



Debney Meadows
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Debney Meadows Newsletter

Term 1, Volume 1

2 February 2009

Principal's Report

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009 school year. I hope everyone enjoyed the children's holiday and the summer break. It was incredibly hot last week when the staff had their 3 pupil free Curriculum Days. Fortunately we have air-conditioning installed in the upstairs rooms which works extremely efficiently and also helps to cool the downstairs classrooms.

We spent our 3 days discussing and planning the school's direction covering literacy, numeracy, integrated inquiry based learning and classroom expectations. We have put in place a number of initiatives to ensure that every student will have their own individual learning plan and will be closely monitored to ensure each student will progress and improve their skills in all VELs domains.

- We have made a commitment to ensure there will be 2 hours of literacy and 1 hour of numeracy each day without interruption.
- Teachers will be implementing a variety of assessment tools to monitor student progress and to continue to update each student's individual learning plans.
- Students will be developing portfolios again this year which will document their learning over the course of the year. These will be available for parents to view during Parent Teacher Interviews before they are sent home at the end of the year.
- We have appointed Mary Fazzari as "Differentiation Coordinator". Mary will work with and support teachers and integration aides to deliver an individual program to those students who need individual support.
- We have increased the amount of time Integration Aides will work in classrooms in order to increase the amount of individual support provided in each classroom. This will also enable the classroom teacher to then challenge and extend our high performing students so that everyone will show progress and achieve the best they possibly can.

We will also be implementing the Positive Behaviour Support program which will build on the work done with Restorative Practices and CASEA and aims to develop an effective whole of school approach to behaviour management.

We are keen to meet with parents on Friday 6th February for a Parent Information Session to discuss these plans.

Could families let Jo know of any changes to contact details such as phone numbers or change of address.

School Attendance and Bell Times

Session 1	9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
Mini lunch	11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Session 2	11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
Lunch	1.30 p.m. - 2.15 p.m.
Session 3	2.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

It is essential that students arrive at school before 9.00 a.m. to ensure a successful start to the day and to ensure they don't miss any of the class activities.

If students are still in the school yard at 3.30 p.m. they will be asked to wait in the After Care Program to be collected. No student is to wait outside to be collected after this time.

Prep Times

Our new Preps will start school on Tuesday 3rd February. For the first 2 weeks until Friday 13th February Prep children will be attending school between 9.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. They will need to bring both a play lunch and lunch to school.

Prep children will need to be collected by an adult at 1.30 p.m.

Safe Play Area

During these 2 weeks Prep children will be allocated a separate recess time in a safe play area. This is to allow them to feel safe in their outside play environment.

Lunch Arrangements

Students need permission to go home for lunch and will be issued with a lunch pass which must be worn so that it is visible.

It is essential that an adult is at home if students go home for lunch. Students are not permitted to go to the shops at lunch time.

If students are not returning to school after lunch it is essential that the school be notified.
Students are not permitted to leave the school at lunchtime without written permission.

Healthy Lunches



Students eat their lunch under teacher supervision in the classroom. Students are not permitted to share food items. In the interest of health and safety the school **cannot** accept warm or hot food. The school has a healthy food policy and take away foods are not permitted for students' lunches. We encourage students to bring their food to school in the morning.

Parents are asked to provide students with healthy food for lunch each day including fruit, salad vegetables, cheese, meat or fish, wholemeal bread, pasta or rice. We strongly discourage any lollies and salty snacks such as potato chips. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could help support and promote our healthy food policy.

A small snack for mini lunch to be eaten just before morning recess should be wrapped separately.

Some students have life threatening allergies to nuts. Please do not send nuts or food containing nuts to school.

Water Policy



Debney Meadows has a "water only" policy. As a part of our nutrition program students drink **water only** during school time. Water helps students feel fresh, improves their concentration and as it has no sugar, it is good for their teeth. Students are asked to bring their

own **water bottle** to school each day.

