

**District Cross Country 2018 by Abby Riddell and Brody Stevenson**  
 On Tuesday, we had our district cross country competition. All students have worked extremely hard in training and have done amazing at the competition. There were heaps of kids from Tyers, Glengarry, Gormandale, Toongabbie and our own school. It so was amazing how many got through to division. The top 6 runners go through to zones. These are our school's results:

**9/10 Boys**

Aidan 2<sup>nd</sup>    Ford 3<sup>rd</sup>    Lachlan 4<sup>th</sup>    Brody 8<sup>th</sup> (emergency)

**9/10 Girls**

Milee 1<sup>st</sup>    Eva 2<sup>nd</sup>    Kate 4<sup>th</sup>    Abby 5<sup>th</sup>    Isobel 6<sup>th</sup>

**11 Boys**

Evan 1<sup>st</sup>    Benj 2<sup>nd</sup>    Ben 3<sup>rd</sup>

**11 Girls**

Belle 1<sup>st</sup>    Maddie 4<sup>th</sup>    Lulu 5<sup>th</sup>    Jess R 6<sup>th</sup>

**12/13 Boys**

Chris 1<sup>st</sup>

**12/13 Girls**

Jessica P 1<sup>st</sup>



**SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS**

Last Monday, the Parent Opinion Survey subcommittee for School Council met to look at our latest results.

The overall results were positive with great satisfaction noted in many areas. Some of these being; general school satisfaction, school improvement, high expectations for success, confidence and resilience, safety and school, behaviour management, and respect for diversity. It is nice to see how the hard work of Adam and all staff in implementing recent changes is taking affect.

The areas that the committee thought needed further addressing this year were; improving parent / teacher communication regarding students abilities, continuing to work on student / teacher connections, and teaching students organisational skills in a targeted approach from Prep to Year 6.

As we work with staff to implement new ideas and changes over the coming months we hope that you will see how our parent voice is an important part of shaping our school for the future. Thank you to those who contributed to our Parent Opinion Survey last year and I encourage all parents to complete it this year.

If you have any further feedback on this matter please approach either Dan or myself and we'd be happy to discuss further.

Karen Pettifer  
 School Council President

Dear Parents,

Our school continues to bream with enthusiasm as students participate in all that is on offer.

It was fantastic to have so many of our students represent themselves and the school in the District Cross Country. Most representatives will go on to the next round and I'm sure will continue to do themselves proud. We appreciate the efforts of every student who has trained and competed in the cross country. I would also like to recognise and thank the parents who assisted with transport and cheering on our students on the day.

We have been pleased to welcome Peter Collins from Latrobe City Council into our school this week to meet with the Junior School Council. Peter has introduced the idea of "Poly Pelican" to our students. It will be their task now to go back and pass on what they have learnt to their peers in their classes. We will look forward to the JSC providing more information to our community in the newsletter next week about what "Poly Pelican" will provide to our community.

Our staff and students are starting to be introduced to the idea of VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation). All staff participated in a professional development day on this program at the end of last term and have been working hard to prepare their rooms for the introduction of this writing framework. Students have been engaging with elements of the program in various ways to build familiarity. We will be offering a parent information session on the VCOP Framework on the 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. A formal invitation will come to you soon.

Student attendance is an area that the Department of Education is pushing hard for schools to be monitoring more closely and reporting on more regularly. This will see increased notifications to home for students who are absent or late. To aid the school in preparing for changes in our reporting to parents on attendance, we ask that a concerted effort is made to ensure that students are at school on time. It is expected that students are at the school by 8:50am to allow them time to put their things away and settle for a 9am start. The start of the lesson is the most important time, when teachers can set expectations, identify prior knowledge, link concepts to previous learning and set up appropriate learning groups. Late arrival is disruptive not only to the student, but to the class and teacher also. Parents can also assist in our attendance reporting by notifying the teacher of expected absences prior to them occurring and contacting the school by phone or using Class Dojo to notify a teacher on the morning of an absence occurring.

