Term 1 - Week 5 – 25th Feb 2015

Principals Report -

Student Leadership Assembly next Monday

Next Monday March 2 our annual Student Leaders’ induction assembly will be held in the BER building commencing at 9:10am. All our student leaders will be presented with their badges and the Year 12 students will introduce the Prep children. Our guest speaker will be former student Emily Grant. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend the assembly and it would be great to see you there next Monday. The assembly is expected to take approximately an hour.

Pink Stumps Day- change of date!

Because of the Leadership assembly being held next Monday “Pink Stumps Day” has been changed to Wednesday 4 March.

Warrnambool and Moyne Youth Achiever Awards Presentation

Last Wednesday the annual Youth Achievers’ presentation was held at the Lighthouse Theatre in Warrnambool. It was a very exciting evening for Mortlake College as we had five nominees who were presented to the audience; Brad Tanner was nominated in the Community and Leadership category, Airlia Munn, Lizzy Kelly and Tiffany McLachlan were nominated for their sporting achievements and Harry Quail was nominated in the Arts and Cultural category. To be nominated for an award is a significant achievement and I would like to congratulate each of our nominees on their success. Special congratulations to Harry who was overall runner-up in his category.

Congratulations also to our Mortlake College Moyne Youth councillors; Brie Kirkwood, Jackie Cooper, Gerald Monteith and Cooper Lower, who worked hard in the period leading up to the presentations and performed important roles on the night.

Years 3-6 Swimming Sports

Well done to all those students who participated in the swimming sports on Monday and thank you to the parents and family members who assisted in any way with the running of the day. Thank you also to Mr Boyden and the staff for all their work in organizing the event.

Young Leaders’ Congress

On Friday the Years 5-7 house captains will be attending Deakin University for the second Young Leaders’ congress. The focus of the congress is, “What does it take to be a good leader in my community?” and the overall purpose is to build the capacity of our young student leaders in the school to become future leaders in the community. All twenty eight schools in the Warrnambool and Moyne Local Government Areas will be participating in the congress. Good luck to the students who will be attending the congress; Charlotte Gartland, Sophie Lehmann, Amy Hughes, Oliver Mahncke, Kaitlyn Fowler and Taine DeManser.
School Photo Day: Tuesday 3 March

Students and parents are reminded that school photos will be taken next Tuesday. It is most important that all students wear the full and correct uniform on the day. Girls must wear their summer uniform and VCE students should ensure that they have their blue VCE jumpers. Students who have PE classes during the day must wear school uniform and bring PE clothes to change into. Envelopes and money can be handed to classroom teachers or mentors prior to the day or brought to school on Tuesday to be handed to the photographers. Families who require a family photo to be taken need to collect a separate envelope from the school office and bring it on the day of the photos.

Graeme Good

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY / INTRODUCTION OF 2015 PREPS

The Student Leadership Assembly / Introduction of 2015 Preps will be held on Monday 2nd March commencing at 9:10am in the BER. Our guest speaker this year is Miss Emily Grant. We invite all parents to attend.

This means that Pink Stumps Day will move to Wednesday March 4

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.
Youth Achievers Awards
Presentation Night

Congratulations to all our students who received an award last Wednesday Night
In the Garden

In the garden we are busy collecting seed from some of the plants that have gone to seed over summer. We are making paper pots from recycled newspaper and we will sow the seeds in them until they are ready to be planted out in the garden beds as seedlings. This week we refilled one of our no-dig garden beds.
Mrs Povey is our cooking teacher and Mr V, Mrs Pekin, Mrs Maher, Mrs Kain and Mrs Hobbs help us each week. We have heaps of fun while we are learning. Here is what we have been doing so far.

On the first week of SAKG we got to make Rice Paper Rolls and a Leafy Salad with a homemade dressing. It was really yummy! The next week we made Wheat Tortillas, a Greek Salad, Hummus and a seasonal fruit platter. That was pretty tasty as well. This week we made Indian Flatbread, Tomato and Basil Soup, Tabbouleh and sweet poached pears. The best part is that we all sit down together to eat it.

