Term 1 - Week 6– 5th March 2015

Principals Report -

Parent - Teacher Interviews

Please keep in mind the upcoming Parent-Teacher interviews to be held on Tuesday 17 March commencing at 2pm and concluding at 6:30pm. This is a great opportunity to discuss your children’s progress as we draw towards the end of first term.

Mr & Mrs DeManser will not be available for the interviews as they will be on leave from next Wednesday until the end of term. If you wish to meet with them prior to next Wednesday or, alternatively, early next term please contact the school.

Student Leadership Assembly

Monday’s student leadership assembly formally inducted students appointed to a leadership role in 2015. Presentations were made to our senior leaders, house captains and bus captains. As always a highlight of the assembly was the introduction of the Prep children by the Year 12s.

We were very fortunate to have former student, Emily Grant address the assembly and she spoke about being a member of the first ‘Alternative to Schoolies’ trip to the Phillipines after she completed Year 12 in 2010. Emily described the experience of working in a rural community in the Phillipines as a ‘life-changing moment’ and how it had made up her mind about pursuing a career in the health field. Emily hopes that one day she will have the opportunity to work in a developing country to assist those less fortunate.

After completing Year 12 Emily studied Health Sciences at Deakin University with a particular focus on health promotion and nutrition and she graduated at the end of 2013. In 2014 she gained a twelve month graduate position at Terang Mortlake Health Service as a Health Promotion Officer and she felt she gained invaluable experience in this role.

In November last year Emily returned to the Phillipines helping to supervise the students who participated in the 2014 ‘Alternative to Schoolies’ and she helped renovate classrooms at the school she had originally visited in 2010. She is looking at travelling to Mexico later this year to work in an orphanage but in the meantime she is working at Deakin University in Warrnambool teaching in the health promotion field.

Emily spoke about how she felt Mortlake College had prepared her really well for her time after school. She encouraged all students to do what she had done and have a go at everything even if you feel you may not have the necessary skills or abilities because you just never know! She mentioned participating in all the sports events and school productions even though she felt she was not ‘overly good at any of them’. She said, “At Mortlake College you don’t get judged and criticised for participating, but rather you are always encouraged and supported.”

Emily concluded her address by reminding the students just how fortunate they are compared with their counterparts in the Phillipines and how important it is to make the most of their opportunities.

Brooke Eldridge also addressed the audience on behalf of the senior leadership team and this is the text of her address;

Good morning parents, staff, students and special guests,

Today I’ve been asked to speak about what leadership means to me.
Mortlake College provides opportunities for leadership from the day you start school right up until the day you finish. The skills developed over this time ensure that we have the confidence to tackle the big, scary but exciting world.

From being class captain in prep, speaking at the school assembly or being a part of the senior school leadership team, opportunities for leadership are everywhere for those willing to put their hand up, give it a go and work hard.

Even our small class sizes provide many opportunities. I recently went on a Year 12 Biology excursion to Melbourne. I make up 50% of my class. Ms Riordon drove Tyler and myself down to Melbourne High to participate in an enzymes lab where we joined up with another school, Lilydale Secondary College. Some of their students asked where the rest of our class was. They couldn’t believe that a subject would run for two students. One of the girls questioned me, “So you probably know everyone in your class then?”

In Year 12 this year there are 12 students, so not only do all of us know each other and have had the opportunity to form great friendships but, unlike the students from Lilydale we know almost everyone in our whole school. I see this as one of the biggest benefits of going to a small school.

The direct support I have received from my teachers over the years has been amazing and the chance to get to know students of all different ages at the school is something other, bigger schools can’t even imagine.

This year Triston and I have the great honour of being your school captains. We’re extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity like so many others throughout our schooling life. We’re excited to be role models and have the chance to make a difference in the school, to give back some of the time and effort that so many in our school give to all of us students.

I know that my time at Mortlake College has improved my confidence and leadership skills due to all of the opportunities available to us. I appreciate everything Mortlake has done for me and know that I’m prepared for what the future has in store for me.

Lions “Youth of the Year” competition.

Congratulations to Jake Tanner who competed in the regional final of the Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ competition last Sunday. Each of the six finalists underwent an extensive interview process and then had to present two impromptu speeches and a prepared speech to the judges and audience. Whilst Jake didn’t win the final he was an outstanding representative of the school and I’m sure he has benefited from the whole experience.