I would like to thank the subcommittee of School Council that met to look at responses to our Parent Opinion Survey from 2017 and identify areas for improvement in the school. They have come up with a number of strategies to improve the way that teachers can communicate with parents regarding the progress of students, among other things. We will keep you informed as we make progress, but needless to say that we are listening to the parents of our community and doing all we can to make your experience and that of your child the best it possibly can be. If you have any questions or input regarding this, please don't hesitate to speak with me or our School Council President, Karen Pettifer.

***Dan Swallow - Acting Principal***

### **EXCURSION TO SALE ART GALLERY**

Next Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, students in Grades 3/4/5 and 5/6 are going to the Sale Art Gallery. A permission note was given out last week with details for the day. The bus cost is subsidised by the Art Gallery so the cost per student is only \$2.00. Could you please ensure the permission form along with the \$2.00 per student is returned to school tomorrow.

~ Yvonne Game ~

<b>DATES TO REMEMBER</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Mon	P&F Meeting after assembly - all welcome!
		Grade 3/4/5 & 5/6 Sale Art Gallery Excursion
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Fri	P&F Mother's Day Stall
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Mon	School Council Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Tue	Payment for A Slice of Vaudeville due in
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed	Parent Information Session - VCOP - 7:00pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Tue	Incursion for whole school - A Slice of Vaudeville - \$6.00 per student
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Wed	Open Day for prospective parents 10:00am - 11:00am

### **Parents & Friends Mother's Day Stall Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Our Mother's Day stall will be on Friday 11th May. Any donations would be much appreciated. Home-made goodies are lovely but if you are donating baked goods, please ensure you put a list of ingredients on them.

We will need helpers on the day so if you are able to help please let Melanie Harkess know by emailing [melharkess12@gmail.com](mailto:melharkess12@gmail.com) Thank you.

### ANZAC REPORTS BY GRADES 3/4/5 AND 5/6

Our Year 3/4/5 and 5/6 classes worked collaboratively last week during literacy sessions to research and learn about ANZAC Day. As well as baking the popular biscuits, they enriched their vocabulary, connected Habits Of the Mind, researched wars and made personal connections to war stories from different media. A culmination of this was when students wrote a letter from the perspective of someone living during that period. All of these pieces were outstanding and several examples are included here.

27/4/1918

Dear family I am writing to inform you that my squadron has been dispatched to an undisclosed location. We have dug our trenches and made decent work on our personal quarters. But everyday more soldiers leave on missions and less come back.

Today was my day I was deployed on a mission to find one of our missing soldiers and bring him home. We found our man but he was being held hostage by the alliance I managed to get in and out and rescue our man without any bloodshed but the others weren't so lucky. The smell of gun powder was overpowering and all I could see was smoke and bullets whizzing past. I will never forget the ones that sacrificed themselves for me.

Tonight I will be receiving a Victoria's Cross Medal for my bravery on the field but I will dedicate it to my fellow soldiers who passed I hope their death wasn't in vain.

Good bye for now

Billy Wheatley

Gallipoli  
World War 1  
27/4/1914

Dear Father,  
We have made it to our destination. We hadn't even got off the boat and gun shots were coming at us. I couldn't hear what was going on it was so loud, I needed to bail so I jumped.  
I really wish I didn't go. I thought it would have been fun. I'm just constantly crawling over so many corpse. I see people but I'm not sure if they're on my team or not. I'm confused I can't hear a thing. In the corner of my eye I see a big battle ship start sinking. I panicked and I didn't know how we would get back or if we could get back.  
From Jayden

Gallipoli  
5/6/1917

To my dearest family,  
Today I am currently in the medic's tent recovering from many wounds. No need to be alarmed though, the medic said I'll be completely fine, plus I'll be out on the field in two days.  
So far this war has been dirty, over one thousand soldiers have passed on but the rest of us are still fighting. It's so cruel out here I can barely think on the field! It's horrible fighting, the weather is dreadful, the smell of gunpowder is horrid and your heart beats like a galloping horse!  
The medic says I need to rest so I have to go. I hope everything is alright at home, I hate to see and hear terrible things nowadays.  
Sincerely,  
Leo