Term 1 Dates to Remember

Parent Information Sessions-

Friday 6 th February 9:30 to 11am	Teaching & Learning Priorities at Debney Meadows
Friday 20 th February 9:30 to 11am	Positive Behaviour Support Program (Behaviour Management)
Friday 6 th March 9:30 to 11am	Cultural Diversity
Friday 20 th March 9:30 to 11am	Integrated Inquiry Based Learning

Swimming Program starts Friday 2th February

Lunchtime Sausage Sizzle Friday 27th February

Clean Up Australia and Market Day on Sunday 1st March

Labour Day Holiday Monday 9th March

Parent Teacher Interviews Tuesday 17th March & Wednesday 18th March

Last Day of Term Friday 3rd April



School Uniform

The Debney Meadows Primary School uniform is compulsory and students are expected to wear it each day. School Council has asked me to bring this to the attention of teachers, parents and students. We will continue to discuss the benefits of a school uniform with students and encourage them each day to wear the full school uniform. We are seeking your support at home. School Council has asked that the school enforces the uniform through phone calls to parents and the loan of a school owned uniform if parents are unable to bring their child's missing uniform item to school on that day.

The school uniform consists of a maroon windcheater, bomber jacket and polo top, matched with black tracksuit pants, skirt or shorts. An attractive lightweight red and white checked dress is available as a summer uniform. These items are available from sizes 4 to 16 and can be purchased from the office. Black or white leggings are acceptable to be worn under the summer dress for those students who prefer. We also encourage either a white (in summer) or maroon hijab for our Muslim girls. Year 6 students are to wear the light grey leadership polo shirt which identifies them as a leader in the school with additional responsibilities.

All enquires about prices and orders should be directed to the general office. Orders are to be placed in the mornings between 9am & 10am. This school uniform is a very practical and economical way of dressing your child for school life.

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named

School Shoes

Students usually participate in running activities each day both at play and in PE classes. It is important for them to be active and that they wear suitable, safe, closed toe shoes to school. Runners or closed black school shoes are safest and best. Sandals, open toe shoes and those with a heel can cause students to slip, trip, twist their ankles or hurt their toes. We will be phoning parents to request they bring a suitable pair of shoes to school for their child if we believe the shoes they come to school in are unsafe.

Hats

The school's Sunsmart Policy requires students to wear hats when outside during terms 1 and 4. Students who do not have a hat are required to sit in the shade during recesses and outside activities. We have decided to introduce a new style of hat as part of the school uniform. In order to ensure everyone will have a uniform hat at the start of the year, as a one off for 2009, we have decided to purchase a hat for each student in the school. Students will be required to label and keep this hat at school so it is available for them to wear during play times, PE sessions and local excursions during terms 1 and 4.

Homework

All students are expected to practise reading at home every day. A homework sheet will be sent home with students, each Monday, to be returned by Friday.

We also provide Mathematics and English games that can be borrowed for families to share with students at home. We have folders of worksheets adults may borrow for students to work on at home. Students are not allowed to borrow these resources. An adult must come to school to collect them. Families are welcome to visit the school library at any time to borrow these resources.

EMA Reminder

Reminder for all families eligible to apply for Educational Maintenance Allowance at the office before 27th February. EMA is paid in 2 instalments \$77.35 for the 1st half of the year and \$33.15 for the 2nd half of the year. Families have the option of collecting a cheque at the school or having the funds transferred into a bank account. We strongly encourage families to use part of their 1st EMA instalment to pay for the swimming fees.

Swimming Program

Learning to swim has many benefits for our children. Our swimming program teaches children how to be safe when in, on or around water, as well as teaching skills for swimming. It is great for their health and wellbeing, it enhances their self esteem and importantly teaches them a respect for water.

Our swimming program will begin on Friday the 20th February at Kensington Community Recreation Centre. The program will run for seven weeks ending on Friday 3rd April. Students will have a thirty minute lesson provided by qualified aquatic education teachers. A bus will transport students to and from the pool.

The program focuses on 3 components

Water Safety

Stroke Development

Personal Development

It is expected that all students participate as water safety is important.

Valuables

Reminder to families that students are not to bring valuable items to school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Education does not provide insurance to cover the replacement of lost or broken equipment or items that students or teachers bring to school.

Parent Volunteers

We are seeking parents who are interested in volunteering some time to help in the school on a Friday morning. We particularly need help with keeping the yard neat and tidy and assistance with teaching aides for the classrooms. If you would like to help out at the school at all please let Jo, Khadra or Helen know.

Thank you for your support

Christine Nash

Principal

Voluntary Contributions

Dear Parents,

We are requesting a voluntary contribution per child/family to help pay for curriculum resources such as Reading, Mathematics, Computers and Physical Education equipment.

One or two children at school \$40

Three or more children at school \$50

If families are unable to make the full payment, all contributions are accepted

Thank you for your support