Term 1, Week 5 – 24 February 2016

### Diary Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT/ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-Feb</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Parent Helper Induction - 9:15am to 10:15am - Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Feb</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Kindergarten - Best Start reports go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Feb</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Kindergarten - Best Start Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Mar</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Stage 3 - Clean Up Australia day for schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten - Best Start Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Mar</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Stage 2 - Clean Up Australia day for schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 6:00PM (Note change of time) - Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Early Stage 1 - Clean Up Australia Day for Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Mar</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Year 6 Parents - Meet the Teacher afternoon 3:15pm - 4:15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important Dates

- Parent Helper Induction - 25 February
- P&C Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 1 March at 6:00pm (Note: change of time) - Lecture Theatre
- Best Start Interviews - Kindergarten - 29 February to 3 March

### Weekly Activities

**TUESDAYS - PLAYGROUP**
9:15am to 11:15am (during terms) near canteen for Westmead PS parents only, with children aged 0 to 5 years.

**WEDNESDAYS - STUDENT BANKING**
Hand bank book in before 8:55am at the K-2 or 3-6 COLA.

Look for the WOOF sign!
Canteen

- The canteen is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 1:45pm.
- Students and/or parents are welcome to place recess and lunch orders daily.
- Please place orders with correct money into the express lunch order box on the counter.
- Fridays - If you participate in PSSA, please write PSSA on your lunch order bag.

**Hot foods available at recess:**

* garlic bread
* salsa bread
* mini hot dogs
* party pies
* wedges
* hot noodles
* hash browns

--- Prices start from $1.00 ---

Come to the canteen at recess to purchase.

**Online Ordering Service for the School Canteen**

The school canteen offers Flexischools online ordering and cashless payment for the purchase of school lunches from your mobile phone or desktop.

Flexischools is the fast and secure way to order and pay at the school canteen. Take advantage of this convenient service.

Click on the Flexischools link below and click REGISTER.

Please note: Flexischools is only for our school canteen.

**Principal's Report**

*It is wonderful to walk around the school and hear our students excited about learning.*

Although we have only been back for just over 4 weeks, our school is abuzz with energy. As always, our focus is on excellence in teaching and learning and on providing a well-balanced education for our students. Thank you to the parents who supported the connection between home and school by attending our *Meet the Teacher* afternoons (Year 6 to come). These were a valuable opportunity for teachers to inform you about programs, routines and structures. Thank you also to the teachers who gave up their afternoons to engage with our community and build an inclusive and welcoming school environment.
We have extensive programs which aim to teach our students to become critical and creative individuals who are ready for the challenges of the future (future focused learners). These skills are embedded as part of the teaching and learning program but are also enhanced through extra-curricular programs. This year we have 35 extra-curricular groups, PSSA (School representative sport) and leadership programs such as SRC (Student Representative Council) and Library monitors. A huge thank you to the teachers who give up lunches, before and after school to provide these opportunities for our students.

**Safety**

Whilst we know it is tempting for parents to stay in the mornings to hear the announcements regarding rehearsals and other organisation, it is important you help us make our students be responsible by encouraging them to listen to announcements and bring their own notes to coaches or to the blue box. It is also essential for student safety that you drop your child and move out of the school grounds as soon as possible. Teachers on duty need a clear line of sight to supervise children and this is hard when there are a large number of unknown adults in the playground. Whilst you are known to your child, to other children you are a stranger. Moving off once the bell has gone is especially important so teachers and students can move quickly to classes. Once the bell goes, if you wish to remain in the school we ask you to sign in at the office as a visitor or go to the community room. This helps us identify who might be a stranger our playground. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our students safe.

**Foreign currency**

Please check the money you are sending to school for payments and for use in the canteen. Our school and canteen only accept Australian notes and coins.

**School Plan 2015-2017**

As mentioned in previous newsletters a full copy of our 3 year school plan is available on our website. Please see below an overview of the purpose of our strategic directions.
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Yellow awards may be given in class for positive behaviour. These can be traded (using the appropriate boxes in the office) as follows:

We look forward to presenting awards to those students who are working and behaving positively, when assemblies begin.

