



OPEN SINCE 1875

A Caring Community School

NEWSLETTER

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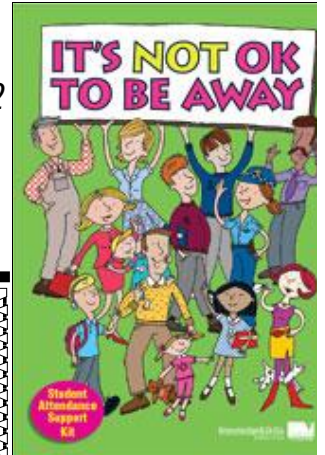
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ISSUE 4
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Principal: Lynette Hines

School Council President: ELIZABETH WHITFORD



TALLAROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL'S VISION:

To develop well adjusted individuals who strive to achieve their full potential in a dynamic, caring and supportive environment.

Student of the Week



Jack Lindner



Erin Mumford



Jaiden Donovan

Small Schools' Cluster Swimming Carnival



From the desk of the Principal....



Grade 4/5/6 Canberra Camp: Only 13 more sleeps until we leave for Canberra. Final paperwork will be sent home on Thursday. Please return the paperwork no later than 29 February.

District swimming: Good luck to the students who qualified to swim at the District Carnival tomorrow at Seymour. Thank you, in advance, to the parents who will be there to cheer our fantastic swimmers on.

SNICKS: Last Friday we hosted yet another SNICKS (Sharing and Networking IT Courses for Kids) session for 24 students from Flowerdale PS, Tooborac PS, Willowmavin PS, Pyalong PS, Longwood PS and our school. I'd like to congratulate all the participants who demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to be the very best mentors they can be. Over the next week the students who attended from Tallarook PS will have the opportunity to begin putting their skills into action by running small group workshops at lunch times.

Pancake Day : I'd like to thank Natalie Tonkin for her sensational organisational skills in preparing the batter and in assisting with feeding the hordes! Thank you Bec for providing the momentum to harness the parent involvement in keeping this Day going. The pancakes were yummy and totally enjoyed by everyone who had the pleasure of being at school to feast!

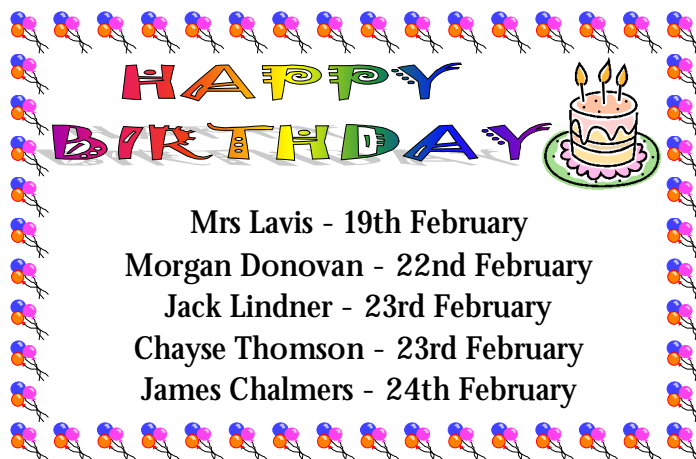
Health and Physical Education: Now that the swimming program is over for 2012, we can concentrate our energies on Dance for the rest of this term. Students will be dancing before school, at the end of recess and lunch time each day as well as participate in the Dance program being run by an outside expert. Please help your child be prepared for the physical activity each day by ensuring they are wearing appropriate footwear.

MARC: Next Monday, Libby Ahern will be visiting for the second visit. Please ensure your child returns any books borrowed from Yea Library by Monday so they can borrow new books. The Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge is on again so ensure your child records every book they read into their diary or reading journal. The book title and author's name must be recorded if the book is to count towards your child's challenge list.

Curriculum Day: Please make a special diary note that our first Curriculum Day will be held on Tuesday 13th March. On this day students are not required at school as it is a professional learning day for all staff.

Wishing you all a great week,

Lynette Hines



Look what's happening in the week ahead

PREP

It's great to see the Preps settling into their morning and afternoon routines so quickly. Today we enjoyed doing painting in Art with Miss Hodge. Next week on Monday we will be having Libby Library so don't forget to bring your library books back this week. This week during Literacy we will be working on letter formation and starting in the correct position. We will also be focusing on the sequence of stories. During Numeracy we are working on the numbers 1 to 10. We will be practicing counting forwards and backwards and practice making groups of objects up to 10. On Friday we will have our 2nd week of dancing. We will have two sessions, one at 11:30am and one at 12:50pm. Have a great week everyone.

GRADE 1/2/3

Following the viewing of the movie 'Toy Story 3', the students have been identifying and discussing personal changes and growth over time. We have talked about how the main character, 'Andy' grew and changed, and how the toys he once loved, temporarily became discarded. The students have organised photos of growth over time (eg. tadpoles to frogs, kittens to cats). Also this week we have named our wizard. His name is Leon the wise old wizard.

Last week we introduced the students to simple fractions. This week we will be dividing various foods into halves, thirds and quarters. At home, it would be helpful if you could draw your child's attention to things that are cut into fractions. We are also looking at skip counting and patterns in number.

