Diary Dates and upcoming events ....

**February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17</td>
<td>Interschool Sport (fixture on website)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open (9.00 am for approx. 45 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20</td>
<td>Three Way Conferences (see attached information on booking your times)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22</td>
<td>Gr 3 Melbourne Museum Exc ($10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24</td>
<td>Interschool Sport (fixture on website)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open (9.00 am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27 Feb to Fri 3 March</td>
<td>Grade 6 Canberra Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Principal….

**SCHOOL VALUES**

At Preston PS we have a set of four values that we expect all members of our school community to acknowledge. You will see the values displayed prominently throughout the school.

- **RESPECT**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **RESILIENCE**
- **LEARNING SUCCESS**

At Preston Primary we are committed to creating and maintaining an encouraging environment which promotes and supports excellence in learning, recognizes and celebrates individual success, and demonstrates respect between students, staff, parents and the wider school community.

We actively promote students to take personal responsibility for their learning, social interactions, personal behaviour and belongings.

All stakeholders strive to develop skills, knowledge and confidence which promote personal resilience.

We foster positive mutual interaction so all stakeholders can show respect and honesty with each other.

**WHO DO I GO TO?**

From time to time parents have issues or concerns that they wish to raise or clarify but they don’t know who to speak to. There are several staff members you can contact, your child’s classroom teacher, the year level coordinator, Robyn Brock, the Junior School Coordinator, Mark Smith, the Assistant Principal or myself. If it is a matter related to your child we suggest you speak with their classroom teacher first. At Preston we don’t have a hierarchy; you can approach the person who you believe will best sort out your concerns.

For those parents who don’t know who the grade level coordinators are I have included a photo of them in this week’s newsletter. Remember: a small problem is easy to solve - a big problem is harder to solve.
NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN PRESTON
As you are probably aware the government has committed to opening a new secondary school in Preston. The school will be on the built of the former Preston Girl’s Secondary site in Gower Street. The government is currently seeking input from the local community. If you would like to contribute to the consultation please read the information included in this week’s newsletter. The consultation period will end on Tuesday February 28th.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
It is very important that parents read the newsletter as it will keep you informed about what is happening in the school, it contains information about school related activities and diary dates. The Newsletter is our main form of communication with parents.

The newsletter is emailed to parents on Wednesday afternoons. It is important that we have your current email address to ensure you receive a copy. The newsletter is also available on the school website.

3 WAY CONFERENCES
This semester’s 3 Way Conferences are on Monday February 20th. Theses conferences are a very important aspect of your child’s education. Although it is early in the year we have them at this time to provide parents, students and teachers with the opportunity to share valuable information.

If you haven’t booked you will need to log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au website and follow the links. You will be prompted to enter the event code which is nuc5u. If you have more than one child in the school please ensure that you leave sufficient time between interviews to allow you to get to the second or third appointment.

IT’S NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY
It is important that children attend school every day……

I have included some information from the DET’s program “It’s Not Okay To Be Away”.

What is my responsibility as a parent/caregiver?
Make sure your child:
• attends school on ALL school days (except if they are sick)
• arrives at school on time every day

Make sure you:
• provide the school with an explanation if your child is away
• contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
• arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
• arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
• do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons.

Is regular attendance at school important?
• Yes – from the first day. If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulties with their learning
• Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted.
• Regular learning provides building blocks for the future
• Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem.

DID YOU KNOW?
If your child completes 13 years of education: years prep to 12 and they were away 15 days each year it would total ONE WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR of absences.

If your child is away you MUST send a note, or verbally inform their teacher the reason for their absence. We need to report all absences through a centralised reporting system and we must also put in a code as to why the student is away. If your child is away for more than 3 days we would appreciate it if you could ring the office staff and they will pass the message on to your child’s teacher.

Regards,
Janet Paterson,
Principal.

Uniform Shop…..
The Uniform Shop is open on Friday mornings only from 9.00 am until 9.45 am approx.

Please note that it is only open for a short time, not all day.