Dedication

This week we sadly farewell Mrs Helen Newton. She started at Westmead PS many many years ago as a parent and since her child left, she has continued her strong connection to our school through her work in the uniform shop. Mrs Newton's help has been highly valued and she will be missed. We wish her well for the future.

Working Bee

Thursday 18 February was our first working bee. Thank you to the 13 helpers who worked hard for 2 hours in the heat, to clean up our gardens. We weeded, picked up rubbish, pruned plants, raked and swept the areas at the front of the school and near the hall. It was a lovely opportunity for parents to chat and meet informally whilst helping out the school. We got the equivalent of 32 hours of gardening done in 2 hours. Morning tea afterwards was well deserved. We hope to see more parents at our next event. If you are interested in helping with gardening as a more regular activity- please email our Community Hub coordinator LizaMoscatelli at lmoscatelli@ssi.org.au
Technology

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is an essential tool used by students and staff at our school. We use computers, netbooks, ipads, interactive whiteboards (IWBs), printers, digital cameras and our own devices every day. The coordination of our technology systems, hardware, software and maintenance is led by Mr Buckman. This is a huge job in a school of our size and it is done voluntarily. This year already he has worked with support to resolve over 100 ICT issues in our school. Everything from changing bulbs in IWBs, to ensuring students who BYOD have access to wifi, and imaging and setting up 50 new computers- has been effectively coordinated by Mr Buckman.

On behalf of our staff and students I wish to publically acknowledge and thank Mr Buckman for all he has done and will do this year. He goes above and beyond.

An Extra Special Thank You

A huge thank you to our Deputy Principal 3-6 Ms Sam Doran and Relieving Deputy Principal K-2 Mrs Rehana Khan who are doing a wonderful job. The Deputy Principal is a key role in such a large school like ours and, as part of the executive team supporting the Principal, they have high level responsibilities for the strategic and operational management of the school.

Recently they have been coordinating and organising important areas such as Scripture, overseeing all extra-curricular groups, High School transition, Kinder transition, Learning support teams, rosters (RFF, Playground duties, library), supervising EAL/D (Specialist English language programs) and RFF and support staff (such as Reading Recovery, Library, Learning and Support and Release from face to face), establishing all class rolls and supporting staff and student wellbeing.
Some people may not see them that often, but thankfully they work behind the scenes for many events and effective programs in our school. Thank you ladies.

Working in cooperation.

Megan Bridekirk
Relieving Principal

Principal's Awards

Principal's Award
Nikita Nerella 2H, Nilesh Das 1S, Joanna Oommen 5/6J x 2, Dismitha Punchinilame 6P, Ishaan Javalekar 3K.

What's Happening At Westmead?

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![Every Day Counts Table](image)

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![Be Cool Show Up](image)
Ethics Classes for Westmead Public School

Dear Parents and Carers

Ethics classes are now available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children who are in Non-Scripture.

The NSW government has authorised Primary Ethics, a not-for-profit organisation, to design curriculum and deliver these classes. Classes are inquiry based and children use dialogue and discussion to learn how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument. Trained and vetted volunteer teachers lead discussions.

The curriculum is age appropriate with classes for:

- **Early Stage 1** (kindergarten)
- **Stage 1** (years 1 & 2)
- **Stage 2** (years 3 & 4)
- **Stage 3** (years 5 & 6)

**Every Minute Counts!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Your child has arrived in time to settle well and has the best start possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Your child has probably arrived just after most children as the school day starts at 9.00am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.01am</td>
<td>Your child is late and has missed the beginning of the school day, being a few minutes late often unsettles children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.05am</td>
<td>5 minutes late a day means 3 lost days a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10am</td>
<td>10 minutes late a day means 6 lost days a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Arriving after the register closes is recorded as an unauthorised absence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your child is late they are missing out.

If your child is regularly late it will affect their learning at school.

**Give your child the best start to the school day by arriving at 8.45 am.**
We can start ethics classes at our school in each stage when we have at least 8 children enrolled. Please let me know if you are interested in choosing Ethics for your child by returning the slip below by the end of this term.

There is more information at www.primaryethics.com.au.

Please email Primary Ethics info@primaryethics.com.au with any questions you may have.

**AMENDMENT - Special Religious Education (Scripture)**

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The teaching of Special Religious Education in government schools by approved religious providers has been part of our system of education in NSW since 1880. The purpose of scripture is to deliver quality educational programs using contemporary teaching methods and suited to the appropriate stage of students’ faith development.


The religious classes we offer at Westmead Public School are:

- * Christian (Anglican)
- * Catholic
- * Sikhism
- * Islamic
- * Greek Orthodox
- * Hinduism
- * Baha’i
- * Buddhist
- * Serbian Orthodox

We are also offering Ethics classes to Kindergarten students. Students, who are not attending religious or Ethics classes, will attend non scripture classes.

Scripture begins on Thursday 18 February. We encourage parents to update or ensure their child is attending appropriate scripture classes. This information can be updated through the office. Scripture lessons times are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture Class</th>
<th>Lesson Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder to Year 2</td>
<td>11:20am to 11:50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>11:50am to 12:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>12:20pm to 12:50pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms Eva Eid, the Muslim scripture supervisor, is looking for volunteers to teach Muslim scripture on Thursdays from 11:20am to 12:50pm. All the teaching materials and the syllabus are provided along with full training. If you are interested please contact Eva Eid on 0405 655 065 for more information.

Megan Bridekirk
Relieving Principal

Rehana Khan
Relieving Deputy Principal and Scripture Co-ordinator

**Uniform shop hours**

Uniform shop hours are as follows:

(Unless otherwise advised)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>2:30pm to 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>8:45am to 9:30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School shoes for sale

Dr Shoe (Max) will be selling school shoes near the uniform shop on **Tuesday 1 March from 2:45pm to 3:30pm.**

School Information

Important changes to student attendance at school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT CHANGES TO STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The NSW Department of Education &amp; Communities has made changes to the School Attendance Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These changes include</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Implementation of the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Parents/Carers are required to explain their child’s absence within seven (7) days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New criteria for Exemption from Attendance at School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Westmead Public School

When your child stays at home because they are sick for

- 1-2 days - write a note for teacher explaining why your child was not at school and include the date absent
- 3 or more days – telephone the school and obtain a doctor’s certificate

**Travelling or taking holidays during the school terms**

The NSW Department of Education & Communities encourages families to travel during school holidays.

Students who travel or take holidays during the school terms will now have those absences recorded. A certificate of Exemption will no longer be granted.

Parents/Carers will now be required to complete the [Application for Extended Leave – Travel](#) (available from the school office) and submit the form to the school principal for consideration.

Families traveling overseas should include a copy of the confirmed travel booking.

If approved, a [Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel](#) will be issued and the period of absence recorded as L – Leave. The absences will appear on your child’s school report.

If the principal does not approve the application the absence will be recorded as A-Unjustified and appear on your child’s school report.

**Change of Address Policy for Westmead PS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change of Address Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 2014, the parents/carers of all students enrolled at Westmead Public School are required to advise the school within 7 (seven) school days if:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- a change of address, telephone contact details or emergency contact information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- any change in the student’s medical condition or a new medical condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the change of address occurs during the school holiday period, the parent/carer will inform the school on the first school day of the new term.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should a student and their family relocate to an address outside the Westmead Public School catchment area, it is expected that the student will enroll at the primary school local for their new address.

The school office staff will provide the parent/carer with the name of the school, principal and contact details.

When a student changes to an address within the local catchment area, the parent/carer is required to provide evidence of the local address with the following documentation – originals only; no copies or email versions.

**Support documents for IN-AREA change of address**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List A</th>
<th>List B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List A</td>
<td>List B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If you are the owner of the property:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Purchase contract for property &amp;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Council Rates OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Water Rates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If you are renting the property:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Signed Rental Agreement stamped by the Leasing Agent – valid for at least 6 (six) months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Rental Bond Lodgement stamped by Leasing Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tenant Trust Ledger – must show Rental Bond Lodgement Receipt and current Rental payment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NSW Fair Trading Advice of Lodgement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL documents must be:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In YOUR name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ORIGINALS – no photocopies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Current date – no more than 3 (three) months old</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lodge documents at school office

9:30am to 2:00pm - Monday to Friday (during school terms)
Have you changed your address or telephone numbers?

