Term 1 - Week 4– 18th Feb 2015

Principals Report -

School Council Elections:

Included in this newsletter is information regarding school council nominations/elections for 2015. Nomination forms can be obtained from the General Office and must be lodged by 4:00pm on Thursday 26th February. There are four parent vacancies for a two year period. Please take the time to read the information and consider nominating or re-nominating for council.

Visiting teachers from Korea and Japan:

At Monday’s assembly, our school captains, Brooke and Tristan, officially welcomed Mr Fujita from Japan and Mr Hwang from Korea into the school. Mr Hwang is a teacher from the Republic of Korea or South Korea as it is commonly known. He teaches technology at Jecheon Middle School which is located approximately two hours from the capital, Seoul. Mr Hwang is visiting for two weeks as part of a teacher exchange between Victoria and South Korea.

Mr Fujita is from Tokyo and works for an organisation called The Japan Institute. He will be here for three weeks and will deliver a program to the Years 5-7 students called ‘Karuto in Education’. Mr Fujita will teach students to design their own card game based on a Japanese children’s game. The program is designed to build both language skills and knowledge of Japanese culture. We are the first school in Australia to participate in this program.

Abbeyfield Foundation scholarship:

Last Friday a special presentation was made to our 2014 school captain, Stacey Shalders. Susan Bosch, vice-chair of the Abbeyfield Foundation presented Stacey with the Abbeyfield/Dan Brumley scholarship for 2014. I would like to thank the Abbeyfield Foundation for their ongoing support of the young people of Mortlake and district.

Stacey began her nursing/paramedicine course at Australian Catholic University in Ballarat on Monday. Congratulations Stacey!

Welcome Back!

At Monday’s assembly we welcomed back Asha and Lizzy Kelly. Asha was on student exchange to America during second semester last year and we look forward to hearing about her experiences overseas in the coming weeks.
Congratulations to our students!

It’s always great to observe or hear about our students demonstrating really positive behaviours and this was certainly the case last Friday. I saw first-hand the Years 5-12 students competing strongly for their houses often in events where they knew they wouldn’t win but knowing that they would still get point for their house if they competed. Students were also really supportive of each other, and the level of enthusiasm throughout the day was fantastic.

Mrs Storr and Mr Vangeninden also were thrilled with the behaviour of the Years 3&4 students on the Field Days’ excursion last Friday. They both commented that many stall holders and others had commented on how polite and respectful our students were throughout the day. So congratulations to all concerned! Thank you to the parents who attended the excursion and helped with supervision. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Graeme Good

5–7 Students being treated to some Korean culture by our visiting International teacher, Mr Hwang

School Photos - Tuesday March 3rd

Please ensure all students wear full correct summer uniform to school on the day of the photos. If students have PE on a Tuesday they will need to bring their PE gear with them on the day to change into.

School Photo day is fast approaching. All envelopes have been sent home with students in the last couple of days. Students are able to hand them back to their teacher before photo day or hand them straight to the photographer with the payment enclosed. All students need to return an envelope, regardless of your intention to purchase.

Family photo envelopes can be picked up from the General Office before Monday 2nd March and returned back to the office. Please note that family photos will only be taken of families who have taken an envelope and paid for their photos by Tuesday morning at the latest.
School Council Elections 2015– 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 state wide 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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) 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 DEECD 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 co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD 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. 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.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:
- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

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.

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 1 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.

DEECD 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.

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 Principal, Graeme Good, for further information.
On Friday the year 3 and 4s went to the Sungold Allansford field days.
Lots of parents came with us, so we split up into small groups to walk around and see everything.
We saw: cows, baby animals, tractors, trucks, very old cars and new cars.
We watched a brilliant motor cross display. The riders were doing somersaults on their motorbikes!
We also went into the CFA education truck and on a bouncy castle and rode on a mini train.
We were given lots of free things like cheese, flavoured milk, bottles of water, pens, hats, drink bottles and lots more.
It was very hot and dusty, but we had a great time.
Thank you to Sue Bawden, Liz Fowler, Jenny Goddard, Nicole Richie, Kathryn Schuuring, Bianca Maher, Lisa Anders, Ron Appo, Mr Hwang, and of course Mrs Pekin, Mr V and Mrs Storr for taking us.
**Name:** Amy Hughes  
**Age:** 11  

**Why did you apply for the position?**  
Because I wanted to be a great teammate and I wanted to step up and become more of a role model. I also wanted to be a leader and represent Inspire in many different events.