All of the food has been awesome and we have been learning a lot of new words, new foods, new ingredients and new ways of doing things. We take pictures each week and we all have different jobs to do, this way we are all doing something and getting involved.

By Holly F & Holly H
8, 9 & 10
Home Economics

Last Friday our 8,9&10 Home Economics class had the privilege to have MR Whang a Korean exchange teacher conduct a cooking class with students in the afternoon. We all prepared a Korean BBQ Marinated Beef dish called BULGOGI. This recipe was easily prepared and cooked in a fry pan. Thinly sliced beef was combined with soy sauce, water, garlic, salt and pepper. A puree of pear and chopped onion was stirred into the beef which was marinated for approximately 30 minutes. A heavy based fry pan was heated and a little oil was added. We all ate the bulgogi by placing a small amount onto a lettuce leaf. It was then rolled up and eaten. It is polite in Korea not to bite into your bulgogi parcel. Most Koreans will eat it in one bite. Students completed an assessment on taste, colour, texture and a final presentation. This was then documented on their IPads.
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 (eg: 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.
STUDENT NAME: Mason Fagan
My favourite food is: lasagna, Popcorn Chicken
My favourite colour is: All of them
My hobbies are: Guitar
Sport: Football
Three people that I would like to have dinner with are: Barack Obama, Morgan Freeman, Bill Gates
I would like to work: Guitarist
At the moment I am reading: The Lieutenant
My favourite smells are: Lynx Anarchy, KFC
My favourite sounds are: The bell at the end of the day
When I was in Prep: Learning the alphabet
My favourite school memory: All the good times playing table tennis

STUDENT NAME: Breanna Kirkwood
My favourite food is: fish fingers & Custard
My favourite colour is: Navy Blue
My hobbies are: drawing, watching movies/series & sleeping
Sport: Running & Netball
Three people that I would like to have dinner with are: Stephen Mofatt, David Tennant, Matt Smith
I would like to work: as an ice cream taster
At the moment I am reading: ‘Game of Throne’ series
My favourite smells are: Grape Escape Boost Juice
My favourite sounds are: The absolute dead silence at night
ENDEAVOUR HOUSE CAPTAINS

Sarah Parker

Age: 17
Year level: 12
Where live: Mortlake
Subject studied: English, Maths, Legal, HHD, Psychology
Ambition for the future: I want to attend the Australian Defence Force Academy for 4 years, then Join the Australian Defence force and Eventually become a police officer.
Interests outside of school: Hockey and surfing
What do you think a leadership role is? I believe it is the ability to negotiate, communicate, influence and persuade others in to making the right choice.
Favourite food: Chow mein
Favourite colour: Green
Favourite sport: Hockey
Favourite smells: Sea breeze and Mangos
Memories from prep: I remember my buddy being really tall, and having to basically do the splits to walk with her.
3 people id like to have dinner with: Georgie Parker (Hockey player), Marc Murphy (AFL Player) and Shannon Noll (Singer).

I'm Cooper, I am 16 years old and have just started Yr11. I live in Warrnambool.

This year I am studying Art 1&2, Media 1&2, General Maths 1&2, English 1&2, Drama 3&4 and I am involved in a VET course at Emmanuel College studying Music Production & Composition.

My ambitions for the future are to pursue a life in the thing that I love so much - music.

When I finish school I hope to take a course at VCA (Victorian College of the Arts) or AIM (Australian Institute of Music).
STUDENT NAME: Jake Tanner

My favourite food is: anything
My favourite colour is: green
My hobbies are: piano, hunting and ferreting, acting and thinking.

Pets: Snowy my dog, Novak, Rodger and Boris are my fish.

Sport: I play tennis, football and volleyball.

Three people that I would like to have dinner with are: Barack Obama, David Attenborough and Hugh Jackman.

I would like to work for a museum or university studying and working in palaeontology labs.

At the moment, I am reading “Blood” by Tony Burch.

My favourite smells are: lavender, food and rain.
My favourite sounds are: busyness and quietness.

STUDENT NAME: Shona McGuigan

Favourite food is sausages.
Favourite colour is blue.
Hobbies are: playing with dogs, playing music, hunting and camping.

