

Weekly Newsletter of Traralgon South Primary School

#### PRINCIPAL REPORT...

#### **School Community Consultation:**

With the strong support of our Policy and Programs sub-committee, each year our School Council review and update various school policies to ensure compliance with Department of Education requirements, whilst also localising them to suit our individual school context.

As we are committed to the continuous improvement in our approach to all aspects, and as valuable partners at Traralgon South Primary School, we welcome and encourage feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our policies, procedures, and practices. These policies can be found on our website, or alternatively, you are welcome to request a hard copy from our General Office. These policies include those related to Child Safety, Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Student Dress Code (uniform), Volunteers, Bullying Prevention, Visitors, Complaints, Health Care Needs, and Digital Learning, amongst many others.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions in relation to our policies, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

#### School Fundraising:

In previous years, we have implemented a model of school fundraising that provides an additional layer of resourcing to our student body, and when funds have been raised, we make every effort to highlight where the funds are directed towards and celebrate the end result. Some recent examples have included two new basketball/netball towers on each court, a top-up of sand in each pit, new sandpit toys, and additional sporting equipment for student borrowing at play breaks. In many instances, the support from a group of parent volunteers is integral to successfully coordinating our fundraisers. Leading up to each fundraising event (such as a Mother's/Father's Day Stall, hot lunch, and the like), this group will communicate amongst themselves to identify who might be available to support, with no compulsion from any member to volunteer. If you were interested in being a part of this team of parent volunteers in 2024 and helping whenever it might suit your own context, please let me know.

**Principal**: Joel Blythman

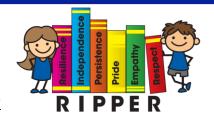
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#### Student Dress Code (Uniform):

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 <u>Student Dress Code (Uniform) policy</u> 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

Monthly (January-October): \$18.50

#### **Annual Privacy Reminder for our School Community:**

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365 safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- \* Amharic
- \* Arabic
- \* Dari
- \* Gujarati
- \* Mandarin
- \* Somali
- \* Sudanese
- \* Turkish
- \* Urdu
- \* Vietnamese

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#### **Black Saturday:**

Today (Wednesday 7 February) marks the 15th anniversary of the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires. Whilst not employed at the school at the time, I am sure the significant impact of this tragedy remains within many members of our school and broader community. I encourage our readers to pause, reflect and acknowledge those who continue to be faced with challenges that have lingered, including with yourselves as applicable. We also remember those who sadly lost their life through these fires and the continuing impact this has on those connected to those families.

Learnings from this day are important to recognise too, as these help to inform us of ways in which we can better prepare and respond to bushfires. In part, this is evidenced by our "School Procedures for the 2023-2024 Bushfire Season" document I have included below and on the following pages, for your information.



#### Traralgon South Primary School

School Procedures for the 2023-2024 Bushfire Season

Traralgon South Primary School is included on the Bushfire At Risk (Category 3) register by the Department of Education. Inclusion on this register is a trigger for schools to pre-emptively close on days forecast Catastrophic in their Bureau of Meteorology district, as well as other pre-emptive and preparedness actions in line with our fire risk category.

The following is to inform families and the local community of our planned response to Fire Danger Ratings and local conditions during the bushfire season, to keep our students and staff safe.

#### Australian Fire Danger Rating System:



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#### Planned Response of Traralgon South Primary School:

