

Newsletter



Principal Report

Welcome to term 3 at Peninsula Specialist College. A particularly warm welcome to those students and families who joined us for the second half of 2012.

On Tuesday the 14th August our College Council invited the Bendigo Bank to run a special assembly for our students and all interested parents. Representatives from the Bendigo Bank (& surprise visitor) will inform students and parents of the benefits of school based banking for our students. The session will start at 9.15am and I would like to encourage you to attend.

I would like to make you aware of upcoming changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance. The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of \$150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents. To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004** **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013. You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

The newsletters are also available via our Peninsula Specialist College website. Please go to the website and have a look at www.peninsulaspecialist.vic.edu.au

Have a safe weekend

Peter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 11 th August	National Science Week
Tuesday 14 th August	Bendigo Bank Info Morning
Saturday 18 th August	National Book Week
Thursday 23 rd August	Special Schools Music Festival
Thursday 6 th September	School Concert

Attention Knitters!

Calling all knitters. We are knitting squares to make blankets for babies and young children in countries such as Cambodia and Laos. Here are some guidelines

100% pure wool (acrylic is accepted)

Each square should be about 20cms x 20cms

(44 stitches wide, 88 rows high)

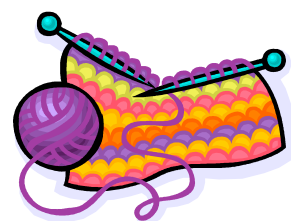
4mm needles and 8ply wool.

The final blanket size should be around 80cms x 80cms.

You don't need to knit a blanket, a couple of squares is fine. We can join them up with other squares to make a blanket.

For further information please ask Robyn Greene or Sharon Essler.

www.savethechildren.org



EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you are holder of a current “**Health Care Card**” or “**Pension Card**” and **have not** filled out an **E.M.A.** form this year, please contact the office to do so. Thank you

Horse-riding

On Tuesday our students dressed up in jodpurs, jackets and ties to compete in an RDA Victoria dressage competition. The students were videoed completing their tests and RDA Victoria will judge their efforts along with all the other RDA centres in Victoria. Well done to all who competed and good luck.





Mount Martha Fire Brigade



We went to Mount Martha Fire Brigade on Thursday to learn more about fire fighting and fire safety. First we looked at the fire truck and its equipment.



We all had a go at squirting the water. We saw all the fire fighters gear. The captain wears a red helmet.





Mount Martha Fire Brigade



We went into the smoke tent and we needed to 'Get Down Low & Go, Go, Go!' It was dark and smoky. You could not see anything!



We talked about being safe in our home. Some Topics covered:



In a fire: Get down low and go, go, go!

Be 1 metre from the heater

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.

Have a home fire plan - get out of the house and meet at the letter box, then call **000**



Captain Travis urges all families to have a practised fire safety plan in place.

For more tips on fire safety please visit:

www.cfa.vic.gov.au



and complete your home fire safety checklist with your children.

Occupational Therapy

The most popular piece of equipment in the Therapy Room is the **Platform Swing**.



Lachlan has invented the “Incredible Hulk”. He pushes against all 4 ropes and lifts his body off the swing. This gives him good core work and compression to his joints.



Jaycob gets himself onto the platform swing. He enjoys being upside down.



Jaycob also works his back and neck muscles against gravity



Victoria enjoys the sensation of swinging and it leaves the therapist’s hands free for facilitating a symmetrical posture.

Hayley has invented the “Platform Pull”.

She needs to work her core muscles to stay balanced on the swing.



Alex is balancing in two point kneeling and can clap his hands!

Art Studio

Australian Animals



Art Studio

Olympics – Go for Gold. Performance art using morph suits.



Ocean Artwork by Zack, Hailey, Sebastian, Bailey, Tom & Scott made with plaster.

