



PRINCIPAL REPORT – WEEK 3 TERM 1 2020

We had a beautiful start to our week with our 'Welcome To 2020 Breakfast' on Tuesday morning. This was a shift in our approach to previous years as sometimes it can be difficult for families to make a return visit to school in the late afternoon and evening, and although hosting this event before school is not an ideal time for everyone, feedback received to date was overwhelmingly positive. Our peaceful and natural school setting on a lovely morning was a perfect reward for getting out of bed early!

As our term begins to gain momentum, our teachers have been busy refining our student leadership opportunities for 2020. This is in the very final stages of development and over the coming week, students will be informed of the roles and responsibilities associated with our Junior School Council and House Captain roles. A school goal for this year is to boost the profile of our student leaders and provide greater opportunities for student voice, feedback and agency in their learning, and this component forms an integral part. Please encourage your child(ren) to consider how they might like to be involved. Our School Captains have already started some of this work in the first few weeks of term, with their first fundraiser underway. Please refer to the 'Bushies Bun-Raiser' information attached to this newsletter, on our Facebook page, and sent home with your child earlier this week.

Please also be reminded about our compulsory 2020 Parent Payments due by 28 February, for those that are yet to do so. Our Parent Payment Policy can be found on our webpage, or from our General Office, should you require additional details surrounding this levy. For those that would like to discuss payment plans or are experiencing difficulties in meeting this deadline, please contact myself or Karyn and we will discretely and respectfully work out alternative arrangements.

Attached to this newsletter are several items relating to School Council elections. I strongly encourage everyone in our parent community to consider being involved in our School Council, with 5 positions available in the parent member category for 2020. If you have any questions about this process or the work of School Council, please come and see me.

Take care,

Joel Blythman

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website <https://www.traralgonsthps.vic.edu.au/policies.html>.

For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information also available in nine community languages.

School Captain Report By Milee Hayes and Abby Riddell

What an amazing start we have had this year. All of our preps and new students are settling in amazingly and everyone is back on track. Many people have already given us wonderful ideas for our 2020 school targets (which will be decided when we have our Junior School Councillors). Also just a reminder Junior School Councillors and House Captains are soon to be elected, so you might want to start thinking of ideas for your speeches if you are running for any of these roles. If you need help or advice for your speech, please don't hesitate to come to us.

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. Applications close 28th February.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

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. Card must have been current on 29/1/20.

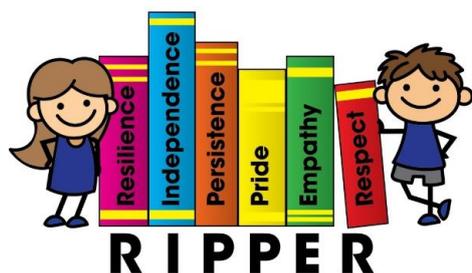
The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per primary school student is \$125. Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

If you applied for the CSEF at this school previously, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances/additional student on the claim. An information sheet has been sent home today and/or check with the school office if you are unsure.

DATES TO REMEMBER

21 st Feb	Fri	Easter Bun Orders Due In
28 th Feb	Fri	Materials Charges Due - \$160 per student Clean Up Australia Day Conveyance Allowance Applications for Claims Close
9 th Mar	Mon	Labour Day Public Holiday
11 th Mar	Wed	School House Sports in Traralgon - Whole School
17 th Mar	Tue	District Sports in Traralgon - Ages 10, 11, 12/13 only
24 th Mar	Tue	School Photos

RIPPER Student Awards - Week Ending 7th February 2020



Prep/1	Lola Phelan	For excellent efforts in her word work and sound knowledge.
1/2	Piper Rohde	For taking pride in all her work.
2/3	Emma Bates	For working independently and showing empathy towards others.
3/4	Declan Kamphuis	For being a respectful and independent class member.
5/6	Christien Dann	For using deep thinking to challenge himself and others around him.
School Captains Award	Logan Hill	In recognition of showing empathy towards his peers.

School Council Elections - Information for Parents

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

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

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**TRARALGON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY**

2020 School Council Election Process and Timeline	
Name of the School: Traralgon South Primary School	
Event	Date
(a) Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday 12 February 2020
(b) Closing date for nominations	Wednesday 19 February 2020 (4pm)
(c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominations will be posted	Thursday 20 February 2020
(d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)	Thursday 20 February 2020
(e) Close of ballot (if required)	Friday 6 March 2020 (4pm)
(f) Vote count (if required)	Tuesday 10 March 2020
(g) Declaration of poll	Wednesday 11 March 2020
(h) First School Council meeting to elect office bearers (the Principal will preside)	Monday 16 March 2020 (7pm)

Please note the 'Notice of Election and Call for Nominations' schedule, and nomination forms (self or other) for the Parent Member Category of School Council are available from the General Office of our school.

Bushies Bun-Raiser 2020

This year our school is participating in the 2020 Bushies Bun-Raiser. We were lucky enough to be selected from a ballot with only 50% of applications being approved to take part! With every pack of hot cross buns you buy, \$2 will be donated to our school, and will go towards our 2020 fundraising targets that will be decided through our Junior School Council and School Captains. Everyone will receive a sheet, which you can fill out to purchase some delicious hot cross buns. Please encourage your family and friends to get involved and purchase some too. Spare order forms will be available to collect from the office or can be downloaded from our Facebook page.



Orders and money **MUST** be returned to the school office by Friday the 21st of February, and will be available for collection at school on Tuesday 3rd of March.