It is very important to keep all your contact details (i.e., address and phone numbers) up-to-date in case of an emergency. Also, the names of people you provide as secondary contacts need to be people who live in Sydney.

Does your child need to have medication at school?

Before medication can be given to your child at school, you need to follow these important steps.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Administering prescribed medication at school

When a medical practitioner has prescribed medication that must be administered during the school day, parents are responsible for:

- bringing this need to the attention of the school
- ensuring that the information is updated if it changes
- supplying the medication and any ‘consumables’ necessary for its administration in a timely way
- collaborating with the school in working out arrangements for the supply and administration of the prescribed medication.

The administration of such medication forms part of the Department's common law duty of care to take reasonable steps to keep students safe while they attend school. This duty of care is fulfilled through its staff members.

The administration of prescribed medication in schools is carried out by staff who volunteer and who are trained. Key points to remember:

- Parents of children who require prescribed medication to be administered at school must complete a written request. The form may be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the Department of Education website which appears at the end of this article.

  If parents have difficulty in completing the form they should ask the principal for assistance.

- Students must not carry medications unless there is a written agreement between the school and the student’s parents that this is a planned part of the student’s health care support.

  **Please note:** Students’ immediate access to prescribed medication is very important for the effective management of conditions such as asthma. Students and parents need to be advised of this requirement so that students are not left without access to critical medication.
It is the principal's responsibility to fully inform relevant staff of the management implications of students requiring the administration of prescribed medication.

- Except in an emergency, only individual staff members who have volunteered and been trained, will administer prescribed medication to students.
- The principal will oversee implementation of the course of action that he or she has determined is necessary for the support of the student's health needs.
- It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that all copies of the written medical advice and any other relevant documentation are stored in a secure and confidential manner.
- Advice or further information to assist the principal can be obtained from student welfare consultants and disability programs consultants.

Self administration of prescribed medication by students

The common law duty of care does not extend to administering prescribed medication to students who are reasonably able to self administer.

However, if a student self administers prescribed medication the Department has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that the self administration is carried out safely.

Note re emergency care

Schools do not generally supply or administer medications in an emergency unless they have been provided by parents as part of the negotiated individual health care plan for a specific student.

In an emergency which has not been anticipated in the emergency/response care section of an individual health care plan, staff will provide a general emergency response, eg call an ambulance. Where an emergency response requires the immediate administration of medication to prevent serious illness or injury, staff should administer the medication eg Ventolin for a first asthma attack.

Non-prescribed medications

In general, schools do not administer medication which has not been specifically requested by a medical practitioner for an individual student for a specific condition. In some cases the medical practitioner may not write 'aprescription' for such medication because it may be available 'over the counter'. NSW Health advises that this does not mean that the medication is not potentially harmful and that schools should follow the same procedures for such medications as for 'prescribed medications'.

Parents & Citizens Association (P & C) News

Thank you to all the parents who attended the P&C's Information Session and meeting earlier this month. Please see the following Information Handout if you would like to know more about the P&C and how to get involved.

P & C
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

Tuesday 1 March 2016

at

6:00pm

(Please note change of time)

in the

Lecture Theatre (Block Q)

All welcome - please come along!

If you are interested in standing for any of the elected Westmead Public School P&C Committee positions listed below, visit the P&C Federation website - [http://pandc.org.au/index.php/publications](http://pandc.org.au/index.php/publications) (in the FAQs section) to see the role statements for the President, Treasurer and Secretary positions.

- President (1)
- Vice Presidents (2)
- Treasurer (1)
- Secretary (1)
- Committee members (up to 6).
Mother’s Day Stall planning has started!

The Mother’s Day stall will be held on Wednesday 4 May 2016 in the Dance Studio.

We need your help to wrap gifts, set up the tables and sell gifts. You will receive a note to let us know when you can help or see the one attached.

The wrapping of gifts starts from Monday 21 March!

Thank you for your on-going support.
From the P&C Team

Community News

Hello Parents, grandparents and caregivers.

