

Dear Parents,

Our School Council met last night and spoke about a number of things. The Council is looking at updating the school polo shirt. While no decisions have been finalised, we will be seeking parent feedback in the near future. More details to come.

Discussion also centred around the DEECD's new policy on Religious Instruction in schools. We will be sending home another form to those parents who haven't yet replied with a decision on the continuation of the program to be finalised by the end of this week.

I provided some information regarding the visit by students from Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania. These fire affected students will be staying in billet accommodation, and I thank our families who have volunteered to host our visitors. These students will visit Tarra Bulga National Park and complete some activities at school with our students before heading back to Melbourne and enjoying some time at the Icehouse at Docklands, a tour of Etihad Stadium and a ride on the Melbourne Star wheel. They will stay in Melbourne overnight and return to the airport on Thursday after a visit to the Melbourne Museum. I am looking forward to their visit and also showing them our local area and environment five years after the bushfires.

The Buildings and Grounds committee met just before the holidays and there are a few minor jobs that we would like taken care of if a parent has some spare time. The hedges at the front of the school need pruning and our paths always need clearing with lots of leaves falling in the yard. If you are able to spare a bit of time throughout the day or on the weekend, please contact me at school.

Organisation and planning for our Trivia Night is going well. It is less than a month away now so it is time to start planning your costume. Fliers are due to be sent home this week and tickets will also be available for sale. Last year, we almost sold out of tickets, so if you want to secure your spot, it is best to get in early and arrange a table. You don't need to arrange a full table, we can pair you up with other tables if needed.

Chocolate boxes went home to families last week and are due back on Friday 15th August. I would like to thank those families who were able to take a box or even two. There are still a couple of boxes for any family who is able to sell another box.

School Council approved our next Student Free Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday 8th October. On this day, our staff will be focussing on developing our teaching practice in numeracy. We also have another Student Free Day scheduled for Monday 3rd November, where teachers will focus on writing student reports.

The student attitudes to school survey results were presented to School Council and discussed. The survey asks students questions about how they feel at school, whether they are happy, positive, negative or uneasy. The survey also asks about student perception of the classroom environment, behaviour and the type of learning they are involved in. This year our results are quite high and are one of the more positive results we have had over the past six years. Most elements of the survey received an average score close to 5 with 5 being the maximum possible score. Our results are well above the scores for other schools in the South Eastern Victoria region and the state averages.

This year's Parent Opinion Survey will be sent home this afternoon to selected families. A random sample is taken and surveys will be sent home to those families with the child to keep in mind to complete the survey for. I ask that the surveys be returned to school by Monday 4th August at the latest. The more responses we have to the survey, the stronger the results become.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Our parent teacher interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday 20th August from 1 – 6pm. More information regarding meeting times will be sent home later this week.

Lantern Parade / Lantern Building Workshops

A lantern parade is being arranged by Soroptimist International of Gippsland to help communities affected by bushfire in their recovery. It is quite likely that a number of our families are still affected in some way even though the fires were more than five years ago. It is important to keep developing strength in the community and the lantern parade is a great way of doing that. The idea of this project is that families will work together to build a lantern over a number of weekend workshops and then come along and join in the parade on Friday 17th October at Kernot Hall, Morwell to take part in the lantern parade. This event will have a festival type feeling as there will be a focus on multiculturalism as well. There will be food stalls and musicians providing entertainment. Don Ashby who is an experienced lantern creator will be conducting the lantern building workshops which will be at the Traralgon South Men's

shed. It is a free event, all you need to provide is yourself and some enthusiasm for working together. You may choose to build a lantern as a family or a group of families, and you don't have to attend every workshop. I encourage everyone to get involved in this great event. Further information can be sought through Mary McNamara on 0411036267.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16 and hold a valid Health Care or Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the 2nd instalment for 2014. Please note the EMA program will cease at the end of 2014. If this is your first time applying in 2014 contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA before Friday 1st August. If you have previously filled in a form earlier this year you do not need to apply again. No applications can be processed after this date. For more information about the EMA, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/ema.htm.

Joel Fraser – Principal

COMMONWEALTH GAMES DAY

This week the school will be participating in a mini Commonwealth Games. It will be held at our school on Thursday 31st of July. It will be running all day, starting with an opening ceremony and ending with the closing ceremony. We have chosen five countries and teams. The students are required to wear at least one colour of the flag that are listed below. A note went home last week with your child/children's country on it. If you are unsure of this, please check with Miss Kloot. The flag colours are:

- Botswana - Light Blue, Black, White
- Jamaica - Yellow, Black, Green
- Tanzania - Green, Blue, Yellow, Black
- Scotland - Dark Blue, White
- Maldives - Red, Green, White

There will also be a sausage sizzle lunch for all the students that have ordered them. The sports that will be run at the school are target shooting, sock wrestling, weight lifting, badminton and lawn bowls.

~ Grade 5/6 ~



TREE PLANTING REPORTS BY GRADE PREP/1



On Thursday 24th of July we planted trees. We had our buddies from grade 5/6. We made guards for the trees.

By Kate

On Thursday 24/7 I planted a tree. Some trees looked spiky but they weren't. Some trees were spiky. Some of the trees were small.

By Abby

We planted some trees. My tree is spiky. My plant spiked me. My plant is small.

By Aidan

Solar Energy Generation

The reading this week is 31837kwh which means we have generated 152kwh since the last reading.

**YOU CAN DO IT
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS
For Week Ending 25th July 2014**



Prep/1	Jae Paton	For excellent effort in his writing.
1/2	Leo Skurrie	For showing friendliness to all his classmates.
2/3	Benjamin Meyer	For good organization with his reader and homework this week.
4/5	Hannah Meyer	For persistence and hard work in Maths.
5/6	Breanna De Martin	For consistent dedication to her homework.
P.E.	Cooper Fraser	For showing greater maturity and persistence when learning skipping skills.
	Patrick Tulloch	For working hard and showing persistence during skipping.

DATES TO REMEMBER

30 Jul	Wed	Parent Information Session – Health & Human Relations – 11:30am
		First Wednesday AASCP Session for Term 3
31 Jul	Thu	Commonwealth Games Day
		First Thursday AASCP Session for Term 3
1 Aug	Fri	EMA Applications Close
4-6 Aug	Mon-Wed	Years 5 and 6 Ballarat Camp – Returning approx. 5:30pm
23 Aug	Sat	Trivia Night

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY EXCURSION – REPORTS BY GRADE 4/5



On Friday we went to Federation University. We were in the Discovery Club. My favourite thing was going to the Science room. We did a scavenger hunt. We were walking and when I turned around Mia was gone! Where was she? She had wandered into another group! Mr Fraser's group!

My favourite teacher was Allyce and she was my group leader. When we made a computer game, Mia, Colby and I made a game. In the game Mia made a hill that we could not get past. We got to graduate and I got to wear a robe. It was an awesome day. I wish we could go back and do it again.



By Dylin

On the 25th of July grades 4, 5 and 6 went to Federation Uni. When we got there we went to have our snack at the amphitheatre. There was a nice lake and some grass to run up and down on. The first thing we did was Science. It was fun



because we made rainbows with different liquids. Then we walked around to nursing where you learnt how to clean your hands well.

After, we went to have lunch and people ran around the place. Then we went to the ICT room to make a computer game. The website was called Sploder. Then we went to the Art Centre and there were lots of different art works. Next we went to graduate. Some people got to wear graduation gowns. We got back to school at 2.30 and that was our day.



By Jake