**What qualities will you bring to Inspire as a leader?**  
I will use kindness, confidence and many more qualities that I will develop along the way.

**What are you most looking forward to as 5-7 House Leader?**  
I was House Captain in Year 4 so I am looking forward to seeing how different it is. In Year 4 as a House Captain I didn’t really do much. I know this year I will be doing so much more.

**Name:** Ollie Mahncke  
**Age:** 12  

**Why did you apply for the position?**  
I applied for the position because it’s a good opportunity to get to know the 5-7 students and the 8-12 leaders.

**What qualities will you bring to Inspire as a leader?**  
I will bring new ideas, support, fun, and I will persist with any work and tasks. I have confidence within myself and my abilities to lead Inspire.

**What are you most looking forward to as 5-7 House Leader?**  
I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and being involved with all school activities. I am looking forward to the challenge of leading my House, Inspire.

**Anything else?**  
I like playing cricket, footy and swimming in my spare time.
My name is Kaitlyn Fowler and I’m in Year 7.

I love to dance, play netball, spend time with my family, being outside and watching Dance Moms on FOXTEL. At school I enjoy P.E. because I love sport and I love to be active. I wanted to be Succeed House Captain because I wanted to be a leader and try to make our school a better place. In the future, I want to be a netballer or dancer.

My name is Taine De Manser and I am in Grade 6.

I like to read and play sports in my spare time like cricket and football. At school I enjoy the production each year. This year it’s CATS. My favourite subjects are maths, English and P.E. I wanted to be Succeed House Captain because I thought I could be a role model and an organised house captain. I like to talk so I thought I better put it to good use. By the end of the year, I hope I’m a great house captain. In the future I want to participate in all school activities like athletics, swimming and any others I can be in. As well as doing them myself, I’ll also encourage other members of Succeed to have a go.
Parents’ Association

Upcoming Fundraising -

**Te Mania Bull Sale on Wednesday 4th March**

We are catering for morning and afternoon tea at the
Bull Sale, and will be sending home cake boxes to every family next week for donations of home-
made slices, biscuits and cakes.
The Committee are also looking for parents to volunteer for 2 hours to help make salad rolls and
serve morning and afternoon tea at the Bull Sale at Te Mania Angus, Reichmans Lane, Mortlake. Six
helpers are needed between 10am and 12pm, and four between 12pm and 2pm. Please fill in the fol-
lowing note if you can help and return it to the School Office by Friday 27th February, or contact
Wendy Lynzaat on 0422 706 316.

**Bulbs Direct Fundraising**

Order forms will be sent home soon.

**Family Fun Fete**

Save the Date- **FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2015.**

Planning has begun for the Fete in 2015. Jamie and Kim’s Mobile Zoo from Ararat have been booked
for the day.

**Next Meeting:** Friday 13th March, 9:00am in the Staffroom.

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**Te Mania Bull Sale, Wednesday 4th March, 2015.**

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Please circle your preferred time:**

- 10am to 12pm
- 12pm to 2pm

**Please return to the School office by Friday 27th February.**

**Thank you.**
Do you receive the weekly school newsletter in hard copy form?

Do you have an email address?

Do you have the Skoolbag App?

Mortlake College would like to move with progressive times and have parents receive the newsletter by either email or the Skoolbag App (Instructions for the Skoolbag App are on the following 2 pages) or alternatively it is available on our school web page.

Please returning the slip below indicating your preference so we can update your details our system. Or email Cherie on robertson.cherie.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your support.

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**NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE**

**NAME**

- [ ] HARD COPY
- [ ] SKOOLBAG APP
- [ ] EMAIL  (Please include preferred email address)
**CHOC-NANA ICE CREAMS**

**INGREDIENTS**
- 4 Large Bananas
- 50g Lindt 70% dark chocolate
- 1/8 Cup Coconut Oil
- 1/4 Cup Sliced Almonds (for topping)
- 1/4 Cup Desiccated coconut (for topping)
- (1/4 Cup peanuts for alternative topping optional)

**METHOD**
* Peel bananas and cut into portions (usually 16 portions from 4 large bananas)
* In a microwave safe bowl melt broken up chocolate and coconut oil on medium heat for 30 seconds. Stir and check. Heat for a further 30 seconds if necessary.
* Place the portions of bananas on a stick of your choice (e.g., toothpicks)
* Dip/roll the each portions in the melted chocolate, then sprinkle with topping of choice.
* Place on a tray covered in grease proof paper, then place in the freezer for at least 20 mins.
* Once frozen place in a ziplock bag and keep in the freezer for a hot day.
SPORT SPOT

5-12 HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS

On Friday the 13\textsuperscript{th} February, our College Swimming Sports were held in ideal conditions. A special thankyou to Rowie MacDonald, and Michelle Howat, along with staff and student helpers for making the day possible.

