the extension of class work by practising skills and gathering of extra information or materials
- Will mainly consist of daily reading, to, with and by parents/carer or older siblings
- Will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day or be set on weekends or during vacations

Years 5 to 9
- Should include daily independent reading
- May extend classwork, projects and assignments, essays and research
- Will generally range from:
  - 30 to 45 minutes a day at Year 5
  - 45 to 90 minutes a day in Year 9
2014 Participation and Privacy Consent Form - Frequently Asked Questions

Some general questions are outlined in this part. If you would like more general information you may wish to read the Department’s Information Privacy Policy located at:

The Department’s Information Privacy Policy contains information on how we:
- manage personal information
- protect data quality and security
- retain personal and health information
- transfer personal and health information.

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Department’s Privacy Unit on:
privacy.enquiries@edumail.vic.gov.au

Who can sign this Participation and Privacy Consent Form?

If you are or the child and you are under 18 years of age and not considered a mature minor — one of the following people can sign this Participation and Privacy Consent Form whichever is applicable in the individual circumstances):
- person who has parental responsibility for “major long term issues” as defined in the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
- a person appointed as "guardian" pursuant to the Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)

Where neither of the above people are available or cannot be contacted, consent may be obtained in the following ways:

1. Informal Carer

An Informal Carer is a relative or other responsible adult with whom the child lives, and who has day to day care of the child. See the School Policy Advisory Guide for information on informal carers:

2. Mature Minor Children

If you are or the child is under 18 years of age but is considered a mature minor, he or she is able to sign their own, consent form. See the School Policy Advisory Guide for information on mature minors at:

3. Court Appointed Guardian

If you or the child have a person appointed as “guardian” pursuant to the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986 (Vic), the guardian should sign the consent form.

What happens if a new partner of a parent or a de-facto partner wants to sign the form?

Only a person with parental responsibility, a legal guardian or informal carer can sign this form. A new partner or de-facto partner of a parent cannot sign this Participation and Privacy Consent Form.

What will the early childhood setting or school do with this form?

The original form and documentary evidence relating to parental responsibility, guardianship or informal carer status must be retained by the early childhood setting or school to demonstrate consent was appropriately given.

For other information about retention of personal information see the Department’s Information Privacy Policy located at:

Can I withdraw consent?

Consent may be withdrawn at any time by writing to the Department’s Privacy Unit on:
privacy.enquiries@edumail.vic.gov.au
2021 Prevalence and Poverty Census: Farm (Rural and Urban) Settings

Prevalence Reading Challenge