Orders can be made on Qkr through the week – up to 4.00 pm on Thursdays – and goods will sent home with your child on Friday afternoon.
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Preston PS School Council is an elected body that consists of 8 parent reps, 4 staff reps, 2 co-opted members and the School Principal. Members are elected to School Council for a two year period. We have 4 parent and 2 staff rep positions that are up for election this year. The parent members who have completed their two year term are Irene Brown, Sonia Cucinotta, Kim Walker and Daniel Clements and the staff members who have completed their two year term are Mark Smith and Robyn Brock.

The positions are open to all parents who have a child attending Preston PS. It is always good to have some new parents nominate for school council as they bring with them new ideas. Information relating to the role and time commitment of a School Council representative is attached to this newsletter.

The timeline for the election process is:
- Monday February 20th Nominations open
- Monday February 27th Nominations close

If there are more nominees than positions available there will be a need for an election. The timeline below is to be used if an election is needed.

- Wednesday March 1st Ballot papers distributed
- Wednesday March 8th at 4.00pm Close of Ballot
- Thursday March 9th Votes counted
- Thursday March 9th Declaration of ballot
- Monday March 27th AGM - First School Council meeting to elect Office Bearers (Principal to preside)

Nomination forms are available at the Senior School office. Parents can either self-nominate or have someone nominate them. Any person who is nominated MUST sign the nomination form to indicate they have accepted the nomination.

If you would like any further information please contact the Mark Smith or Janet Paterson on 9470 1167.

SUNSMART

We are very fortunate that the weather this year has not been too hot however we still need to ensure the children come to school prepared for the heat. They MUST bring their hat to school EVERY day as we have a “No Hat no Play” rule that we enforce in Terms 1 and 4. They also need to bring a drink bottle with them. The children are allowed to have the drink bottle with them during school time however the bottle must have a pop-top lid and it can only contain water. Children are permitted to bring other drinks to school, including juice or cordial however they can only drink these at lunch time.

SCHOOL STARTING & FINISHING TIMES

Parents please remember:

It is most important that children arrive at school no earlier than 8.45am but before 9am. When children are late it has an effect on their learning as they are missing valuable instruction time. If you need to drop your child at school before 8.45am they need to go to Before School Care. Parents need to be aware that there is no teacher on duty until 8.45am, therefore if your child is in the yard before 8.45am they are not being supervised.

School finishes at 3.30pm. Parents need to make the appropriate arrangements for their children at the end of the day. Children cannot be left in the yard unsupervised. Any children not picked up by 3.45pm will be sent to Out of Hours School Care and parents will be charged the appropriate fee. There is no teacher on duty after 3.45pm.

PICKING UP CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE DAY

If your child is at the senior school and you have to pick them up before 3.30pm you need to go to the office to sign them out. You will be provided with a form that you must give to your child’s teacher. If you do not have a form the teacher will ask you to go back to the office to sign your child out. We will not be making any announcements to call children out of the classroom.

If you have a child at the Junior School you can go directly to their classroom. The teachers have a sign-out book in their classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Bell Times:</th>
<th>Grade 4, 5 &amp; 6:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade Prep, 1, 2 &amp; 3:</td>
<td>Grade 4, 5 &amp; 6:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55am</td>
<td>Line up bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Start bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40am</td>
<td>Begin Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10am</td>
<td>End Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Begin Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50pm</td>
<td>End Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Home time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade 2 Report ....

Grade Two children have enjoyed their first few weeks of being in the Senior School. There are many new experiences and lots of things to get used to but they are doing a great job. Some of the children have shared their thoughts about being at the ‘big school’.

Greta - “The best thing is a really big Art room.”
Andreas - “I like it because there is more space to play!”
Sarah - “We have two playgrounds!”
Harry - “The basketball court is really big. It’s a real one.”

Grade 6 Report .... Things You Didn’t Know About 6AA ....

