**PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS**

*I have been on Long Service Leave for three days this week. I will be back at school as usual on Monday, March 15th. In my absence, Mrs Renowden has been Acting Principal.*

**Annual Report**

This year each school is required to call a public meeting to present their Annual Report for 2009. The Annual Report follows a four page proforma and is to be made available on paper to all families in the school and on our school website.

*The Public Meeting to present the school’s Annual Report will be held in the school staffroom at 5.30pm on Monday, March 22nd. You are welcome to attend.*

**School Council**

It was not necessary to hold an election for School Council because the number of nominations did not exceed the number vacancies. All vacant positions were filled by those nominated.

*The AGM for School Council will be held on Monday, March 22nd at 5.45pm immediately following the Annual Report Public Meeting.*

Members of School Council are as follows:

**Parents:**
- Tyla Mitchem, Robyn Anderson, Patrick Lee – just beginning their two year term on Council
- Jane Hofert, Steven Hughes, Joanna Waetford – one year of a two year term left to serve

**Parents’ Club Representative:** Lizle van Schalkwyk

**Staff:**
- Maree Renowden, Sue McSweeney - just beginning their two year term on Council
- Lee Street, Pam Lefebvre – one year of a two year term left to serve
- Principal (Executive Officer of SC) Mark Renouf

I sincerely thank parents and staff who give their time to contribute to this important role at our school.

**Parent Contact re issues at school and student behaviour**

We welcome parent contact about any concern you have about your child at school and will always follow up your concerns.

You, as parents, can help us in the following ways please:

1. Do not label an incident as Bullying. Bullying means that a person or a group is repeatedly picking on someone else. Bullying can also be when there is a single unprovoked threat or attack made by a “stronger” person or group that clearly has an unfair advantage over a “weaker” person or group. Two people arguing, being unfriendly or fighting with each other is not bullying.
2. Encourage your child to report (truthfully) any problems they might have at school to a teacher.
3. Understand that we always seek to give all children a fair hearing and will always listen to “both sides of the story” and often also speak with witnesses, before deciding what to do. With respect, parents at home are usually only able to hear one side of a story from their child.
4. Please support our use of Restorative Justice (RJ) because it is an effective way of improving student relationships and changing unfriendly behaviour, including bullying. RJ improves the future instead of focusing on the past.

We focus our student welfare and discipline on positive behaviour and relationships and have four school rules and five values that all our students are familiar with, have been discussed and taught about in class and are displayed around the school. I am sure that your child can tell you what our rules and values are and what they mean.

**It’s Not OK To Be Away from school unless you are unwell**

It’s cool to be at school
New School Website for Ballam Park Primary School
Have you been to look at our new website hosted by SponserEd. It is up-to-date, and so will become more interesting and useful to parents as time goes on. It also provides the school with a passive form of fundraising income. Every time someone goes to our webpage, it generates a small amount of income for the school.

It would be great if every family at home made it their Home Page. The address remains unchanged at www.ballamparkps.vic.edu.au

If you want information about safe use of the internet for your child, look at www.cybersmartkids.com.au

Twilight Athletics Meeting
There is a twilight athletics meeting (that does not involve our school) at the Ballam Park Track on March 12th. This may cause traffic congestion around the school and affect your ability to find a car park after school on Friday, March 12th – tomorrow.

Mark Renouf
Principal

Uniform Addition
SKORTS FOR SALE!!!

School Council has approved the addition of a new item to our school uniform: SKORTS. The skirt is a cross between shorts and a skirt and will be on sale at the Uniform Shop from today, Thursday, 11th March. The price is $19.95, Primary School Wear code 375-GG.

The Assistant Principal Role
Hello, my name is Sue McSweeney and, this year, I am sharing the Assistant Principal role with Mrs Renowden. I have been at Ballam Park PS for ten years, many teaching in the Junior school and, last year, teaching Year 3/4. Other schools I have taught at are Seaford Primary, Hampton Park Primary and Hastings Primary. I barrack for Collingwood and I enjoy watching the cricket.

My duties can include answering or trying to solve parent queries, administration tasks such as updating our school webpage, as well as leading Staff Professional Development, Student Pathways and Transitions, and the Program for Students with Disabilities. Some tasks I might do in my day can include: booking a course for teachers to attend, liaising with Integration staff and the Speech Therapist, Yard duty, First Aid duty, showing a new family wanting to attend our school around our facilities, working with a small reading group, and counselling students who have been withdrawn from class or behaved inappropriately. I am also a member of the ICT and English Committees. These teams meet after school with the aim of providing the best programs we can for Ballam Park Primary School, investigating current teaching methods and trends, developing a plan for the year levels and allocating resources across the school. A teaching component is also part of my role. This term I have been working closely with students in Years 3 and 4, providing extra assistance in the area of reading and maths.

I really enjoy my new role and I look forward to coming to school each day.

Sue McSweeney

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES
It is requested that parents please ring the school on 9789-5614, prior to 9.30am, to advise if their child will be absent.

BOOK CLUB
Orders for the next issue of Book Club are due back at school by Monday, 15th March.
Additional order forms are available at the office.
Footsteps Dance Program

On Thursday, 25th February, I attended the Frankston and Peninsula Principals’ Conference held at The Sebel Hotel in Melbourne, and I was very pleased and proud to see ten of our students perform at the official opening. The students, who were coached by our Footsteps teachers, had limited rehearsal time and had given up their lunchtimes. Their performance reflected their effort and enthusiasm. I heard many wonderful comments from other Principals about their dancing and how well the children conducted themselves. They were all very worthy representatives for our school.

