A small community where the students shine!

School Hours and Break Times
Playgrounds supervised from 8:45 a.m. and from 3:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Students arrive 8:50, Classes start promptly at 9.00 a.m.
Morning Recess is from 11am – 11:30am  Lunch 1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

March
17th  School Assembly – 3pm
19th  Harmony Day
27th  Whole School Photos
31st  School Assembly

April
4th    Last day of Term 1 – dismissal
22nd  School Resumes

Could all Parents please check their children’s hair, as lately there have been a number of cases of head lice. If children’s hair is checked on a regular basis, we hope that this issue will be kept under control. Thank you

SCPS School Assembly
From Monday 17th March, 2014, School Assembly will be held each fortnight at 3pm.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
Items sent home will generally be colour coded.

Gold Excursion Incursion
Pale Blue or White General Notices
Orange Important Messages
Bright Pink Fundraising

Please read this newsletter, as it is an important communication between school and home

The Department of Education and Southern Cross Primary School do not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education or Southern Cross Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.
Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the news this week.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
Southern Cross Primary School takes place in the Premiers’ Reading Challenge each year. It is an opportunity for the children to be involved in a State wide Challenge that assists them to become better readers. It runs from March to September each year to enable the children the opportunity to read a substantial number of books. The whole idea is for it to be taken seriously and children must be able to demonstrate that they have read and understood the story or the information in the books that are on their list. Unfortunately there have been a small number of children over the years who have just written down the names of books and parents have signed the record sheet but on investigation they have admitted to not reading the book as they clearly do not have a clue what it is all about. Please be honest with your children’s’ entries and encourage them to read for understanding and then be able to tell you what the book was about in some detail. Next week the parent consent forms will be coming home for you to sign. I encourage you to enable your child to take part as it is not a competition and all students get certificates for participation based on the expectation of their individual reading ability. We are all looking forward to the positive outcomes that always come from our participation in this challenge.

**Parent Information Sessions**
It has been a delight to see and speak with the parents attending the information sessions. I know that it is difficult for everyone to attend due the busy lives we all lead however we do schedule the times as convenient to most people. If you cannot make a session and you would like to make an appointment to discuss anything with your child’s class teacher please contact the school to schedule a convenient time.

**Harmony Day**
The excitement is building as we have been planning Harmony Day for this year. It will be held on Wednesday 19th March, next week. I look forward to the range of activities throughout the day and of course the magnificent international cuisine luncheon provided by the amazing parents who are members of our CHaTS Group. As always a huge thank you goes to all students, staff and parents who work together to make this a wonderful day.

I wish you a happy and healthy week ahead.

Averil Nunn
Principal

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Uniforms that have been ordered should be here at the end of next week.

Thank you
PARENTS CORNER

Aspartame

Aspartame is a food additive which is used as a sweetener that is becoming increasingly common in the food we buy. It is also associated with a concerning array of adverse health effects. Most people assume that Aspartame and artificial sweeteners are only used in diet foods and drinks, as such, many of us are not aware that we are consuming these additives.

In the last ten years Aspartame has increased significantly and it is now finding its way into an array of mainstream foods. The worst examples can be found commonly in yoghurts, rice crackers, snacks, desserts, mints, cordials, juices and instant coffee drink.

Aspartame has been linked to many medical conditions in some people including:
- Headaches, migraines, dizziness, seizures, numbness, rashes, depression, fatigue, irritability, insomnia, hearing loss, memory loss, joint pain and the list goes on.
- Consult your doctor for further advice.

Sometimes if you look at the ingredients of a product it will not say Aspartame but sweetener 951. It is up to each individual to be responsible and care about their own health, but unfortunately we as a society have not been educated or even informed as to what exactly is in our foods and how that may impact us.

Maryam

Disclaimer it should be noted that the publication of an advertisement, or expression of views in articles or reports, does not necessarily imply endorsement by Southern Cross Primary School.

Harmony Day........EVERYONE BELONGS......2014

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

By participating in Harmony Day activities we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place.

On this day, students will be actively engaged in Harmony Day classroom activities in the morning as planned by their teachers followed by a feast of cultural food including Australian foods at 12:30pm. After lunch there will be an hour of whole school presentation on Harmony Day in the school hall.

This year our HARMONY DAY celebration at school is Wednesday 19th March.

Please diarise this date and hope to see you on this morning.

Mrs. A Nunn
School Principal

Mrs. A Singh
Co-ordinator (CHaTS)
SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

All students will have been given an envelope today, to be brought back to school on **photo day, 27th March**. If you would like to purchase a photo package, please complete the details on the envelope and return it to school on photo day. If you would like a **family photo** to be taken, please collect an envelope from the school office.

SEAL Opportunity for Current Year 6 Students 2014 (Year 7 Students in 2015)
Gleneagles Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL)

Gleneagles Secondary College is one of 36 schools accredited to offer Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL) in Victoria. One SEAL class of 25 students is offered at each Year level from Year 7 to 10.

The SEAL program provides an opportunity for high potential students to undertake a challenging, concept-based curriculum in the company of like-minded peers. Instruction is designed to stimulate and inspire this highly motivated group, and emphasis is placed on developing creativity, independent inquiry and research skills.

SEAL students complete the same subjects as other students in the year level but curriculum delivery is differentiated to provide faster paced instruction and minimal repetition. The concepts explored in class are often more complex, abstract and challenging.

Entry into the SEAL program is via formal testing and interviews. To be eligible for the Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program, students need to apply and complete the selection process.

Prospective students and parents are encouraged to attend:

**SEAL INFORMATION NIGHT (FOR YEAR 7 2015 STUDENTS)**
**TUESDAY, 1ST APRIL 2014, 7.00PM**  
**GLENEAGLES SECONDARY COLLEGE, THE SHED**

Come along and hear more about the program and collect an application package. No booking required, all family members welcome.

For further details, please visit the Gleneagles website: [http://www.gleneagles.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-process/](http://www.gleneagles.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-process/) or contact the SEAL Manager, Julie Mullins on Tel 9708 1319 or email gleneagles.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Applications close for Year 7, 2015 SEAL program on midday on Tuesday, 29th April 2014.


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ARTWORK!!

**Attention Parents:**

Please take the time to have a look at our wonderful Art Displays in the Office area and the corridors.  
Mrs Graham and the students have worked very hard on their artwork and the displays are constantly changing.

Thank you

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Gymnastics IS THEIR SPORT!

Does your child love to run, jump, climb, hang, swing, bounce & tumble?  
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