

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT****REMINDERS FOR WEEK NINE: TERM FOUR 2016**

Friday November 25 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 5/6 Camp</li> <li>• International Day of Disability at Civic Hall – Grade 4 students</li> <li>• <b>NO ASSEMBLY</b></li> </ul>
Monday November 28 <sup>th</sup>	•
Tuesday November 29 <sup>th</sup>	•
Wednesday November 30 <sup>th</sup>	•
Thursday December 1 <sup>st</sup>	•
Friday December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	• <b>Report Writing Day – No students at school</b>

**NO ASSEMBLY TOMORROW****YOU CAN DO IT! STARS****Confidence - Caught 10 times**

Akaysha Moore

Daniel Goode

**Resilience – Caught 10 times**

Esther Thompson

Tejay Hansen

**Confidence – Caught 20 times**

Esther Thompson

**Academic Excellence - Caught 50 times**

Tiarna Keegan

*Our You Can Do It! stars will be presented with their awards at assembly on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**BOLWARRA COUNTRY FAIR – Thanks**

Our second Country Fair was a wonderful event. Thanks to all those who contributed in some way. In particular I thank the following people helped on the day and/or in the lead up; Olivia Coates, Sally McMahon, Fiona Flannery, Sonya Goode, Simon Goode, Debra Schultz, Anna Impey, Justin Impey, Renee Keegan, Emily Munday, Lucas Munday, Donna Kerr, Michelle Price, Barry Price, Sarah Rethus, Scott Russell, Wendy Ferguson and Casey Taylor. I apologise in advance for those I have inevitably missed.

Buskers – Eli and Samuel Herbertson raised \$32.70 which they very kindly donated back to the school.

The biggest thanks goes to the leader and inspiration Bonnie Taylor. Thanks Bonnie for your hard work over a long period of time that ensured the success of this great community event.

Raffle Winners – Kaye Sullivan, Carissa Tait, Charlee Coates, Anna Impey, Ros Kerz, Claire Gibbons, Deb and Sonia.

**SHOUTOUTS**

Our S.R.C (Student Representation Council) would like to give a 'Shout Out' to the following people;

Michelle & Barry Price	Painting the Shoe Boxes for Grade 1 & 2
Debra Schultz & Matt Hockley	Painting the inside of the old Art room
Fiona Flannery, Justin Impey, Anna Impey, Lucas Munday, Emily Munday, Wendy Ferguson, Barry Price, Michelle Price, Stephen Herbertson, Debra Schultz, Beth Arthur, Adam Thompson, Craig Cummins, Josie Englezos, Kylee McDonald, Nicole Chapple, Casey Taylor and Bonnie Taylor.	For working at the Working Bee
Andrew 'Harry' Butler	Cutting down a fallen tree and removing from the school grounds.

## **SANDPIT**

Our school now has a wonderful large sandpit to mirror the Ga Ga court. These 2 play areas are a huge hit with our students. Thanks to those parents who helped build the sandpit last Thursday (see the SRC shootouts), particularly the foreman of the project, Casey Taylor.



## **5/6 CAMP (report from Mr Thompson)**

**Day 1** - All are having an awesome time. Such a resilient group!! They've handled the heat with few complaints. Off to Otway fly, then Lavers Hill for dinner, and then the glow worms at dusk. There will be some tired heads tonight!

**Day 2** - Another awesome day here at Cooriemungle. Weather fantastic- no wind 15deg. The highlights of the day were the low ropes- there were lots of stars there. High ropes- where everyone at least had a go. Their nerves were tested! Tomorrow looks great, with (almost) everyone looking forward to the giant swing.

**Day 3** - Another brilliant, action packed day at Cooriemungle. Canoeing and Giant Swing were a great way to start the day. Nerves were tested to the limit, and it was great to see so many kids push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of, with many getting right to the top of the swing. Canoeing was great fun, and everyone showed outstanding teamwork to make canoe rafts and gondolas. There were a few 'accidental' falls into the dam- luckily the water was quite warm!

An afternoon of archery and games, followed by a movie night, and we will be into the final stretch! Everyone is well and having a great time.



## **PREP PHOTOS OF OUR CURRENT GRADE 6 STUDENTS**



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL POLICY – Reporting Obligations Policy**

At our recent School Council the Reporting Obligations Policy was passed. If you wish to have a copy please ask Nicole or visit our website and it can be found on the Child Safety Standards page.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of the above information. I'm happy to be contacted face to face, via phone or e-mail ([gibbons.lee.a@edumail.vic.govc.au](mailto:gibbons.lee.a@edumail.vic.govc.au))