“Pink Stumps Day”

On Wednesday the student leaders conducted a very successful fundraiser to support the McGrath Foundation. The houses played cricket against each other, students came to school dressed in pink and many enjoyed the pink spiders that were available at recess and lunchtime. It was a fantastic day and I would like to acknowledge and thank the senior student leadership team and the house captains for their work in organising the day. Overall, more than $300 was raised for the McGrath Foundation which is a great effort. Well done everybody!

Classroom Helpers’ Reading Course

On Wednesday Sue Amos, our Prep teacher conducted a Classroom Helpers’ Reading course designed to support parents, helpers and aides who assist with classroom activities. I would like to congratulate the six participants who completed the course: Cally Greagan, Brooke Baker, Cristina Wendt, Rachael Hall, Kim Parker and Catherine Stephens. I would also like to thank Sue for conducting the course.

Mid West Complex Swimming sports

Well done to all those who travelled to Beaufort last week for the senior school swimming sports. Although Mortlake didn’t win on the day our swimmers were very competitive and the final results highlighted that the competition was very close throughout the day. Congratulations to all our swimmers and also to everyone who provided great support throughout the day. Thanks to Mr Jones and Mrs Riordon for all their work in preparing the swimmers and ensuring everything ran smoothly on the day.

Graeme Good
2015 SCHOOL IMMUNISATION PROGRAM.

The 2015 School Immunisation Program is now underway.

This year the program involves students in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10. In 2015 only the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

Year 7 students are also eligible for the chickenpox and HPV vaccines.

Consent cards and information has been sent home.

All consent cards need to be returned to the school regardless of whether your child is being immunised. You need to either consent to your child being immunised at school by marking ‘YES’ on the consent card, or refuse by marking ‘NO’ on the consent card.

Please return consent cards to the school by FRIDAY 6th MARCH.

To learn more about the changes, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Immunisation is free for a limited time- take advantage of this while your child is in the eligible year level.

Parents’ Association

Bulbs Direct Fundraising
Order forms have been sent home.

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 coordinate and run the Family Fun Fete on Friday 16th October.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP & 2015 PREP INTRODUCTION ASSEMBLY
The Year 12 students spending time with the Grade Preps learning all about them in preparation for the special assembly
MORTLAKE COLLEGE
PINK STUMPS DAY
MORTLAKE College is among 28 schools that will travel to Deakin University in Warrnambool this Friday as part of a Student Leaders Congress to develop ways of raising money for a good cause in the local community.

South West Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) and Great South Coast Group’s education attainment project Beyond the Bell are among the congress partners in 2015.

Learning strategist and researcher Simon Breakspear will be a guest speaker on the day, with presentations from Moyne and Warrnambool Youth Councils, a Q&A session and workshops in the afternoon.

The workshops involve the students developing ideas to raise money for a not-for-profit organisation.

Mortlake College student leadership co-ordinator Anthea Good said the day was a great way to raise funds for a good cause.

“Last year, the benefiting organisation was Peter’s Project,” she said.

“The day involved leaders talking to the kids about leadership and then the afternoon had the students put into leadership groups to work out how to raise money at their schools.

“We then had a showcase day in Warrnambool where all the leaders came together for a second time.”

Ms Good said the students involved were thrilled to be a part of it.

“One of the aims is to provide a partnership between the school and the community.

“Another aim was to provide leadership training for schools.

“Leadership days often cost a lot of money so to have something that’s accessible and local is fantastic and we’re lucky to have the opportunity.

In 2015, Mortlake College will send six middle school leaders to the conference.

“We are sending our Grade 5 to 7 leaders because we wanted to spread the opportunity around the P-12 each year,” Ms Good said.

“It’s to show you don’t have to be a senior leader to have the opportunity to go to these events.

