



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



REMINDERS FOR WEEK SIX: TERM ONE

Friday March 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly 3pm
Monday March 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents Club 9am • Swimming 11am 1/2E & 4/5A 2pm 2/3C
Tuesday March 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming 2pm 5/6T & PrepM
Wednesday March 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Thursday March 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Friday March 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly 3pm

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS – Grade 2/3C

Our Exceptional Students this week are Daniel Goode, Jack Swanson and Charlee Coates.



Daniel is an exceptional student because of his positive attitude towards his learning. He listens to all instructions carefully, then quietly and efficiently gets all of his work completed. Daniel has a go at everything with confidence and shows persistence to complete his best work. He shows great resilience and never lets little things bother him. Wonderful effort, Daniel!

Jack is an exceptional student because he has the confidence to have a go at any task no matter how challenging. When Jack sees another member of the class needing help he will do everything he can to assist. He has a caring nature and is considerate of everyone's feelings. Jack has a great depth of general knowledge that he shares with the class. Great work, Jack!

Charlee is an exceptional student because of her terrific getting along skills. She is a great friend to have because of her cheerful and caring nature. Charlee knows to start her work straight away and always tries her best. She can be counted on to be organised and will persist with her work in order to achieve her best. Charlee has a positive attitude towards all areas of her learning. Excellent work, Charlee!

Our Exceptional students will be presented with their awards at tomorrow's assembly at 3pm

RURAL ATHLETICS - Tuesday March 14th Nelson Park

- Parents are responsible for transporting their children to & from the Sports.
- Attached to today's newsletter is a lunch order form/paper bag which needs to be returned to school by **MONDAY** morning 6th March.
- Please write school and name clearly, place correct money inside bag, fold over and secure top of bag. Money can be placed inside in a plastic self-seal bag.
- More info and program in next week's newsletter.

DISTRICT TENNIS

Eli Herbertson, Samuel Herbertson, Kade Perkins, Ayden Perkins and Morris Richardson enjoyed their tennis last Thursday. All 5 worked very hard in their play breaks at school and also after school to get to the standard required to participate. As a result they were very competitive on the night.

I proudly watched them thoroughly enjoy the matches they played while still giving 100%. I look forward to 4 of the boys competing again at this event in 2018.



CHAPLAINCY APPOINTMENT

Our school is delighted to announce the appointment of Andreena Hockley to assist John Simpson

John Simpson and Andreena together will ensure that there is a pastoral care presence at our school every day of the week.

Andreena needs no introduction to our school, as a former student, and a hard working supportive parent over the past 9 years. Andreena has worked very hard in the past few years to gain the qualifications needed to fulfil the Chaplain role.

We thank the Bolwarra Uniting Church and Access Ministries for providing the funding that allows us access to 2 outstanding human resources in John and Andreena.

VOLUNTEER INTEREST SURVEY – Due tomorrow

ICT & INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Please read the attached policy which was passed at our most recent School Council.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – 12 Month Vacancy

We currently have a 12 month vacancy on our School Council. If you are interested please see me as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

March	Wednesday 8 th	-	Division Swimming
	Monday 13 th	-	Labour Day Holiday
	Tuesday 14 th	-	Rural Athletics – All Students
	Friday 17 th	-	Disco
	Wednesday 22 nd	-	District Athletics
	Friday 31 st	-	{ PJ Day Assembly/Shared Lunch/Easter Raffle 12pm Last Day of Term

LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL

Dinosaurs Galore for Wood, Wine and Roses Festival

Our talented students have worked brilliantly together to create a very impressive art entry for this year's Wood, Wine and Roses Festival. The theme is 'Dinosaurs in the Garden' and included students from all grades, drawing, colouring, painting, cutting, pasting and selecting to put together a huge final piece. The Wood, Wine and Roses Festival was held last Saturday, February 25 in Heywood.



HELPER NEEDED PLEASE to hang blinds in our new Music Room. Deb Schultz and Matt Hockley have done a great job cleaning, painting etc. to get the room ready for music lessons. Carpet will be laid next week (tbc) and it would be great to have the blinds up ASAP.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2017

Welcome back everyone, and a big welcome to our new families at Bolwarra!

School Council kicked off last week. We farewell Simon Goode and thank him for his contribution last year, unfortunately, like so many of us, Simon has other obligations and cannot commit himself to School Council this year...maybe you can?? If anyone is interested please see Lee, myself or any other Council reps. It would be great to have you on board!

Speaking of us all being time poor and over committed you will see the volunteer survey went out last week, it would be great if we could get as many returned as possible to give us a better insight into the way you want to spend your time helping out at school and how we can assist you with that. As stated on the survey the aim is two-fold, 1) to increase the number of parents participating while 2) decreasing the amount of time parents need to volunteer.

