ALEXANDRA PARADE CROSSING

Most families will be well aware of the injury to a Crossing Supervisor on the Gold St/Alexandra Pde crossing recently. (see newspaper article attached on page 2)

School Council has, for some years, highlighted the need for a Crossing Supervisor on the Wellington St / Alexandra Pde corner. Surveys were taken by City Of Yarra and we were informed that the volume of school children using the crossing was insufficient to justify placement of another Crossing Supervisor. The placement of a Crossing Supervisor at the Gold St/Alexandra Pde crossover in fact created a double danger for our children and wider community. The City of Yarra has always been responsive to our concerns and the provision of a Gold St crossing (with Supervisor) is to be applauded. However, with experience it is now realised that it is contributing to the danger for the students and wider community. It is time for a re-think.

Danger One: We have no supervised crossing at Wellington St. It is a dangerous crossing given its width and the frequent need for young children to manage the crossing in two stages. Young people, still developing road savvy skills do not always make appropriate decisions…nor should they be expected to. Further, the propensity of drivers to speed through, as they approach or enter the intersection having either just exited or about to enter the freeway is obvious. Stand there any night and watch the Mark Webber wannabe’s accelerate towards the freeway entrance.

Danger Two: The part-time supervised crossing is, unfortunately, even more dangerous as drivers are either still slowing their pace coming off the freeway or really hitting the accelerator as they sweep into the freeway entrance. A clear recipe for disaster and we almost witnessed that recently. An adult (Crossing Supervisor) was hit by a vehicle (who incidentally failed to stop!).

The solution in my view is to close the Gold St crossing totally and move the Crossing Supervisor to Wellington St. The combined numbers of students and families using the crossing should comfortably meet the numbers guidelines that are needed to back such decisions. There would be a minimal extra walk for students and families who have hitherto utilised the crossing at Gold St. The more visible and standard light-span at the Wellington St crossing will be more apparent to drivers than the occasional smaller crossing at Gold St. The addition of speed cameras between the Wellington St lights and the freeway entrance would be a lovely little money-earner for authorities very quickly recouping costs AND making the community safer.

My comments do not necessarily reflect the view of School Council who will be asked to consider the matter at our first meeting in March.
Kids in danger zone

COLLISION PROMPTS CALLS TO IMPROVE CROSSING

Supervisors have told Yarra Council they regularly have to stop students stepping out as cars rush through the red light. Children from a number of Clifton Hill schools rely on the crossing and parent Mim Lowe said safety concerns had been raised with VicRoads to no avail.

“A school full of kids uses that crossing every day and people keep running red lights, even with a supervisor there,” Ms Lowe said.

“Someone has been hit now. What is it going to take for action on this dangerous crossing?”

Clifton Hill Primary School principal Geoff Warren said the crossing posed an unacceptable risk.

Ms Lowe called for an footbridge over the road, but Mr Warren suggested it be closed with the supervisor shifted to nearby Wellington St. VicRoads has ruled out any imminent improvements because there had been no casualty crashes at the crossing in five years.

VicRoads regional director Patricia Liew said it had to balance many requests for road improvements every year.

Yarra Mayor Jackie Pristacky said the council would push for safety measures such as flashing signage or a speed camera.

Time to speak up

RESIDENTS have until next Wednesday, February 20, to have their say on a strategy to alleviate traffic congestion and improve road safety in Cremorne. The plan can be viewed at yarracity.vic.gov.au. The survey can be filled out online, or otherwise access a hard copy by phoning 9205 5742 or emailing noel.wootten@yarracity.vic.gov.au.
Junior School Council 2013

Congratulations to our new JSC representatives!

We had our training session on Friday, 15 February and the students have already shown themselves to be responsible and enthusiastic. The JSC representatives for 2013 are:

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<td>Ainsley &amp; Thomas</td>
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<td>Sabine &amp; Zac</td>
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<td>4ML</td>
<td>Hadyn &amp; Bea</td>
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<td>5KK</td>
<td>Toby &amp; Emma</td>
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<td>6GB</td>
<td>Sam &amp; Liv</td>
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<td>Thomas &amp; Jemima</td>
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<td>Josie &amp; Charli</td>
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<td>5DT</td>
<td>Steven &amp; Anya</td>
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<td>Misty &amp; Riley</td>
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<td>Atticus &amp; Claire</td>
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Our first morning meeting will be Thursday, 21 February at 8am. Students who nominated themselves for Office Bearer positions will have the opportunity to present a short speech to the JSC who will then vote via secret ballot. Students are able to nominate for multiple positions.

JSC representatives were asked to let any of the JSC teachers know if they are aware in advance that they are going to be absent for a meeting. Then it is possible to organise for their class back up to attend.

Meetings in Term 1 will be held fortnightly on a THURSDAY. We will begin at 8am sharp in the Library.

Dates to remember: 21 February, 7 March & 21 March.

