Dear Parents,

**SCIENCE-STEM**

This week, Yr 2 students were learning about identifying and applying different types of force to create movement in objects.

Kean and DJ in Year 2, enjoyed investigating different ways of propelling their boats in water tubs, while Chloe learnt about the type of force she needed to apply to fly her paper plane. I have included an article ‘Engaging Children in STEM Education Early’, in the newsletter.

**EVACUATION DRILL**

On Tuesday we conducted a whole school, ‘evacuation drill’, as part of our Emergency Management Plan procedures. It was a very successful exercise with all students and adults on the oval and accounted for in less than 6 minutes.

**NEW BIKE AREA**

We are currently having a new bike containment area constructed behind the Year 4 portables. We are hoping this to be completed and ready for use early next week.

**WORKING BEE- Saturday March 5th**

On Saturday March 5th will be holding our first working bee for the year, from 9.00am -12.00. We are looking forward to as many people as possible attending. The parents committee will be providing one of their famous ‘sausage sizzle’ lunches to working bee helpers.

Come along, even if only for an hour, and meet new families and perhaps make some new friends while helping the school improve the grounds for our students at the same time. Everyone is welcome and any assistance appreciated. A notice will be sent home with students next week about possible working bee tasks.
TWILIGHT SPORTS
We will be holding our Twilight Sports evening on Thursday, 10th March, commencing at approximately 6.00pm. This is a fabulous opportunity for parents to meet other families from the school and it is usually a great social occasion. Activities will take place on the oval.

All parents and friends are welcome to attend. Our Parents Club will be holding a barbecue during the evening selling sausages and drinks to our families. I look forward to seeing you all there.

MEASLES- Be Alert to Symptoms and Signs of Measles
Following the Victorian Chief Health Officer confirming an outbreak of measles in Brunswick and East Brunswick, including cases at a primary school, it is timely for us to be alert to the symptoms and signs of measles in children.

Measles usually begins with a fever, sore throat, red eyes and a cough. A rash typically develops around three to seven days after the first symptoms, generally starting on the face and then spreading to the rest of the body.

If a child becomes unwell, parents should seek an assessment by a medical practitioner.

The school is required to contact the Department of Health and Human Services immediately if a medical practitioner suspects measles in a child attending the school.

REMINDER-School Council Nominations
School Council nomination forms must be lodged at the office by 4.00pm on Friday 26th February. No late nominations will be accepted.

Principal’s Corner
I came across an interesting article about engaging children early in STEM and the types of questions we could ask our children to further stimulate their engagement and learning.

I thought I would like to share part of the article with you.

Engaging Children in STEM Education EARLY!
Joshua M. Sneideman

Experts in education, industry, and national security all agree that there is a national imperative to graduate students with a thorough understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Our knowledge of how people learn has grown substantially over the last few decades. We now understand that success in learning requires the learner to be at the center of the experience, making connections across disciplines and also across contextual settings. Children need to be presented opportunities to learn the same material in different settings and through different lenses. The traditional approach of teaching topics in isolation does not support the ways that children learn best.

STEM, on the other hand, calls on parents and educators to give children chances to investigate an idea in a variety of settings, for what educators call cross-contextual learning. For example, in addition to math worksheets to help practice counting, we can take students outside to practice counting real objects that they find, such as rocks, acorns, or leaves. Their learning is strengthened when they learn the same skills, ideas, and concepts in different contexts.

Teaching STEM to Early Learners
The most important thing to remember about teaching STEM to early learners is that they are perfectly adapted to learn STEM concepts, and it is not difficult to teach STEM to young children. The secret is to tap into their natural and innate curiosity about the living world. By simply allowing them to investigate, by encouraging them to ask questions about the real world, you are engaging children in STEM.

How do I recommend you do this? While there are hundreds, if not thousands, of recommendations, none is more simple and
more powerful than this: take children outside into nature. It is, I believe, abundantly apparent to almost any adult that once you let a child walk down a dirt path in a forest they start to explore their surroundings immediately. It is that sense of explorer that we need to tap into. Ask questions of your little researcher, encourage more exploration, and provide more opportunities to return to these types of settings.

If you don’t have access to natural areas or even a more developed park, you can plant a small garden, make a terrarium, or simply make a start by growing seeds in cups.

The Boston Children’s Museum’s STEM Sprouts Teaching Guide recommends the simple strategy of building students’ confidence and making them feel like experts by asking “what” questions rather than “why” questions. “Why” questions imply that there is a correct answer. "Why do birds have feathers?,” or "Why does the rock sink in the water?” are questions that have answers that children may not know, and may find discouraging. “What” questions, on the other hand, focus on what they are noticing and doing, and can be springboards for teachers and students to investigate together. "What are those ants doing?" and "What shapes do you see in those rocks?" are questions that invite children to observe, communicate, and be the "experts."

I hope you found the shortened article an interesting read.

