

Dear Parents,

### ***Mrs Allen***

Mrs Allen has taken long service leave for the remaining three weeks of the year and has been busy finalising her student reports and classroom last week. Jo Morrison has returned to our school to teach the Grade 2/3 class until the last day of term. Mrs Morrison has been employed as a CRT for a number of days this year and the students are all familiar with her. I would like to thank Mrs Allen for her hard work this year.

### ***Changes to Education Maintenance Allowance for 2015***

Families who previously received EMA funding will not be receiving these funds in 2015. Our school does not meet the criteria required and will not be receiving any additional funding from the government. I realise these changes will impact on families who may experience financial difficulty with the costs associated with their child's education and I am more than happy to meet with parents to discuss payment arrangements.

### ***Orientation Day / 2014 Grades***

Groupings for classes in 2015 have begun and will be ready before our Orientation Day next Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Students will be told the class they will be in beforehand so they will know which class to go to on Tuesday morning.

We will also be joined by the pre-school students who will be attending our school next year. Miss Bone and I will be sharing morning tea with our new Prep parents from 12:00pm. As in past years we ask this year's Prep parents to provide a small plate of morning tea please. These can be dropped off at the staff room on Tuesday morning.

### ***Thanks Mrs Merigan***

At the end of this year we will farewell Rosalie Merigan from our school. Rosalie has worked at our school for various periods of time since 2009. She has provided classroom support and been a very diligent and hard worker during this time, building an excellent rapport with the students she has worked with. I would like to thank Rosalie for her dedication and efforts to improve the learning outcomes of our students. I wish Rosalie well for her retirement as she plans to spend more time with her family.

### ***Final AASCP Sessions***

This week is the last week of the Active After School Program. This Commonwealth funded program has now finished with no further funds made available to continue to run the After School Program. There will,

however, be another program, Sporting Schools, which will also be funded by the Federal Government which will begin in Term 3, 2015. This program has been well supported by many of our school families over the past ten years and I hope the same level of support will continue with the new program later next year. I would like to thank Janine Groves for being the supervisor of the program over the past couple of years, and helping to coordinate the program.

### ***Whole School Excursion***

Our whole school excursion will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December and will be a good way to finish off the year. Students have been given a permission form today and are required to return them to school by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We will be going to the Morwell Ten Pin bowling centre for some disco bowling before returning to school. I would like to thank our Parents and Friends committee for funding most of the costs associated with this excursion. Students will be charged \$2 to help cover the costs of the bus. Please ensure your money is in an envelope/resealable bag.

### ***End Of Year Concert***

Parents are reminded our end of year concert will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December on the oval at school. The concert will begin at 7:00pm and we ask that all students are at school by 6:45pm. It is nice to bring along a picnic rug or fold out chairs to sit on during the concert. We usually have a large audience and many keen helpers to pack up at the end of the night. We look forward to seeing you there.

### ***Last Day Term 4 – Early Dismissal***

Parents are reminded that our last day of school for the year is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Students will be dismissed at 1:30pm on this day following a short assembly from 1:15pm. All parents are welcome to attend the final assembly for the year. As in the past, students will have a recess break only. Please ensure your child has enough food to see them through until 1:30pm.

### ***2015 Materials Charge & Voluntary Levies***

School Council approved the 2015 Materials Charge & Voluntary Levies which have increased from 2014. This is the first increase in materials charges for a number of years and we do our best to ensure they are kept low from year to year. The known materials and timeline will be sent home with this newsletter.

**Joel Fraser – Principal**

DATES TO REMEMBER		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Wed	Final Wednesday AASCP Session
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thu	Final Thursday AASCP Session
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri	Christmas Themed Dress Up Day – Cost - Hamper Donation
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tue	Orientation Day
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thu	Whole School Excursion – Ten Pin Bowling - \$2.00
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wed	End of Year Concert – 7:00pm Start
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thu	Year 6 Graduation
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fri	Last Day Term 4 – Early Dismissal at 1:30pm

**YOU CAN DO IT  
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS  
For Fortnight Ending 28th November 2014**



Prep/1	Lachlan Pass	For big efforts in his handwriting.
2/3	Whole Grade	For a terrific year together! Thank you Grade 2/3.
4/5	Kiara Tapai	For orking well on her research project.
5/6	Emma Hagley	For a positive and hardworking attitude towards all school tasks.
	Max Richmond	For great efforts with his Earn & Learn business.
Mrs Fowler	Grade Prep/1	For working cooperatively with magnets and doing some great scientific thinking.
Principal	Jessica Pettifer	For being a happy, friendly and caring member of our school.

*Weekly Newsletter No 34  
Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014*



## Christmas Themed Dress Up Day This Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

This Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December we will be having a Christmas Themed Dress Up Day. We are encouraging all students to dress up in their finest Christmas gear, or at the very least in red and green. We ask that students bring along an item for the Christmas hamper/prizes. Donations will be collected from each classroom **on the day**.

Note: School uniform is to be worn by those students not wearing Christmas themed clothes and remember to follow these rules:



- ★
- ★ No singlet tops
- ★ Shoes must be enclosed style
- ★ School hats must be worn outside

*Raffle tickets will cost 50 cents each and books of 10 will be sent home with the eldest in the family this week. We look forward to your continued support of this popular raffle!*

### Solar Energy Generation

The reading this week is 36730kwh which means we have generated 346kwh since the last reading.

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## TRARALGON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 2114

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1<sup>st</sup> December 2014

Dear Parents,

The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Marc Porigneaux  
School Council President

### ***Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance***

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. **Our school will not be receiving any extra financial support.**

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools' Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal.