

Dear Parents,

### **Welcome Back**

Welcome back everyone to the beginning of another year. We have another very exciting year ahead and I look forward to seeing the progress our students make over the next twelve months. It was fantastic to officially welcome our new Prep students at the school assembly yesterday morning. They all look very cute and eager to enjoy school. Parents of Prep students are reminded that they aren't required to attend on Wednesdays during February, with the first Wednesday of attendance to be the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Prep students have been allocated a time on a Wednesday to come in and complete some assessment tasks.

### **Black Saturday Ceremony**

Parents are reminded we will hold a short ceremony at school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am for the anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires. Our focus for this ceremony is to not only reflect on our community but also show support for other communities around Australia who have recently been affected by natural disasters. In particular, we have asked that all students bring along a book or stationery item to donate to the Dunalley Primary School which was burnt down in bushfires at the beginning of January. Our school received significant support from all corners of our country at the time of the 2009 fires and I think it is important for us to repay that support when others are in need.

### **Tissues**

A reminder to parents that tissues are no longer included in the Materials Charges for 2013, 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.

### **Class Letters**

All teachers will be sending out a class letter by the end of this week, outlining the program for the term, and will also include information regarding rules, consequences and rewards. Teachers will also include their email address should you prefer to contact them in this way. As was the case last year, teachers will be available to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress by appointment. Teachers are also available for a quick catch up from 8:40am – 8:50am and after school from 3:35pm.

### **Stop Work Day – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

The Australian Education Union is continuing its industrial campaign against the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for teachers and principals. Negotiations have restarted in the last week and another three meetings have been scheduled for this week in the hope of reaching an agreement soon. Another stop work day has been scheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February with **all** teachers at our school electing to participate in the stop work action. In addition to the stop work action, the AEU has put in place work bans requiring all members to only work 38 hours per week and not participate in school activities outside of those hours.

### **Welcome To Parents Afternoon Tea**

We are providing an afternoon tea on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 3:30 – 5:00pm to welcome all parents to our school this year. This is also a great opportunity for our students to show their parents some of the work they have been doing so far this year. We look forward to seeing you here! Again, we would really appreciate your understanding with this campaign and hope we have a resolution soon.

### **Before School Supervision and Entry/Exit to Classrooms**

Please note that before-school supervision is provided each day from 8:45am. The bag bell will ring at 8:50am when students are allowed to put their bags away, with classes beginning at 9:00am. Parents who drop their children at school after 8:30am should be aware that supervision is not provided until 8:45am. It is vital for your child's progress that they attend school as often as possible and are punctual each day. Students who are punctual and attend regularly generally perform better than those students who are regularly late or who have significant absenteeism.

In addition, at the beginning and end of the day, students are required to enter the school from the external classroom doors, or the doors near the undercover area. Students are not permitted in the front foyer unless putting money in the slot, putting in lunch orders, forms etc.

### **2013 Materials Charges**

The 2013 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.

### **2013 Voluntary Contribution**

The 2013 Voluntary Contribution has been set by the School Council and will be \$30 per student, plus the \$30 per family working bee payment. This payment goes towards ground maintenance, in particular mowing, as well as purchasing ICT related equipment, such as laptop computers.

### **Active After School Program & Supervisor Required**

The Active After School Program will continue this year. At this stage (this is subject to change) the program will run on Wednesdays (multi sport) and Thursdays (AFL 9s) and is a **free** program. Again this year, sessions will start after school and will finish at 4:45pm. The school will provide an afternoon snack for those children participating in the program. Children from Prep through to Grade 6 are welcome to attend, with minor games sessions beginning next Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. The session scheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February will not continue due to the AEU industrial action involving a stop work day. Parents will need to complete a permission form if their child would like to participate in the program. These forms can be picked up from the school foyer. A student roll will be marked at the beginning of each session and we ask that a note be provided from parents if students **will not** be taking part in a particular session.

This year, we require a supervisor for the After School Program. This is a paid position and you must hold a current Working With Children Check. The role includes organising afternoon tea for the students (purchasing and cutting up some fruit), marking the roll each session, being in attendance for each session from 3:30pm until 4:45pm, and assuming the duty of care for our students. Interested parents can contact me at school by this Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We must have a supervisor for the program to continue.

### ***New Playground***

Our new playground is being installed this week and it is expected to be ready for students to play on from next Monday. The oval is also out of action at the moment as we have had it top dressed with soil over the January holidays. The oval should also be ready for student play at the beginning of next week.

### ***Electrical Tag Testing – Can You Help?***

As per our school's Occupational Health and Safety requirements, we are required to have all of our electrical appliances tested each year. We are due to have this completed in first term this year and are seeking parents who may be able to volunteer their time to help with the testing, as it is a very costly process to hire a contractor. Any parents who are available to volunteer their time can contact me at school.