“I’m happy to be involved, it’s a great project.”
Over the past two weeks, we were fortunate to have Mr Hwang In Soo from Korea visiting our school. Mr Hwang was here as part of a three week exchange program between the Republic of Korea and the Victorian Department of Education. The aim of the program was to build global knowledge and to promote understanding between the two countries. Mr Hwang teaches Food Technology at Jecheon Girls Middle School, about 2 hours south of Seoul. There are approximately 850 students from Years 7-9 in the school and so it was been quite a contrast for him to visit a rural school with a much smaller student population and classes from Prep to Year 12. While here, Mr Hwang was been involved in many different activities within the school. He has observed various classes, participated in the excursion to the Allansford Field Days, attended the Inter-School swimming sports and introduced students to the culture of Korea. One of the highlights for students in Food Technology was cooking and sampling a well-known dish from Korea called “Bulgogi”. Mr Hwang returned to Korea on last Friday. He found his time here very informative and enjoyable and repeatedly mentioned how happy and friendly our staff and students are. Later this year, Mrs Blomeley will make a reciprocal visit to Jecheon Girls Middle School where she will attend the school for three week to observe the education system and teach about Australia.
In maths we have been looking at number patterns and patterns in our environment. We also threaded different coloured pasta to make different patterns.
3-6 Swimming Sports

Last Monday the 23rd February, the 3-6 Primary Swimming Carnival was held. A special thanks to all the staff and parents who contributed to the success of the day. Congratulations to all the students for their participation and endeavours.

Age Champions
9 Year Old Girls  Lily Schuuring
9 Year Old Boys  Hamish Hobbs
10 Year Old Girls Sarah Gubbins
10 Year Old Boys Damien Goddard
11 Year Old Girls Tasha Killen
11 Year Old Boys Simon Atkinson
12 Year Old Girls Jamie Killen
12 Year Old Boys Ned Quail

House Cup
1st  Endeavour  229 points
2nd  Succeed  204 points
3rd  Inspire  167 points

Congratulations to the following swimmers who qualified to swim in the Divisional Championships. Hamish Hobbs, Lily Schuuring, Sarah Gubbins, Elise Killen, Simon Atkinson, Johnno Roxburgh, Tasha Killen, Grace Wareham, Abbey Burford, Zee Boyden, Ned Quail, Todd MacDonald, Taine DeManser, Amy Hughes and Jamie Killen.
MWC SWIMMING

On Wednesday the 25th February, students travelled to Beaufort for the annual MWC swimming carnival.

Results:
Jackson Boyden was our only age group champion for the day in the 14 year old boys section and was also awarded equal champion boy for the meet.

Overall
1st Beaufort 240
2nd Hawkesdale 197
3rd Mortlake 188
4th Lake Bolac 97
5th Derrinallum 44

5-12 House Athletics Tuesday 10th March

If any parents would like to assist on the day eg. Running a field event then could they contact by the end of the week.

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
# P-12 Sport Dates Term 1

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## MIXED VOLLEYBALL STARTING SOON

If adults and students (about the age of 14 and over) would like to play Mixed Volleyball on a Sunday night, please put your name on the list below. Alternatively you can ring Judi on 5599 2626 or Dean on 5599 2766 (business hours) by **Tuesday, 31 March 2015**. To be eligible you need to know the basics of volleyball, i.e. to be able to serve from the back line of the volleyball court and to dig and spike without the ball bouncing first.

The first match starts at 6:00pm and the last game should finish about 8:00pm. The pennant will run from approx. May - July, with no play during school holidays. Fees are $7.00 per person per game with an annual registration fee of $25.00.

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## LADIES NIGHT NETBALL COMMENCING SECOND TERM

If any girls about the age of 13 and over would like to play Ladies Night Netball on a Wednesday night, please put your name on the list below. Alternatively you can ring Judi on 5599 2626 or Margy on 5599 2584. We will be putting the teams together soon so we can start in second term, so it would be appreciated if you could put your name down by **Tuesday, 31 March 2015**.

Depending on how many teams we can get together, the first game will commence at approximately 6:30pm – 6:45pm and the last game should finish between 8:30 – 8:45pm. The pennant will run for 10 – 12 weeks, with no play during school holidays. Fees are $7.00 per match and Netball Victoria membership is $67 adult and $47 junior 11-17 years (born between 1/1/1998 – 31/12/2004).
Performance Excursion

We have organised an excursion to see ‘Lion King’ in Melbourne later in the year. We have booked tickets for **Wednesday August 5th at 1.00pm**, as there has been real interest, we will take a big bus. The cut-off date will be **Friday March 13**.

We will need to leave school at around 9.00am with a stop for lunch, getting home around 8.00pm. This will be a great opportunity for students to see an amazing show in Melbourne.