The Grade 6 students have had a wonderful start to their final year of primary school. They have settled into the busy routines of Term 1 and are working hard before their exciting trip to Canberra in a couple of weeks. We are enjoying getting to know our new Grade 6 team through different classroom activities. Last week the students created a poster on ‘10 things you didn’t know about me’. Here are some of the things 6AA shared with the grade:

- My favourite soccer team is Liverpool and I play for Heidelberg United – Harvey.
- Guitar is the only instrument I have played where I quit lessons after three years however I still got a trophy – Josh.
- I used to be allergic to strawberries – Georgia.
- My all-time favourite book is Holes – Kelly.
- I have 8 siblings – Mahmoud.
- My drink bottles have a habit of wandering off…. maybe they grow legs – Amelia.
- I broke my arm and didn’t notice until 3 weeks later – Sophie.
- In Kakadu, I drove a tin boat in crocodile infested waters – Daisy.
- In kinder, I split my finger open – Coen.
- Dancing and cooking are my hobbies; I also love to read – Manmeet.
- While surfing at Somers camp, I got stuck under the surfboard - Brigitte.
- I am addicted to cars, especially hotrods – Steven.
- I know how to play the Star Wars theme on my clarinet – Hannah.
- I once had chickens as pets and a fox came and ate them – Zhifeng.
- My dog died of cancer when I was six – Oscar.
- I was born a month before I was due – Gabriel.
- If I could be any superhero, I would be the Flash – George.
- My favourite food is chocolate fondue with strawberries and marshmallows – Spencer.
- In my opinion, cold weather is better than hot weather – Lucette.
- When I was young, I had bright blonde hair but it gradually changed to brown – Maddy.
- I have been to an A-League grand final, cricket world cup final and 2 AFL grand finals including the Bulldogs win last year – Harry.
- I have played in 4 basketball finals and lost 2 – Max.
Prep Report ....

What a fantastic start to school our Preps have had!

Our first day was last Monday and the children were so excited to get started at Preston Primary. There were no tears (at least from the children - we can’t vouch for their parents) and the children are adjusting quickly to their new surroundings, classrooms, teachers and classmates. The first week for the Preps was filled with lots of fun activities including developmental play, craft, drawing and cutting and pasting. This week the children are starting full days at school, which will no doubt be exhausting for the students and their teachers, however we are all looking forward to starting our Jolly Phonics program, getting stuck into hands on Maths activities and getting started with P.E., Italian and Art.

On Monday the children also met their special Grade 1 buddies. This is something new we are trying this year. Each Prep child has been matched with a Grade 1 “buddy” who will help them find their way around the school yard, provide a friendly face for our Preps and be someone they can turn to if they are feeling sad or have no one to play with. As well as meeting their buddy the children also talked about the fact that the fairy garden is going to be the place where they can go to when they are feeling a bit lost or overwhelmed.

We have so many exciting things planned for the term. It’s going to be a great year!

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Italian Report ....

*Benvenuti a tutti!* It has been a wonderful start to the year.

We were very excited meeting our new Preps. The children were just as excited. This term the Preps will be learning greetings, names of family members and counting to ten. It is surprising how much they already know about the Italian culture. Some have nonni and everyone has certainly eaten pizza, pasta, Nutella and gelato!

**Grade 1** have been looking at the map of Italy, discussing geographical facts and famous landmarks. You may have heard them recite the chant of ‘Big Boot Italy’. This term through the story of ‘Il Mare’ the children will be learning vocabulary associated with summer and the beach.

The **Grade 2** students have started the year learning a fun game of ‘Tira’ revising counting in Italian. It won’t be long that they will be beating some of the senior grades. This term the children will be revisiting greetings, i colori and i numeri.

The **Grade 3** children will be comparing the Italian l’alfabeto to the English alphabet. Did you know that the Italian alphabet only has 21 letters? This term the students will also be learning about vocabulary and language associated to location.

**Grade 4** students will be focusing on la classe this term. In the next couple of weeks they will be learning a song about objects found in the classroom and learning to describe them.

**Grade 5** began the year producing a simple profile about themselves. This term they will be looking at Mezzi di Trasporto and writing sentences to describe their mode of transport.

**Grade 6** students also produced a profile about themselves including information about their teacher, grade and friends. This term the students will be learning about the famous Carnevale of Venezia. They are most excited about creating their own Venetian mask.

We look forward to all the wonderful Italian work the children will be doing throughout the year.