FORECAST FIRE DANGER RATING (West & South Gippsland)	ACTION	COMMUNICATION
Catastrophic	SCHOOL CLOSED/RELOCATED     (decision made by the Department of Education).     Out of hours care cancelled.     Bus routes, camps and excursions through Catastrophic area cancelled.     No staff onsite.  Families enact their bushfire survival plan.	Parents contacted directly, up to 4 days prior, and confirmed the day before. Decision will not change. Local CFA notified.
Extreme (No fires in local area)	School and out of hours care remain open. School to monitor Vic Emergency website/ABC radio and keep in contact with Regional Emergency Management staff from the Department of Education. Follow advice of Emergency Services. If considered necessary, approval will be sought for school closure/relocation as above.  Families enact their bushfire survival plan.	Parents notified of any changes to situation, if possible. Parents to ensure they can be easily contacted, or alternatively, inform the school who the best contact is for that day.
Extreme (Fire in local area – for example: Callignee, Churchill, Loy Yang)	Principal to request approval for school closure/relocation from Department of Education. School to monitor Vic Emergency website/ABC radio and keep in contact with Regional Emergency Management staff from the Department of Education. Contact Emergency Services. Follow advice of Emergency Services: If time allows and if safe to do so, evacuate with Emergency Services escort. Shelter in place in Multi-Purpose Room. Out of hours care cancelled. Bus routes, camps and excursions through relevant areas cancelled. If parents arrive during this time, they will be strongly advised to stay on school grounds  Families enact their bushfire survival plan.	Local CFA notified.
High	School to remain vigilant and be ready to act, as necessary.	<ul> <li>Parents notified of any changes to situation, if possible.</li> </ul>

Take care,

Joel Blythman

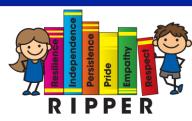
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#### SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER ENVELOPES

The school photos will once again be taken by John Ansell Photography on Tuesday 12th March. The individual student order envelopes will be sent home today. These are printed with the student's name, grade and Access Key needed for online ordering/payment. If paying cash, the correct amount needs to be in the envelope as no change will be given. Students will need to bring their envelope with them on the day. Sibling group photo envelopes are available from the office.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER...

12 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday	Student Free Day
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday	Questacon Science Incursion – Whole School – No cost
29 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday	Conveyance Allowance Claims Close
		URStrong Workshops – Whole School – No cost for students
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday	School House Sports (Information below)
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday	Labour Day Public Holiday
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday	School Photos
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday	District School Sports – Years 3 to 6 students only

#### 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 29th February.

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#### **House Athletics Sports**

Our school House Athletics sports will be held on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> at Harold Preston Park, Davidson Street Traralgon. Children will leave school at 9.15am by bus and return at approximately 3:00pm. This is a fabulous school event which is enjoyed by all. A permission slip with all relevant information will be sent out shortly.

All children in Prep, and new students to the school, have been placed in one of our four house teams. This information can be found via uEducateUs, the classroom teacher, or by asking at the General Office. The house teams at Traralgon South Primary School are:

- Cook (yellow)
- Flinders (blue)
- Hume (green)
- Sturt (red)

Most children wear a top in their house colour on the day, adding to the carnival atmosphere.

To provide advance notice, Year 3 to Year 6 children will also compete in the District Athletics sports against other local schools on Monday March 25th. More information about this will follow in the coming weeks.

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#### RIPPER STUDENT AWARDS...





Prep/1	Henry K	For showing amazing resilience and persistence to do all of his work with his opposite arm.
2/3	Isabel S	For showing patience, persistence and organisation in class.
4/5	Alice C	For demonstrating exactly what we love at TSPS – all the RIPPER values and leadership for all her new classmates.
5/6	Thomas W	For showing independence in the classroom and being a great role model for his classmates.
Art/Music	Levi F Jordan B Liam B	Well done on taking so much pride with your name poster, demonstrating good use of colour, line and texture.
PE	Jacob B	For being such a terrific helper during PE. Well done Jacob!
Auslan	Nathaniel R	For working hard during Auslan to play the games.
School Captains	Connor H	For picking up litter to make our school safer.

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

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

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

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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# THERPPERTMES

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### Join the Questacon Science Circus for a FREE pop-up science centre experience like no other!

Come along to spin yourself dizzy, test your reflexes, explore your fingertips under the microscope, and watch some of our spectacular science shows. With over 30 hands-on exhibits, the *Science Circus* pop-up is a fantastic STEM day out for the whole family!

Bookings essential

This is a FREE event, but bookings are essential.

Most people spend 1 - 2 hours at our pop-up science centre.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.