First preference has gone to performing arts students and parents from Years 5-12. We are now opening it up to the whole school so that we can fill a large bus. Any students from **Year 5 or below** need to remember that they **must be accompanied by a parent**.

**COST:** $85 (**this will include the ticket and bus**)

**DATE DUE:** March 13th. We’ll take the first applicants, however, **Money must accompany the form or it will not be considered**.

Please fill out the form below, include your payment and hand it in to the Office as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

**Lyle Russell**
Performing Arts Coordinator

‘Lion King’ Excursion

Name: __________________________________________ Number of tickets required: ____

Names of the people who will use the tickets: ($85 each)

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Payment included: ----- ________________
There’s never been a better time to join Ambulance Victoria.

Did you know that ambulance transport and attendance in Victoria is not free, nor is it covered by Medicare?

Many Private Health Insurance policies also claim to cover ambulance transport, however coverage varies between provider and policy levels; many having limitations, gaps or exclusions. Health Care card (HCC) holders receive the same free ambulance service benefits as Ambulance Victoria members, with the exception of transport from private facilities which are no longer a concession benefit (a recent change). The HCC must be valid at the time of accessing the ambulance service and people need to be aware that their circumstances can change and Centrelink can change concession benefits at short notice. Is this a risk you are willing to take?

Emergency road transport costs begin at over $1,100 and a helicopter air ambulance almost $10,000. That’s a bill that nobody wants to pay out of their own pocket!

Visit www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/membership or call the Membership Service Centre on 1800 64 84 84 to become a genuine Ambulance Victoria member.

At only $82.60 per year for a family or $41.30 for a single, you can rest easy knowing you’re protected against the cost of Ambulance treatment and transport Australia-wide.

Tips to reduce sweet drinks!

- Encourage all family members to drink tap water with meals and snacks. Role modelling is important to encourage children to develop healthy habits.
- Carry a water bottle and get one for everyone in the family, so you don’t have to buy a drink if you’re thirsty.
- Before you go out, remind everyone to refill their bottles with tap water. If they’re thirsty, encourage them to drink some water first.
- Give your child their own water bottle to take along to daycare or kindergarten so they can refill with water throughout the day.
- Avoid buying sweet drinks.
- Offer plain milk without flavourings. Avoid adding flavourings and toppings with added sugar to plain milk as the added sugars can lead to tooth decay.
- When other people look after your child, ask them to give your child plain milk or tap water rather than sugar sweetened drinks.
- If your family is finding it hard to kick the sweet drink habit, try watering down sweet drinks gradually over a few days to help make the swap to water easier. You can also reduce the number of sweet drinks per day and offer watered down drinks until you can stop them. Children may be upset at first but will get used to it if you continue.

Remember, it’s never too late to start reducing sweet drinks!

Source: Dental Health Services Victoria
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 0409529874.

GET INVOLVED...

HAVE FUN, GET PAID, AND GET FIT!

The Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association are seeking new members for the 2015 season. If interested come to our open day Sunday March 15th at our club rooms (Ages 10+) - Reid oval off Cramer St at 1030 am or contact Jason Hughes on: 0405/800022 (Director of Umpiring)

www.wdfua.com.au
**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 17½ = $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

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**TERANG JUNIOR BASKETBALL**

The Team Lists & Draws for this seasons Junior Basketball competition have now been released. They are on display on the sports notice board in front of the welfare office. They are also in the Terang Express, on our website (Fox Sports Pulse - Terang Basketball Association), in the Stadium Windows, and on our Facebook Page (Terang Olympic Basketball Association).

Hannah Newson
Terang Junior Basketball Association

The holidays have flown by and no doubt you are in full swing already for the year ahead.

Remember to order your FREE 600ml water bottles for your new Foundation students.

Have a look at the available education programs, resources and incursions for 2015.

Schools who have a kitchen garden and are yet to receive a garden pack can apply online.

We look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Water education is important for students in our service region and helps contribute to a liveable and sustainable South West Victoria.

Wannon Water offers FREE 600ml water bottles for Foundation students beginning school in the region in 2015.

The program encourages students to drink water and become aware of their hydration needs, and raises awareness about reuse and recycling.

Orders for the FREE 600ml water bottles close at the end of Term 1.