Maree Renowden (Acting Principal)

A couple of weeks ago, myself and nine other Years 5 and 6 students went into Melbourne. We went for a Principal's Conference and we all got up on stage and danced. The dance was thought up by Bree and Sarah, our Footstep Dance teachers. It was really fun and I enjoyed the experience very much. Mikayla Kirkwood

I think the dance we performed and the song we danced to was groovy. The dance we did was amazing too. I would like to thank Bree and Sarah for teaching us the spectacular dance. Charlie Hylton
PARENTS' CLUB

CAN YOU HELP US WITH EASTER RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS?

We are once again relying on your generosity for donations for our prizes in the Easter Raffle. Can you help us? Thank you to all those parents who have already sent easter eggs to school.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE—TUESDAY, 16TH MARCH

A Sausage Sizzle will be held next Tuesday, 16th March. Order forms were sent home earlier this week and are due back tomorrow (Friday 12th).

EASTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are due back at school on Tuesday, 23rd March and the Easter Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday, 24th March.

MOTHERS’ DAY STALL AND RAFFLE

Mothers’ Day stall—Thursday, 6th May and raffle.

OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

‘we make kids smile’

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<tr>
<th>OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS HIGHLIGHTS</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Making Dogs’ Biscuits Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Movie ‘Hotel For Dogs’ Fresh Fruit</td>
<td>Colouring Competition Fresh Fruit</td>
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<td>Show &amp; Tell Fresh Fruit</td>
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Over the next two weeks, the children will be learning about each other’s pets and the importance of looking after them. Children will be in contact with the RSPCA to see how they can help.

For bookings please call Emma on 0418-108-557.

Stars of the Week:

Phoenix B and Rebekah S

Thank you
Lynda Stafford

4L ice cream containers needed—Can you help?

As a sustainable school, we are concerned about saving water, and our drinking taps (‘bubble taps’) waste a lot of water. To use the leftover water, we put containers under our bubble taps and then use the water on our school gardens. The best size containers are 4 litre ice-cream containers. We don't have enough of these to put under all our bubble taps. If you have any, could you please bring send them to school? It would be really appreciated.

Thank you
Lynda Stafford

Outside School Hours Care with Camp Australia
Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as our Students of the Month for February 2010

- Hope T (Prep S) - for Getting Along
- Matilda H (1M) - for Persistence
- Saxyn P (2J) - for Organisation
- Kristian D (3D) - for Confidence
- Nathan B (3/4R) - for Confidence
- Shania S (5S) - for Getting Along
- Kate B (6B) - for Confidence
- Chloe M (Prep B) - for Getting Along
- Rebekah S (1H) - for Persistence
- Ondine D (2P) - for Persistence
- Hayden M (3F) - for Confidence
- Erin D (4M) - for Persistence
- Kody W (5H) - for Persistence
- Sarah D (6PD) - for Confidence

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Harmony Day
We are celebrating Harmony Day at Ballam Park PS on Monday, 22\textsuperscript{nd} March. On this day, we will celebrate the cultural diversity of Australia by learning about each other’s cultures. The continuing message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. It’s about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. At 9.00am School Assembly, there will be a parade of costumes from many nations worn by some of our children who were born overseas. They will be asked a couple of questions about their home country’s culture and customs. The school choir will also perform at assembly. Please come along and join us.

Mentor Training
As you may know, we are planning mentoring program for students commencing Term 2. Volunteer adult mentors from the community will be paired with children who may benefit from spending time with a positive adult role model.

We have two training sessions coming up on Tuesday, 23\textsuperscript{rd} March, 1.00 to 3.30pm and Wednesday, 24\textsuperscript{th} March, 7.00 to 9.30pm. If you know of an adult who may be interested in becoming a mentor, please ask them to contact me for further details.

Best wishes
Kaye Coughlan, School Chaplain

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TERM DATES 2010

| Term 1 | 1 February (students start) to 26 March (26 April ANZAC Day Public Holiday) |
| Term 2 | 12 April to 25 June |
| Term 3 | 12 July to 17 September |
| Term 4 | 4 October to 17 December |
CHANGING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop (which is located at the end of the senior building near the Library) is open every Thursday — 8.30 to 9.45 am.

Uniform orders may be left at the school office at any time.

If you are unable to visit the Uniform Shop, you may make a phone order with a credit card payment, telephone 9585-3333. The order will be packed and delivered to your child. Uniform items can also be ordered online at www.psw.com.au

BPPS uniforms are also available at Primary School Wear Frankston store, 21 Playne Street, Frankston (opposite Savers), phone 9769-6510.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Come and join the fun at
1st Ballam Park Scouts
Naranga Crescent, Karingal

Boys and Girls of ages 6 to 10 years come and have 2 free visits and take part in our fun activities.

Contact Christine Gawly 9750-5323

Catholic Religious Education classes in preparation for Reconciliation and First Communion will be commencing Tuesday, 9 March 2010.

Enrolments will be taken between 4.00–4.30 pm on Tuesday, 9th March at St. John’s Parish House, 20 Coral Street, Frankston. We will begin classes that afternoon.

If you would like any further information, please contact Sr. Anita on 9776-1483 after 6.30 pm.

A Commitment Mass will be celebrated on 14th March in St. John’s Church at the normal 10.00 am Mass and attendance of parents and children of grade 3 upwards is most important.

CHANGE TO STUDENT DETAILS

(Please return to office)

It is important that the school is kept up to date with any changes in family circumstances, change of address, telephone or new mobile number, emergency contact details, parents’ work details, etc. If there have been any changes within your family, please notify us as soon as possible by returning this note to the office, so that we can maintain accurate student details. Thank you for your co-operation.

Student(s) Names: ……………………………………………………………………………. Grade(s): ………

Please note the following change(s) in student details: ……………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. Thank you