

Dear Parents,

Black Saturday Anniversary

Last Friday morning we held an assembly to mark the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires. It is an important time to remember the events of that day and particularly the impact it has had on our community. Chris Madsen was invited along to speak about some of the things that have occurred in the community since 2009, with positives such as the Community shed being built, the Callignee Hall being rebuilt and the refurbishment of the Traralgon South Hall.

While these projects have been positives, there are still some families who require support. The DEECD does have access to some counselling and welfare support and I invite anyone who feels they could benefit from this to speak to me to make arrangements. The assembly concluded with the song 'This is Who We Are' written in the wake of the fires by Carol Aberly, while our Junior School Council members released a yellow balloon which flew off into the air, and a group of our senior students placed a paper chain around the memorial plaque. Students from each grade had completed a link in the chain with a message about Black Saturday.

The weather and bushfires in Gippsland on the weekend was a reminder that we can't be too complacent when it comes to bushfire preparation. A number of parents I have spoken to were prepared and monitoring conditions particularly on Sunday. All the advice promoted since Black Saturday is to be prepared and make the decision to stay and defend or leave early. Again, support is available through the DEECD for any families who feel they need it.

Welcome BBQ

Our welcome to the new school year BBQ was held last night. It gave parents a chance to speak to their child's teacher for this year and start to develop the home/school partnership. The BBQ was attended by a number of our families and a great way to socialise with each other. I would also like to thank staff for helping to cook the BBQ and also the offers from parents to help out.

Whole School Head Lice Check

Approved parent helpers will be carrying out a whole school head lice check this Friday 13th February. Parents will have already given consent through the enrolment forms. All parents are asked to ensure that all girls tie long hair back in a pony tail to make the checks easier. Parents who have been approved to check the students' hair are asked to confirm their availability at the school office.

Playground Safety

Students are reminded that the riding of bikes, scooters, ripsticks, etc is not allowed on the school grounds during school times. Students are allowed to use these items while travelling to and from school, however, while at school it is important that they are placed in the appropriate area until it is time to go home. Riding bikes, scooters, ripsticks, etc can be quite dangerous, particularly around the school building with so many people in a small area. It is also important to take care on the roads and in the school car park. Children need to remember to ride on the left hand side of the road, and look carefully for cars and trucks before crossing the road. Wearing a helmet is another essential item for being safe on the roads. It is important that everyone remembers the safe road rules to ensure nobody gets hurt.

Frozen Ice Sticks

Students are able to purchase a Zooper Dooper Frozen Ice Stick at the beginning of lunchtime at a cost of 50c each. Grade 5/6 students will go to each grade to sell these.

Tissues

A reminder to parents that tissues are no longer included in the Materials Charges for 2014, as per the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's policy. However, we do ask that parents supply a box of tissues to their child's classroom please.

2014 Materials Charges

The 2014 Materials Charges have been set by School Council and will be \$110 per student. This payment goes towards student and class consumable materials. This payment is not voluntary and needs to be made before the end of February unless an appropriate payment plan has been organised with the Principal. Further information has been sent home today.

2014 Voluntary Contribution

The 2014 Voluntary Contribution has been set by the School Council and will be \$20 per student towards ICT related equipment, \$10 per student which goes towards grounds maintenance, in particular mowing plus the \$30 per family working bee payment.

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.

(contd. next page)

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August. The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs. In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- \$200 for prep students
- \$150 for students in years 1 – 6.

Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA before 28 February 2013. 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

DATES TO REMEMBER		
12 Feb	Wed	First AASCP Session - Boys
13 Feb	Thu	First AASCP Session - Girls
17 Feb	Mon	Parents & Friends Meeting – 9:15am
26 Feb	Wed	Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2:00pm – 6:00pm
28 Feb	Tue	Closing date for EMA applications.
5 – 7 Mar	Wed-Fri	Years 3 & 4 – Camp Lakewood – details to come
10 Mar	Mon	Labour Day Public Holiday
20 Mar	Thu	School House Sports in Traralgon
24 Mar	Mon	School Photos
1 Apr	Tue	District Sports in Traralgon

PARENTS & FRIENDS

The first Parents & Friends meeting for 2014 will be on Monday 17th February after assembly. We are a welcoming group who are open to new faces and ideas and would love to see you there. If this time doesn't suit you and you are interested in joining in please let us know as this time is flexible. Parents with preschools are more than welcome. We would love to hear your ideas on fundraising and activity planning as we are all working towards the same cause for our children at the school. If you are unable to attend meetings and would like to share your ideas please contact Renee Gore, President or myself.