Just to recollect, and for the new families at school, first up on Council's agenda is The Principal's Report where Lee provides a detailed description of the many things both he, the staff and the students have taken part in under the sub-headings: *Achievement, Engagement, Wellbeing, Productivity and other*. A lot is covered off in this report and also in the newsletter, but please feel free to catch up with Lee if you would like to know more. The stand out for me in this month's report was how Bolwarra is leading the way in 2017 in regard to the AIP – a masterplan if you like that identifies goals for what you want your school to achieve in that year. The Education Department asks that schools complete their AIP in March and implement them at the beginning of term two. It is great to see our AIP already implemented with Lee and the staff having set our 2017 actions and objectives late last year. Personally I think this says a lot about the dedication of Lee and his team. Please catch up with Lee if you would like to learn more about the AIP.

We took up a bit of the agenda discussing school grounds and what we want to do in in this area. It was established last year that we recognised 9 separate areas that required some attention. We came to the conclusion that we work on closing off each project one at a time and work alongside the Parents Club to help with fundraising. Given we have started the "old sand pit" area and new art room building we are going to work on finishing these areas off before moving onto other areas. Please see a copy of the draft Grounds Proposal attached...please note I will endeavor to update this and keep you informed.

For those who attended, the feedback from the Information Night was that what was presented was relevant and important to know. It would be great to see if we could get all of our families to attend and we discussed whether we needed to run two Information Nights...among other ways in which we could look at increasing participation for next year. I personally find the best part the joy and excitement of my kids who are just bursting to show me all their "stuff" in their new class rooms, as well as the opportunity to talk to their teachers on how they are transitioning into the new year.

Council has extended an invitation to our local Member Roma Britnell to visit our school and take a look at the great things we have achieved since having our portable removed last year. One thing I will be pushing for from Roma is an endorsement to the Education Minister for funds to look at upgrading the grade 5/6 room to reflect the grade 4/5 room – I will keep you posted on how we are tracking and any progress made.

As always if you have anything you want discussed at Council please see myself or Lee, likewise if you would like any further info on any points above.

Our next meeting is our AGM on March 22 at 7pm. All positions are open; please feel free to come along.

Cheers Anna



CONGRATULATIONS to Graham and Jessica Moore on the arrival of Kelvin's little brother, Grayson Arrow (late last night).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following students who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week:- Hamish Storrie (12); Willow Iversen (8); Sanjay Fenton (8); Braxtyn Moore (5), and Angus Impey (10).

PARENTS CLUB – MEETING MONDAY, 6th MARCH – 9.00am in the Staffroom
Everyone most welcome.

- ❖ **LUNCH ROSTER tomorrow** is Janie & Sonya.
FRIDAY, 10th – Nicki Mets and another helper required please – orders are Pizza so it's just serving and would be a good opportunity for any new parent to learn the ropes.
- ❖ **Thank You** to Jasmine Oliver for her donation for tomorrows lunches.

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 2 which was distributed today is due back at school by Friday, 10th March.

BEATS CYCLE FOR HOPE – Portland to Bridgewater Bay – Sunday 19 March 2017

Starts Portland Football Netball Cricket Club, Hanlon Park – Registrations from 8.30; Event Start 9.30am
Charity Auction at 11.30. Entry is FREE – donations kindly accepted. Free bus available from Bridgewater back to start line following the event at 1PM. Further information www.facebook.com/beatcycleforhope/

See poster in next week's newsletter.

DRAFT>>>>Bolwarra Grounds Proposal

With the recent removal of the portable and other infrastructure it has prompted us as a School Council to take a look at the our school grounds as a whole and where we might look at/propose to make changes or upgrades.

Please take a look at the below stages of change (in order of priorities) – we are always interested in feedback or other ideas, so please contact myself, Casey Taylor or Lee Gibbons if you would like to make comment or put an idea forward.

Please note that some have already commenced due to funding opportunities coming our way from the Education Department with the removal of the portable.

Anna

Stage 1 – Ga Ga Court and Sand Pit

- Building of a new sandpit next to the Ga Ga court (sand pit to be same shape and size but not as high as the Ga Ga court)
- To keep costs down we will be transferring as much sand as possible from the current sand pit that now faces Robertson's Rd
- Grass the area around the Ga Ga and new sand pit area – possibility to have garden beds/stepping stones or other options for play.
- Purchase sand to top up the sand pit.
- Erect some type of shading over the area – this may be done later as we are trying to get a grant for the shade sail.
- We are also looking at installing a Friendship Seat in this area. A friendship seat acts as a lever for confidence, inclusion and engagement.

