PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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. On Tuesday of this week, information and nomination forms were sent home and this year there are three parent vacancies and two DET member vacancies.

- Representatives are elected for two years. Those representatives whose two year term ends are entitled to be nominated for re-election if they still have children attending Ballam Park PS in 2016.
- Nomination Forms must be lodged by 4:00pm on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016.
- The ballot will close at 4:00pm on Tuesday, 8th March 2016.
- Extra nomination forms are available at the school office. One can be emailed if you are unable to come in.

Staff Car Park
The staff car park is not to be used for student drop off or pick up before or after school.
The whole car park area is also a secondary college student walkway between 8:00am and 9:15am and between 3:00pm and 3:45pm.
Disabled car parks in the staff car park are there for people visiting the school who are disabled or for parents picking up a child who has a disability which precludes them from walking any distance to another car park area.
Parents with children in our OSHC Program may drive in before 8:15am or after 4:00pm.
There is a 10 KPH speed limit, giving way to all pedestrians.
Thank you to the vast majority of our parents who always exercise both common sense and a regard for student safety when choosing to park outside the school grounds.
As adults, we all need to model correct behaviour, and one of these is to honour the school’s request for safety to all.

Secondary College Students
We have contacted the secondary college requesting their students to remain outside our school fences until our school bell sounds, ending our day. We have had several situations where students are walking around in bare feet, peering into classrooms, loitering around entrances and sitting on the school main office steps. Whilst the students ‘mean no harm’, it is important that our students finish the day with minimal interruption. We also expect everyone to respect our school for what it is, a place to learn and a place for everyone to feel safe.

Parents’ Club AGM
This was held on Tuesday morning and we had ten parents attend, with two of them being from the new Prep/Foundation parents! Cherie Ridgway was re-elected to President and all positions were enthusiastically filled by other members. Thank you to all who attended and to those who gave their apologies. It is going to be exciting to be a part of this team as we will develop a sound collaborative approach with a common goal. Together we can make a big difference. If you would like be involved, please see the office where we can pass on your details to a member of this committee.

Parent/Teacher ‘Get to Know You’ Meetings
This will take place this Monday, 22nd February. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss your child with his/her teacher in general terms. Please note that this is not a reporting time.
Prep Barbecue
Now, before the rumours start spreading, there is NO truth in the rumour that the Principal cannot cook a sausage! However, Mrs Street DID get me talking and I must admit...I did burn about thirty sausages to a crisp! I did get much better though (no really, I did!).
Our Foundation students and their parents had a wonderful time at the recent Prep/Foundation barbecue which was held here at school on Wednesday. It was great to see so many students there with their parents. Everyone enjoyed the barbecue and had fun playing together, before being ‘bedazzled’ by Mr Magic himself, Mr Presto!
He performed some incredible magic and told some funny jokes which we all enjoyed. He even had some of our Foundation students performing with him! (I still cannot figure out where the rabbit went!)

Every day counts – school attendance
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.
Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10, they’ll have missed more than a year of school.
There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.
Coming to school every day is vital but, if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:
Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, please speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.
If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Twelve Tips for Parents
1. Accept your importance as a role model and make every effort to be the best role model you can be. Recognise that this may call for personal change and improvement.
2. Trusting that your children love you, allows you to do the “parent things” that may sometimes make them dislike you for a while.
3. Try to always be the adult you claim to be and have the emotional self-control to offer firm guidance, support and moral leadership. Sympathise with them but try not to solve their problems for them.
4. Separate your needs from those of your children. They can’t live your dreams.
5. Try to always use reason not rage. Avoid fighting fire with fire. Be in control of your feelings and your actions so that your children can learn to be in control of theirs.
6. Show faith in your school. Prepare your children to work hard so that teachers can help them to learn well. Establish rights, rules, responsibilities and routines in your household and let every child do their bit.
7. Give your child/ren jobs, healthy meals, the time to talk and the sleep they need.
8. Turn the TV off when you can, and turn the conversation on where possible.
9. Remember: loving them is easy, it’s rearing them that’s hard but it does get easier with practise.
10. Role model good manners at all times and ask for them in return. Good manners often diffuse conflict situations.
11. By acknowledging small improvements in behaviour, you make it easier for big improvements to follow.
12. Try to avoid thinking that you can save your children from getting hurt (emotionally or physically).

