Attached to this newsletter is a brochure regarding changes to payment of EMA starting from the beginning of 2013. In the past a portion of the EMA payments was made directly to the school to be used to cover the cost of educational expenses for your child. This money was held in credit and used throughout the year. From next year all the EMA payment can be paid directly into parents’ bank accounts or by cheque. Parents will also have the option to choose to have the EMA directed to the school to be kept in their account as a credit. You will be able to choose the payment option when completing the application form at the start of the year. We would recommend having the school hold the money in credit for your child but the choice is yours.

School Fees
The Ouyen P-12 College Fees and Levies are amongst the cheapest in the state. A Text Book levy at Years 7-10 has replaced the necessity of ordering individual text books and the e-Learning levy is used to pay for your child’s printing costs. All items covered by the levies are educational items used by your child. Accounts will be sent home towards the end of the year with payments due early in Term 1, 2013.

Exams
Our Year 11 exams will be held from Monday to Wednesday next week with Years 9 and 10 exams on Thursday and Friday. Year 11 students will finish school for the year next Friday November 30th. Year 10 students are not permitted to leave school until December 7th and only then if they have a note from home explaining that they have employment.

Early Start
Our Early Start Program begins on Monday December 3rd for students going into Years 7 to 11 next year. This program runs for one week for our 2013 Years 7 and 11 students and for two weeks for students going into Years 8, 9 and 10.

Primary students have their whole school Transition Day on Tuesday December 4th. On this day students go into the class they will be in next year.

Swimming Program
Our P-12 swimming program begins next Thursday November 29th. Notes will go home explaining this program.

Leanne Dawes
Principal
RUBBISH FREE DAY:
Congratulations to Years 5 & 6 for winning our Rubbish Free Day. A great effort!

STRESS DOWN DAY:
On November 30th, the school will be holding a Stress Down Day to raise money for people with cancer. This means you can dress in pyjamas, with a gold coin donation. During the day we will be watching a movie with popcorn. Maddy H

SCHOOL BANKING:
The Commonwealth Bank is rewarding students with good school banking habits by offering the chance to win an iPad mini. By making a deposit through the school between November 19th to December 14th you will go into the draw to win one of twelve iPad minis valued at $369.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for. *Epicurus*

T-20 Blast Cricket
Congratulations and good luck to the T-20 Blast cricket teams that will be representing Ouyen P-12 College in Swan Hill on Tuesday, 27th November.

Team members have received a note outlining important details in regards to the day.

Money for the bus needs to be returned to Mrs Simmonds in the office by Monday at the latest.

We look forward to hearing how they fared on the day.

The teams are:

**GIRLS**
- Demi Elliott
- Megan O’Connor
- Charlotte Vine
- Natasha Beckman
- Lucy Morrish
- Maddy Hastings
- Maddison Gaulke
- Hallie Wills
- Gemma French

**BOYS**
- Adam Morrish
- Charlie O’Connor-Byrne
- Lockie McCormack
- Jake Cresp
- Callum Nixon
- Joshua Petersen
- James Doyle
- Benjamin Morrish
- Bailey Pengelly

SWIMMING INTENSIVE PROGRAM
The primary campus swimming intensive program will commence on Thursday, November 29th and run for the following two weeks. The time table is currently being finalised and will be sent home as soon as it is available.

Years 5 & 6 classes will swim in the morning, followed by Years 3 & 4, then Years 1 & 2. The preps will swim after lunch.

Students will be transported to and from the pool by the school bus when possible.

Families who have a seasons ticket to the pool will not have to pay an entry fee, but families who do not will be required to pay $1.70 for each child every time they swim. Money will need to be sent to school in a marked envelope with the family name and amount enclosed.

Students will need to bring their bathers, towel, sunscreen.

Any parents who are able to assist are asked to contact the primary camps office and leave their names.
CHANGES TO SECONDARY CANTEEN SERVICES

The canteen providers – Mallee Deli, have informed the school that due to the smaller numbers of students using the canteen at this time of the year it is not viable for them to continue the canteen service they usually provide.

