A Great Start to the Week

It’s always such a positive start to the week, when we begin with Monday’s whole school assembly. It is the only time during the week when all of the children get together in the one spot at the same time—no easy feat when we have 619 students! At last Monday’s Assembly, the hall was full to bursting with all of the students, 40 plus teaching staff and not to mention the 50 or so parents who came to view this special gathering.

Monday’s Assemblies are a time when we celebrate student success. School assembly highlights the great work that students are doing in and around the school as teachers have selected one child to be given a “Student of the Week” award. This certificate means that the recipient has used the 4C’s, worked extra hard, achieved a personal milestone or they have been an all round superstar! This positive start to the week encourages other students to strive to do their best, and sets expectations for the week ahead.

Saying the pledge at assembly is also a chance for all students to think about the words they are saying and to reflect upon their behaviour to ensure that they are “treating others as they would like to be treated” or aiming to ensure “that Dandenong North remains a great school”.

We also celebrate all of the past achievements of our students as they proudly display their badges that they have accumulated over the course of their time at DNPS. It is always wonderful to see the Preps proudly wearing their first badge, through to seeing the Year 6 students wearing 2 sashes full of badges! These badges provide positive reinforcement to students for their excellent behaviour and it also serves to encourage continued good behaviour and is a reminder of the positive actions they have done to earn their badges.

Raffle tickets are another important aspect to the school assembly. These are given out to students during recess and lunch play times as positive reinforcement. They are awarded to students for playing nicely, cooperating with each other, assisting their peers or teachers and they are given out in recognition of this fair play.

Monday’s assembly, allow children to leave the hall surrounded by positivity and looking forward to another great week ahead! All parents are welcome to attend assembly beginning at 9 o’clock each Monday morning.
What a day of activity the Year 6 children experienced, as they attended the first ever Year 6 Adventure Day in Mt Evelyn. Despite a few drops of rain, it was an otherwise perfect outing into the hills, where students took part in a variety of activities. Each student was assigned to a group which was supervised by a Care Group Leader - a DNPS staff member who may not necessarily have a grade in 2013. These “Den Mums” were hand selected to ensure that they would be able to create a tight knit bunch and from the encouragement and high praise being placed upon all students, these staff members did a fantastic job. Some of the activities that students took part in included a low ropes course and a high ropes course. Other activities included a wildlife encounter where students touched reptiles, yabbying (but nothing was caught!), bush cooking, initiatives and of course the 18 metre giant swing!

The courage and resilience shown by our students was absolutely incredible. They supported and encouraged one another and then they all celebrated the successes achieved. All of the staff who attended were so impressed by the behaviour of the students and the YMCA staff at the camp were also positive in their praise of our children.

Students will continue to meet up with their Care Teachers throughout the year to ensure that they have another person at school whom they feel comfortable to talk to or to approach with issues. Already some groups have gotten together for lunchtime celebrations and discussions which has continued to develop ties with staff and their peers.

Below are some thoughts from the Year 6 children as to how they felt about the Adventure Day:

WOW! What a day I had on the Mount Evelyn recreational adventure. On the Giant Swing I felt a bit pressured by my teammates because they kept telling me to go the whole 18 metres. Although I did it, I couldn’t have done it without the encouragement of my fellow teammates. I was so proud of myself. I was a bit anxious about holding a snake in the wildlife encounter, but I was thrilled that I did. I was really comfortable about the Low Ropes because if I fell, my 2 spotters would help me back up.

At the end of the day I was full of energy and I didn’t want to go home.

By: Makereta 5/6H

The day camp at Mt. Evelyn was incredible. When I was about to go on the giant swing I was nervous and scared. I had butterflies in my stomach. After I had been dropped the 18 metres I felt fantastic!

I think that Mt. Evelyn YMCA Camp, is one of the best places in the entire UNIVERSE!

By Sopanet Sean 5/6M

I had the best time on the Mt Evelyn day adventure. I was proud and thrilled with myself after putting the snake around my neck. After I went on the Giant swing I had an adrenaline rush and I was super happy that everyone in my group encouraged me to complete this activity.

When I went home I was proud that I had conquered my fears and I felt over the moon.

By Krisela 5/6H
School Crossings

For the safety of all students and their parents, school crossings have been placed adjacent to the school - one in David Street and one in Cleeland Street. There is also another crossing on David Street just past the roundabout. These are supervised by crossing attendants employed by the City of Dandenong with an expectation that between the hours of 8am and 9:15am and 3pm and 3:45pm students and their families will cross at these designated areas.

It is very important that children use the crossings provided. The before school and after school rush, can sometimes make children unaware of the dangers that come with high traffic areas.

Having a hospital, TAFE centre and a large high school in the surrounding area, both roads are extremely busy at drop off and pick up times. We must impress upon everyone in the Dandenong school community, the importance of using our school crossings. It may be less convenient and takes up extra time to walk out of your way to cross at the crossings, however it is certainly the safest option.

As role models, it is very important that parents also elect to cross at the crossings as our children view what we do and then copy our actions. Please talk to your children and ensure that they know the importance of using the crossings at all times. Thank you for your assistance with this manner.

Mathletics

Once again in 2013, Dandenong North Primary School has made available the online website program “Mathletics” for all children in Years 1 to 6 to use in their own homes. Children who have access to a computer and the internet can access this program at www.mathletics.com.au. Children have their own individual password and can complete tasks relevant to their educational development. They can improve their fast mathematical recall times by competing in a live mathematical game against other children all around the world.

This program is a fantastic way to improve your child’s mathematics progress, while they enjoy the use of the computer and competing against other children from around the world. The Mathletics password also allows the children to access the on-line program Rainforest Maths at www.rainforestmaths.com

Booklist/EMA

The Booklist payments are now due, the cost of the 2013 Booklist is $100 per student.

Please send cash/cheque to the school to cover the cost of the booklist or an EFTPOS facility is available at the school office.

Parents who have a CURRENT HEALTH CARE/PENSION CARD as of 29th January 2013 and have not applied for the E.M.A(Education Maintenance Allowance), please come to the General Office to complete an application form.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR EMA APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2013. NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE 28TH FEBRUARY.
It is always an important milestone in a child’s life when they attend Primary School. Our Preps have settled in well to their new school and have shown how much they love being a part of DNPS. Below the students from Prep O, Prep L and Prep S, wrote sentences that explain what they love about being at school.

I love playing with my friends, singing and reading. Today we had Art. I made a beautiful painting of my house.  
Ruth PO

I liked making pancakes at school.  
Farzaan PL

I like stories on the whiteboard and singing “Ants In The Apple.” I like my green maths book and playing on the slide.  
Leima PS

Today was the best day of my life. I made a painting in Art.  
Dak PO

I like school because I am going to learn how to read and learn my numbers. I really like to play with my friends.  
Sajoan PS

I painted a butterfly at art.  
Phebe PL

I like playtime because I get to play with Mitchell and Sharvin from PrepM.  
Alex PS

At school I like to play outside and with my friends. I like painting. I am good at learning my sounds.  
Sheza PO