Stage 2 – Refurbish Robertsons Rd sandpit area.

- Once all sand has been salvaged we propose to use this area as a quiet reading/sitting space
- Configuration of seating to be built in this area.
- Planting out of a garden bed complete with bark and taller trees along the fence line to provide privacy from the road

Stage 3 – Basketball Court

- Resurfacing of basketball court

Stage 4 – Replace Netball Court

- Total replacement due to damage by cranes.
- General tidy up and clean up of the area around the court.
- Painting of lines for Netball

Stage 5 – Cubby Hut area

- General clean up
- New Bark
- Removal of Weeds
- New wood

Stage 6 – Bike Shed

- Reconfigure to make this a storage shed for the vegetable garden area/enviro club.

Stage 8 – Gas bottle cage area

- Four square area for students to play the game.

Please note the above are specific areas that we are wanting to upgrade/change, when the time comes, we will be putting a call out for parent/family/guardian's to assist with the works once we have finalised the proposal.

If you have any skill/trades or general enthusiasm for helping out please keep a look out in the newsletter and on social media for dates. Please also feel free to contact myself or Casey to offer your time and we will be sure to give you a buzz when needed.

Please also keep in mind that there are always ongoing odd jobs that are required around maintaining the school grounds. If you have any time to spare or are looking to help out please contact us or the school to find out more...or if you see something that needs fixing/doing...go for it! It really is appreciated by everyone.

I can be contacted on 0404800193 and Casey's number is 0408 292 212.

Chaplain's Corner – Crossing the line

To be honest, I was shocked the first time I saw Andrew. Our first son, that is. I was there with Judith for his birth. Yes, a super special moment. But he didn't look right. For starters, he was a shade of Presley purple (Elvis was big back then). He had a forehead which didn't look right either. It was a fastback shape like a Holden Monaro (also big back then). That was before the nurses did a wash and polish job on him. He then looked a tad better.

Need it be said that this was a precious moment for us both? We had crossed that mysterious, miraculous line from doing our own thing as a childless couple into this new world called "parenthood." At the time we had no real idea of the changes and challenges which were lying in wait for us. And which multiplied dramatically with the arrival of a couple of brothers in a bit over three years. What are some of these changes and challenges? Try these for size....

- **A little person has a lot of power** – The deal we struck was that when the overnight feed was due, I'd do the pick up and Judith would do the delivery. Worked a treat provided sleep was no big priority. We met sustained weariness for the first time.
- **New skills had to be mastered** – We both became adept nappy changers – none of today's throw away versions. And, no matter how many nappies were changed, it was the one job you couldn't do with your eyes closed. I occasionally livened things up via a misdirected safety pin.
- **We had to rethink our ways of doing things** – With a very young crew in tow, we no longer enjoyed the freedoms we once had. Now we had to be on deck for a whole new range of responsibilities. The days of only doing what we wanted passed quietly into history.
- **A fresh teamwork developed** – It quickly became clear that teamwork was our only effective way to manage our growing herd. Sharing the load enabled us to enjoy this parenting adventure. We came to value each other's efforts and commitment in new ways.
- **It was also about looking after each other** – When energy levels were low, when frustrations were hunting in packs (as they often do), we had to be alert to each other's wellbeing. We took time out to listen to each other, to work on priorities, just to be there.
- **Did we always get it right as parents?** – Forget it. For us there was often a big gap between what worked out and what didn't. Even with the best of intentions, it was easy to make the wrong call. Tiredness, stress and constant family demands frequently wore us out.
- **When the chips are down, we need to be extra smart** – When patience is wearing thin and co-operation levels are low, it takes little effort to blow a gasket. It requires maturity and enormous self-control to focus on what needs to be done, rather than flying off the handle.
- **It's one thing to reproduce; it's quite another to rear a family** – Make no mistake. Just don't miss the privilege of having your gang around. Be there for them. Play those games. Cook up surprises. Keep your cool. Give those hugs. Create good memories for your gang.
- **Remember this: being a parent is the greatest privilege that will come your way** – Be in no doubt. Nothing else in your entire life will match it. Forget making money, excelling at work, being the life of the party. It's what happens under your roof that really counts.

That Presley purple bloke now has his own tribe as do his brothers. To our surprise, they often recall family events of decades back which we had long forgotten. Most are greatly amusing. So, be assured, your call to parenthood is a bigger deal than you might now understand. Enjoy it. Make the changes. Face the challenges. One day your kids will be telling stories about you!

John – stay in touch revsimmo@gmail.com