



PLENTY PARKLANDS
Primary
SCHOOL NO. 1919

Plenty Parklands Press

Date 05 February, 2009 Issue 1

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The **PURPOSE** of Plenty Parklands Primary School is -
to educate children as lifelong learners to shape a better Australia.

Calendar of Events

Term 1, 2009 Week 1

Thursday 5 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-7pm Prep family BBQ
Friday 6 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preps commence half day 9.00am -12.45pm Introducing My Child meeting times to be sent home today
Monday 9 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.50 pm Assembly
Tuesday 10 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids and Fruit and Free Fruit Friday commencing today Keyboard music lessons begin today Introducing My Child parent / teacher meetings 7.00pm School Council meeting
Wednesday 11 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preps full time
Friday 13 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.45-3.15pm Volunteer helpers' training
Monday 16 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Volunteer helpers' training 7pm Family Life parent information session
Tuesday 17 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Lunch Day— whole school

Principal

Claire McInerney

Assistant Principals

Ms Julie Nixon and
Ms Alison Devereux

Business Manager

Mrs Ann Moritis

Principal's Message

Welcome back everyone,

From the number of smiles I have seen so far students, parents, grandparents and staff are all happy to be back at PPPS, with the smiles on parents' faces being particularly wide.

It has been a lovely start to our year with a **special welcome** to our **new students** in years 1 to 6, to our **new preps** who start in earnest this Friday, to our **new families** who have joined the PPPS community and to our **new staff members**.

Speaking of **new staff members** let me introduce them to you.

In prep we welcome Stephanie Patkas and Michelle Scott

In year 1 Elise Antrobus and Angelique Aspididis

In year 2 Katrina McNaughton

In year 3 Andrew Den Elzen

In year 5 Nathan Gage

Performing Arts Fiona King

We also welcome Steve Dovile as our new Technical Support Staff member.

It is a pleasure to welcome you all.

Thank you all for adapting to the new starting arrangements which saw the staff return last Wednesday for **three days of professional development**. The first two days were spent in Lancefield working with Quality Learning Australia (QLA) and then with a psychologist and clinical nutritionist, Selina Byrne. Both days were extremely valuable with practical ideas we have started to implement already. Jane Kovacs from QLA introduced our new staff to the Quality approach, while refreshing the 'old' staff (meant in the nicest possible way!). She then took us further with our learning about the brain. Selina's presentation explored the brain even further with a focus on wellbeing and optimism. Her expertise was great for us and for application in class programs.

Friday continued with unit meetings and planning sessions with the chance for teachers to do last minute preparation. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of many staff members who spent time at school during the holidays, doing anything and everything from being on a selection panel to making and preparing their rooms. This does not happen in every school and we are lucky to have so many dedicated staff.

Our Prep Welcome BBQ is on today and we are looking forward to meeting everyone again and enjoying a sausage or two. (Well, as a vegetarian I am more interested in the 'meeting everyone' part!)
The weather!

Lucky we didn't start last week, wasn't it! A number of parents have asked about special conditions or if the school will be closed on extremely hot days. Well, the Department has been quick to send out a memo to clarify the situation (they must have had enquiries too!). I have included a direct quote below.

'There is **no provision for the closure of schools** during days of heavy rain or extreme heat. However, the midday recess may be reduced to not less than thirty minutes and dismissal time adjusted accordingly.

Students should not be sent home unless there is someone at home to look after them.

Teachers must remain on duty until the normal time to supervise those students who remain at school.

Schools should take hot weather precautions that best suit the conditions in their school. The most effective strategies will vary from school to school.

Schools are responsible for developing policies and procedures to care for students who attend schools on days of extreme weather conditions. These could include, for example, rescheduling outdoor activities or moving them from outdoors to indoors, allowing students to stay indoors during lunchtimes or shortening lunchtimes so students can go home early.'

The idea of shortening lunchtime is okay if we can notify you the day before however this more difficult with primary school aged children, who cannot be sent home earlier unless an adult collects them.

At PPPS we will consider a change of times **ONLY** if we can send a notice home the day before.

EVEN THEN, NO CHILD will be sent home unless a parent collects them

OR sends a note allowing them to go home with another named parent

OR sends a note allowing them to walk home.

ALL staff will remain on duty until the normal time and will care for all students who remain at school until 3.30 pm.

At PPPS we will only consider this if we experience another heat wave (fingers and toes crossed that we don't) as all our rooms are air conditioned.

Looking forward to another lovely year of learning together.

As one year one student said to me, 'We've had so much learning and fun so far already!'

