**PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS**

**Hi Everyone**

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Ballam Park Primary School. I would particularly like to welcome our new prep students and any other new students and parents to our school.

Our prep students had a great start to the school life last week. There were many happy and excited students ready for their first day of school. We wish them well.

My name is Wayne Lovie and I am delighted to be here at Ballam Park Primary School as acting principal for term 1. I am an experienced principal and have worked at schools in and around Frankston for many years.

Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who have made me feel very welcome to your lovely school. I am passionate about education and about providing students with the best possible outcomes. If you see me around, please feel free to introduce yourself and we can have a chat.

**Prep – Library Bags**

Each of our new prep students will receive a new library bag from the Department of Education. The bag contains some information for parents and some helpful items to make the start to school a little easier.

**High Expectations – Parents as our Partners**

I see our parents as our partners in their child’s education and encourage parents to become involved here at school. You could become involved in the classroom or helping out around the school or even on School Council. I have very high expectations about student learning and behaviour and believe that, in partnership with parents, students and teachers, we can make a big difference to outcomes for our students.

**Student Reading**

I have been encouraging our students to read at home each night. Parents and teachers can work on this together by encouraging home reading each night and making it fun. Children can also be read to or share their reading with another person. Keep reading everyone!

**New Sand and Mulch**

We have topped up the sand in the Junior School sand pit. We will also be topping up the mulch in the playground. Play is an important part of childhood development, and we need to make sure that our soft-fall is adequate to cater for the children playing.

**International Visitors to Ballam Park PS**

On Wednesday morning this week we had three special visitors to our school. David Zinger, an education academic from Monash University in Frankston accompanied two educator colleagues who are from Norway, to our school to have a look and view a Victorian school. It was great for me to be able to show them around.

**School Council Elections**

School Council is a very important part of Victorian Government schools and we value the input from parents and education department employees. There are three parent vacancies and two DET member vacancies on School Council this year.

Representatives are elected for two years. Representatives whose two year term ends are entitled to be nominated for re-election if they still have children attending Ballam Park PS in 2015.

Parents whose two year term ends this March are: Mr Tim Watts, Mrs Lisa Cartwright and Mr Matt Taylor. Staff whose two year term ends this March are: Mrs Christine Robinson and Mrs Lee Street. I would like to thank them for their input into the governance of our school.

Nominations for parent and DET member vacancies open on Friday, 6 February 2015.

**Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter, and are also available from the General Office.**

Nominations close: Monday, 2nd March at 4.00pm.

*cont/...*
If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, an election will be held in the week, **Wednesday, 4th March to Wednesday, 11th March.**

School Council meetings are held a minimum of eight times a year and are usually on the third Monday of the month, beginning at 5.30pm and usually concluding by 7.00pm.

Please contact me at school if you would like further information about School Council.

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**Attached for parents:**
- Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category (to nominate yourself)
- Nomination Form for Parent Member Category (to nominate another parent)

**Attached for BPPS staff:**
- Self-nomination Form for DET Employee Member Category (to nominate yourself)
- Nomination Form for DET Employee Member Category (to nominate another DET Employee)

Regards,
Wayne Lovie

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**BOOK LIST AND ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS YEAR 2015**

The Book List and Essential Education Items Year 2015 for each year level were sent home at the end of last year. If you did not receive this list, a copy is available from the office.

**PAYMENT WAS REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, 30TH JANUARY, so if you still haven’t paid, please pay now so that your child will receive their books, pencils, etc.**

A reminder that there are facilities for EFTPOS, Visa, BPAY and phone credit at the office.

Alternatively, for parents who are eligible, an application for the **2015 BALLAM PARK PS EDUCATION ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY TOMORROW, FRIDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2015.**

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**REMINDEES**

**Ambulance Cover**
As a school, all teachers have a duty of care and this means that we sometimes need to make the decision to call an Ambulance when there is an accident or medical incident with a student. When possible parents are contacted first however, if this is not possible, it becomes the school's decision to call an Ambulance. If you have a Health care card or private medical insurance, Ambulance service costs are covered. However, if you do not have Ambulance cover, you may be issued with an invoice for the cost of the Ambulance. Please check your current status. Ambulance costs can be very expensive.

