Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

**GUITAR STUDENTS**
Times return to Mondays for Year 6 students at 1.30 pm and Year 7 students at 2.00pm.

**NAPLAN**
The Numeracy and Literacy assessment takes place next week. Please make sure your children are at school every day. Please don’t make a big issue about the assessments and put additional pressure on the children.

**STAFF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS**
On our last school improvement planning day the staff visited two local areas of support for the National History Curriculum. We visited the Kalamunda History Village and discovered so much interesting material regarding the settlement of the hills area, the timber industry, fruit and vegetable growing, the rail system and general day to day life and how tough it was in those days. We discovered a school with slate boards and pen and ink for learning. We looked over the counter in the shop and talked about the many medicines and other household goods which are no longer around.

After lunch we travelled to the Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring where an Indigenous presenter took us for a very long walk through the bushes as we gathered edible foods and he showed us where to look for animals of the forest. It is very important that non Indigenous teachers participate in cultural studies because such knowledge is an important part of our History Curriculum.

Cheers, Marg.
The world of words

Learning to write and spell are two key skills your children will learn and develop during their early years at school. They develop these skills by reading and watching other people write. As they become more confident, they begin to recognise words, talk about letter and sounds, and make out patterns.

What can I do?

Children who are confident with writing and spelling have a great start to school. You can help your children gain this confidence by doing these simple activities at home.

**Kindergarten:** Children begin to experiment with forming letters and learn that printed words carry a message. Have fun playing games with letters and words. Just a minute or two regularly works best at this young age.

- Read alphabet books, story books and nursery rhymes to your children. Point to words that are easily matched to a picture, such as **cat** and **hat**.
- Help your children recognise their names. Start with just the first letter. Point it out when you see it in another word.
- Write words together. Help them trace over words with their fingers while you say each letter out loud.
- As you are reading, talk about words together. Ask questions, for example, **What is the longest word on the page?**

Source: www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou

Discovering Science

Children are natural scientists because they are so curious. They ask lots of questions to help make sense of their world.

**In the backyard:**
Create a small garden plot. Plant vegetables and flower seeds and watch them grow. Lie on your backs and watch the clouds, asking children to describe what colours and shapes they can see. Lie under a tree and watch the movement of the leaves and branches. Use a magnifying glass to investigate different insects. Make bubbles, asking your children questions like, “What makes the bubbles float?” “What makes the bubbles pop?” and “How long can a bubble stay in the air?”

**At the beach:**
Ask your children to smell the ocean air and look and listen to the sound of the waves. Ask questions like “How many different birds can you hear?”, “What does the sand feel like?” and “Where is the water coming from?”

**About the body:**
Draw an outline of your children on a piece of paper. Help them label the different parts of the body like **arms, legs, head, brain, heart** and **stomach**. Talk about the uses of each body part. Next time you are at the doctors surgery, ask if they can use the stethoscope to hear their heart beat. Mark the heights of your children on a growth chart.

**Suggested Reading:**
- ‘Who Sank the Boat’ by Pamela Allen
- ‘Mr Archimedes’ Bath’ by Pamela Allen
- ‘The Enormous Turnip’ by Alexsei Tolstoy
- ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ by Eric Carle

Source: www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou
During the term B6 and A6 read the Tuesday newspaper serial called ‘DARCY MOON AND THE DEEP FRIED FROGS’ by Catherine Carvell.

To show how we believe in our school motto THINKING OF OTHERS, the students in B6 made bookmarks for every student in A6 based on the story that we had read. The bookmarks were all laminated so that they will be a lasting memory for A6 in their last year at SVPS.

Congratulations to Jerome Vega of B6 whose creativity and application to the task at hand saw him produce a product of a very high standard.

We also hosted A6 in our classroom to play a “frog” game and had lots of fun.

Congratulations B6 on doing a fine job. I am proud of your efforts.

Helen McGinniss Library Resource Teacher
Claire Brockway Library Officer

May is National Family Month.

This is a month long national observance to celebrate and promote strong supportive families.

Adults, a great way to celebrate is by talking about books that you enjoyed as a child.

Children like to hear about when you were ‘young’. Celebrate by visiting your local library or our school library as a family, and choosing a book to read as a family during May.
Year 7 Fundraising News Term2 2014

Again the year 7 students are raising funds for their year 7 camp to Rottnest by running sausage sizzles at school through the canteen three times a term on a Monday when the canteen is normally closed. If you are able to assist with preparations on a Monday even if it is only for an hour or so would you please contact Amanda Kerrison on 0438 911 138. You do not have to be a parent of a year 7 student to give a helping hand.

Dates for this term are as follows; May 12th, June 9th, June 30th.

Ross Tompkins Deputy Principal.

Canteen News by Teresa Elzer

NEW WINTER MENU TERMS 2 AND 3

Check out what's NEW!

BEFORE SCHOOL
Cheesesies - all time favourite, grilled cheese on toast.
Beanies – Protein packed baked beans and cheese on half a roll.

RECESS
Hot Chocolate – milky and frothy.
Corn on the cob - sweet, juicy cobs to sink your teeth into.
Warm apple and custard - homemade custard poured over apple pie.

LUNCH
Mashed potatoes, peas and corn – have as a side dish to compliment your meal or with dinosnacks or kebabs.
Soup and roll – check out what's on.
Meatball sub – homemade meatballs, cheese and sauce in a long roll.
We also have quiche, macaroni cheese, spaghetti, lasagne, fried rice and soft tacos.
It’s a busy menu and help is needed with preparation, cooking and serving.
If you’re interested in volunteering ring or drop into the canteen.
Teresa 9294 3347

Dollamites School Banking by Catherine Swanton

Welcome back to all our members to school banking. Our banking theme for 2014 is an underwater theme. We have some fantastic new rewards. Start banking today or if you would like to join come in and see us. We are located in the C block wet area Thursday mornings from 8.15am to 8.45am. For all early learning bankers, a drop off box is now located in the wet area of the Early Learning Centre. If you have any problems feel free to contact us via the front office.

School Uniforms by Catherine Swanton

The Uniform shop will be open every Wednesday morning between 8.30-9.30am and also on a Friday afternoon between 2.30 and 3.15pm. If you are unable to get to the uniform shop during these times you are able to go to the office to fill out an order form and leave it with the office staff.