The bottles need to be collected from your local Wannon Water office by 30th April 2015.

Order online at www.wannonwater.com.au

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**EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES**

**Tapping into water**
How does water get from the sky to our taps?
Explore the water cycle, why we need water & how we use it. *(Living things have basic needs, including food and water ACSSU002)*

**Think Before You Sink**
Students learn about the odd things that go down the drain and the impact it has on the environment and water. *(Explore and make observations by using the senses ACSSU011)*

**The Water Cycle Game**
Join in this fun game to discover the water journey through the water cycle. *(Earth’s surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity ACSSU075)*

**Tapping into Water**
Students learn where water comes from, why we need it and how to use it sustainably. *(The natural resources provided by the environment, and different views on how they could be used sustainably ACSSU024)*

**Water Sources**
Explore the water cycle and different water sources. Investigate the process from source to tap. *(The classification of environmental resources & the forms that water takes as a resource ACSSU039: Geography)*

**Water Treatment**
Investigate how water cycles through the environment and the processes involved in water treatment and water reclamation. *(Water is an important resource that cycles through the environment ACSSU096: Science)*

Wannon Water offers a range of programs, free of charge, throughout the school year such as tours, incursions, fact sheets and fun activities.

For more information visit www.wannonwater.com.au/education or contact catherine.grist@wannonwater.com.au
**GARDEN PACK**

*Does your school have a kitchen garden?*

Wannon Water offers free garden packs for schools in the region. These packs are designed to help your students learn about the importance of water in the garden and its necessity for living things.

If you haven’t already taken up the offer of a free garden pack, complete an online application at www.wannonwater.com.au/education (select ‘Teacher Resources & Application’ tab).

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**i BOOKS**

**The Story of a Raindrop (Foundation - 2)**

Join Florence the Raindrop on her journey from the land to the sky and back again to learn about the water cycle.

**After the Drain** *(Years 1-3)*

A fun story to teach children about where the water goes after it leaves the home.

*These iBooks are available in the iTunes store.*

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**WORLD WATER DAY**

World Water Day on March 22 is a day to celebrate water. A time to think about how to make a difference for those people around the world who suffer from water related issues.

This year, the theme for World Water Day is

‘Water and Sustainable Development’

For more information visit www.unwater.org/worldwaterday

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**COMPOSTING WEEK**

**Composting Week: 4-10 May 2015**

*Did you know about 50% of the rubbish Australians put in the garbage bin could be put to better use in the garden as compost and mulch?*

The garden is a great place to teach students about healthy eating and what’s needed to help plants survive and thrive.

If you don’t already have a compost, this may be a great time to make one with your students.

For ideas on teaching your students more about the compost cycle, have a look at www.coalaustralia.org/activity/compost-cycle

Also visit www.compostweek.com.au

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**Teacher Resource**

email wizards@wannonwater.com.au  website www.wannonwater.com.au
Living with Teens

A 3 week program for parents of 12 - 15 year olds

Living with Teens will:
- Help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescence.
- Provide parents with information and skills for developing and maintaining trusting, positive relationships with their young adolescents.

During sessions parents have the opportunity to discuss and practice a range of strategies and ideas including:
- Adolescent development
- Connecting and communicating
- Negotiating boundaries
- Solving problems
- Setting effective limits
- Parental self care

(Sorry, no childcare available)

For enquiries and bookings
phone Marea: 5559 3000
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
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

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<td><strong>Classroom Helpers Course 9.00am - 3.00pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17th</td>
<td><strong>School Council</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td><strong>3-6 District Athletics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td><strong>GWR Swimming 7-12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th</td>
<td><strong>Last Day of Term - School Ends 2.30pm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
<td><strong>First day of Term 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14th-23rd</td>
<td><strong>Somers Camp</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th</td>
<td><strong>State Swimming (Secondary)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th</td>
<td><strong>Year 12 TIS Warrnambool</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 16th</td>
<td><strong>Divisional Athletics (Primary)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Federation Uni RSOP Year 10 &amp; 11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 28th</td>
<td><strong>MWC 7-12 Athletics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 28th</td>
<td><strong>Science Show - Weather Man</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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All Grade Preps Commence Wednesdays as of 11th March

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Don't forget!
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 or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.