**Personal Property Brought to School**
The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors.

As a result, we advise that careful thought is given before personal items, particularly those of some value, are brought to school.

**Staff Car Park**
Parents are requested not to use the staff car park for pick-up and drop-off of students before and after school.

This is prohibited in the interests of student safety. Signs on the driveway clearly indicate this. Apart from safety, there is just not enough room in the carpark for all parents’ cars and there is ample parking in Ballam Park next to the school.

**Student Accident Insurance**
DET does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.

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**IMPORTANT DATES 2015**

**FEBRUARY**
- Tues 10 Parents’ Club Information Meeting, 9.00am in Staff Room—All welcome
- School Banking resumes for 2015
- Wed 18 Twilight Sports/Activity & Family Picnic
- And an opportunity to visit classrooms
- Thurs 26 Year 6 Beach Safety Program
- Preps commence full time
- Fri 27 Year 4 Beach Safety Program

**MARCH**
- Thurs 5 Year 5 Beach Safety Program
- Fri 6 Year 3 Beach Safety Program
- Mon 9 Public Holiday (Labour Day)
Welcome to 2015 at BPPS

Each fortnight the school newsletter contains a ‘Student Health and Happiness’ page. The purpose of this page is to keep families informed about student wellbeing items.

For students to achieve their learning potential they must feel safe and happy at school, and it is our goal to make Ballam Park Primary School such a place for everyone.

All staff have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of their students. The role of the Assistant Principal (Maree Renowden) is to assist families with student wellbeing, student referrals and links to outside agencies to support families at particular times of need.

Our school Chaplain, Mrs Angela Bilson, is also a valuable resource contact for both families and students. Please contact the Assistant Principal if you require the Chaplain’s assistance.

All new classes have discussed their rights and responsibilities as students and teachers in the classroom.

**Classroom Rights**

- **Students and the teacher have the right to do as much work as possible**
- **Students and the teacher have the right to feel comfortable and safe in the classroom**

When students take personal responsibility for ensuring these rights are there for everyone, then we have an orderly environment in order to achieve maximum learning for everyone.

Our school rules/behaviour expectations are easy to remember because we use our school’s initials.

**B**e friendly and respectful to others at school

**P**lay and work safely

**P**ersist when you face challenges

**S**trive to do your best.

Following each of these statements ensures our classrooms and playground are safe and fair places for everyone.

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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.**

There is no safe number of days for missing school — each day a student misses school puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

 Attendance patterns are established early — a child regularly missing days in Kinder or Prep will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower scores than their classmates.

It is vital that students go to school every day — even in the early years of primary school.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let the classroom teacher know so that we can work together to get your child to school every day.

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School Uniform

It is fantastic to see students wearing their school uniform; and many students now wearing our new polo shirts. Part of our uniform is a broad brimmed SunSmart hat. All students must wear their school hat for recess, lunchtime, PE lessons and Sport. Please ensure your child has a named school hat so that they can participate in these activities.

Only school windcheaters or school tops are to be worn at school. Girls wearing tights or leggings under their school dress must only be navy blue in colour — other coloured tights are not acceptable.

If you have any concerns regarding school uniform, please contact the Office.
PRIMARY MUSIC INSTITUTE

Keyboard Lessons At Your School

- Enrol TODAY – via PMI’s website OR enrolment forms available from the school front office
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus – with lessons during and outside of school hours
- Only $13.50 per child per small group lesson (typically 3-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Private lessons also available ($32.50 per child for 30 minutes)
- Learning plan for all students via “PMI Stars” program – structured objectives with progress visibility
- PMI teachers supply keyboards and textbooks for lessons (students bring only PMI Stars workbook)
- Ten minutes per day of practice at home is all that is required to see improvement!
- Instrumental music can improve your child’s school results – including for reading, maths, coordination
- Limited spaces available for Term 1 so please enroll ASAP

***STUDENT BANKING***

The student banking will resume in 2015 on Tuesday, 10th February 2015.

Student banking operates EVERY TUESDAY at our school, and parents of students who wish to open an account for their child may collect details and an application form from the school office.