## EXTRA-CURRICULA TERM 4 DATES

<b>November</b>	Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	- International Day of Disability at Civic Hall – Grade 4 students - Grade 5/6 Campers return
<b>December</b>	Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	- <b>Report Writing Day – Pupil Free day</b>
	Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	- Parents Club
	Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	- Orientation Day
	Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	- Disco 6pm
	Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	- Student Leadership speeches for 2017
	Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	- Family Night
	Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	- School Council - Decadent Day Grade 3-6 - Prep -2 Excursion
	Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	- Final Assembly - Shared Afternoon Tea
	Monday	19 <sup>th</sup>	- Alternative Program
	Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	- Alternative Program

**LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT – NOVEMBER MEETING

The Principal's Report is always first up on the agenda when 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. The past month has seen a lot of Local and Regional Principal Meetings, staff PD's and planning for the 2017 AIP (Annual Implementation Plan). A lot of extra meetings for the staff, however the students have had the opportunity to be involved in and/or organised a lot of fun and meaningful activities– in particular the Bollywood Bonanza, Topsy Turvy Day, Camps, Wheelchair Basketball, Questacon, Movie Fundraiser, Blast Cup, Upwelling, 3Bays, Artist in residence... we really are lucky to be able to have our students involved in so many extra-curricular activities that provide some really valuable learnings.

We are currently reviewing this year's Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), from the review we will establish how well we have gone against our set objectives. Some objectives will roll on into 2017 while other findings and achievements, as well as the learnings from the staff, student and parent survey results will set the foundation for next year's plan.

Last report I talked about the peer reviews the staff were doing on each other to assist and provide positive comments and look for opportunities of improvement, these peer reviews are still continuing and it was great to hear Beth talk about how the peer reviews are seeming to have the "opposite" effect – with her observations of Adam not finding improvements for him, but rather Beth has found she is learning from Adam and picking up skills, tips and opportunities she can take from him into her classroom.

Parent Opinion Survey results were reviewed, I won't go into detail for all the 17 categories, but I will say that for 7 of those categories we sat in the top 25% of Victorian Schools, 9 categories saw us in the middle 50% of Victorian schools and one category we found ourselves in the lower 25% of Victorian schools. If you would like more detail please take the time to see Lee. Not all parents are asked to do the survey, it is a random sample that takes place every two years, so please don't feel like you were left out - remember the teachers are always available and Lee's office door is always open and I know they would prefer to discuss things in the moment rather than wait for survey results to come through, so if there are things you would like to discuss please go and see them...and it's just not the negative, it's always great to hear things that you think are working well and benefiting your child. I will say that I was really impressed with the growth parents are seeing in the students, particularly around connectedness to school, motivation and peer relations.

Parents Club minutes were reviewed. The meeting had a big focus on increasing parental engagement. If you have any ideas please see either myself, Lee or Bonnie. One way that we are hoping to get more people involved is through a Volunteer Interest Survey (to take place in the new year)...this will give parents the chance to look at all the volunteer activities going on throughout the year as well as providing the school with any particular areas of interest/talents or professions that they have which we could call on for some assistance. We are hoping that the information gathered will enable us to start a database that we can use when projects/activities arise.

Congratulations to the Environment Group, in particular the leadership from Olivia Coates who was successful in her sponsorship application to United Way Glenelg. The Environment Group have been allocated \$5,000 funding for shade house for the vegie garden. It has been great to watch that space evolve into what it is today and the learnings that the students get from it...not to mention the pride and ownership they have of the area.

We discussed the Working Bee and the Fair – both of which have been and gone now but a very big congrats and well done to everyone on these activities. I am sure there will be more detail to come about the Fair once Parents Club have had a debrief so watch this space. The sand pit looks amazing and is a real hit with the students. We are looking into a shade sale for this area, they start at around \$10,000 so it may take a while, but we will keep applying for grants as they come up... we figure someone will get sick of us sooner or later and grant us one!!

Last report I mentioned we were working on a school grounds proposal which we will take out to our families for comment. This is still happening. We looked at a draft at our meeting and discussed some changes and budgets that need to be added into the proposal. As soon as this is signed off by School Council we will put it out for comment. You will notice that the old sandpit area has now been emptied and filled in with crushed rock...this area we are looking at making into a "quiet" area with seating and gardens to be established.

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.

**Cheers Anna**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following students who will celebrate their birthday in the coming week:- Callum Richardson (7); Hamish McDougal (7) and Eva Tait (7).

**PARENT'S CLUB NEWS** – Next Meeting **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Lunch Roster – **Tomorrow** – Andreena, Michelle S & Barry P.  
**Friday –9<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Deb, Andreena, Steve & Matt.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** – More books are available from the office if required. Some of the great prizes to be won are:- Action CAM camera; Solar Battery Charger; Coffee Machine; Family Favourite Board Games Box Set and many more. All tickets, together with money, must be returned to school by the morning of Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**END OF YEAR LIBRARY STOCKTAKE.**

It's time for our yearly stocktake in the library so could all students please return library books next week. This week is the final week of borrowing. Reminder notices will be sent home next week. Kind regards, Sally.