Finally congratulations to all the students on making the day a great success.

\textit{Nathan Jones—Year 7-12 Sports Coordinator}

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**Age Group Champions .....**

**11-12 Girls**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Jamie Killen
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tasha Killen & Grace Wareham
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Ruby Shuuring

**11-12 Boys**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Simon Atkinson
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Lachie McGavin
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Todd MacDonald, Ned Quail
  
  & Taine Demanser

**13-14 Girls**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Sophie Goldsworthy
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Charlotte Gartland
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Erin McGuigan

**13-14 Boys**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Darcy Hobbs
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Jackson Boyden
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} MacKenzie Mann

**15-16 Girls**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Kira Firth & Kismet McCarroll
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Lizzy Kelly
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Airlia Munn
  
  & Liam O’Flaherty

**15-16 Boys**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Harry Hobbs
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Gerald Monteith & Ryan Tanner

**17-20 Girls**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Sarah Parker
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Brooke Eldridge
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Cinty Van Duynhoven

**17-20 Boys**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Lachlan Wareham
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Lachlan Jubb
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Geordie MacDonald

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**Records**

Simon Atkinson
11 year old breast stroke and freestyle
AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

Kismet McCarroll, Kira Firth, Sarah Parker, Lachlan Wareham, Harry Hobbs, Darcy Hobbs, Simon Atkinson & Jamie Killen. Abs Sophie Goldsworthy

Overall Results

1<sup>st</sup> Endeavour - 414 points

Equal 2<sup>nd</sup>

Inspire & Succeed - 324 points

Training for the MWD swimming sports next Wednesday will be held Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at lunchtimes.
**Student Conveyance Allowance**

Some families are entitled to claim for student conveyance if they meet a certain criteria.

You must live more than 4.8km from Mortlake College or your normal bus stop.
Mortlake College must be your closest Government School.

If this applies to you, please call the General Office to obtain a Conveyance Allowance Form.

These are paid each term to eligible families.
Completed forms need to be returned to the office before **Feb**

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**SPORT SPOT**

**P-12 Sport Dates Term 1**

**February**

- **23rd February** 3-6 House Swimming Sports—11.40am-3.00pm
- **25th February** MWC Swimming Beaufort—All Day

**March**

- **5th March** 7-12 MWC Triathlon
- **6th March** 3-6 Division Swimming
- **10th March** 5-12 House Athletics—All Day
- **13th March** 3-6 Regional Swimming
- **16th March** 3-6 House Athletics
- **20th March** 3-6 District Athletics

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**HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS - Years 3-6**

On Monday 23rd February, Mortlake College House Swimming Sports will be held from 11.40am to 3:00pm. If any parents would like to help out with official duties then can they please contact me.

The students have been asked to wear their house colours. They will need sunscreen, hat, plenty of water, and their recess & lunch. (no lunch orders).

**Nigel Boyden**
Mortlake College is hosting a Pink Stumps Day challenge with a TWIST!

On Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} of March the students of Mortlake College will embark on a monstrous task! Mortlake College has challenged its students to play 5 hours of continuous cricket in support of the McGrath foundation. This challenge will commence at 10am in the following order;

- **10am-Recess**: Yr 8-10 students.
- **Recess**: Yr 11& 12 students.
- **Periods 3&4**: Yr 5-7 students.
- **Lunch**: Yr 11& 12 students.
- **End of lunch-3:10**: P-4 students.

All types of cricket will be explored through the age groups; 'backyard', round-robin style, super 8's and continuous along with many stations; Hit the stumps, longest hit of the 'tee' and last man standing (catching). We invite parents and friends to cheer us on at the senior football oval from 3pm, 5 hours is a long time we must celebrate!