All students should be bringing their reading book and diaries home each day. Please listen to your child read, and don't forget to sign. This week we are having a focus on using the phrase 'mum/dad and I going to the market', rather than the common "Me and mum/dad are going to the market". Most students are now self-correcting.

In order to get to meet the parents of my students, I would like to organise an informal chat with each family at a mutually suitable time. Could you please write in your child's diary whether you prefer before or after school, and which days you would be available. I will then match your diary with mine and notify you of a time. I'm looking forward to getting to know my families.

GRADE 4/5/6

The grade 4/5/6 s have been able to continue their great start to the year. The boys and the girls have both embraced the dancing classes enthusiastically. It has been great to watch them have so much fun and learn new dances at the same time. As a class we are starting to prepare for our camp. The students will continue to gather information to ensure that their time in Canberra is a rewarding experience. At the moment we are looking at websites and other resources that will help us gain a deeper understanding of our laws. We are also looking at some of the things that they will be experiencing while they are there. In numeracy we are preparing to do some hands on activities related to location and also looking at place value. In literacy the students are completing their work on recounts and moving towards narratives. The students have had a fantastic time in art.

2011 SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM 1: 2nd February 2012 - 30th March 2012

TERM 2: 16 April 2012 - 29 June 2012

TERM 3: 16 July 2012 - 21 September 2012

TERM 4: 8 October 2012 - 21 December 2012

CURRICULUM FREE DAYS

These are student free days where teachers can focus on professional development and learning.

✓ **Tuesday, 13th March**

✓ **Friday, 8th June**

✓ **Friday, 23rd November**

PREP INFORMATION NIGHT

Come and join us for a social night hosted by Mrs Pollard. The main purpose is to provide a forum where we can all get to meet each other while we explore and clarify the routines and perhaps some uncertainties around the unfamiliar requirements of school.

When: Tuesday 28th February @ 6:00 pm

Where: Multi Purpose Hall

Sausages and bread provided for entire family - Mrs Hines to supervise children eating while Mrs Pollard and adults mingle!

GRADE 1 - 6 DAILY READING REQUIREMENTS

Daily reading is the minimum homework expectation for EVERY student (including Preps) at Tallarook Primary School. Please click [here](#) for more information regarding our [Homework Policy](#). Below is some additional information to support you at home with information your child would have received if they are in Grade 1 through to Grade 6. Prep daily reading requirements are slightly different and will be addressed directly with Prep parents.

The classroom teacher will ensure your child is provided with books that are appropriate for their reading age or stage of learning. Teachers select books for a variety of reasons however one of the most important reasons is so that your child can practise fluency, phrasing and expression when reading aloud to you. Your child must read the books allocated to them by the classroom teacher before they spend time reading books of their own choice. We encourage shared reading of books you and your child select as choice books however we ask that you take the time to first ensure your child reads aloud to you from the book the teacher has allocated. If your child is negative about home reading and it is becoming a challenge to complete at home, please chat to the classroom teacher as together solutions that will progress your child's reading experience can be achieved.

After your child has finished their daily reading they must complete the following into their diary:

- The Title:
- The Author:
- Pages Read:
- A comment about the story:
- The number of reading nights:

Once they have written those FIVE things we ask you to sign the diary. This will help your child develop daily habits around using their diary and will also allow you the opportunity to encourage their daily reading as well as provide a regular place where parents and teachers can communicate. Grade 1 parents could write the FIVE required items for their child however we would encourage that you ask your child to tell you what you have to write so they still take ownership for what's being recorded.

If your child does not complete home reading or complete their diary as stated above, then they will be required to do this at school during lunch time. Prep and Grade 1 will be required to read for 10 minutes on the veranda while Grade 2 - 6 will be required to read for 20 minutes. The yard duty teacher will sign off on this reading and it will be counted as a reading night.

If you require any additional information or have concerns about your child's home reading, please arrange to chat with the classroom teacher.

Thank you for your support.

MEET THE WIZARD IN GRADE 1/2/3



Meet Leon the wise old Wizard in grade 1/2/3. He is our metacognition (thinking about thinking) coach. The students voted on his name. We have discussed what characteristics he should have and how he could help us to think about things.



As part of our 'Growing Older, Growing Wiser' unit, we have been observing and discussing changes that occur over our lifetimes. We worked in groups to cooperatively make posters of things that humans can do at each stage of their lives.

Caring

This week we are focusing on the value of 'Caring'. On Friday the whole school discussed how we show the value of Caring. We then worked together on showing role plays of the value.



I tell the truth in a tactful way.



I have zero tolerance of bullying.



I encourage humour and laughter.



Everyone has the right to feel safe.



I build positive relationships.





Dancing

On Friday we had the first of our dance sessions. The Prep-Grade 2's and the Grade 3-6's took part in two 40 minutes sessions of dancing. Throughout Term 1 we will have 5 weeks of dancing (10 sessions). Everyone enjoyed the dancing and we all learnt some great new dance steps.





variety
the children's charity

Dress Up Day Friday 24th

Come dressed up as your favourite Hero this Friday. Your Hero could be Superman, Spiderman, your Mum, Dad, a Grandparent, a police officer, a soldier or a fire-fighter.