My pets are: an English pointer called Dakota and a cat called Cherry.

Sport: I play netball but love most sports anyway.

The three people I would have dinner with are: Kyal, Cinty and Usain Bolt.

I would like to work as a plumber and later on a physio/chiropractor.

I’m reading a book ‘Blood’ for English.

My favourite smells are: fresh cut grass and when it starts to rain after a really hot day.

My favourite sounds are: the bell after a long day at school.

When I was in prep my most distinct memory is when someone spewed all over the class.

My favourite school memory is when my 2nd youngest sister started school and came up to me and cuddled me. I love all my 4 sisters to bits.
Mortlake College is hosting a **Pink Stumps Day challenge with a TWIST!**

On **Wednesday 4th of March (Please note change of date)** 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 **@the canteen**! (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
STUDENT ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent please inform the school by telephone (55992204), text message (0427 841239) or through the Skoolbag App, preferably between 8am and 9am on the morning of the absence. If we haven’t received notification of a child’s absence, parents will be contacted at approximately 10am. If you know in advance of an impending absence (eg. medical appointment) please let the office know prior to the day. Senior students must have a minimum 80% attendance in order to be considered for satisfactory completion of a unit.

STUDENT NOT ON SCHOOL BUS

If your child is not going to be on the afternoon school bus can you please send a bus note with your child or call the school before 2.30pm so one can be organised. Or alternatively let the bus driver know on the morning your child will not be returning home on the bus.

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

As part of our Emergency Management procedure If your child is departing school early from school with you. Can you please make sure you sign your child out in the ‘Early Departure’ book at the General office. We Thank You for your cooperation in this matter.

Newsletter

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.

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>HARD COPY</th>
<th>SKOOLBAG APP</th>
<th>EMAIL (Please include preferred email address)</th>
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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.

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 27th to qualify for Term 1 payments.

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.
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 following 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.

WANTED
The Parents Association are looking for an enthusiastic parent to co-ordinate and run the Family Fun Fete on Friday 16th October. If interested, please contact Wendy Lynzaat on 0422 706 316.

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.
3-6 Swimming Sports
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

STATE NOMINATION
Information regarding state nominations and other sports can be found on the School Sport Victoria website.

www.ssv.vic.edu.au

CONNECT
Parents and students can connect to School sports Victoria via Facebook and Twitter. Just follow the following links

http://www.facebook.com/SchoolSportVictoria
https://twitter.com/@SchoolSportVic

Nathan Jones—Year 7-12 Sports Coordinator

EQUESTRIAN NEWS

1. EMU CREEK PC 2015 INTERSCHOOL DRESSAGE CHALLENGE Fri 27th March

   ENTRIES CLOSE this Friday!

We have had great success at this event in past years winning in 2010, 2011 and 2013.

2. HEYWOOD INTERSCHOOL EQUESTRIAN GAMES DAY Friday 13th March for both PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS. ENTRIES CLOSE 6th March! Lots of fun: Bending Race, Bouncing Pony, Barrel Race, Stepping Stone Race, Ball and Bucket Race, Hi Lo Race, Sack Race and Obstacle Course against the clock.

   Please take a program from the Equestrian Team Noticeboard if interested and please sign the sheet there, so we know who is going. Thank you. Annette Janes
Welcome to 2015!

Be prepared for an Asthma Spike

What is the February asthma spike?

'Spikes' are significant increases in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments.

For children and adolescents with asthma these 'spikes' occur soon after the return to school and other education settings following the long holiday break.

Therefore, a significant 'spike' in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital for children and adolescents, experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February.

Why does the spike occur?

While there have not been direct links established, the February 'asthma spike' is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming back into contact with asthma triggers in and around their school environment, that they have had time away from during the holidays. Forgetting to take their medication, (because their asthma feels better during the summer) and poor medication adherence, also places students at an increased risk of asthma attacks when exposed to triggers.

Triggers that can be encountered are:

- Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses.
- Anxiety and stress due to returning to school.
- Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust.
- Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school rooms.

What can we do to avoid asthma exacerbations in our school?