Claire McInerney



Junior School Council Information

With the start of a new year, we are beginning the process of electing our new Junior School Council from home groups 4, 5 and 6. These reps will then visit year 1 to 3 and act as their reps on Council. To help you follow our process, it is included below.

Process

- Each year 4 – 6 home group to discuss the purpose of JSC. Invite comment from last year's reps
- Allow time for students to discuss purpose and how our values relate to the JSC
- Allow time for students to reflect on appropriate nominations for reps
- Call for nominations. Students can accept or decline nomination. Will need to ensure that students understand the following:
- We want to share JSC representation between more students so they can be a JSC rep once only at PPPS as from this year.
- Allow time for nominees to prepare a short presentation (appropriate to the age group)
- Nominees address home group
- Students vote using secret ballot, listing their top three girls.
- Students vote using secret ballot, listing their top three boys.
- Collect votes for the girls and boys in separate lots
- Teacher to collate votes and record the top 3 in each gender

Home groups have about 2 weeks to complete this process. We aim for gender balance on the Council where possible. Councillors are notified of their successful election. Presentation of badges and certificates at a special Monday assembly on 23 February.

Purpose of Junior School Council

Junior School Council is one of the leadership programs for students of Plenty Parklands Primary School. It also provides the opportunity for students throughout the school to help achieve our vision.

JSC also provides the opportunity

- To increase student participation in the school
- To involve students in decision making
- To teach students the processes and protocols to effectively achieve change
- To make students aware of and involved in School Council
- To develop a caring and responsible attitude to our school community
- To be aware of wider community decision making
- To enhance staff, the School Council and parent awareness of the students' needs and priorities

Protocols

- JSC to be trained in meeting procedures. JSC to share office bearers' roles
 - JSC to develop action plans and put into practice the correct processes and protocols for 'making things happen'
 - A JSC representative to attend School Council meetings at intervals throughout the year
 - JSC to be on the agenda at School Council meetings and either a verbal or written report given
 - JSC trained in how to be good representatives
 - JSC trained in making decisions
 - JSC to organise feasible fundraising activities
- Monday February 16th, JSC reps announced at assembly.
Monday February 23th, presentation of badges and morning tea for all new JSC reps and their parents.

Maria Stella - Middle Years coordinator

Introducing My Child

meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 10 February for year 1 - 6 students.

It is not a student free day – **children do not participate in the interview.** It will be an opportunity for you as parents to provide useful information to your child's teacher. It is a normal day of instruction for all students.

Meetings for year 2, 3, 4 and 6 parents begin at 2.00 p.m.

Meetings for Year 1 and 5 parents begin at 3.40 p.m.

Year 2, 3, 4 and 6 students will be supervised from 1.50 in the following locations:

6-3 Visual Art room (block D)

6-4 to be split between 5-1 and 5-2 (block A)

6-5 room 10 with Bu Ladd (block D)

6-6 to be split between 5-7 and 5-8 (block A)

4-30 to be split between 1-23 and 1-24 (block F)

4-29 to be split between 1-25 and 1-26 (block F)

4-31 to be split between 1-27 and 1-28 (block F)

4-32 – Media centre with Ms Harding (block G)

3-17 and 3-18 Ruang (Drama room) with Ms King and Ms Devereux

3-19 and 3-20 Music room (block B) with Ms Casson

2-15 and 2-16 Library (block C) with Mrs Hornidge and Mrs Baxter

2-21 and 2-22 Hall (block B) with Ms Yates and Mrs Stella

Please ensure you bring your child's student personal details (for the office staff to update the school records).

Julie Nixon Assistant Principal

Child Eczema Management Study

Dear Parents,

My name is Amy Mitchell, and I am from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) School of Nursing. I am conducting a study to examine parent management of childhood eczema.

Managing a child's eczema can be a difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming task for a parent or caregiver. I am seeking parents of children (aged up to 12 years) with medically diagnosed eczema to complete an online questionnaire about managing childhood eczema.

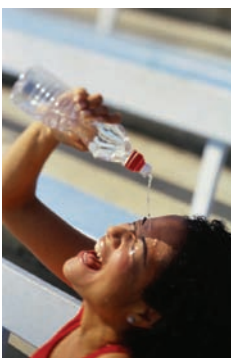
I am keen to hear from parents of children with eczema of any severity, from mild to severe. In recognition of their contribution to the study, participants will be entered in a draw to win one of five one-year subscriptions to the Eczema Association of Australasia, worth \$30 each.

Details about the study and how to participate can be found at the following website:

www.quteeczemastudy.com. Alternately, please contact me on (07) 3138 3856 to request a printed information sheet and survey.

Thank-you!

