



THE RIPPER TIMES

Weekly Newsletter of Traralgon South Primary School

PRINCIPAL REPORT...

Welcome to 2024:

And just like that, we're back from holidays and into a new school year! I hope everyone in our school community had a lovely time over the break, and pending your own work commitments, found opportunities to rest and relax with your loved ones.

Personally, after the Christmas and New Year period, my family hooked up our caravan and spent a few weeks at Mallacoota, which was a great time to read lots of books, win plenty of card games, spend time on the beach, and catch a feed of fish for dinner. I was also able to harvest over 15kgs of honey from one of my beehives and get a few jobs done around our house, so filling in my days wasn't difficult at all!

To our new families, I hope your transition into our school community has been a positive and seamless experience for you and your child(ren), and I would like to extend an open invitation for feedback so we can continue to improve our approach.

Whilst our students are less than two days into the year, we have been impressed with how settled and calm all of our children have been as they return to school. Undoubtedly the support from parents and carers is an integral ingredient in this, so for this we thank you.

Looking ahead to the year in front of us, we're excited for the opportunities this will present. We are in the final year of our strategic plan and are scheduled to have a school review in Term 3, providing us a chance to investigate the elements of our practice that are supporting our school performance to be in the highest bracket for the second year in a row, ensuring we continue to embed and capitalise on this work into the future. Furthermore, areas where we can look to improve and take our school from "great" to "greater" will also be explored, setting us up for a new four-year strategic plan thereafter. More information surrounding this review will be shared throughout the year, so please stay regularly connected to our weekly newsletter for further details.

Principal: Joel Blythman

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Student Dress Code (Uniform):

To begin the year, I have asked our teachers to have a renewed focus on our student uniform, as whilst we have very good compliance and adherence to this, admittedly it has been less of a focus for our school in the previous 12-18 months and there has been a noticeable decline in our high expectations around this. With Pride being one of our RIPPER values, and with the well-recognised support we receive from our parents and carers, we don't believe this will require a large amount of effort to quickly return our uniform standards to a higher level.

Whilst not an exhaustive list, the main areas of focus for us to begin with are summarised as follows:

- Tights, leggings and/or bike shorts instead of School Council approved uniform items.
- Knee-length socks in various colours, stripes and/or patterns.
- Clothing items that are not included in those approved by School Council, such as black shorts or pants, navy (not royal blue) polo shirts, or coloured tights worn under a school dress, for example.

I encourage all families to familiarise yourselves with our [Student Dress Code \(Uniform\) policy](#) as a part of this process. Additionally, I invite any parent or carer to discuss this with me should you have any questions or concerns, and over the coming weeks, this focus will be discussed with our students in class and at assemblies also.

Reminders:

As we begin the school year, we consider it worthwhile providing our parent community the following reminders, just in case these have been forgotten or overlooked:

- As per both our Sunsmart and Uniform policies, please be reminded that during Term 1 children are required to wear a royal blue wide brim bucket hat whilst outdoors. For those that need, these can be purchased from our General Office for \$8.50 each. Children without a royal blue wide brim bucket hat will be required to play undercover instead.
- Endorsed by School Council in Term 4 2023, our 2024 Curriculum Contributions policy politely requests parents pay the \$185 (plus any optional other contributions) by the end of February 2024.

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Payments can be made via cash, or by direct debit to our school account below. Please also include a description of the related item you are making a payment for in the reference field. For example, 'Surname: 2024 Contributions'

Account Name: Traralgon South Primary School

BSB: 083 001

Account Number: 387779521

Payments can be made in full, or for those that prefer, via either of the suggested instalment options detailed below:

Quarterly (per term): \$46.25 (per student)

Monthly (January-October): \$18.50 (per student)

Take care,

Joel Blythman

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

20 th February	Tuesday	Questacon Science Incursion – Whole School – No cost for students
29 th February	Thursday	Conveyance Allowance Claims Close
		URStrong Workshops – Whole School – No cost for students
11 th March	Monday	Labour Day Public Holiday
12 th March	Tuesday	School Photos

Zooper Doopers!

Zooper Doopers will be available each Tuesday and Thursday at lunchtime for students to purchase. These remain at 50 cent each.

Conveyance Allowance

You may be eligible to receive conveyance allowance for transporting your child to and from school. To be eligible to receive conveyance allowance, a student must:

- Be school age
- Reside more than 4.8km by the shortest route from the nearest school attended **or** bus stop,
- Be enrolled at the nearest government primary or secondary school, or at the nearest appropriate registered non-government school.

If you believe you are eligible to receive conveyance allowance, please contact the school to complete an application. If you have claimed this in the past you do not need to fill in another claim form unless your circumstances have changed. Applications close 11th March.

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Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

To be eligible for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
 - on the first day of Term two.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is,
 - b) be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
 - c) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - d) Submit an application to the school by the due date (June 21 2024)

Payment amounts this year are \$150 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances / you need to add a sibling to the application.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office and ask for an application form.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible. Final date for applications close 21st June.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



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Come and give Traralgon Girl Guides a go in 2024!

At Guides you are able to:

- Experience exciting challenges with friends
 - Have lots of fun
- Join a Guide Unit of similar aged girls
- Meet for 1-2 hours in a local hall during term time
- Enjoy a different experience every week

Opal Guides- Grade Prep to Grade 5, Mondays 5:30-7:15pm

Adventure Guides – Grade 5 to Year 8, Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm

Rosella Rangers – Year 8 to 12, Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm

Contact amanda.clark@guidesvic.org.au for more information

WEST END JFC

**U9 PLAYERS
NEEDED!**

***Are you born between
2015 and 2016 and
want to play football
at a family friendly
club in 2024?***

JOIN US!

**Get in touch with president Jenna
Middleton via
president.wejfc@outlook.com or
0408367372**

