I hope that everyone enjoyed the extra long weekend – it came at an opportune time, just when we needed a break from it all!

**Student Welfare and Wellbeing:** Last Friday teachers and support staff attended a professional development day with Marg Armstrong on Restorative Practices. At Edithvale Primary School we are committed to this program and believe that this approach to dealing with behavioural issues is one which will support our students in the most successful way. The use of restorative practices ‘fosters an awareness in students of how others have been affected by their actions. Negative incidents can be used constructively to build empathy and a sense of community in the hope that there is a reduction of negative incidents in the future’. Teachers also work with the whole class using ‘circle time’. Circles can be used in the classroom purely as a format for getting to know others and having fun, but they can also be used as a way of facilitating and sharing speaking time in order to discuss many issues. It is a way of allowing everyone the opportunity to participate and contribute. Please talk to your child’s teacher if you wish to know more about how this is being used in classrooms.

In last week’s newsletter I also spoke about our focus on values – in particular about respecting others and being kind in all our interactions with others. This is a habit that we definitely want to foster in our school. Children are discussing, on a daily basis, what ‘being kind to others’ might look like and how we can show kindness towards everyone, not just our friends.

We have been lucky, over recent weeks to have our community police visit with our year 3-6 students to talk about a range of issues, although bullying was the predominant focus of discussion. We have missed our police in schools program which used to provide a regular point of contact for police and students but like so many other things, this program succumbed to a lack of resources. However, at our local Principal’s network meeting the police also presented an outline of their role in our school community – they are building links with schools to work closely on local issues and concerns. One way of reaching the wider community is through the school newsletter so, in the future you may occasionally see a report or message from the Crime Prevention or Youth Resource Officers.

**Reports:** A significant amount of time has been spent by teachers over the past weeks in preparing and writing student reports. We are now in the final stages of production and reports will be going home with students on Friday June 20th. Prior to this you will receive notification of parent-teacher interview sessions. I encourage you to take this opportunity to speak with teachers about the progress of your child.

**Student Achievement:** It gave me a great deal of pleasure to join Ms Sharp and two of our Year 3 students, Tiara and Laird, at Parkmore shopping centre yesterday. We gathered with students from a number of other schools to receive an award certificate and a $100 gift voucher for participating in the centre’s environmental sustainability expo. Our students had further developed their Melbourne icons to be environmentally sustainable. This has been an excellent experience for the students themselves and one which showcases some of the wonderful learning that goes on at Edithvale Primary School.

Denise Webster
Art at Edithvale P.S.

Clay ducks made by the preps

Black & White Symmetry pictures by grade 3 & 4.

Gold Miners & Ladies, made by grade 4.

Lighthouse pictures done with oil pastels by grade 5.
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
- Be either a parent of 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 foster parent.

Consequently parents / guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 3 (14 July 2008).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 1st August 2008 for the second instalment.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2008 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29th February 2008 and prior to or on 1st August 2008, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Parents who did not apply for the 1st instalment MUST fill in an application form for the 2nd instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office.

Chocolate drive update
We have 5 families in the running for the most boxes sold, at the conclusion of the chocolate drive the winning name will be drawn out.

Thankyou for your support.
PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE IS LOOKING FOR HOUSEHOLDS INTERESTED IN BECOMING HOMESTAYS

Is your family interested in a cultural experience?
Do you have a spare bedroom in your home?
Have you thought about hosting an international student?

Then consider hosting and international student in your home. The advantages are many including generous compensation for room and board.
Parkdale Secondary College is always looking for families to host students for 12 to 24 months as they complete their VCE. These students come from countries such as Brazil, China, Japan and Korea just to name a few. If you would like to find out more, please contact the school on 9580-6311 or email parkdale.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au.

During every school holiday break kids aged between 6 and 16 are invited to join the team at KidzPhyz to enjoy a range of fitness events and activities designed to stimulate, engage and build self esteem! They will also provide enriching and quality alternatives for working parents.

Upcoming camps for 2008 and early 2009 include Football (AFL), Dance, Hockey, Volleyball, Netball, Tennis and Cricket. All details, times, locations and costs are on our website, so please check us out at www.kidzphyz.com.au.
0407 123 493 (Greg)
0407 123 394 (Jane)

News from Chelsea Heights Community Centre
Keep fit in comfort over winter – we offer a wide variety of classes to suit all bodies; Pilates on Monday evenings, Rhythm Factory for children Tuesday mornings and Meditation to relieve anxiety and stress Tuesday evenings, and Tap Class or Tai-Chi Chuan Thursday evening. We also have various arts and craft classes happening. We are now taking bookings for third term’s Friday morning Occasional Take-A-Break Childcare session 9am to 12 noon commencing July 18th. Regular sessions each week day shall also still be happening; our Childcare sessions guarantee that individual attention with a maximum of only 15 children. We also have a fabulous hall available to hire for that special event in your life with tables and chairs for up to 200 people and a large kitchen, oven and fridge plus terrific heating.
Check out our Web site www.chelseaheightscommunitycentre.com.au or our brochure to discover lots more. For further information or a copy of our brochure, drop by or ring 9772 3391.

Step up to the line – it’s not too late to register for the MS Readathon!
The MS Readathon is from June 1 – June 30 and so far 3 children have registered to take part in this Reading Relay across Australia.

Students from more than 1500 Victorian schools have raced to the start line by registering for the 2008 MS Readathon. Don’t miss out on your opportunity to be rewarded for your reading this June- register today!

Edithvale Primary School students are encouraged to race to register either via the MS Readathon website or a registration form available from school.
Together we can read to change the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS). For more information or to download your reading record and sponsor list, visit www.msreadathon.org.au or call the Victorian on 1300 677 323.

Approximately 25 metres of colourbond mist green pool fencing with safety gate
$300