Melanie Gaudion, Merelina Pappas and Victoria Sims
News from the Library

Lots of new books will be available on the shelves soon - keep an eye out for them.

For those fans of the Our Australian Girl series, there is a party at the Abbotsford Convent on 17th March between 3 & 5pm to launch the new characters created by Sally Rippin and Penny Matthews. RSVP to jane.godwin@au.penguin.com

Remember the library is open before and after school, as well as at lunchtime - especially nice on these hot days for a bit of chilled out reading. Do encourage your children to make use of this fantastic resource.

Sian and Dana

School Swimming Trials:

Congratulations to all 65 students who participated in the school swimming trials last Friday. Thank you to all parents and teachers who helped out on the day to make the day run quickly and smoothly. Results are now displayed up on the outside wall of the Maclab on the Organ Factory side of the school. Good luck to the selected students who will be participating in the District Carnival on Thursday 28th February at Fitzroy Pool.

Sophie

French Corner

French Film Festival 2013

The Alliance Française will be presenting its 24th edition of the Alliance Française French Film Festival, to be held in Melbourne from March 6th to March 24th.

Tickets are now on sale!!!

To view the complete 2013 program visit: www.affrenchfilmfestival.org

New Caledonia Trip

This is a reminder for Grade 6 students and their families that the deadline for deposits for the New Caledonia trip is Monday 25 February. At this stage we do not have the numbers for the trip to go ahead so we would encourage anyone who is considering this wonderful francophone experience to bring in their paperwork as soon as possible. If you still have questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact either:

Sophie Gammon (gammon.sophie.s@edumail.vic.gov.au)
Penny Webb (webb.penelope.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Websites that students can access at home

If your child is twiddling his or her thumbs at home, why not point them in the direction of one of these websites. They will be practising their French and having fun at the same time!

www.languagesonline.org.uk - Click on Français in the menu to the left of the screen
www.freerice.com - Click on Subjects from the top menu bar. Select French from the Language Learning section
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/french/

Tickets are now on sale!!!

To view the complete 2013 program visit: www.affrenchfilmfestival.org
A SLICE OF MANDARIN

GONGXI GONGXI!!! It’s me, Xiao Long, your favourite New Year’s dragon (even though it’s not my year anymore)!

Last week, I told you the story of Nian, the monster that attacked the villagers every year until they scared it off with fire crackers and wearing the colour red. Both became Chinese New Year traditions but there are many more, for example:

- On Chinese New Year Eve, parents allow their children to stay awake as long as possible, because we believe that the longer children stay awake, the longer their parents will live.
- Everybody cleans the house very thoroughly before Chinese New Year because you are not supposed to sweep during the first week of Chinese New Year. We are afraid that we might sweep the New Year luck right out of your house!
- We also get rid of all our rubbish before New Year because taking rubbish out during New Year means that all your money is leaving your house.
- Just like Australians do for Christmas, Chinese people give presents to children during Chinese New Year. Parents and older relatives give children red envelopes with money in them, and children spend a lot of time during New Year counting their money.
- We also eat special food for New Year. For example, on New Year’s Eve, when the whole family gets together, we eat steamed fish. We also eat lots of dumplings because their shape looks like money and we all hope to be wealthy in the following year. Luckily, nobody eats little dragons for New Year, so I don’t have to worry!

Traditionally, the New Year’s holiday goes on for 15 days and ends with the Lantern festival, where we make lanterns and parade with them around the village. It’s a lot of fun, and all the children love showing off their lanterns.

恭 喜 发 财!

gōng xǐ fā cái
Can you run on science?

Can you run on science? It could be one of those cryptic question Stephen Fry asks on his quiz show QI. Then he might explain what he means: What style or brand of running shoe is best, according to science? The answer is: there is no conclusive science on the question. There’s a lot of hype about running shoe ‘technology’, but there’s no hard science behind any of it. Ads that imply otherwise are marketers telling porkies.

Here’s an article by Oxfam Australia on the subject, from October 2009. Oxfam fights poverty in developing countries and Aboriginal Australia. Urban poverty is very often tied to crappy labour conditions. For more info: www.oxfam.org.au/explore/workers-rights/


‘Hi-tech’ sports shoes: Do they make us faster or safer?

A lot of claims are made about sports shoes, but there is no independent evidence to support these claims. “Shoe design doesn’t make a lot of difference,” says academic and AIS podiatrist Simon Bartold, author of The Foot and Leg in Sport (2008). Bartold works with elite athletes and estimates that less than 3% of their performance is attributable to the design of their shoes. In lesser mortals, the margin is even smaller.

So why this widespread belief that hi-tech sports shoes are better? “Many sports shoe manufacturers have spent considerable amounts of money marketing certain products and are unwilling to change their marketing focus,” says Bartold. “What you are dealing with is a very unusual crossover between hard-core science and a commercial product, and it’s an unholy marriage.”