Signora Perrone and Signora Langley
HIGH SCHOOL FOR PRESTON
What kind of high school do you want for Preston?

Last year the Victorian Government committed to open a new co-educational secondary school for Years 7 to 12 students on the site of the former Preston Girls' Secondary College, Cooma Street, Preston.

An online portal has been established so you can have your say on what kind of school you want www.engage.vic.gov.au/PrestonHigh. Your feedback will be provided to the design team to be considered as part of the new school designs. The online engagement portal will be open from Monday 6 February until Tuesday 28 February.

In addition, a Community Workshop is being held to hear from educational experts, architects and project managers about the Preston High School. There will be presentations and opportunities to ask questions.

Thursday, 16 February 2017 : 6:30 pm – 8 pm, City of Darebin City Hall, 284 Gower Street, Preston 3072

If you have any queries about the Preston High project, please contact:
Victorian School Building Authority : Phone: 1800 896 950  :  Email: vsba@edumail.vic.gov.au, www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au

CHESS Timetable –
Thu 9 February – Chess : Junior 8.00 am Gr 3 Area, Room 7
Thu 9 February – Chess : Intermediate 3.30 pm, Gr 3 Area, Room 7
Fri 10 February – Chess : Advanced 8.00 am, Gr 3 Area, Room 7

(Room 7 is on the ground floor in the main building, Senior School, Grade 3 bag area – near the concrete stairs)

Information/enrolment flyer attached

Icy Poles …
Icy poles will start THIS WEEK, Thursday 16 February.

They are for sale in Term 1 at a cost of .60¢ each.

- Grades Prep and 1 - please send your payment into your child’s teacher by Wednesday in a CLEARLY MARKED envelope with your child’s name. Payment can be made for one week or can be sent in for the remainder of Term 1 (.60c x 7 weeks = $4.20). If your child is not at school on the day unfortunately we cannot offer a refund or “hold icy poles over”.

- Grades 2 to 6 can buy directly over the counter at their lunch times.

If you would like to put your name on the roster please email Kate : katewood@netspace.net.au

Parent Class Rep Program ….
Would you like to meet more parents at Preston Primary? Would you like to feel part of a community with other parents from your children’s class? Would you like to receive more info about things going on around school?

Then the Parent Class Rep program is for you! Preston Primary Parent Club is starting up a new Parent Class Rep program. It aims to help create a sense of community, provide a way to pass on useful info about school activities, and help all families feel welcome and able to be involved in school networks and events. We aim to have a nominated ‘Parent Class Rep’ for each class. The reps will be a central point of contact and help connect parents who wish to participate. Parent Class Rep’s will be supported with templates for class contact lists, privacy requirements, information and ideas about linking parents with the school community.

If you are interested in being a Parent Class Rep, or finding out more, please email PPSparentrep@gmail.com or contact Jenny Ford 0409 266 030
HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE NEW PRESTON HIGH SCHOOL

Families can now have their say on plans for the new Preston High School.

Minister for Education James Merlino and Member for Preston Robin Scott today opened community consultation on the new school, which will see the former Preston Girls’ Secondary College site re-opened as a new co-educational secondary school.

The consultation period will run until 28 February and include a community workshop and online portal. It will give families and residents a chance to have their say on shaping the new school’s design.

Community members can visit www.engage.vic.gov.au/PrestonHigh or attend a community consultation at Darebin City Hall on Thursday 16 February, from 6:30pm - 8pm.

A New School Planning Group has also been established to work with the community and oversee the development of the new school comprising local community groups, council representatives, nearby school principals, education experts, architects and project planners.

Architect Baldasso Corsone has been appointed to design the new school.

The Andrews Labor Government will open the exciting new local school in response to stage two of the Preston School Provision Review, which found there will be future demand for secondary schools in Preston and surrounding suburbs.

Preston High School is one of 42 new schools now in the construction pipeline – including 16 new schools opening this year – after an unprecedented $1.8 billion investment to build and upgrade schools across Victoria.

For two years the Labor Government has put people first, building the Education State so every community can access a great school and every student is supported to be their best.