- Ensure your school has a sufficient amount of Asthma Emergency Kits. A minimum of 2 and at least one per every 300 Students.
- Ensure that each kit contains in-date reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol or Airomir), 2 spacers, reliever record sheet and instructions detailing the emergency procedure.
- Ensure student Asthma Care Plans are updated on an annual basis and returned to school.
- Ensure staff education and training is up to date.
- Ensure your school's Asthma Policy is current.
- Ensure staff are aware of which students in their class have asthma, and know where Asthma Emergency Kits are stored.
- Ensure all classrooms are opened, cleaned and aired out in the weeks before students return to school.
National Young People and Asthma Survey

On 20 January, Asthma Australia launched the findings of our National Young People and Asthma survey at the Sydney Tramway School. The survey was conducted in May–July 2014 in conjunction with researchers at Young and Well CRC in Melbourne. 533 young people aged 12–25 years across Australia completed the survey.

86% are using their reliever medication to treat symptoms, while less than 60% are using their preventer medication daily (as prescribed) to help control their asthma.

Another aspect of the survey was to ask what young people want to help support them with their management of asthma,
- 59% want an asthma app
- 52% want a website specific to young people with asthma
- 40% want resources that help friends to understand about asthma
- 27% want an online forum

Initiatives resulting from the survey findings will be provided to Secondary Schools as they become available.

Asthma Kids

A new resource for primary aged students will be available in Term 1. Asthma Kids takes children on a trail with the character Chester. They collect blue balloons as they answer questions and complete tasks. The 2 videos in the package are aimed at children under 9 and those 9 and over.

Asthma Kids is aimed at all children, with key messages for children with asthma and for others who may have family or friends with asthma or just want to know more about this common condition (1 in 10 children in Australia).

Check out the Asthma Australia website for the release of Asthma Kids in March.
HELP YOUR CHILD MANAGE THEIR ASTHMA

PARENT CHECK LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?</th>
<th>The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated &amp; signed by the doctor on an annual basis.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?</td>
<td>Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?</td>
<td>Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you listen to what your child says?</td>
<td>They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?</td>
<td>Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Asthma and Thunderstorms

Summer storms are becoming more frequent throughout Australia. Thunderstorms can combine heavy rain, high humidity and strong winds. A European study found there are observations in favour of the possibility that thunderstorms disturb ground-level pollen grains, bursting the pollen grains and making the allergens small enough to be inhaled into the lungs. There is also evidence that after rain and during wet conditions there are a larger amount of fungal spores in the air. These can act as a trigger for asthma symptoms

What can you do?

- Ensure preventer medication is taken as prescribed.
- Have an up to date Asthma Care Plan.
- If your asthma gets worse during thunderstorms try to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Always carry your reliever medication with you.

For more information on Thunderstorms and asthma please see [www.asthmaaustralia.org.au](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au)
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Every Day Counts
Primary school attendance

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 those 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 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 back 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
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

Dress up and come along and enjoy the fun at the Festival on March 14, 2015

There will be prizes for best dressed cowgirl and cowboy 12 years and under. This will be judged Saturday afternoon at the Terang race course.

For more info contact Ray on 0409 529 874.

Terang Mortlake Junior football Training will start on Monday the 23rd of Feb at 4.30pm at the Terang Rec Reserve for all U12, U14 and U16 footballers. A BBQ will follow training at 5.30pm. All existing and new players are welcome.

For more details please contact Joe Giblin on 0417 101 103.
Mortlake Junior Sharks

Registration Night

Thursday 12th March - 5 to 6pm at Netball courts at DC Farren Oval Mortlake

Merchandise will be available for sale. Parents will need to complete a indemnity and medical form – please bring your medicare and ambulance numbers. Fees to be paid on the night;

Netball

VNA is required to be registered and paid online this year (juniors and netsetgo age $47).

Club fees – 13, 15 and 17s = $70  Junior day squad = $25

Football

U14 and 17 ½ = $85  U12 = $65

Discount of 50% on club fees for each person who registers a new U171/2 footballer.

