Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Welcome back to Blackburn Lake Primary School for the 2013 school year. I trust you have had a wonderful time with your children over the holiday period. It was lovely to see the students in their classrooms today, looking splendid in their school uniforms. I have no doubt that Blackburn Lake’s extensive transition program played a significant role in our Preps confidently walking through the door today, and on behalf of our school community I would like to welcome our new families, trusting that your time at Blackburn Lake is a rewarding one and that you will acquire many great memories and friendships over your time here.

There have been many people hard at work over the holidays to ensure a smooth start to the school year for all. Thanks to the teachers for your work prior to and over the Curriculum Days, and thank you mums and dads, for ensuring your children were dressed in full Blackburn Lake PS uniform for their return to school. I know this high standard will continue throughout the year. (Thanks too, to parents Allison and Mel and all the mums who have worked tirelessly in the Uniform Shop this week, to ensure families had the opportunity to purchase new uniforms).

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

I remind all members of the community that my door is always open to hear any cares, concerns or compliments. Loisia and I are keen to hear feedback on processes designed to improve efficiency (such as the distribution of Pupil Packs) or issues of a student nature – with our number one priority the care of all students at Blackburn Lake Primary School.

All school students have a diary, which will come home every day as a key form of communication between home and school. Class teachers will endeavour to check these every day. Any absence notes, permission forms, monies and other notices being returned to school are also to come to the teacher via the diary. We very much appreciate that you use your child’s diary book as a form of quick communication with us.

All classroom teachers are available for informal meetings before school @ 8:50am, but if you fell you need more than 10 minutes (as instruction begins at 9am) you can make an appointment for a mutually convenient time either before school or after school. To do this, make a note in the diary of days/times which suit you and we will get back to you as soon as possible to confirm a suitable time. Please allow us time as during school hours we concentrate our efforts on the children. It is very important that we devote our attentions and ‘duty of care’ to our school's students throughout each school day.

THE LAKESIDE NEWSLETTER

We are committed to the parent / school partnership at Blackburn Lake Primary. We encourage you to be involved in many aspects of school life. We also strive to keep you well informed and therefore publish a weekly newsletter each Thursday.

This year we will continue our usual practice in regard to the distribution of our school's newsletter. This mini-edition of The Lakeside News will be the only hard copy publication this year. To access our newsletter online, please visit www.blps.vic.edu.au every Thursday evening (where you can also subscribe for a weekly reminder email by clicking the link on the right of our website homepage).
CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES
Another form of communication across the school is our Class Parent Representative system, with each class needing 1 or 2 parents to be “Class Reps” each year. Class Reps are parents of Blackburn Lake PS children who offer their time and become involved in their child’s classroom and the greater school community. A letter will be sent home early next week (with the youngest child in each family) and is on our website under News – Notices to invite you to consider becoming a member of the Class Parent Representative Team for 2013.

AEU WORKPLACE AGREEMENT
Unfortunately, the Australian Education Union (AEU) and the State Government are yet to come to an agreement about employment conditions in state schools. Parents are reminded that this is not just about teacher pay, but workload and a respect of the work that is done by hardworking and dedicated professionals. Having worked at several schools over my career, I can attest to teachers working long and dedicated hours, well beyond 38 hours (with staff at our school in fact working 45, 50 and 60+ hours each week).

Whilst I do not have all the details of upcoming industrial action, I do know that the 5/6 camp to Sovereign Hill will be going ahead, with thanks to the dedicated Level 4 teachers for choosing to attend this camp despite this event being an example of a teacher’s requirements to work outside a 38 hour week – a current industrial action.

Below is a brief list of known Term One dates (with a more detailed list in next week’s Lakeside News) in which I draw your attention to the stop work date that has been set for state schools on Friday 14th February. At this stage I am unaware as to which grades in our school will be affected, but I will keep parents informed as soon as possible.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLY
Each Friday we hold our whole school assembly at the end of the week to celebrate and share student achievements. I hope to see you at our first whole school assembly of 2013 @ 3:00pm in the David Jewell Centre (DJC) tomorrow,

Regards,
Jason Walker – Principal walker.jason.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>6:30 – 7:30pm Instrumental Music Information Night - Library</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 February</td>
<td>AEU Stopwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>7.30pm Parents Association Meeting – Staff Room</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>School photos</td>
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<td>Mon - Wed</td>
<td>18 – 20 Feb</td>
<td>5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>3:40 – 8:00pm ‘Getting To Know You’ Interviews</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>2:00 – 2:30pm Assembly (Term 1 concludes - early dismissal)</td>
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CANTEEN OPEN - MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY
Good news, our school Canteen and Miss Peppercorn lunch order service will open from next MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY. When you place your first order you will need to update your class for 2013. You can easily see if your order has been successfully placed too. Simply log into your account and check your current and past orders (click on ‘Account History’). You can also select to have a confirmation email sent to you for each lunch order placed and for each cancelled order – simply login to your account, click on ‘My Profile’ then click ‘Notifications’ and adjust the settings.

For new parents and students, the Miss Peppercorn online lunch order service is simple and easy to use. To get started go to www.misspeppercorn.com.au/schools and simply register online, set up an account, and start ordering delicious and healthy lunches. A detailed letter and menu is located on the Newsletter page of our school website and further instructions are available on the Canteen page.

Don’t forget to bring some money each Monday as the Canteen will be open at lunch time and will sell ice creams, icy poles, chips and cold drinks. All money from the sale of these Canteen items stays with the school. Our canteen is manned by parent volunteers and we NEED YOUR HELP. So if you have an hour or so to spare on a Monday between 1.15 and 2:15pm to help sell the above items then please contact Nicola on nadams@pacbrands.com.au or 0437 750 164 today.

Happy Lunching - Amelia, Anni, Mandy & Nicola (The Canteen Committee)