For the rest of Term Four the canteen will not be open at recess.

Students can put lunch orders in at Home Group each morning and the orders will be delivered to the canteen at 1.10pm. **Students are able to order hot food on Thursdays.**

No extra food will be available at this time.

Students have all been given a Lunch Order Menu.

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**Congratualtions**

A huge congratulations to Jack Cook for being invited to compete in the sport of Javelin in Canada next year.

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**Mallee Track Health & Community Services**

**2013 Debutante Ball**

Names of Debutantes and their partners are now being taken for the Debutante Ball to be held in May 2013.

Contact Kim Darley at Neighbourhood House to register.

Phone 50921111 or email kdarley@mthcs.vic.gov.au

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**SECONDARY CAMPUS SCHOOL SERVICE**

**Chelsea Beasley & Laura Hayter**

**Monday**

♦ Free dress day
  ♦ Main day for jobs
  ♦ No student will miss English or Math classes.

**Tuesday - Friday**

♦ Empty bins (during afternoon Homegroup time)
  ♦ No classes will be missed.

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**Energy Breakthrough**

Our College is starting a new and exciting program for Year 10 students next year.

If you have an exercise bike that you no longer use and would like to donate to the College please let us know as we would love to take it off your hands.

Jason Stewart / Candice Sanders

Coordinators

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**BUS TRAVELLERS:**

**Primary Students**

Parents of Primary Campus students are asked to please send a note or make a phone call to the office when your child/ren are not going to travel on the bus.

If we do not have a note or have not received a phone call, your child will be required to travel on their designated bus.
Parents Association

Meeting: We have a small number of things to finalise at our final meeting for 2012. It will be a dinner meeting at the Victoria Hotel on Monday, December 10 – 6:30 p.m. Agenda items to Raelene Vine – leave at either office or contact Raelene.

Best wishes – Many families will have children doing end of year tests and exams. Best wishes to all involved with these. Try to make it as stressless as possible and encourage your children to make the most of the next few weeks. To those students and families moving on to new schools: thank you for your part in supporting Parents’ Association over your time at our school. We wish you well.

Prep for Parents – is a weekly email subscription for parents with children in Prep. It covers topics parents have said they want to know about: what children are learning in Prep; how to help your child with maths; and much more. Regularly during school terms, a new edition arrives in your email box. Each article has helpful tips and links to websites and other information Subscription is easy. Go to www.education.vic.gov.au/prepforparents
More than this, come to the school’s information sessions for all year levels, and keep in touch with staff.

Congratulations to those students continuing to represent the school in special activities. We especially note the Push Cart Team, staff, and parent supporters, and some cricketers. Good luck, and well done.

Thank you to the staff and parents who give of their time to enable camps and excursions to occur, giving our children some wonderful experiences to enjoy and reflect on.

Pedestrian Crossing at Oke/ Cooper St roundabout: We shall continue to advocate for this crossing to improve safety for pedestrians of all ages, and to bring consistency to our roundabouts regarding crossing practice.

From BOUNCE – Building Resilient Kids: - RESISTING THE NEED TO THINK FOR YOUR KIDS – In a busy world, it is easy to get into the habit of thinking for your kids. As they are at school we need to replace – “Get your bag, where’s your jumper, get your hat and drink bottle, clean your teeth …” with “What do you think you need to do to get ready for school?” Teaching kids to plan and think is a great head start skill for all the things they are involved in.

Raelene Vine – Secretary, Justine Cresp – President

Uniform Committee

Thanks to the students and families who have returned the sports uniform option sheet. Responses will be tallied early next week. Initially, there is a spread of preferences. We do have to check on some Regional issues regarding competition colours before finalising things. The school will be purchasing a set of competition singlets with the new logo to be available for students from Years 3 up when competing at Interschool level in events like Cross Country. These are often not returned when loaned out (some have even turned up at St. Vinnie’s). We are looking at it being possible for students to purchase their own of these if they wish and, possibly, having their name printed on it.