To keep the energy levels high for amazing cricket feats we will be selling pink (raspberry) spider drinks at recess and lunchtime @thecanteen! (no preorders)

Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation and dress in pink as we are supporting breast cancer. There will be prizes for the best dressed, do not underdress!

All proceeds from the day will be sent in support of the McGrath foundation, raising money to place breast cancer nurses in communities across Australia as well as increasing breast cancer awareness in young women.

#pinkstumpsday #mcgrathfoundation
**Fruit and Vegetables**
- Fresh fruit or a small tub of canned fruit in juice or water not syrup is easy to pack in the lunchbox.
- Try raw vegies such as carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, cucumber or capsicum strips. Providing a dip such as tzatziki or hummus with these vegetable sticks/strips is a great snack.
- Kids should eat 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of vegetables each day.

**Protein**
- Canned tuna or salmon
- Boiled eggs
- Baked beans
- Chicken
- Ham

These could be included in sandwich/wrap fillings.

**Breads and Cereals**
- Sandwich or wraps using wholegrain, wholemeal, rye or mountain bread
- Pikelets, muffins, crumpets, rice cakes, fruit buns
- Pasta salad

**Healthy sandwich/wrap fillings:**
- Lean meats such as chicken, ham, leftover roast meat, tuna or turkey. Limit processed meats such as Kabana, twiggy sticks or salami.
- Swap butter for avocado, mustard, low fat mayonnaise or ricotta cheese instead.
- Try to include cheese and/or salad such as lettuce, cucumber.

**Healthy snacks**
- A small box or bag of dried fruit
- Rice cakes or unsalted and unsweetened popcorn

**Dairy**
- Try including dairy such as:
  - Cheese and biscuits
  - Cream cheese spread on crackers
  - A tub of Yoghurt

**Drinks**
- To keep your child hydrated encourage them to drink plenty of water.
- Pack a drink bottle in your child’s bag. Try freezing on hot days to help keep them cool.
- Plain milk is great but keep it cold with a freezer block.

**Drinks to leave out:**
- Soft drinks
- Fruit juices
- Energy drinks
- Sweetened milk

**Nutritious Snacks**

*Other snacks that can be included with fruit and vegetables:*
- Rice cakes or unsalted and unsweetened popcorn
- A small box or bag of dried fruit

**Food Safety Tips**

**Keep foods cold by using an insulated lunchbox/bag and including a wrapped frozen water bottle or freezer pack in the warmer months.**

**Remember to always wash your hands.**

**If you prepare lunches the night before, always store in the fridge.**
Tips for tapping into water

As the weather heats up, it is more important than ever to make sure that you and your family are drinking enough water!

For healthy bodies and healthy teeth your whole family should drink plenty of tap water. Tap water is cheap, is better for the environment than bottled water, and in most cases has fluoride in it for healthy teeth.

Here are a few tips for drinking plenty of tap water.

- Keep a jug of water in the fridge.
- Provide water with meals and snacks.
- Teach children to help themselves to water, but make sure they ask for permission for sweet drinks.
- When you are out and about, make sure everyone has their own water bottle.
- Make fancy ice. You can buy ice trays that create ice blocks in all shapes and sizes.

Use these tips to help make healthier drink choices in your home!

Source: Dental Health Services Victoria

Just a reminder to all families who received a letter about missing enrolment components this week
- It is important we receive this information so our school records are correct and up to date.
- Please refer to the following page in regards to immunisation
Starting primary school?

Immunisation information for parents enrolling a child

By law, your child must have an immunisation status certificate to enrol in primary school.

Why immunise?

Children starting school are exposed to a large number of people and to a range of potentially dangerous diseases. Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases that cause serious illness and sometimes death.

Enrolling in primary school is a good time to check your child’s immunisations are up to date.

What is an immunisation status certificate?

It is a statement showing the immunisations your child has received.

By law, you must provide an immunisation status certificate to the primary school when enrolling your child.

If your child has not received any immunisations, you must still provide a certificate.

The school keeps a copy of the certificate so that, in the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children can be quickly identified and excluded from school until the risk of infection has passed.

How do I obtain an immunisation status certificate?

From the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

- phone 1800 653 809 or
- email acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au
- www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online
- visit your local Medicare Office.

The most common type of immunisation status certificate is a Child History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

You will be sent this statement when your child turns five years old, however you can request a certificate at any time.