Water, the Brain and Learning



The number of children who have water bottles on their table or easily accessible so that they can drink during learning time is increasing all of the time.

Children need to drink water throughout the day to remain hydrated regardless of the season. Research shows the importance of hydration in relation to learning. We encourage children to bring bottles of water to school to drink throughout the day, all year round as hydration is still important during the colder months. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle everyday. **A child needs to be in the best**

physical state for learning in order for the brain to take in and process new information.

MEND Program

FREE Fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier and happier!

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old?

Are you worried they might be unhealthy or even overweight?

Then call us on 8606 3500 and join the MEND Program!

The MEND Program gets kids healthy and fit in only 10 weeks - and helps them stay that way!

Find out about other children having fun on the MEND Program www.mendprogramme.org

PLACES ON THE PROGRAM ARE LIMITED, SO RING TODAY AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

Call the MEND team on 8606 3500 to see whether your child qualifies and to get more details on how to register. What happens on the MEND Program?

The Program consists of 20 sessions (twice a week for 2 hours/session).

Program highlights include:

- Weekly games, activities and swimming for kids.
- Learning that being active can be a lot of fun!
- Fun, interactive discussions that will teach you easy, effective ways to improve your child's behaviour and improve his/her self-confidence.
- Practical demonstrations, games and tips about healthy foods, label reading and portion sizes

There is even a fun supermarket tour and a chance to try delicious new foods!

How do I know if I qualify?

We will need to assess whether your child qualifies based on their age, weight and health.

WHERE: Macleod YMCA

TIMES: Monday and Wednesday 5pm - 7pm

Whittlesea Country Music Festival

Friday 6—Sunday 8 February 2009

Gala evening of Victoria and National Country Music Awards on Friday night. Free Saturday Street Party in Church St Whittlesea, twilight with the Stars at the Whittlesea Showgrounds on Saturday night and the Sunday Round Up at the Whittlesea Showgrounds all day Sunday. For more information please contact 9217 2291 or website www.whittleseacountrymusicfestival.com.au

Traffic Safety Around the School

In the interest of all 752 students' safety, we implore everyone to follow the traffic and parking rules around the school.

1. Abide by the parking signs. The two car parks are for STAFF and deliveries only.
2. Ensure children use the crossings.
3. Drop children off only when your car is parked not while you are stationary on the road.
4. Avoid U turns around the school fences.
5. Consider parking some distance from the school and walking to meet your child.
6. Teachers are on duty until 3.45pm and will care for all waiting children so it is worth arriving at 3.40pm when the traffic has decreased.
7. Consider letting your child ride their bike to school.
8. Consider walking to school and walking home with your children - once, twice, 3, 4 or 5 times per week.
9. All children (unless injured) are capable of carrying their own backpacks. This shows them that you think they are capable young people and frees you up for monitoring the traffic instead of juggling bags.
10. As adults we must be the role models for children. When adults do the right thing in front of children they are being good teachers. All children are entitled to "A Fair Go For ALL" for safety in traffic.

Canteen Roster

Frid	06/02	Louise Stepan / Irene Gessas / Fay Lea / Val Talevski / Silvana Chiodo
Mon	09/02	Win Caddy / Lori Cassar / Kumu Meetinay
Wed	11/02	Faye Stock / Alison Thompson / Maree Driscoll
Thurs	12/02	Win Caddy / Pauline Christof
Frid	13/02	Louise Stepan / Elizabeth Kirsh

MILL PARK BASKETBALL STADIUM.

MINI BALL will run on Wednesday and Thursday for 8 weeks, and will teach children the basic skills and rules of basketball. Cost of \$45.00 includes a basketball. Starts on 11th February.

BIDDY BALL is a modified game of basketball that is played every Tuesday. Children are placed into teams according to their grade. Cost of \$50.00 includes a singlet in team colour. Starts 3rd March. Register now for these after school programs.

For more information phone Pam or Rickey 9436 8888.



Opening Hours: 0730-0845 and 1530-1800
For Bookings/Cancellations call Catherine on 9404 4516

Activates Next Week

"I Can Care"



- Mon 9th:** Pop-Up Cards
- Tue 10th:** Print Collage & Poster
- Wed 11th:** Romeo & Juliet Drama
- Thur 12th:** Love Languages Quiz & Valentine Spelling Bee
- Fri 13th:** Cooking Valentine Treats

Win A Prize For Your School

The school with the most number of people entered will win a plasma TV!! Nominate a Co-ordinator and your school benefits!