If you would like more information regarding school banking, please contact Mrs Jo Lothian (parent volunteer) at the office.

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**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.

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**School term dates 2015-2017**

**2015**
Term 1: 28 January to 27 March *
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

**2016**
Term 1: 27 January (school teachers start) to 24 March *
Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
Term 3: 11 July to 16 September
Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

**2017**
Term 1: 30 January (school teachers start) to 31 March *
Term 2: 18 April to 30 June
Term 3: 17 July to 22 September
Term 4: 9 October to 22 December

* The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, so contact your school for details.

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**How to get started** — Before using our programs, you must register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Please visit our website to begin: [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

**Once registered** you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details any time of the day online. Please keep in mind we are able to take bookings at short notice to help busy families.

**Save on care** — You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more, call our Customer Service Team on 1300-105-343 Monday to Friday.

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**OSHC TIMES**

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**NEWS**

This week we have been having fun with caterpillar bubbles and creating a ping-pong launcher.

For bookings, please log on to: [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

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**Star of the Week**

Scott L

OSHC Co-ordinator: Judi Sullivan
Phone 0402-354-584

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**Outside School Hours Care with Camp Australia**
An invitation to join our Parents’ Club

Dear Parents

Everyone is welcome to come and join the Ballam Park Primary School Parents’ Club. Please come to meet other parents in the staff room at 9.00am, straight after morning assembly, on Tuesday, 10th February, if you are interested in becoming a member, and being involved in the Parents’ Club. Information on the role and purpose of the Parents’ Club will be provided, and we will also answer any questions.

The Parents’ Club is an important social part of the school community as well as being a group of parents who actively support the school with fundraising. It is also a very ‘child friendly’ group and toddlers and babies are most welcome, so please come along, enjoy a coffee and make some new friends.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Maree Renowden
(Assistant Principal)

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CANTEEN NEWS...

CANTEEN OPEN
The Canteen is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A 2015 Canteen price list was sent home this week.

SPECIAL LUNCH ON MONDAYS—HOT DOG ‘N’ DRINK
On Mondays ONLY, there is a special Canteen lunch Hot Dog ‘N’ Drink for $5.00.
A Hot Dog (with or without sauce) plus an LOL 100% Juice (carbonated)

Thank you to all our parents who support the Canteen.
Community Noticeboard

Guitar Tuition with Glen Vinton

On a musical note...

There are vacancies available for 1/2 hour guitar lessons at school on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS.

Please ask at the office for an ‘expression of interest’ form or, alternatively, ring Glen on 5979-4575 or 0437-440-265 for more information.

Private lessons are also available at my house in Hastings.

Glen Vinton
x10sivguitartuition.com.au
Ph: 5979-4575 or 0437-440-265
Email: glen@x10sivguitartuition.com.au

Learn to swim like a fish
Free introductory lesson
PHONE NOW 9775 7000
Kings Swim is located at 19-27 North Gateway, Langwarrin
www.kingswim.com.au

The school sincerely appreciates the sponsorship of both our school newsletter and school website by a variety of businesses, but please be aware that the school is not permitted to endorse or recommend any businesses.

Frankston YCW Junior Football Club

2015 Registration Night
Karingal Bulls Junior Football Club

Friday 13th February

- Players from all ages welcome: Auskick & U/9’s to U/17’s
- Free Sausage Sizzle – Meet Coaches
- Rides – Music – Raffles
- All fees paid in full on the day receive a free club training top
- 7pm to 10pm @ Karingal FC Clubrooms (Ballam Park, Off Naranga Cres)

Friendly family Club atmosphere
Awards & dinners every Sunday night at clubrooms

Contact: Kevin Dunne 0419 315 941 for further details

Catholic Religious Education classes, for Grade 3 and older children, in preparation for Reconciliation and First Communion, will commence on Tuesday, 17 February 2015. Enrolments will be taken between 4.00-4.30pm on Tuesday, 17 February, in the Parish House, 20 Coral Street, Frankston. Classes will begin that afternoon.

Also, any Grade 6 children who would like to be Confirmed in 2015 should leave their details at the Parish House on 9789 9672. Preparation class date to be advised.

For any further information, please contact Sr. Anita on 9776 1483 after 6.30pm.