Netball training

13, 15 and under has already started and is each Thursday night at 4.15pm at Mortlake. 17 and under train either with seniors in Warrnambool or with juniors in Mortlake on a Thurs night.

Junior Development Squad (previously known as Under 11s) will commence training on Registration night at 4pm. Queries - Jacinta Wareham 0418 612638

Football Training

Under 12’s commence training on Registration night at 4pm Under 14 and 171/2s will commence at a date to be advised depending on Under 16 cricket finals. Queries – Nigel Boyden

TERANG JUNIOR BASKETBALL - REGISTRATIONS CLOSING!!!

Parents, if you have not already registered your child/ren for play and still wish to, please attend the Pre Season Skills Clinic or come into the Terang Stadium between 4-5pm on Friday 27th of February to register your children for the coming 1st Season 2015 competition.

BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC

Terang Stadium

4-5pm

Friday 26th February

$2 per child

Boys & Girls aged 7-10 welcome
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
Bethany Simons Presents

Reception
The Musical

Written & Performed by Bethany Simons & Peter de Jager

“Witty and winning cabaret... brilliant... hilarious”
Theatre Press

Winner 2014 Melbourne Fringe Festival Cabaret Award

Lighthouse Theatre
Bethany Simons

Friday 27 February, 8pm
Soldiers Memorial Hall Mortlake
Bookings Mortlake Newsagency or 555 94 999
www.lighthousetheatre.com.au
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.
RAMPAGE

Summer Eruption

6:30PM - 11:00PM
FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY
CAMPERDOWN THEATRE ROYAL

AGES 12-18
TICKETS $20
NO PASS OUTS

COREY RYAN • ASH LAWLOR • MAX MCKAY • ROCKZO

FREE BUSES FROM TERANG, COBDEN, SIMPSON, TIMBOON, NOORAT, MORTLAKE, LISMORE & DERRINALUM
FULLY SUPERVISED
SMOKE, DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

CORANGAMITE SHIRE
www.freeza.vic.gov.au
RAMPAGE  Info and Bus Times.

FReeZA Events are an initiative of the Victorian Government. The Corangamite Youth Council have organised a DJ/dance party.

Tickets are $20... No extra cost for the bus, but registering is essential.

Buses will run from Timboon, Simpson, Cobden, Mortlake, Terang, Noorat, Lismore and Derrinallum.

Tickets are available at the Corangamite Shire Council office in Camperdown.

This is a drug and alcohol free event, no pass outs, fully supervised. Ages 12-18 years

PHOTOBOOTH!!! Free use all night, photos printed on the spot.
Soft drink, bottled water, chocolates and chips will be on sale for $1 each on the night

START 6.30pm... FINISH 11.00pm
Gates close at 9PM  No entry after this time

Mortlake -Noorat -Terang
Departing Mortlake 5.50pm Arriving Terang 11.15pm
Noorat 6.05pm                        Noorat 11.25pm
Terang 6.15pm                        Mortlake 11.40pm

Simpson – Cobden
Departing Simpson 6.00pm Arriving Cobden 11.15pm
Cobden 6.20pm                        Simpson 11.35pm

Timboon
Departing Timboon 6pm Arriving Timboon 11.40pm

Derrinallum – Lismore
Departing Derrinallum 6.00pm Arriving Lismore 11.30pm
Lismore 6.10pm                        Derrinallum 11.40pm

MUST REGISTER FOR BUS TRAVEL

Mortlake - toilets opposite swimming pool, Noorat - post office, Terang -post office, Simpson - post office, Cobden - civic hall, Timboon - main street
## 2015 CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 23rd</td>
<td>Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival – 11.40am – 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>MWC Swimming Beafort</td>
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<tr>
<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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</tbody>
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### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd</td>
<td>Student Leadership Assembly / Introduction 2015 Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3rd</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
<td>Classroom Helpers Course 9.00am – 3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
<td>Pink Stumps Day (Please note change of date)</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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11th-Fri 13th</td>
<td>Advance Camp - Lorne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>3-6 Regional Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th-25th</td>
<td>Japan Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16th</td>
<td>3-6 House Athletics</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td>Last Day of Term - School Ends 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.