~ Claire Prior – Secretary ~

HOLLAND FESTIVAL

The 40th Anniversary Holland Festival will be held on Saturday 15th February 2014 at the Sandown Park Entertainment Centre Princes Highway Springvale. For further information visit the website at <http://www.hollandfestival.com.au/>.

Weekly Newsletter No 2 Tuesday, 11th February 2014



School Council Nominations / Elections

Included with this newsletter is a **Notice of Election and Call For Nominations for School Council**. At this time of the year we call for nominations for School Council. This year there are 4 parent vacancies and 1 DEECD (teacher) vacancy. Nomination forms are available from the office and parents can nominate themselves or others. Please note that there are 2 types of nomination forms.

The following parents retire at this election – Andrea Cheetham, Carole Macmillan, Jean-Marc Porigneaux and Karen Pettifer. The following DEECD staff retire at this election – Paula Landy. Please note the parents listed above whose children continue to attend this school can be renominated and that **nominations close on Tuesday 25th of February, 2014.**

The positions available are for a two year term and School Council meetings are held on a Monday evening at 7.00pm (usually the third Monday of the month). At least two meetings per term are held. There is also a requirement to be on a subcommittee such as Buildings and Grounds, Fundraising or Policy and Programs. Naturally there is a time commitment but our School Council meetings are relatively short (no more than 2 hours).

Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

No! What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Please see me if you require any further information regarding this process or if you need a nomination form.

Solar Energy Generation

The reading this week is 27681kwh which means we have generated 409kwh since the last reading.

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Black Saturday Bushfire Anniversary by Grade 4/5



On Friday the 7th of February we all gathered around the front of the school at 9.00 for the Black Saturday bushfire anniversary. We talked about the Dunalley Primary School in Tasmania and the letters we sent last year. After Mr Fraser talked about the primary school in Tasmania he passed it on to Chris Madsen who talked about the rebuilding and about the regrowing. Then he gave it back to Mr Fraser.

Mr Fraser asked all the Junior School Councillors to get the paper chain and balloons. The Junior School Councillors put the chain on the pavement and let the balloons go at different times while the music was going. The music was called 'This is Who We Are'. The balloons got smaller and smaller by the minute. Then Mr Fraser ended the special assembly.

By Georgia Robinson

Last week on Friday the Black Saturday Fire ceremony was held at the 4/5 and 5/6 classrooms. Chris Madsen came to talk about recovery. We let the balloons into the sky and showed the paper chain and listened to a song. It was a bit sad.

By Reuben Miljons



On Friday at 9.00am we had the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfire. We started off by Mr Fraser talking about the Dunalley Primary School and the support we gave them when they had their bushfire. Then Chris Madsen had a talk about the rebuilding and regrowth. Then the grade 5/6 got the chain and some balloons. They had one balloon to each grade for their Junior School Council reps and they let the balloons go. Mr Fraser put on a song called 'This is Who We Are' to end the assembly.

By Ruby Bates

On Friday 7th of Feb it was Black Saturday's 5th anniversary. We also listened to the song about Black Saturday. The school made a giant paper chain that all of the classes contributed to. The Junior School councillors let a balloon go for each class. Lots of parent turned up for the event. All the students were good and listened.

By Connor Lockett

On Friday our school took back the memory that was once ours for when we had the bushfires around. Each year we have this assembly. Houses are getting rebuilt and we have more regrowth. The Junior School Council let some yellow balloons go high up into the sky. The reason they chose yellow balloons is because it was the colour of hope, the good colour after the bushfires ended.

By Hailee Henry



**YOU CAN DO IT
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS
For Week Ending 7th February 2014**



Prep/1	Jae Paton	For being a fantastic helper with Letterland.
1/2	Tom Bolton	For using great problem solving skills during maths testing.
2/3	Savannah Theissing	For being positive and happy in class always.
4/5	Anya Robinson	For her positive attitude towards her school work.
5/6	Ana Varela-Pereira	For her mature and positive attitude towards her learning.
P.E.	Colby Palmer	For showing great support to classmates during P.E.
Principal	Thomas Robinson & Lachlan Pass	For being resilient after falling over and grazing their knees.

LOST AND FOUND

A mountain bike and helmet has been found in the school ground over the recent holiday period. If you or anyone you know is missing their bike, please contact the school office and provide details of the appearance of the bike.

Notice of election and call for nominations

11th February 2014

Dear Parents,

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Traralgon South Primary School No. 2114.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on 25/2/2014.

The ballot (if necessary) will close at 4.00pm on 11/3/2014.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect will be published and a call for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Membership category	Term of office	Number of Positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016.	4
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016.	1