Dear Parents and Students,

Tennis was the name of the game last Friday when Rebecca McDonald (supported and assisted by Janine McDonald), ran a tennis clinic for all students. Rebecca works for Tennis Australia, and as part of her role organises and facilitates clinics for students in schools. The Tennis Australia Clinics for 2012 are centred in our region and we were one of the lucky schools selected to receive a visit. In addition to the sessions the school was given a whole school set of tennis equipment for use during physical education lessons. If your child hasn’t told you all about the clinic please ask them, ask them to tell you about the special size racquets and tennis balls.

We have enjoyed watching students improve their swimming skills throughout the past week. The intensive program allows for children to work daily towards increasing and improving their skills. Our youngest swimmers just yesterday were able to confidently leave the step and swim to a platform in the middle of the pool using only a noodle – not the teachers neck, arms or hair!! It was a very exciting moment for everyone. Our more proficient swimmers are already preparing for the zone swimming carnival. In addition to the sessions the school was given a whole school set of equipment for use during physical education lessons.

Both classrooms have spent time learning how to work their diaries for 2012; we are keen to make this a useful tool for students, parents and teachers. We do ask that diaries come to school each day, reading is entered each day and parents please initial that you have noted the contents on a regular basis. Thank you to those parents who listen to students read on a regular basis, learning to read is very much a partnership between school and home. Next week students will resume their two hour literacy block followed by their numeracy block after recess. Additional aspects of the homework program will be introduced throughout the next few weeks.

This Friday will be the final swimming session for 2012. Students will be based at the pool all day. Lessons and testing will take place throughout the morning followed by a BBQ lunch in the park. Students will need snacks and a good sized water bottle for the day. A sausage sizzle will be provided for students at lunch time, if your children do not eat sausages please provide the normal packed lunch. Parents are welcome to come along and join us for the afternoon activities. If the weather is warm we may still be at the pool at pickup time.

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our school through helping with the Jazz festival markets and food sales. It is our biggest weekend and with 81% of our families working across the weekend we were able to spread the load. It was wonderful to have the support of a number of grandparents who either came along and helped, or looked after children so parents could work the various shifts. We even had one of our 2011 exiting families and a past student return and help! The final takings for the weekend were $9386.35 minus expenses of approximately $1500.00. A fantastic effort, I have not worked in a school that enjoys such a high percentage of parental support in relation to the number of students in the school.

We welcomed Keira and Paddy along with Josephina and Rohan to our assembly on Monday. Keira and Paddy spent the morning visiting the classrooms and getting to know students and teachers. We look forward to Keira and Paddy joining us in the near future.

I am fielding lots of questions about the new buildings and yes they are still running to schedule. I do have a meeting with builders and project manager tomorrow afternoon which should outline the final days. The oval was seeded yesterday, internal cabinets are being installed and the final bits of cladding are being added. All happening! The builders tell me all rostered days off have been postponed, so the pressure is on! Very exciting.

Have a wonderful week
Judy Hilbig

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**FEBRUARY WEEK 3/9 TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th</td>
<td>Active After School Sport session 1 – Minor Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th</td>
<td>Active After School Sport session 1 – Yoga 3.15-4.15 (parents welcome)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th</td>
<td>School Council 4.00pm (finance to be merged with meeting, major consideration – playground)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th</td>
<td>Community Breakfast, 8.00am (everyone welcome, school families and community members)</td>
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**FEBRUARY WEEK 4/9 TERM 1**

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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th</td>
<td>Final swimming session, BBQ lunch (park) followed by pool activities afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20th February</td>
<td>Closing date for nominations to School Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st February</td>
<td>Active After School Sport Minor Games session 2, 3.15-4.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd February</td>
<td>MARC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd February</td>
<td>Active After School Sport Yoga session 2, 3.15-4.15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST THIS FRIDAY 8.00AM**

**ALL WELCOME - SCHOOL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL**

(egg and bacon roll, juice, tea and coffee. Gold coin donation, costs only.)

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**BUDDIES 2012**

Georgia and Jenna, Bethany and Zali, Angus and Tobie Kaylee and Lila, Sam and Spencer
Charlie is looking forward to welcoming Paddy and Dylan is pleased Keira will be his buddy.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE – IMPORTANT

School students attending a government school
To be eligible to receive a conveyance allowance, a student must:

- be of school age (between 5 and 18 years)
- reside 4.8 kms or more by the shortest practicable route from the school attended
- be enrolled at the nearest appropriate government primary, secondary or specialist school

ADDITIONAL DATES TO ADD TO THE HOME

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE – IMPORTANT

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- be enrolled at the nearest appropriate government primary, secondary or specialist school

If you require further details please contact the school. If you need a form please contact the office.

ADDITIONAL DATES TO ADD TO THE HOME

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps to cover the costs related to your child’s schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child’s education up to the age of 16.

The allowance is paid in two installments throughout the year; the first installment from March onwards and the second installment from August onwards. Half of the payment is paid to the school and half to the parent or guardian.

You need to submit your EMA application to your child’s school by 28 February 2011, in time for the first installment, or by 5 August 2011 for the second installment.

EMA FORMS - IMPORTANT

Just a reminder – we do have a child at school with a serious allergy to nuts (anaphylaxis). We do ask that you refrain from sending nuts or products that contain nuts to school.

HEAD LICE

Please note heads were checked last week and we did have several cases head lice. Please help us by checking heads weekly.

CALENDAR

OTHER DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Zone Swimming (nominated students only)

THURSDAY 1ST MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 3, 3.15-4.15pm

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 4, 3.15-4.15pm

THURSDAY 15TH MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 5, 3.15-4.15pm

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 6, 3.15-4.15pm

MARD

MONDAY 12TH MARCH

Labour Day holiday, school closed

TUESDAY 13TH MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 5, 3.15-4.15pm

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 6, 3.15-4.15pm

THURSDAY 27TH MARCH

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 7, 3.15-4.15pm

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

Active After School Sport Minor Games session 7, 3.15-4.15pm

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH

Last Day term 1, school dismissal 2.30pm

TERM 2

FRIDAY 20TH APRIL

Cluster Athletics Carnival, Great Western

MONDAY 23RD APRIL

Cluster Athletics Carnival backup day, Great Western

FRIDAY 4TH MAY

Head lice checks – Northern Grampians Shire

STAWELL 13&U FOOTBALL ASSOC INC

Stawell 13&U Football Assoc Inc

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 5th March 2012 at 7pm at the Stawell Football Clubrooms Central Park.

Parents of new and existing players are urged to attend. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Secretary.

Toni Stewart – Secretary – 53585541