### ***Fruit Day – Volunteers Needed***

We are hoping to continue our fruit program this year. After the Free Fruit Friday program was discontinued in July last year, we were fortunate to have a couple of parents volunteer their time to cut up fruit that students brought to school. This has become a lengthy task and we require more support from parents for this program to continue successfully. Not much is required to help out, all you need to do is be able to cut up a variety of different fruits and place them on a plate. If you are able to help out, please let me know so we can arrange a suitable day to continue this program.

### ***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 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 2013, the annual EMA amount 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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/ema.htm)

**Joel Fraser – Principal**

**Weekly Newsletter No 1**  
**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013**



## 2013 Prep Students Receiving Their Prep Bags



### **Solar Energy Generation**

The reading this week is 14608kwh which means we have generated 2888kwh since our last reading.

**PRINCIPAL: Joel Fraser**  
**RMB 3015 TRARALGON SOUTH 3844**  
**PHONE: 5195 5244**

<http://traralgonstps.vic.edu.au/>  
[www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline)  
[fraser.joel.b@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:fraser.joel.b@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**YOU CAN DO IT  
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS  
For Week Ending 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**



0/0	Belle Gissara	For trying her best with her learning.
1/2	Ayva Rohde	For always being ready to learn and listening well.
2/3	Teagan Schoolderman	For showing initiative and leadership qualities in the class.
4/5	Breanna De Martin	For being such a positive student in class.
5/6	Olive Porigneaux	For valuable contribution to class discussions.
Principal	Colby Palmer	For being a good example to his friends and playing fairly in the playground.

**TRARALGON CITY SOCCER CLUB – JUNIOR TRAINING**

Junior training commences at the Traralgon City Soccer Ground Harold Preston Park – Davidson St on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Under 6 to Under 13's: 4.30pm – 5.30pm and Under 14 to Under 16's: 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Training will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This year we are introducing girls teams for U8,U10, U12, U14 and U17. Registration Day - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February (BBQ provided for all soccer kids). Any questions please contact Junior Coordinator Noel Murray 0438 743602

**HORSES AND BUSHFIRES – WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?**

Lisa Blackman from CFA's Fire Ready Victoria will be at the Callignee Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 4:30pm – 6:30pm to discuss how to plan for your horses safety on bad fire risk days. All horse owners/riders are welcome and children are encouraged to attend. Enquiries please phone Anita Charles on 5195 5125 or 0428 164 628. Drinks and snacks provided.

**FREE MUSIC WORKSHOPS**

Free Music Workshops will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February at TRY Youth Morwell, Cnr Driffield and Commercial Roads. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February a session for students in years 5 and 6 will be held at Yinnar for drumming, acoustic and singing. Phone Anita Charles on 0428 164 628 for more information.

**CATS PLAYGROUP**

CATS playgroup meets every Thursday [9.30-11.30](#) at Callignee hall during school terms. It's a great place for children and adults to meet and catch up. Please come along for a visit, we look forward to seeing you there. BYO piece of fruit to share. Our AGM is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of February at 10 am, followed by a GM. Contact Simone on [0427723582](tel:0427723582).

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE DUTCH**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Holland Festival will be held at the Sandown Entertainment Centre on Saturday 16 February this year from 10:00am till late. You can dance or listen to Dutch music, eat Dutch food such as herrings, poffertjes, and croquettes, or enjoy watching the Clog Dancing groups. One of the highlights is the colourful Grand Parade, which also includes members of the different Carnivals Clubs in their official uniforms. There are also many activities for children, including traditional Dutch games. Come along and experience a little bit of Holland – you won't be disappointed! For updates [www.hollandfestival.com.au](http://www.hollandfestival.com.au) or on Facebook Holland Festival Melbourne.

DATES TO REMEMBER		
7 Feb	Thu	Short Assembly at 9:15am – Black Saturday Bushfires
11 Feb	Mon	Welcome Afternoon Tea – 3:30pm to 5:00pm
14 Feb	Thu	Stop Work Full Day – Whole School
15 Feb	Fri	Book Club Due In
19 Feb	Tue	Swimming Program commences for Grades 1/2 and 5/6
28 Feb	Thu	Materials Charge Due - \$110.00 per student
5 Mar	Wed	First Wednesday for Preps to attend
7 Mar	Thu	School House Sports in Traralgon
8 Mar	Fri	Student Free Day
11 Mar	Mon	Labour Day Public Holiday
21 Mar	Thu	District School Sports in Traralgon
27 Mar	Wed	School Photo Day
28 Mar	Thu	Last Day Term 1 – Early Dismissal