



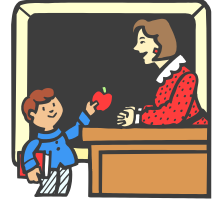
# Aurora School

## School Based Program Newsletter

30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Newsletter No.:13

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### Dates for your Diary


Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. - Thurs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Swimming Program  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August Whole School Activity  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August Treacher Collins Syndrome Family Day  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September Last Day Term 3 (**Finish 1pm**).

### Principal and Assistant Principal's Message


#### Congratulations to Elise!

 Elise Koole worked as Auslan Language support in Thom's Kinder group earlier this year. Elise had worked in various roles at Aurora over a number of years and she left at the end of Term 1 to have her first baby. We are now proud to announce that Elise gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Wednesday this week. Hamish William is his name and both Elise and baby are doing very well. We look forward to their first visit to Aurora when Hamish is able to socialise.

#### Rolfe Pies are Back!


 You may remember last year, at about the same time, Aurora ran a fundraiser with the support of Rolfe's Pies here in Blackburn. The pies are delicious and the fundraiser was a success so we have decided on a repeat performance! Kaisha Gurry, one of our parents and a member of the Aurora School Council has made all the arrangements. You may remember a letter that came home with your child on Monday outlining details of the Parents and Friends activities. There is a form attached to this newsletter so clear a space in your freezer, take your pick from the range of delicious family and/or snack sized pies and send in your order form. Yum!

#### Professional Learning

 We will shortly be participating in a second round of Strength Based Practices workshops. Bernadette Glass, a consultant with experience working with St Lukes in Bendigo,

provided some excellent workshops for staff in the Early Intervention Program in March and April. We have now invited Bernadette to repeat these workshops to ensure staff in the School Based programs and those EI staff who may have missed out earlier, have the same opportunity. We would like to thank staff for dedicating four evenings to this professional learning. We will make sure the dinner we provide is scrumptious!

#### Our Chickens are a-laying!

 At long last our lovely little Pekin chickens are laying eggs. Given the size of the chickens, the eggs are not very big; about the size of a miniature golf ball but the children are very excited to check the nesting boxes each day to see if another egg has been laid. Our veggie gardens are also beginning to produce some lovely radishes and cress together with the leeks and spring onions we've mentioned before. We look forward to cooking a veritable feast! Or at least egg and cress or egg and radish sandwiches ☺.

#### End of Term 3 and 4

We would like to give you plenty of advance warning. We will be ending Terms 3 and 4 a little differently this year to previous years. **Term 3 will finish, as planned on September 18<sup>th</sup> however we will finish at 1pm in the afternoon.** We will arrange taxis to arrive earlier than usual, however all families will need to ensure someone is home to greet their children when the taxis arrive. We will have a similar arrangement for Term 4. **Our last day of the year will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we will again finish at 1pm.** Please note these dates and times in your diaries so you have

plenty of time to make any necessary arrangements.

## Have you seen our website?



We have recently trained a few additional staff to ensure our website is always up to date, fresh and informative. Some of our parents have been preparing some material for the Parents Page. We upload all our newsletters onto the Aurora website and have some terrific photos from events either here at Aurora or out in the community as we endeavour to move our activities around to support families beyond the Eastern area of Melbourne.

*Sue Izard & Berni Coleman*

## From the Student Wellbeing – Head of Program

### New children

A very big welcome to Lachlan Rosenberger and his family. Lachlan has started in our Beginner's program.

### Student Support Group Meetings (SSG's)

Thank you to all the families who attended the SSG's with your child's class teacher. We hope you found the sharing of information helpful and productive in planning your child's goals for the remainder of the year and discussing their progress. Families who were unable to attend are encouraged to make an alternate time with your child's teacher.

### Coffee Morning



A very successful coffee morning was held yesterday with Fiona Bell, our School Based psychologist who shared ideas and strategies on 'Positive Behaviour Management'. The morning involved plenty of discussion and sharing of experiences and this resulted in a positive morning for those who attended. Handouts on *The Goals of Positive Behaviour*, *The Goals of Misbehaviour* and *The 7 Habits of Confident Parents* were also discussed and we have included the article on 'The 7 Habits' in this newsletter.

Fiona is available to discuss behavioural issues or any other aspect of your child's development with all our families and is available every Wednesday.

### Parenting Website

Michael Grose, parent educator has an interesting website where he provides a wealth of informative parenting ideas. Go to [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)

### Pie Tasting

Thanks to Kaisha Gurry for providing a special lunch time snack for staff. Staff were lucky to be 'pie testers' for the up and coming pie fundraiser. (Details are included in this newsletter). We all agreed they are very yummy!



### Swimming

The swimming program for kindergarten, prep and deafblind groups begins next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Final details are being sent home this week.



### Babies!

Baby congratulations are in order for a staff member and family. Congratulations to Linda, David and Dylan Spencer on the birth of Brooklyn Grace on Monday. Also, congratulations to Elise Koole and Callum on the birth of Hamish William Farman in the early hours of Wednesday morning. We are very pleased to hear that babies and mothers are doing well. We look forward to them visiting at some stage.

### Illnesses



We are still in the winter months, and although this is apparently one of the mildest July's on record, this has not prevented staff and child illness.

There have been a large number of staff absences this week and as a result some classes have had minor alterations to their program. Many thanks to our staff and the Casual Relief Teachers for carrying out extra duties during these times.

*Liz Grover*

## *Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)*



### **Instalment Two.**

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due from mid August onwards for those parents/guardians who have chosen the EFT payment option on their application form at the start of the year. Parents and guardians who lodged and EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment. Any parent/guardian wishing to change from a cheque payment to an EFT payment will need to submit a new application form to the school for processing.

Applications close on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Parents/guardians who have chosen the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August to early September.

Further information can be obtained from:  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm)

Contact: School Office for application forms and further information.

### **KEY DATES:**

- Eligibility day – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- Parent applications close – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009
- EFT payments – Mid August 2009 onwards
- Cheque payment – Late August/Early September 2009

## *Treacher Collins Syndrome Family Day*

This is an opportunity to meet other families, ask questions and if you wish, to share your experiences, challenges and helpful strategies.

When: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August  
Time: 1.00 – 4.00 pm.  
Where: Aurora School  
Holland Rd, Blackburn South.

- Afternoon tea will be provided
- There will be a limited child care available – bookings required.
- There may be a small cost to cover child care, to be advised.

**Contact:** Gaye McDermott ☎ 8878 9878 or 0438 053 194.

RSVP to let us know if you would like to come.  
[mcdermott.gaye.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mcdermott.gaye.e@edumail.vic.gov.au) for more information or to make a booking.

### **Newsletter inserts:**

- Fundraiser - Rolf's Pies order form
- Invitation from City of Whitehorse (Early Years Plan)
- The 7 Hats of Confident Parents