You should also contact ACIR if you:

- are moving or have recently moved, to ensure your contact details are up to date
- think your child’s statement is incomplete or incorrect.

From your doctor or local council

If your child is not eligible for a Medicare card, then contact your doctor or local council immunisation service who will be able to assist you in obtaining an immunisation status certificate.

How can I find out more?

For more information and for translated versions of this document go to www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Translating and interpreting service

Call 131 450

To receive this document in an accessible format email immunisation@health.vic.gov.au.

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Department of Health
Being a role model for your child

You have an important part to play in your child’s life – even if it doesn’t always feel that way. What you do and say guide your child’s behaviour, attitudes and beliefs over the long term.

**Being a role model for your child**

When your child was younger, your role was to lay the blueprints for his behaviour – for example, cooperating with others and showing how to take turns. Now your child is a teenager, he can start taking responsibility for his own behaviour.

But you’re still an important role model.

**What you do** shows your child how you want her to behave. For example, how you cope with feelings such as frustration and distress influences how your child regulates her emotions. What you eat, how much you exercise, and how you look after yourself will all influence your child.

**What you say** is also important. You can help your child to manage and control his own behaviour by talking about how behaviour affects other people. You can also use more complex reasoning and examples to talk about the differences between right and wrong. Now’s a good time for this because your child is developing his ability to understand other people’s experiences and feelings.

**Tips for role-modelling**

- Include your child in family discussions, and give her input into family decisions, rules and expectations. These are good ways of helping her understand how people can get along with others and work together.
- Try to practise what you preach. Teenagers can and do notice when you don’t!
- Work towards a healthy lifestyle by eating well and exercising regularly. Try to avoid making negative comments about your body – and other people’s too. Not only will you be healthier, but you’ll send an important message about body image and acceptance.
- Show that you enjoy education and learning. If you make it seem interesting and enjoyable rather than a chore, your child is more likely to have a positive attitude to school.
- Keep a positive attitude – think, act and talk in an optimistic way.
- Take responsibility for yourself by admitting your own mistakes and talking about how you can correct them. Try not to blame everything that goes wrong on other people or circumstances.
- Use problem-solving skills to deal with challenges or conflicts in a calm and productive way. Getting upset and angry when a problem comes up encourages your child to respond in the same way.
- Show kindness and respect to others.

**Influencing your teenager**

You’re still an important influence on your child. Recent research shows that teenagers generally stay close to their parents, and that they value and respond to their parents’ good opinion, advice and support. Your child’s peers and friends will also be important in the teenage years. But parents and peers influence different things.

As a parent, you influence your child’s basic values, such as religious values, and issues related to her future, such as educational choices. The stronger your relationship with your child, the more influence you’ll have.

Your child’s friends are more likely to influence everyday behaviour, such as the music your child listens
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term - that’s four weeks of school per year.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address these issues.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your Year Level Coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
HEADLICE

There have been a number of head lice cases reported recently. These reports have been particularly concentrated in the 3/4 classes, however we have had confirmed cases in other classrooms.

It is our intention to conduct random head lice checks in the coming weeks. The diagram below shows the lifecycle of head lice. Treatment needs to occur at least twice 7 days apart to ensure that the cycle of head lice is broken.

Please check your children’s hair regularly and commence a treatment program if eggs or louse are found. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact the school.

MOYNE SHIRE COUNCIL

The Moyne Shire Council will be beginning footpath works at Tea Tree Lake on Monday 23rd February for a 6 week period.

Parents and student be mindful that there will be heavy machinery and more traffic then normal, so please take care when travelling through Tea Tree Lake.

DEBUTANTE BALL 2015

If anyone is interested in making their debut this year a meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February Anglican Church Hall—42 Shaw Street, Mortlake at 4.00pm

If you are unable to attend but are still interested, please contact Sandra Richie. 0431 378 647
INFORMATION SESSION

A CAREER SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Police, Protective Services Officer & Victorian Police Public Service

When: Wednesday 11th March 2015
7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Where: Deakin on Timor: Rear Conference Room
165 Timor Street, Warrnambool, VIC 3280

Queries: L.S/C Trudy Morland
55601195

facebook.com/VictoriaPoliceRecruitment
www.policecareer.vic.gov.au
CARAMUT STREET
FESTIVAL
28TH OF FEBRUARY
11 AM TIL 4 PM
BROWN STREET CARAMUT

CAR SHOW AND SHINE
RIDES - LIVE MUSIC - MARKET STALLS
HOT FOOD - KIDS MINI ZOO
GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT

PERFORMANCES BY DAVE BURGESS
AND
COOPER LOWER
SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE FROM
ANNA, ELSA AND EMMET

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE 2015 ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL
MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 0431 983 792
OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT CARAMUT STREET FESTIVAL
TERANG & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB INC.