**GRADE 6 – 2017 YEAR 7 CSEF UNIFORM PACK ORDER FORMS**

Reminder to Parents of students in Grade 6 to return their 2017 Year 7 CSEF Uniform Pack Order form to Portland Secondary College before Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, as no order can be accepted after this date. This will only apply to parents who hold a Health Care Card or similar.

Info for upcoming junior tri on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

This event will be part of the South West Games and Medals will be presented to the top 3 positions in each category.

**Registration is from 5.30pm. Race starts at 6pm**

The junior triathlon has 2 age groups. The first is 7-10 year olds and the second is for 11-12 year olds.

The 10 and under category will complete a 50 meter swim followed by a 1 km run and then finish with a 2km bike ride around the lagoon.

The 11-12 year olds will compete a 50m swim followed by a 2km run and finish with a 4km bike ride around the lagoon.

No roads are used during the event to keep everyone safe. Please contact me (Terry Ward) on 5523 8820 or mobile 04 4738 5395.

**PORTLAND GOLF CLUB**

The Portland Golf Club is re-commencing its Junior Clinics on a Monday night.

These clinics are open to all Primary School Children in the district – they do not need to be a member of the Portland Golf Club.

**Starting at 4.00pm this Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November,** they will continue until the end of this term.

Cost is \$5 for non-cadet members, and \$4 for cadet members. Please note Cadet Membership is only \$20 for 12 months.

Please contact me if you or any families have any queries. Lindi Ball -5523 2523

**MOVIE SCREENING  
"TROLLS"**

A fun children's movie that will get everyone dancing in their seats (rated G).

**Friday, 2nd December, 4.30pm**

At Cinema@Portland Arts Centre, Glenelg St, Portland.

A fundraiser to replace a beloved playground at Portland South Primary School

Tickets—Children \$11.00 \*/ Adults \$15.00

\* Children and students aged 4-17; children 3 and under are free.

**Tickets must be bought before screening day directly from Portland South Primary School,**  
Moorhouse Crt, Portland—Phone 5523 2911 :or phone/text 0416 765 492 after hours)

## Chaplain's Corner – Do your kids understand “No”?

They weren't ready for it. At a professional development day last week, a group of lawyers from around Australia were advised to expect trouble if they hired staff in their early twenties. The reason? “They do not understand the meaning of the word ‘No’.” It was offered that too many young lawyers think they know it all, can do things their own way, have a limited grasp of responsibility, are unco-operative and are easily offended.

Behind all this it was proposed that too many young adults (and not just lawyers) think the world revolves around them and their own needs. When the ball doesn't bounce their way, they play the victim role. It is always somebody else's fault. Now, thankfully, there will be many exceptions to this remarkably disturbing view of this generation. But if there is a grain of truth in this, what might this mean for rearing our families? Consider....

- **Are we preparing our kids for setbacks?** – Life will have plenty waiting for them, starting now. The real world has many joys and satisfactions. But lying in wait are frustrations, difficult people, problems without easy answers, stresses which hang around no matter how hard you try.
- **Do they know the meaning of “No”?** – It appears that many parents are not holding the line when it comes to what is right and what isn't. Do the people at your place actually hear you when you give reasons as to why certain behaviours are out of bounds?
- **And who's running your place?** – You think you're training your kids? Watch out. They may be training you. Yes, there are kid run households believe it or not. They know which decibels and language to use; they know which buttons to press; they know how to get you to give in.
- **Do you deal with reality at your place?** – Reality crashes with the blame game. If you or your kids can hang your problems on other people's children, or teachers, or sports club leaders it makes life that much more manageable. There is no need to be responsible.
- **When did you last dig in and insist on certain outcomes?** – There's no point at all in having chores to do, or jobs to complete if they are not done, if excuses are offered which get them off the hook. Mums and dads end up being the family's servants. Ridiculous? It happens.
- **If our kids get away without correction, trouble is certain** – It will come in the adult years. Bringing up a family is hard work. Sacrifices are required. Selfish kids who've mostly got their own way become the parents who simply walk out when the going gets tough.
- **We all have rough edges which need polishing** – Yes, it's important to encourage our kids, to steer them in the right direction. It's equally important though to address those rough edges. There's no point patting them on the head if they are simply doing their own thing all the time.
- **We need to protect our kids** – Sure, there are dangers around the place. But we need not waste time protecting them from consequences, bending the truth, selfish actions, rude outbursts or being uncaring for others. Some parents stick up for their kids regardless. Dumb.
- **It's not about us and “them”** – If we are not careful, we can turn our families into tribes and simply go to war with all others. Absolutely pointless. Families need families. Kids benefit from seeing other families at work, other mums and dads doing their thing. Great learning there.

Please bless the world with young adults who do know the meaning of the word “No,” who are concerned for others, who don't play the victim, who are strong enough to put up their hand when they are at fault, who are not blaming another for their own bad decisions. It ain't easy.

**John** – stay in touch [revsimmo@gmail.com](mailto:revsimmo@gmail.com)