Karen Jenkin
Principal

Earlier this week a letter went home asking for Parents/Carers volunteers to help at this year’s Parents Club events. We really can’t run these events without you so if you can help at any of our dates we would love to hear from you! Please fill out the Helper’s form and return to the Office via your child’s Classroom tub as soon as possible. Lisa Strong our Vice President will then be in touch nearer the time. Thank you so much in advance - Let’s make it an amazing year for our kids at Pinewood. Spare forms can be picked up outside the Office.

NEXT PARENTS CLUB EVENT:
Twilight Sports Barbeque
Thursday 10th March
See the Parents Club Notice Board outside the Uniform Shop in the Front School Building for a full list of this year’s events.

Parents, please be advised that if you didn't return the attendance form last year for 2016 you will be on our waiting list.

April Vacation forms will be available this week from the office and hall. Forms are due back by Friday, 18th March.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Shara S. 2M
For always working hard to complete all activities to a high standard. Keep it up!

Daniel S. 3B
For demonstrating resilience. Even when Daniel finds a task challenging, he always strives to produce his very best work. Well done Daniel!

Michael S. 6H
For beginning the year with a strong work ethic and setting a very high standard in the quality of work produced so far. Keep it up.

Brad F. 4C
For being an excellent role model to his peers by demonstrating fabulous team work skills and helping others in areas of their learning. Well done!

Xavier P. 1JK
For demonstrating strength and resilience at the end of last week. Well done Xavier!

Tyson S. 6U
For settling in so well at Pinewood and for being more organised. Keep it up Tyson!

Shahood S. 4M
For the excellent effort he puts into his learning tasks. Keep up the positive attitude.

Seth C. 1H
For making an excellent attempt at spelling unknown words in his journal writing.

Stephanie P. 5D
For her increasing confidence in the classroom and her ‘You Can Do It’ attitude.

Carli B. 6D
For always trying her best and for the fantastic work she produced n Writers Workshop. Well done Carli!

Isabella D. 2G
Isabella has been an outstanding role model in the class. She has been supportive and caring by helping the new student in class. Well done!

Lucas Y. 1T
For the wonderful effort he puts into his work and for always having lovely manners. Well done Lucas!

Visvaraj T. 2R
For the excellent improvement in the presentation of his bookwork and for not rushing his work. Keep it up Visvaraj!

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

If you hold a valid means-tested government concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
•• $125 for primary school students
•• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

CLOSING DATE
TOMORROW, 26th February, 2016

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES
FOR 2016
We are looking for parents who would be interested in being a class representative for their child’s class this year.

Prep D  -
Prep H  -
Prep L  -
Prep M  - Charmaine Wickremasinghe
Prep P  -
Prep R  -
1A  -
1H  -
1JK  -
1T  -
2G  -
2M  -
2R  - Georgia Sinclair
3B  -
3K  -
4C  - Lisa Strong
4H  - Charmaine Wickremasinghe
4M  -
4R  -
5D  - Sue Bleeker
5K  -
6D  - Cindy Lowe
6H  -
6U  - Arlete Jurdukian

HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE LUNCHES
DELIVERED FRESH TO PINEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
AVAILABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY
(Unavailable Tuesday)
Our Menu offers either a 2 or 3 Course Lunch with 15 choices available for each course each day!
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.classroomcuisine.com.au
Orders are received by our customer friendly website until 8.30am the day the lunch is required.
Email:
contact@classroomcuisine.com.au

25 FEBRUARY 2016
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Dear parents and students,

Pinewood Primary School PHOTO DAY IS 9/03/2016
School photo order envelopes have been or will be distributed to every student and it is important that the order instructions (below) are followed.

ONLINE ORDERING  Your child’s school photos are now available for secure online purchase, please note if you are ordering online, you do not need to return an envelope to the school

4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING:
Step 1: Easy Access Link: Click on this link if you are using a supported device: Click Here
- OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [YHM KF9 SL6]
Step 2: Enter your student’s details
Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (all orders will be returned to the school for collection)
Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)
Please Note: Late fees will apply once orders are closed (5 days after photo day)

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS  No envelope required if ordering online
4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING
- Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [YHM KF9 SL6]
- Family/Sibling photo orders online close on 7/03/2016
- Orders can be placed by returning an envelope up until photo day with cash or cheque enclosed

ORDERING USING AN ENVELOPE
ENVELOPES WILL BE HANDED TO EACH CHILD, PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE

   Step 1: Student Details: Complete the student details section on the front of the order envelope.
   Please use black or blue pen.
   Step 2: Purchase Details: Complete the purchase details on the front of the envelope.
   Step 3: Payment Method: Select your payment method.
   Credit Card – Online Only at www.advancedlife.com.au
   Cash – Please enclose correct money – no change is given under any circumstances
   Cheque – Make payable to Advancedlife Photography with your name & address on the back of cheque
   Please allow 60 days for your cheque to be finalised - a $25 fee will apply to any dishonored cheque payments

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries
in regards to your child’s school photo order.
info@advancedlifevic.com.au or 03 9852 1133

Advancedlife Team