

Dear Parents,

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have been providing local schools with regular updates and advice on the Latrobe mine fires. The information they are providing to us is that the fires are unlikely to be put out for a number of weeks and the smoke has become worse over the weekend. Their main concern is the health and safety of the children and staff in schools and early childhood facilities. They are also encouraging parents to notify their child's school if they have an existing medical condition such as asthma.

In the past week we have had a couple of children mention that they do suffer from asthma though they don't have any medication at school or an asthma action plan from the GP which is a requirement for all schools. If your child doesn't have an asthma action plan or medication at school or you are unsure whether or not your child's plan is current, please contact the school to ensure that all medical information is up to date.

While the Department of Health has recommended that schools in Morwell be relocated, they have said other Latrobe Valley schools do not need to relocate, so they will remain open. DEECD will let me know straight away if anything changes.

If parents are considering whether to move out of town for a while, please let us know at school as it is important we know where your child is and when to expect them to return. DEECD is monitoring the situation very closely with the Department of Health. In addition to air monitoring currently being conducted by the EPA, DEECD will also test and monitor the air quality at affected schools.

Currently, our school is responding to the smoke on a situation by situation basis. While we haven't been affected as badly as Morwell schools, at different times of the day we have experienced a significant amount of smoke. At these times, we have made a decision to either modify our PE program or move recess and lunchtime inside to protect students and staff from the smoke. Conditions can change quite quickly from a clear day to thick smoke so we are prepared to make changes as required.

Further information can be found at:

DEECD

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx

Department of Health www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires.htm

EPA Victoria www.epa.vic.gov.au

Latrobe City Council www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home

Materials Charges Due This Friday

As per our school's Materials charges and payments policy, all payments are to be made to the school by the end of February each year (which is this Friday). I would like to thank all parents for making payment or arranging a payment plan for their child's materials charges. If you have not yet made payment, please do so by the end of the month or alternatively, contact me to arrange a payment plan. Invoices for outstanding balances are due to be sent home in early March. Thank you for your support.

Thanks Parents and Friends For Satchels

A big thank you must go to our Parents and Friends committee for purchasing a satchel for every student. The satchels are to be used for anything that needs to be taken home or returned to school, like readers, homework, notes, permission forms, etc.

Parent/Teacher Interviews Tomorrow

Parent teacher interviews will be held tomorrow Wednesday 26th February. All students have been given their allotted time to take home. If you don't have your time, please contact your child's teacher.

Have You Seen Our Website?

Parents are also reminded about the information available on the school's website at www.traralgonsthps.vic.edu.au You will be able to find recent newsletters, notes, permission forms and information on school policies. There is also information and links available on our school's Facebook page which can be found by searching for our school on Facebook.

School Council Positions Closing today

A reminder to all parents that nominations for School Council positions close this afternoon at 4:00pm. Any parent who is interested can collect a nomination form from the front office.

Personal belongings

Parents are reminded that DEECD does not provide insurance for private property brought to school. Recently, we have had some students bring iPods and similar devices to school. Students are discouraged from bringing these devices to school unless they are being used during lessons, as lost or missing items can cause quite a lot of distress to students and their parents. It is also important to ensure these devices contain age appropriate material, particularly the lyrics and themes in

songs. Any devices containing inappropriate material will be confiscated and returned to parents. I appreciate your support with this matter.

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.

Joel Fraser – Principal

JARS NEEDED!

The grade 5/6 class will be making rhubarb chutney for Parents and Friends to sell at the Mother's Day stall this year. We will be using the rhubarb from the garden, but we are in desperate need of small jars to sell it in. If you have any small jars that we could use, please send them along to the 5/6 classroom.

DATES TO REMEMBER		
26 Feb	Wed	Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2:00pm – 6:00pm
28 Feb	Fri	Closing date for EMA applications.
		Clean Up Australia Day – 2:00pm
		Materials Charge Due
5 – 7 Mar	Wed-Fri	Years 3 & 4 – Camp Lakewood
10 Mar	Mon	Labour Day Public Holiday
17 Mar	Mon	Parents & Friends AGM – 9:15am
20 Mar	Thu	School House Sports in Traralgon
24 Mar	Mon	School Photos
1 Apr	Tue	District Sports in Traralgon

WEST END JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Training begins for U10 and U12 teams on Wednesday 5th March. Training will be Monday and Wednesday nights 4:30 – 5:30 at Jack Canavan Oval, West End Complex Traralgon. U14 and U16 have already begun and train at Stoddard Park. All new players are welcome.



House Sports Information

Our students have been preparing for the school House Sports and also the District Athletic Sports. A reminder that the school athletic sports will be held on Thursday 20th of March at Harold Preston Park on Davidson Street in Traralgon. We are looking for parents to help out on the day, so if you are available, please leave a note at the office. Students can dress in their house colours during the day otherwise they are required in school uniform.

Students will need to be at Harold Preston Park by 9:30am on the day, ready for a 9:45am start and students will be ready to be picked up at 2:30pm (approximately).

Students will need their lunch, plenty to drink, sunscreen and their school hat. The school bus will not operate on these days, even if the events are postponed due to the weather, the bus will still not operate. In the event that the sports are to be postponed, parents will be notified at the earliest convenience via text message.

Parents & Friends will be operating a canteen at the House Sports which will be selling Fruit Box drinks and icy poles.

Solar Energy Generation

The reading this week is 28261kwh which means we have generated 290kwh since the last reading.

YOU CAN DO IT
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS
For Week Ending 21st February 2014



Prep/1	Makayla Elms	For being a good friend and trying her best at school.
1/2	Ben Hagley	For always being helpful and considerate.
2/3	Grant Jenkins & Penny Matthews	For working well with class peers and being friendly.
4/5	Tommy Nelson	For working hard to concentrate and complete set tasks.
5/6	Lachie Mayes	For showing care and consideration to younger students.
Art	Mia Sturre	For creating a well designed photo frame using complementary colours and materials.
	Ruby Bates	For excellent planning to design an enchanted land map.
P.E.	Sam Gissara	For being a great "coach" to younger students in Athletics.
	Jayden Henry	For showing persistence to learn the overarm throw.
Principal	Isobel McAllister	For always having a friendly, smiling face and saying hello.