EPIC Charity Walk and Treasure Hunt @ Woodland Waters

When: Sunday 15th March 2009 Registration from 8.30 am

Time: Start 10.00 am Prizes announced at 12.00 Registration

Fees: Pre-register by 6th March & Save\$\$\$ Adults \$10 Child \$5

Family \$25 (2 Adults + 2 children) Team of 6 - \$50

On the Day Adults \$15 Child \$7 Family (2 Adults + 2 children)

\$40 Team of 6 - \$60

Location: Woodland Waters, Mernda around Wetlands and woodland – approximately 3kms (Melways 183 G1)

Activities: Map with clues, Pirate Treasure Theme, Children dressed as Pirates receive a gift, Live Music, Fun Activities, Everyone receives a prize, Including major prizes of Dining and Accommodation, BBQ & Stalls.

Contact EPIC on 9466 9600 for more information and how to enter your school. All proceeds go to EPIC (Education Program for Infants & Children Inc) for children with disabilities and their families.

Money Sent to School

We need your help so that parents and the school can work together to ensure your child is not disappointed if they miss out on attending an excursion/incursion.

When notices are sent home requesting permission signatures and money be returned to the school by 9am on a certain date, we ask that you use one of our school values and show **RESPECT** and abide strictly to the timeline.

If you bring money to the office please do not be offended if we do not accept it because it must be recorded by the classroom teacher, however for large amounts such as camp money we will accept it at the office.

Money can be sent to school every school day and is to be given to the classroom teacher by the child. By giving children this responsibility we are showing our children that we respect and trust them.

If you are sending a large amount of money and are worried that it will not reach the school safely, we suggest that you remind your child to hand it to their teacher as soon as they enter their classrooms.

You need to be aware that late payments **CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**. If you experience financial difficulty, please contact an Assistant Principal or the Office Manager to make alternative arrangements, prior to the due date.

Thankyou for your support.

2009 Lost Property Roster

We are seeking your support to volunteer for our 2009 Lost Property Roster.

This would entail coming to the school to sort through the "lost" uniforms that are stored in a cupboard in our administration block. Any named uniforms would be placed in the relevant child's home group, unnamed uniforms remain in the cupboard in the hope that their owner will one day come to claim it...

If 10 parents volunteer, this means you would be required to come to the school every tenth week.

Please consider offering your services as we have an abundance of lost uniforms weekly, just contact the office staff to add your name to the roster.

Many thanks,

Diana Kariofillis, Lost Property Coordinator

First Aid Room Linen Roster

Volunteers needed.

I am looking for caring parents to volunteer to launder the First Aid Room linen in 2009. This is done on weekly basis so, the more volunteers we get, the less turns you will have throughout the school year. If you are able to assist please fill in the slip below and send it back with your child.

Thankyou, **Gona Sekuloska**

✂ _____
Y e s I w i l l l a u n d e r t h e l i n e n

Name: _____

Child's name: _____

Canteen Roster 2009

We really need your help please

You may not realise that the **canteen** is staffed by volunteers. While we have a canteen manager she cannot staff the canteen by herself. In order to make lunches and serve at the counter we really need 3 volunteers per day and 4 on Fridays. We are very grateful to the current crew of regulars, some of whom work in the canteen several times a week to ensure we can serve the children.

It would be fantastic if we could recruit new volunteers so that we didn't need to call on these regulars to 'fill the gaps' so often or even close the canteen another day a week; don't tell the kids that as they will be very disappointed if it gets to that. We are in particular need on Wednesdays.

If you can offer to help please complete the attached slip and return to the office. The children would really appreciate it!

✂ _____

Your name _____

Phone Number _____

Your child's name _____

Home group _____

I can volunteer to help in the canteen on (please circle)

Mondays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays

I can help out on the above days (please Circle)

Once a week once a fortnight once a month

If possible I would like to work with _____

I am also willing to be placed on the roster as an emergency volunteer. Yes/No

Do you give permission for your telephone number to be published on the canteen roster? Yes/No

Newsletter Request

Important change to the distribution of the newsletter

We know that many families now have access to the internet either at home or at work and they have found that accessing the newsletter via our school website is much more convenient. The newsletter is accessible each week by 9.00 am Thursday and back copies are also available. This makes it easier to 'catch up' if you need forms or notices from prior editions. This also means that we can reduce the large amount of paper and photocopying we use in order to produce a hardcopy. This is great for the school as it helps to save some money and for the environment as we reduce our paper and electricity consumption.

We also know that not all families have access so we will continue to print a limited number each week for those families.

If you request a hardcopy of the newsletter please complete the form below and return it to the office by Wednesday February 18.

✂ _____

Yes my family requests a hard copy of the newsletter

Family name: _____

Youngest student's name: _____

Home group: _____

Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner's Risk

- Each year school principals are asked to remind parents that personal goods brought to school are at the owner's risk.
- Private property brought to school by students is not insured and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.
- Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.
- We do not have the staff to investigate theft or damage of non essential items at school. We would prefer that students do not bring mobile phones, toys or sporting equipment to school.

First Aid

Student Medication/Epipen/Hypo Box etc.

To assist us with maintaining our high standard of "duty of care", your cooperation is sought as follows:

- regularly check all your child's medication/epipen use-by-dates and, if necessary, replace immediately.
- maintain/replenish hypo boxes
- keep the school informed of any necessary changes to the above, and
- advise the office immediately of any changes, eg. phone numbers of yourself or emergency contacts.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Please contact me should you have any First Aid queries or concerns.

Heike Hopf, First Aid Supplies Coordinator

IS (Ideas and Suggestions) Box

If you have any **Ideas Suggestions**,

Jot them down and include your name and place them in the IS box in the front office. Our response will go in the newsletter.

Assembly Performance Roster

Term 1

9th February	3-17
16th February	4-.31
23rd February	JSC Presentations
2nd March	2-16
9th March	Labour Day
16th March	1-23
23rd March	5-1
30th March	3-19

Sunsmart Hats

Just a reminder that term 1 is a SunSmart term, as per our Uniform Policy. All members of our school community are required to wear a hat when outside in the sun.

Uniform Shop Hours For Term 1 2009

Uniform Shop operating hours for term 1 are
Tuesday morning 8.30am - 9.15am and
Thursday morning 8.30am—9.15am.

Education Maintenance Allowance

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 or 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 1 (**28 January 2009** which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (**13 July 2009**).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **27 February 2009** for the first instalment and **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% 'parent portion' of the EMA payment directly into the parent's nominated bank account, **or** as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

Payment Amounts

Install-	Portion	Primary	Secondary
One	Parent	\$ 77.35	\$ 155.05
	School	\$ 77.35	\$ 155.05
Two	Parent	\$ 33.15	\$ 66.45
	School	\$ 33.15	\$ 66.45
Total		\$ 221	\$ 443

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of **2009** through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after **27 February 2009** and prior to or on **7 August 2009**, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office

Volunteer Helpers at PPPS

Please note that if you attended a training session in the past, you do NOT need to attend another one. 'Once trained, we have you for life!'

For new volunteers we are offering two briefings in term 1

So that we can strengthen our interdependent partnership between Plenty Parklands school and the community we offer volunteer helpers' training sessions for parent and community members. Over the years our students have benefited from the work and dedication of hundreds of helpers. We are always ready and willing to welcome even more. You may be a new member of our community and keen to offer your help while also getting to know other community members.

The sessions will outline your role and responsibilities with regard to Privacy, Work Cover, Harassment and Occupational Health and Safety legislation. In line with our values, particularly those of Care, Trust and Respect, you will understand that the safety and care of your children are the most important considerations when implementing a program such as volunteer helpers. Also **with legislation related to a range of issues it is imperative that ALL volunteers are briefed before they are able to help in any way at school. You need only attend one of these briefings.**

This training includes everyone who would like to start to help in any or all of the following areas; canteen, Parents Social and Fundraising sub committee (PSF), interschool sport, uniform shop, classroom helpers (in any area of the curriculum), excursions, special event days, fun day at the end of the year, fruit distribution, gardening, sports coaching, P.E. programs such as the Prep Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) and any transportation of students. In fact, anyone who helps at the school in any way. Please note that helpers on school camps have a special briefing prior to camp. Dates for term one are:

Friday 13 February 2.45 to 3.15 p.m.
Monday 16 February 6.00 to 6.30 p.m.
Friday 13 March 2.45 to 3.15 p.m.

Remember that you need to participate in one of these sessions in order to help in any capacity at the school. The briefing takes about 30 minutes and will be held in the Conference room (or staff room).

After completion of this short briefing, you will be welcome to help at PPPS at any time in the future in a 'one off' or ongoing situation.

Please see this invitation as an opportunity to get to know other members of our school community while also providing the students of PPPS with invaluable support and assistance.

Don't worry; there are no hard questions to answer or problems to solve. You just need a willingness to help and we'll do the rest!! We look forward to seeing you at one of these sessions. Please complete and return the slip below by Thursday 12 February

Assistant Principals
Julie Nixon and Alison Devereux

✂.....
Volunteer Helpers' Training

I will be attending the training on

Friday 13 February at 2.45 or Monday 16 February at 6.00 or Friday 13 March at 2.45

Name:.....

Phone number:

Youngest child's name:.....

Child's home group:.....