**From the Principal’s Desk**

**Thank You Parent Helpers**
On Tuesday we held a morning tea to thank parents who have helped at the school over the year. I know that many people could not attend on this day but I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in any way over this year. Parents assist us so much at Macarthur P.S. in so many ways including, daily reading, PMP, camps, excursions, sports, fundraising, School Council, working bees, uniform orders, RE Program, Clubs, Auskick, Net, set Go. We are very fortunate and we would like you all to know how much we appreciate the help and support parents give to our school.

**Scarlet Fever**
We have had one confirmed case of Scarlet Fever at school in recent days. Symptoms include sore throat, temperature and can develop into red skin rash. Children are excluded from school until at least 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has commenced and they are feeling well.

**School Concert/ Final day**
The school concert will be held tomorrow night beginning promptly at 7pm. We would like all children to arrive at the hall by 6.45pm so we can be organised and ready to start on time. This is a special night and children have been practising all week at the Macarthur Hall ready for their moment on stage. The concert night will also be the time when our grade 6 students receive graduation certificates, we farewell families who may be leaving the school, and we present students with awards and leadership positions for 2010. Grade 6 students will need to arrive at the hall in school uniform for the graduation presentations. All other students can wear what they need for the concert, apart from the costumes and masks which are already at the hall. The concert should finish about 9.00pm and will conclude our year at Macarthur Primary School for students. Staff will attend on Friday and will be curriculum planning for 2010, cleaning up, moving furniture and reorganising classrooms in preparation for the coming year.

We wish all families a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to the new school year. (Hopefully with our new building and renovations well on the way to completion)

Lynn Lyles
This year’s walk will be held tomorrow Thursday 17th December after the Macarthur Primary School Concert starting from the Macarthur Hall at 9:15 pm. Walk to be lead by Jenette Henderson. All welcome

Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safety of their children.

MADA Secretary - Mark Todd
PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS
Teaching your child to maximise their personal safety

Parenting Article No. 110

While children are very young, they rely totally on the care of their parent or other trusted adult. As they grow older, they start to be more independent and to venture out into the world where parents do not control the environment. This is normal and is usually exciting and fun. Unfortunately, it also brings dangers that the child has to learn to handle more and more by themselves. The parent's job is to ensure that their child is safe from harm as far as possible. A major part of this is to teach the child to be aware of their own body signals, which will help them recognise when they are feeling unsafe. You could draw a body shape and discuss where you both feel the signals. e.g. a sore tummy. Ask them what safety means to them and talk about everyday examples of times we feel safe as well as things that do not feel safe.

Let them know that they should always tell about anything that makes them feel unsafe. Emphasise that we all have the right to feel safe and that you will always listen to them. You can also pick up if they are anxious if you notice changes in behaviour or body language.

Together you can identify a list of trusted people who they can talk to or call. It is especially important that there are a number of adults they can approach, as one or other might not be available, might not believe them or might be the problem.

The child needs to have a range of skills that will enable them to deal with the worrying situation at an age-appropriate level... One way to make this easier is to use “Even if.....” questions to discuss options for action. For example, “How could you keep yourself safe even if you heard a strange noise at night?” or “How could you keep yourself safe even if I was late to get you from school?” Having some light-hearted ideas will stop this becoming too intense or anxiety provoking. Make a list and revise it or practise the ideas from time to time.

Home alone
Usually, children start to be left for short periods while the parent quickly goes to do something for a few minutes. The timing of this depends on the child's sense of responsibility and their ability to follow instructions. The skills they need are to be able to follow some basic safety rules which the parent should explain clearly and practise with them until they are clear.

Answering the phone
Sometimes it is best to tell your child not to answer the phone at all. People will always ring back! Make sure your child never tells someone unknown that they are home alone. They could just say that Mum or Dad cannot come to the phone right now. If someone asks “What number is this?” they could reply “What number were you trying to call?”

Answering the front door
Tell your child to check who is there by looking through a side window or asking “Who is it?” before opening the door. Never invite anyone you do not know into the house (this includes uninvited sales people). If a person refuses to leave - call the police on “000”

Safety at Public events
If you are planning a trip to the Zoo or the Show or some other crowded place, you need to make sure that the children have appropriate basic safety rules. If you can, give specific information about where to meet if you get separated. Eg. A gate number or a particular stall that is easy to identify. Wrist tags with your mobile number on them are helpful as long as your child also knows the kind of people who will be safest to approach for help. e.g. people in family groups, a police officer or security guard.

Having their name on them in large print may make it too easy for the wrong person to pretend they know them.

Safety Houses
Many schools have set up Safety House programs in their communities. This involves nominating approved houses where there will be a trusted adult available to help a child or elderly person who is frightened. The houses have a “smiley” face sign to show that they are safe places.

Helpful Organisations - Their Websites:
The information on this page has come from the websites below. Each has much more detail about the aspects of safety outlined above and are well worth a look!

Children’s Protection Society www.cps.org.au
The Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre www.rch.org.au/safetycentre
The Safety House Association of Victoria www.safetyhouse.org.au
Victoria Police www.police.vic.gov.au
Corangamite Library will be closed from Wednesday 16th December and will re-open on Wednesday 3rd February 2010
Customers who have borrowed books will have their return due date adjusted to suit this date

Broadwater Tennis Club
Junior Tennis Coaching
Broadwater Tennis Club Inc. will be holding Junior Tennis Coaching in January 2010. Take this opportunity to have your children professionally taught.

DETAILS
* Cost will be $5 per child per day.
* One hour lessons with qualified/registered Coach from Warrnambool Indoor Tennis Centre.
* Four days – Monday 25th to Thursday 28th January 2010 (last week of the school holidays. No coaching on Tuesday 26th Public Holiday).
* 10am start
* Held at Broadwater Tennis Courts, Port Fairy/Hamilton Road.
* All age groups – grouped in ability.
* Equipment supplied (bring your own racquet–if not able I’m sure we can get one)

NAMES REQUIRED BY 15th January 2010
Please contact: Leonie Dyson 5576 4251, 0438 586762 or mail: ldjdyson@westvic.com.au or Jodi Fry 5576 4213 or email: jodifry@westvic.com.au to register. Contact will be made a week before commencement.
Leonie Dyson  Vice President

Calendar 2009
PD  Professional Development
Conf  Conference
JRC  Junior Red Cross
JSC  Junior School Council
LL  Lynn Lyles
JM  Jacinta Mulder
SC  Shanna Cunningham
CS  Coral Shepherd
SM  Suzy Millard
JT  Julie Timms
SL  Sylvia Luke