

The **WATTLE**

Noticeboard



Number 1

8th February 2013

All scheduled Information Nights are cancelled due to AEU Industrial Action.

Teacher Stop work Action is scheduled for Thursday the 14th February. All affected classes will be notified on Tuesday.

Welcome to all our new Foundation Families. We hope you have had a great first week at WPPS.

Please subscribe to our Newsletter online by visiting our Website.

www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au

Kitchen Garden Program Helpers

All Year 3 and 4 students are involved in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program. In order for these classes to be run we need parents to assist. All Year 3 and 4 parents are invited to assist either in the Garden or Kitchen. Please see last week's newsletter for more information on when you can help.

First Aide Room Roster:

Volunteers still needed to assist in keeping the First Aide Room clean and tidy. Please return the form attached to last week's newsletter to the office or contact Jane Borden on 0402400271.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Save the Date:

FEBRUARY

Tues 12th Swimming Trials Year 4-6
Thurs 21st District Swimming Carnival
Thurs 28th Division Swimming Carnival

MARCH

Wed 6th **CURRICULUM DAY**
Thurs 7th Classical Indian to Bollywood Incursion
Fri 8th Regional Swimming Carnival
Mon 11th **Labour Day Holiday**
13-27th Bike Ed Grade 6
Fri 15th **Movie Night**
Fri 22nd Summer Sport year 5/6
Thurs 28th Final Day Term 1

APRIL

Mon 15th First day of Term 2

Scarecrow monitors will be presented with their badges at Assembly on Monday.

Parent Contact List:

Please fill in and return you Parent Contact List by the 11th of February to the office.

Notices gone home this week:

Term 1, Year Level Newsletters
Lice notices to affected classes
Parent Requisites & Contributions
Parent Contact & Group List
Super Speak

If you have anything you would like to go on to the Notice board please email Suskia at Kiatarna@hotmail.com by the Wednesday of Noticeboard week. We will endeavour to include it.

EMA Information:

Please see attached information in relation to EMA for 2013

No Hat, No Play!

Please remember to send your children's hat to school with them. If they don't have a hat they will be restricted to where they can play.

Uniform Shop Open

Monday afternoons after Assembly & Thursdays
8:30am till 9:30 am.

EMA - Newsletter Information 2013



Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

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 an annual payment of \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, \$62 million over four years will be redirected to the State's most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account **or**
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

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 eligibility criteria must be met as at **29 January 2013** (Instalment One) and **15 July 2013** (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

	Prep	Years 1 - 6	Year 7	Year 8 – Age 16
Instalment One	\$140	\$105	\$210	\$175
Instalment Two	\$60	\$45	\$90	\$75
Annual Total	\$200	\$150	\$300	\$250

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is **28 February 2013**.



AEU Industrial Action Information for parents

Thursday 14 February

The Australian Education Union (AEU) is asking its members to take strike action on Thursday 14 February.

This action by AEU members will cause levels of disruption in schools across Victoria.

During the strike:

- Schools have a duty to care for your children if you send them to school
- Your children will be supervised if they go to school as usual
- The normal program may not be provided but students will be given work to do during the strike
- Your children will not be penalised if you choose to keep them at home.

Your principal should advise you of the school's arrangements for that day by 3.00pm on Tuesday 12 February. Please check your school's website regularly in case there are updates.

If you have any queries please talk to your principal, freecall the Education Line on 1800 809 834 between 9.00am – 4.00pm on Monday to Friday, or visit www.education.vic.gov.au.