To help raise funds which will all go towards the 2012 Variety Brat's Bash, we are asking for a gold coin donation from every student.

Variety, this children's charity works directly with individual families and organisations. Variety's mission is to empower Victorian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to Live, Laugh and Learn.

The Brat's Bash is a family friendly Bash event whose participants include children and adults alike - all of whom enjoy the great outdoors.

This Friday, at recess, we'll have one of the cars that is being used in the Brat's Bash visiting our school for students to have a look at.

To raise additional funds for Variety we will have treats for sale at lunch time from this Friday until next Thursday. The treats being sold will be items such as cupcakes, jelly, zooper dopers, etc. All items will sell for \$1.00 each. It will be a daily surprise as to which item is available each day. Please do not expect this treat to be your child's lunch as sales will only commence after students have eaten the lunch packed for them each day



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Dear Parent/Guardian

As patron of the 2012 Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, and on behalf of the former Premiers John Cain, Joan Kirner, Jeff Kennett, Steve Bracks and John Brumby, I am delighted to invite your children to participate in the eighth annual Premiers' Reading Challenge.

Since 2005 the Challenge has promoted the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and encouraged families and parents to be more involved with supporting children's reading in and beyond school.

This year is the National Year of Reading, so it's a perfect time for students to be inspired by the Challenge and to discover the magical power of books. It is an ideal opportunity for parents and families to share in these discoveries too.

Parents with children who are new to the Challenge will soon find out that this program provides an easy and fun way for students in years Prep to 10 to record their reading as they try to reach the set reading targets.

Those of you with children who have participated in previous Challenges will know that, as well as the personal rewards reading brings, there are also certificates of achievement for students who reach their reading targets.

Also returning in 2012 are the Challenge Ambassadors. These well-known authors, illustrators and children's entertainers will again visit schools around the State to promote reading. I am pleased to announce that one of the Ambassadors will design this year's certificate, which will be promoted as a collector's edition.

More information about the Premiers' Reading Challenge can be found on the official website at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc. The website provides comprehensive information about key dates, answers to frequently asked questions by parents and students, guidelines for schools and, of course, the 2012 Challenge booklists.

This year the Challenge booklists have been expanded and I encourage you to search them with your children to find much-loved treasures as well as new releases. There are thousands of books from which to choose, including fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry, short stories and graphic novels.

Along with former Premiers of Victoria, I encourage your children to participate in what promises to be a bigger and better Challenge than ever before.

Regards

Ted Baillieu MLA
Premier of Victoria



EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides assistance to eligible families by helping with the costs associated with the education of their children. In 2011 the EMA payment for parents/guardians is **\$235 for primary school students** and **\$470 for secondary students**. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school and is paid in two instalments.

The first instalment will comprise 70 per cent of the EMA and will be paid from March 2011. The second instalment will comprise the remaining 30 per cent and will be paid from August 2011. This payment schedule recognises that families incur the highest educational costs at the start of the school year.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the EMA, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent;
- and submit your application to the school by the due date.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of 1st Term (**1 February 2012** which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of 3rd Term (**16 July 2011**) for the second instalment. Any applications based on Centrelink payments that are not income tested (e.g. Carer Allowance, formerly Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance and Remote Area Allowance) are not eligible unless the claimant, in their own name, complies with the second dot point above. The EMA is payable up until the age of 16 years. Once a student turns 16, they should apply for Youth Allowance through Centrelink. For further information visit www.centrelink.gov.au

Application Forms

Application forms are available from your child's school. A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools. Please submit your application to your child's school by **29 February 2012** for the first instalment of the EMA and by **3 August 2012** for the second instalment of the EMA unless your child remains enrolled at the same school and you were paid the first EMA instalment.

Conveyance Allowance

Student eligibility:

To be eligible to receive a conveyance allowance, a student must:

- be school age
- reside more than 4.8 kms by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school attended, or 4.8 kms radial distance from the nearest school attended in the cities of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong
- be enrolled at the nearest government primary or secondary school, or at the nearest appropriate registered non-government school having regard to the following factors:
 - a student is ineligible for a conveyance allowance if there is a nearer denominational school of the same denomination as the school attended. Multi-/inter-denominational schools established under the direct auspices of a group of churches will be considered as denominational schools of each church
 - a student cannot claim a conveyance allowance if there is a nearer multi-/inter-denominational or Christian school than the multi-/inter-denominational or Christian school attended
 - a student cannot claim a conveyance allowance if there is a nearer non-denominational school than the non-denominational school attended.

Notes

- Students must be enrolled at a primary or secondary school to be entitled to a conveyance allowance. Students attending TAFE institutes or other non-school providers are not eligible to claim a conveyance allowance.
- A conveyance allowance may be granted for students to attend their nearest single sex school.
- The requirement to attend the nearest school may be waived for those students who were enrolled at a school that amalgamated with another school. This exemption only applies to those students initially enrolled at the site that closed.
- The classification of denomination for non-government schools is in accordance with the records of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

Applications forms can be collected from the office and must be returned by 29th February 2012.