Dear Students & Families,

What a wonderful start to Education Week! It was fantastic to see so many families and friends sharing in their child’s learning and having fun completing literacy and maths activities. Students and staff were rapt by how many people turned up. The staffroom was buzzing at morning tea – it was great to see everyone interacting. There were some interesting discussions on support networks available for families and we are looking forward to seeing more people at our next Parents and Friends Association Meeting which is being held on Thursday, May 28th.

The senior gardening program is progressing well. Students are displaying our school value of responsibility as they care for all of the plants by preparing garden beds, weeding and picking ripe produce. On the weekend Phil made a chilli paste from chillies grown in the garden. According to students it was ‘hot’ but good!

Students in rooms 7 and 8 are enjoying the swimming program at Drouin Secondary College Pool. They are practicing a variety of skills according to their own abilities. Staff are celebrating how well the students are progressing with their swimming skills as they continue to trial and learn new skills.

Nicole
Room 10 have had a busy term so far. We have been doing language box, maths, music and therapy. We do community access on Monday, enjoying going to Burke Street Park to have a swing. On the 11th of May we went to visit Latrobe Special Developmental School. We went on the train to Traralgon, it was a fun day.

Congratulations to Heather!! According to the number of fingers held up Heather has been teaching for 35 years and has been here for 21 of those years!!!
Sign of the Week

Mathematics

Maths at Home Winner

Seth
Room 12

Raffle Winner

Daniel
Room 1

Music Award

Pat
Room 12
For good keyboard playing

Students of the Week

Hanah S
Room 8

Cory
Room 9

Luke
Room 14

Sophie
Room 3
Australian Early Development Census
Playing our part to build a national picture of child health

In early 2015, our school, along with thousands of others across the country will begin preparations for the third Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The AEDC measures five key areas of development in children during their first year of full-time school to build a national picture of health and wellbeing. Since 2009, the census results have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and target support for children and families. Teachers are trained to assess each child and answer questions. Children don’t need to be present so no class time is missed, and parents/carers don’t need to supply schools with any new information for the census. Teachers’ individual assessments are then analysed by the AEDC and reported as anonymous groups of children in the final report. In other communities across the country, census results have helped communities to plan new playgrounds and parental services; schools are seeing improved student performance through new literacy programmes; and governments are using the results as evidence to develop better policies for children. Teachers have also noticed practical benefits in the classroom. Some said in previous years that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole. Others reported that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to school and for developing class programmes.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers of children in their first year of full-time school, don’t need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census. Please contact the school if you don’t want your child to participate in the census.
To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website www.aedc.gov.au

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability ‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability. All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Hyde on 5623 1385 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.

Parent and Friends News

Out of Dough Pie Drive order forms enclosed, please return by Friday 22nd May (this Friday).
Pies to be collected from School on Wednesday 3rd June.