(Excerpt taken from Wilson McCaskill: - ‘Play Is The Way’ programme)

John Mace
Principal
Camps, sports and excursions fund (CSEF) eligibility

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;

Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR

Be a temporary foster parent, and;

Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Payment amounts
CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: $125 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

How to complete the application form
NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.
breaky club

Our (free) Breaky Club operates every morning, **Monday to Friday, from 8.15am to 8.45am** in the Canteen. The aim of the Breaky Club is to encourage all students to eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast. We look forward to seeing your child/children at Breaky Club!

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

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Teaching generations of young Australians the importance of saving and lifelong money skills since 1931.

‘Awesome Australian Adventures’ Competition...

Yep, this year in school banking, we’re going **Outback** outside and (hopefully) writing about our fabulous adventures!

Speaking of **Awesome Australian Adventures**...

This year’s competition is a ripper!!!

We have listened to all feedback—and so I can announce that...

**every child who banks 15 TIMES BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF TERM 3 will go into the draw to win:**

- Airfares for 2 Adults and 3 Children (under 17 years) to the Sunshine Coast
- 4 nights’ accommodation
- 5 days car hire, and
- $1,000 spending money!

Oh! And there’s also the **Platinum Tour of Australia Zoo** where your own personal professional photographer will capture you feeding, patting and cuddling the animals AND meeting Bob and Bindi Irwin!!! Howzat!

(Karen) Commonwealth Bank, School Banking Specialist
Almost all families are eligible. To find out more, call our Customer Service Team on 1300-105-343 Monday to Friday.

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

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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We have been learning about Dolphins and their environment, and also The Year of the Monkey

ALL OSHC CHILDREN WELCOME!

For bookings, please log on to: www.campaustralia.com.au

Star of the Week: James W (Prep) for being a wonderful team player

OSHSC Co-ordinator: Judit Sullivan
Phone 0402 354 584

Outside School Hours Care with Camp Australia
Dear Parents,

Kelly Sports is here at Ballam Park Primary School in Term 1. Kelly Sports provides sport clinics for primary school students run by qualified coaches.

In Term 1 students can participate in sports such as Cricket, Tennis and Crazy Games. The program runs from 3.40pm till 4.40pm after school, with parents picking up their children at 4.45pm from the school.

The cost is $60 for the term.

We are also running a Lunchtime Dance Program. The program runs for 6 weeks and started on Wednesday, 10th February. It finishes on Wednesday, 16th March.

The cost is $60 for the term.

Enrolment forms are available at the school office, or fill in the form on this page. Forms are also available online at www.kellysports.com.au

If you need help, please ring Michelle who will be able to help you out with the enrolment.

We hope to see your child participating in the sports clinics conducted by Kelly Sports at school this term.

If you have any questions please call:

Michelle Sommers,
Manager – Mornington Peninsula Region
on 0422 286 642
Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Kelly Clem, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(03) 8781 5937
or k Clem@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Appropriate attitudes towards alcohol

Did you know that parents have the greatest influence on their children attitudes about alcohol?

As children get older they are also influenced by their friends, the media and what they see on TV and in movies.

For children to develop a healthy attitude towards alcohol it is important to have positive role models.

As a parent, your child will challenge you about your own drinking so it is important to lead by example.

Here are some helpful ideas to promote appropriate attitudes towards alcohol:

- Limit the amount of alcohol you consume and encourage non-alcoholic family events
- Be honest with your kids. Talk to them about the importance of drinking alcohol moderately
- Never be afraid to answer their questions. It is a teenager’s desire to be treated like an adult which means discussing alcohol at home
- As a parent it is important to discuss the issue with your children and agree on rules and boundaries when it comes to alcohol

DrinkWise has created this simple 5 point plan for parents (DELAY):

D discuss the issue
E educate by example
L listen and engage
A a good relationship
Y your expectations

More information can be found at www.drinkwise.org.au
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

School term dates 2016-2017

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.

** Please check with your school when other student-free days will occur throughout the school year.


Notification of Religious Education Classes for State School Children, 2016

Catholic Religious Education classes, for Grade 3 and older children, in preparation for Reconciliation and First Communion, will commence on Tuesday, 23 February 2016, at 4.15pm. Enrolments will be taken on that day in the Parish House, 20 Coral Street, East Frankston between 4.15-4.30pm, and classes will begin that afternoon.

Also, any Grade 6 children who would like to be Confirmed in 2016 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