Our programs have almost reached capacity with very limited spaces. Please click on the link below to view our latest newsletter and to find out more information about each program this term.

**HARMONY DAY** is coming up on 21 March and I’m seeking parent helpers and volunteers to help with setting up the tables and chairs for our multicultural morning tea or lunch, decorating, sorting information packs etc. If you are a singer, musician or dancer and would like to showcase your culture and art let me know.

I would like to welcome Sophie and Kamila as they have just commenced their field placement at the Community Hub in the school. Sophie is studying a Bachelor of Community Welfare and Kamila is studying a Master of Social Work. Both of them are attending Western Sydney University. They will be helping with coordination of the programs and events. Sophie is here on Mondays and Tuesdays (140 hours) and Kamila is at the hub Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (480 hours). Welcome ladies!

For further inquiries please email me on lmoscatelli@ssi.org.au.

If you are on social media be sure to follow "Community Hub Westmead" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (the links are available above and below the newsletter). We also have a national Community Hubs website where you can find out more about all the National Community Hubs Program across schools and community centres in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

To VIEW the latest issue of the Community Hub newsletter go to: [http://eepurl.com/bRn6j](http://eepurl.com/bRn6j)

To SUBSCRIBE to the Community Hub Newsletter go to: [http://facebook.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a2c2dfeb61f2ec4b00ce034d8&id=d7abbdc1d6](http://facebook.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a2c2dfeb61f2ec4b00ce034d8&id=d7abbdc1d6)

I look forward to meeting you all.

**LizaMoscatelli**
Community Hub Leader (Westmead Public School)
Mobile: 0403 017 271
Email: lmoscatelli@ssi.org.au
**BLACKTOWN BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL**

cordially invites

Years 5 and 6 Parents and sons
to the

Year 7 2017 Information Afternoon
on
Wednesday, 2 March, 2016
at
4.30 to 5.30pm
Blacktown Boys’ High School Library
Fifth Avenue
Blacktown

- Explore the best choice for your son’s future.
- Consider the benefits of a boys’ school, which values learning, respect and safety.
- Gifted and Talented Program information available.
- Selective High School admission test information. (Blacktown Boys’ High School) is a partially selective high school.
- Meet and mingle with teachers, staff and other students.

For further information or to confirm attendance for catering purposes, please contact the school:

Phone: 9622 1588  Fax: 9631 2382
Email: blacktownb-school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.blacktownb-schools.nsw.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you.

Website: www.blacktownb-schools.nsw.edu.au
Email: blacktownb-school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School**

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School has a long tradition as a centre of excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts. An exciting opportunity is available for talented students to audition for placement in our outstanding CAPA programs.

Students in the specialised streams are offered a wide range of opportunities to excel in their chosen field with extensive co-curricular programs and a whole school approach to fostering our gifted students’ talents.

Auditions will be held for Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts on Monday 14th to Friday 18th March 2016. The cost of auditions is $50.00.

Applications close and forms need to be submitted to NCPAHS by Monday 7th March 2016.

For application forms, please contact Mrs Stipcic on 9630 4116

Forms can also be obtained via our school website.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Year 7 Scholarships
- Creative and Performing
- Academic
- Sporting

**GIFTED & TALENTED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT TEST FOR 2017**

Date: Thursday 24th March 2016 at 9.00am
Cost: $45.00 payable to the firm office by Wednesday 16th March 2016.

Principal: Natalie Vazquez
www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
26 Campbell St, Northmead NSW 2152
Ph: 9630 4116

Website: www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

**Dundas Valley Junior Rugby Union Club**

FREE REGISTRATION

TRAINING TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 5PM 6PM Starting 1st March

Cox Park – Evans Rd, Dundas Valley

EVERYONE FROM BEGINNERS TO EXPERIENCED PLAYERS ARE WELCOME

Contact: Manager - Hansport 64408623

Email: admin@myrugby.com.au

Registration day: Saturday 26th Feb – Vikings Sports Club, Quarry Rd Dundas Valley, online anytime or in person.

Please feel free to contact us for any information.

Email: dvjr@hotmail.com