## Hurry, book your FREE ticket now! bit.ly/QSCVIC24-Tickets

#### Sale

Saturday 17 February, 10 am - 4 pm Gippsland Regional Sports Complex, 116 Cobains Rd, Sale VIC 3850

#### Morwell

Saturday 24 February, 10 am - 4 pm Latrobe Leisure Morwell, 45 Mcdonald St, Morwell VIC 3840

#### Leongatha

Saturday 2 March, 10 am - 4 pm South Gippsland Leisure Centre (SPLASH), 52A Roughead St, Leongatha VIC 3953

Contact ScienceCircus@Questacon.edu.au or 0409 353 639 for enquiries.

The Questacon Science Circus is a proud initiative of Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre and Founding Partner The Australian National University.

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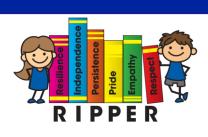
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# BUMBLE BEE BABY AND CHILDREN'S MARKET

COFFEE VAN

GROUND



**SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2024** 

BERWICK FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL 35 Gwendoline Drive, Berwick 3806

**KIDS ACTIVITIES**  9AM - 12PM

INDOOR **EVENT** 

**ENTRY: ADULTS \$2, CHILDREN FREE** FREE PARKING ON SITE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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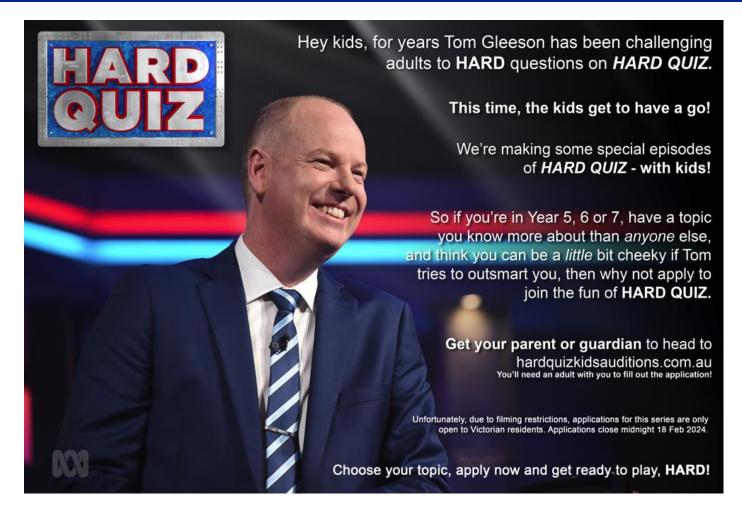
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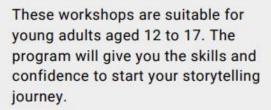




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# **PODCAST WORKSHOPS** for young adults

Join us for a four-week introduction to podcasting in our Moe studio.



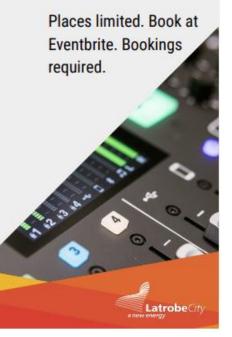
- · What is a podcast and how to plan yours.
- . How to record (with tips and tricks for sounding great).
- How to make editing easy.
- · How to share your pod with the world.

Find out more at the library or visit www.latrobe.vic.gov.au



#### WHERE AND WHEN

Moe Library Wednesdays 14, 21, 28 February and 6 March 4.30pm to 6.30pm



A: 13-19 Keith Morgan Drive, Traralgon South, VIC, 3844

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THE STUDIO After school hang for young people aged 12 to 16!

Join us during school term to get creative in our popup makerspaces or just come along to hang out.

- Range of arts and crafts materials
- 'How-to' session from our friendly library crew.
- Non-stop hot chocs!
- · Safe and inclusive place to chill or create

Moe Library

Tuesdays from 3.45pm to 5pm Traralgon Library

Wednesdays from 3.45pm to 5pm

Activities and materials available include:

- Tie-dye t-shirts
- · Zine making
- Jewellery 101
- · Air dry pottery
- · Nail polish station
- Painting
- Collage

Or tell us what you want to do!





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