If sophisticated shoes don’t make us perform better, do they at least help prevent injury? New research from the University of Newcastle, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, says the jury is out.

Dr Craig Richards from the research team explains:

“We searched all the articles that we could identify in the major databases since 1950 – any article which related to running, shoes and injury prevention. None of them have actually been control trials and most of them are just reiterating expert opinion, or they’re referring to studies performed in a laboratory which don’t actually have any real-world meaning.

“The bottom line is that these shoes have been experimental for the last 20 years and [are] still experimental.”

“To health professionals [whose training is not evidence-based], to runners, to shoe retailers, this is absolutely heretical and this is why it is such an interesting finding and one which really needs to be pursued by some careful scientific research now, to establish whether these shoes are good for you, whether they do nothing for you or whether they are actually harmful for you.”

“The lack of research in this area means that we cannot currently make any evidence-based shoe recommendations to runners.”

So with no reliable performance or safety criteria on which to distinguish running shoes, maybe sports brands could distinguish themselves in the market with products that respect human rights?

Sources: 1 www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2001/10/31/404220.htm
2 www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2513592.htm
IMPORTANT: CHPS Preserves & Chutneys Stall

Over many years, this stall has established itself as the benchmark stall of its kind for school fetes in the northern suburbs. From small beginnings it has grown and flourished to become one of the most successful stalls at the CHPS Fete, not to mention the quality and variety of the jams and chutneys that are produced.

2013 is a year of transition for the stall - a number of people are retiring and/or their kids are finishing primary school. We desperately need new members, a new co-coordinator and a graphic designer to assist with the labels. It’s not hard, it’s fun and you can learn the craft of making jams and chutneys, or contribute the knowledge you already have. Please call Sophie on 0402 345 615 or Mel on 0413 376 194 to discuss.

And, if you have excess figs, plums or any other summer fruits, let us know. We’ll turn them into something delicious.

JAR RETURNS: please only return jars or bottles of the same size as those sold at the fete. Next newsletter will contain a photo!
Piano teacher in Clifton Hill

Lessons available for beginners to advanced students. Qualified teacher with many years of experience working with young children (and adults for those wishing to revisit their musical past or long desired ambitions).

Creative and fun lessons offering training in AMEB exams, technical and theoretic development or playing lighter music for fun. Have VIT and VMTA registration, working with children check.

Please phone Larissa for enquiries 0417583378
Or email larissa.cox@optusnet.com.au

There are a small number of parents who assist Lee Lee on a regular basis but she really needs more help.

The canteen is open from Monday to Friday and volunteers are useful anytime between 9:30am & 1pm.

Assisting on for occasions in the canteen exempts you from $80 Grounds and Maintenance levy.

We ask that you notify the office if you are able to attend.
Anglesea Holiday House to Rent

July School Holidays

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Sleeps 8 (2 Queen, 2x2 bunks)
- Point Addis and water views from deck
- Easy 400m walk to main beach
- Quiet court
- $1700/week

Call Anna Lee 0412 834 069

Interested in playing Saturday basketball?

Girls & Boys Under 9 – Under 19

Register online at:

www.collisionwood.basketball.net.au

or attend
Registration Day
Saturday 16th February

Collingwood College gym
McCutcheon Way, Collingwood
10.30am – 3.00pm

New players welcome

Players must register and pay by 24th February to ensure a place in a Winter team

Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490

manager@collingwoodbasketball.com.au

Jellis Craig is a proud supporter of Clifton Hill Primary School

For all your real estate requirements contact
Craig Shearn on 9481 6800 or 0418 596 388
or visit our office at 324 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill.

jelliscraig.com.au

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Maths Support

Need some extra help in Maths?

Lessons aim to strengthen a student’s understanding of the basic building blocks and concepts.

As with out a complete understanding of these components at an early age many students are often left behind in later years.

The lessons will also aim to introduce new concepts and ideas to help students adapt to new topics when introduced in the larger classroom context.

The lessons use games and stimulating techniques to show students that learning can be fun.

I offer lessons in your own home at a time that suits you.

Pleas contact me on:

Alicia – 0415 761 413
alicia.chod@gmail.com

Learn music
here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, drums, here at Clifton Hill, Gold St. Primary.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-on-one lessons give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from $15.40 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1.

Interested parents should call Marika during office hours on 9818 2333

www.creativemusic.com.au
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NEW IN 2013
KID’S CLASSES AND
HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

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- Wednesdays 4.00- 5.30
- observational drawing
- introduction to traditional skills and techniques

for further information call 0403 848 843 or visit fromlinetoccolour.com
We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, traditional owners of the land.

Live music • Exciting rides • Amazing activities • Gourmet food & wine • Local cakes & coffee • Fabulous craft & plants • Delicious preserves • Eco-chic clothing • Trash & treasure • Books

See you there for a day of celebration, community and entertainment!

Yarralea st, Alphington (Melways 31 C 12)

Saturday 16 March 10–4pm