Understandably, concern was noted about new gear when shirts were bought for this year. Those wishing to keep using their current Insignia and Olympic house shirts can do so. There will be a phasing in period just as we had for the new school uniform.
CAREERS NEWS

WORK EXPERIENCE POSSIBILITIES FOR 2013 - START PLANNING EARLY

ABC – Public Broadcaster - apply early online application
http://www.abc.net.au/careers/cadetshipsandworkexperience/
workexperience.htm

Adelaide Zoo - Applications open February 2013
information/work-experience

Alfred Health offers work experience placements at all three of their hospitals. To find out more, please click on the Hospital of interest. http://

The Alfred - Variety of departments – Open Jan – Feb

Caulfield Hospital – Allied Health Departments – Open Jan – Feb

Sandringham Hospital – Variety of departments.

Open 12th November 2012 - close 10th December 2012.

CHILDREN’S COURT OF VICTORIA

For further information or to arrange a work experience placement, contact the Work Experience coordinator on (03) 8638 3300.

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About-the+Court-&2=53-Work+Experience-&3=--

CSIRO - Open 1st March - Close 31st March 2013

Years 11 and 12 who are interested in science.

http://www.csiro.au/org/Work-Experience-Overview

Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) – Please contact the relevant department.

Herald Sun - Close Saturday 1st December 2012

Areas covered in the week include:

Journalism  Photography  Circulation  Marketing  Advertising/Sales

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Melbourne Aquarium - Open in October and Close Friday 23rd November 2012

http://www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/education/students/work
experience/work-experience-form-2012.pdf

Melbourne Theatre Company - Closing Date Friday 22nd February 2013
http://www.mtc.com.au/uploadeddFiles/Education/Students/MTC%
20Work%20Experience%20Application%20Form%202013.pdf

Melbourne Football Club - Check the Web page early 2013
default.aspx

Melbourne Cricket Ground – Applications for 2013 now closed Available to Year 10 students – Year 9 students apply prior to Term 4
Experience.aspx

National Gallery of Victoria - Applications for 2013 has closed

They will be taking applications for work experience placements in 2014 from May 2013.
form/ nocache

Royal Melbourne Hospital - Open 1st December close 31st December

www.rmh.org.au

Royal Children’s Hospital – Melbourne – Open February 2013
http://www.rch.org.au/careers/work-experience-program/

Victoria Police - Closing Date Late October, Application form available from the Career Office each year

Women’s and Children’s - Adelaide www.wch.sa.gov.au

Contact Human Resource Centre on 088 161 7249 or email
cywbs.recruitmentadmin@health.sa.gov.au

Zoo Victoria – Open in August each year and closed 12th October 2012.

Sue Sly

Careers Coordinator

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Sue Sly

Careers Coordinator
University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program

This Scholarship is open to Year 10 students throughout Victoria and selection is based on students’ academic performance and leadership potential. The program gives participants the opportunity to mix with like-minded peers and future leaders. This year Lauren Morrish and Xavier Healy were chosen as the College’s representatives based on their applications and achievements. Congratulations.

PUSHCARTS

Thank you to the National Australia Bank for presenting the Year 5 students with Survival packs. Good luck to the all students attending the Push carts competition.
A fund raiser for
Women’s Cancer Research

Join us for a great film and

“2nd CHANCE SALE”

Donate your pre-loved
(in clean / excellent condition)
clothes, jewellery, handbags or shoes at SuniTAFE
in Ouyen before 23rd November.
Get to the Roxy at 7.30pm on 23rd November
and find a bargain!

All funds raised go to the Cancer Council - unsold
items will be donated to Vinnies, Ouyen.

(If you can’t attend but want to donate an item,
please leave it at SuniTAFE before 23rd November –
thanks!)

Door prizes and fun to be had!
(BYO drinks)
Wear something PINK and
inviting your friends!

Friday 23rd November
7.30pm for Nibbles & Sale, 8.30pm Movie
$20.00 ~ Film, Nibbles, Door Prizes & FREE Drink
Contact: Pam 0427 946 277 or Jenny 0428 922 664
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).