33rd COMMUNITY Fun Run & Walk

Friday 27th February, 2015
5.92 kilometres

Start: Walk 6.30pm – Run 6.45pm

Finish at the Terang RSL Hall – Strictly no bikes or dogs permitted

Entries: Adult Run $10.00 – Child Run $2.00, Adult Walk $10.00 – Child Walk $2.00

Many Trophies:
• First Male Runner Over 50 • First Female Runner Over 45 • First Veteran Male (40-49)
• First Veteran Female (35-44) • Open Male & Female • U/18 Male & Female
• U/15 Male & Female • U/13 Male & Female

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES & CERTIFICATES AFTER RACE

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ON DAY OF EVENT

BUSES AVAILABLE (FREE) TO TRANSPORT RUNNERS TO START – Depart Terang 5:45, 6 & 6:15pm
Powercor Tour de Depot – Warrnambool

When: Sunday 15 March 2015
Where: Start and Finish Line – Lake Pertobe
Timing: 12pm Timed Event
          2pm Community Participation Ride
          2pm – 6pm Community Festival Celebration

About the ride
The Powercor Tour de Depot is an exciting new community charity bike ride, created to raise important funds for the Warrnambool and District Food Share with 100 per cent of the proceeds going directly to this worthwhile cause.

The Powercor Tour de Depot caters for people of all abilities and ages. The event includes a 10km ride through the town centre of Warrnambool as well as a 20km timed event option for more serious riders, which has a $500 cash prize. At the finish line there will be a community festival including carnival rides, face painting, market stalls and a sausage sizzle.

Michelle Ferris, Australian cyclist and Dual Olympic Silver Medalist is the official ambassador of the Powercor Tour de Depot in Warrnambool and will be there on the day to ride with participants.

How to get involved:
Get involved, register and participate on the day with friends and family. Entry fees are $20 for an adult, $10 for a child, $50 for families or $50 for the timed event. Registrations are now open at www.powercortourdepot.com.au

You can sponsor a friend, family member or colleague to help us raise much needed funds
Visit us on the day at Lake Pertobe from 2pm onwards to enjoy the community festival activities.

About the charity
Warrnambool & District Food Share is a community-based program that provides Emergency Food Relief to the Warrnambool and district community.

Food is collected from local supermarkets, green grocers and restaurants. Food Share then delivers them in the form of food hampers for distribution to those in need.

About five per cent of the Warrnambool's population (roughly 1,600 people) are currently in need of food relief from Food Share.

For further information on this event, please visit www.powercortourdepot.com.au, or call Bicycle Network on 1800 639 634.
### 2015 CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 17th</td>
<td>5-10 House Athletic Trials - 1.30pm—3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th</td>
<td>Year 12 Biology Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23rd</td>
<td>Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival – 11.40am – 3.00pm</td>
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<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>MWC Swimming Beafort</td>
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<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>Year 4 Gnurad/Gundid visit – Local Leadership Project Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>5-7 Leader Congress @ Deakin</td>
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#### MARCH

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd</td>
<td>Pink Stumps Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 3rd</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
<td>Classroom Helpers Course 9.00am – 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5th</td>
<td>MWC 7-12 Triathlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>3-6 Division Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>Alpha Shows - Cinderella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9th</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10th</td>
<td>House Athletics - All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10th</td>
<td>School Council AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11th-13th</td>
<td>Advance Camp - Grampians</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>3-6 Regional Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th-25th</td>
<td>Japan Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16th</td>
<td>3-6 House Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17th</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interview—Classes conclude at lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>3-6 District Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>GWR Swimming 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>Last Day of Term - School Ends 2.30pm</td>
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Remember all the sports days coming up!
School Photo’s—Tuesday 3rd March
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days’ notice of a potential Code Red day closure by SMS message and a note to be sent home with students. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day via SMS message and a note home with your child.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website (www.mortlakep12.vic.edu.au) and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.