You can find information on more than 1,000 building projects going on across Victoria on the Victorian School Building Authority’s website: http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/pages/home.aspx

Quote attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

“We’re working with local families to deliver this brand new secondary school for the Preston community.”

“The new school will give families access to first-rate facilities, meaning their children can get the education they need to thrive.”

Quote attributable to Member for Preston Robin Scott

“This is a unique opportunity for local voices to be heard on the school’s design so I encourage everyone to attend the community consultation or complete the online survey.”

“I know that families in Preston and surrounding areas are excited about what this new school could look like and I can’t wait to hear what they have to say.”

Media Contact: John Ronan 0408 542 547 | john.ronan@minstaff.vic.gov.au
School Council Elections 2017

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future. What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DET employee category. Parents can also self-nominate in either of the above categories. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

Nomination forms are available from the main school office.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

For further information feel free to contact Janet Paterson or Mark Smith.

The timetable is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday February 20th</td>
<td>Nominations open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday February 27th</td>
<td>Nominations close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 1st</td>
<td>Ballot papers distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday March 8th</td>
<td>Close of Ballot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday March 9th</td>
<td>Votes counted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday March 9th</td>
<td>Declaration of ballot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday March 27th</td>
<td>AGM-First School Council meeting to elect Office Bearers (Principal to preside)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February 2017

Preston Primary School is pleased to announce that the Delphi Bank (a division of Bendigo & Adelaide Bank) will be continuing to support the school via its school banking program which will be available for all Preston Primary School students and their siblings.

The sponsorship monies they have made available will assist the school in funding various school projects. They have also been generous in offering all our students a “Bonus $10.00” deposit to all new accounts that are opened as part of the school banking initiative. They will facilitate a school banking program where deposits will be collected from the students on a fortnightly basis. The goal of the program is to teach and assist students develop successful savings habits. Details of the program will be provided in the account opening packs you will receive from the Delphi Bank if you tick yes below.

Please indicate your preference below and return this form to the school by dropping it into the School Banking Mailbox located in the foyer at both the Senior and Junior Schools.

Yours truly,
Janet Paterson
Principal

SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM

I would like to participate in the School Banking Program: (Please tick preference below)

YES  [ ]  NO  [ ]

Name of Student: ____________________________
Grade & Class: ____________________________

Please drop into School Banking Deposit Box labelled Delphi Bank at Senior OR Junior School.

If you tick YES you will be receiving an Account Opening Pack Shortly.

Before and After School Care Program – Permanent and Casual Bookings / Cancellations –
Telephone / SMS - 0407 351 708

PPS CHESS CLUB 2017

2017 LESSON DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Last</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JNR</td>
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<td>INTR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENI</td>
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Term 1
1. 30/3 - 10/4
2. 21/4 - 12/5
3. 23/6 - 15/7
4. 17/8 - 15/9

Term 2
1. 19/10 - 14/11
2. 15/12 - 17/1

Think! Concentrate! Gain Confidence! Have FUN!

Coach: Jim Cannon, PhD (UMelb), Dip Ed (UMelb)  Email: jimphd2000@gmail.com

RETURNING STUDENTS: Please do NOT fill in this form unless updating your details

SPECIAL OFFER (TERM 1 ONLY):
PAY FOR THE YEAR AND PAY ONLY $220 (SAVE $20!)

Fees: $60 / child / term. Due: 9/2/17

Payment Options: Please circle payment method used:
1. EFT (preferred)  2. Cash  3. Chq (to “JF Cannon”)

EFT (to JF Cannon, 037-138 56-4211) with name, school and date in description eg “J BROWN PPS T1”

Unless using EFT, this form must be lodged together with your payment in an envelope at the office

Name of Child(ren): 1. ____________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6
2. ____________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

Name of parents / guardians: 1. ____________________________ 2. ____________________________

Signature of parent / guardian: ____________________________ Date / /

Phone: Home ____________________________ mob ____________________________

Email ____________________________

Term enrolling (Please tick ✓)

PPS

NEW STUDENTS ONLY: Commencement Date / /

*Early Bird points + prizes for getting to class by 7.58am sharp! Early bird medals awarded!