ISSUE 1
1st February 2016

TALLAROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL'S VISION:
To develop well adjusted individuals who strive to achieve their full potential in a dynamic, caring and supportive environment.

What’s Happening This Week
Monday, 1st February ~ MACC (Art)
Wednesday, 3rd February ~ Prep students not required at school
Friday, 5th February ~ Assembly, 3pm

What’s Happening Next Week
Monday, 8th February ~ MARC (Library)
Monday, 8th February - Friday, 12th February ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming Program @ Tallarook Pool 1:15pm-3:15pm
Tuesday, 9th February ~ Pancake Day
Tuesday, 9th February ~ Excel Music Lessons 10am-1pm. Information Session - 11am
Wednesday, 10th February ~ Prep students not required at school
Thursday, 11th February ~ Information Night / Meet & Greet 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Friday, 12th February ~ Assembly, 3pm

What’s Happening the Following Week
Monday, 15th February ~ MACC (Art)
Monday, 15th February ~ Parent’s & Friends Club Meeting, 9am
Monday, 15th February ~ Parent Helpers Course 6:30pm-7:30pm
Tuesday, 16th February ~ School Photos
Wednesday, 17th February ~ Prep students not required at school
Friday, 19th February ~ District Swimming
Friday, 19th February ~ Assembly, 3pm
Welcome back to the 2016 school year. We have had an extremely smooth start, thanks to our 2015 transition program. Our Prep students happily entered their classrooms and our new parents appeared quite happy, albeit a little sad to wave cheerio! This year we are delighted to welcome six new families to Tallarook Primary School. We thank you for choosing us as your school of preference and certainly accept this responsibility with much excitement. In addition to our 12 Prep students, we welcome two other new students across grades one to six. We look forward to assisting all our students achieve their educational goals.

**Start of the year reminders** ~ As it is the start of the year, there are a few pieces of general information following that need to be shared once again with all families:

**Wednesdays in February:** For the month of February, Prep students are not required at school on Wednesdays. The Dabyminga Learning Space teachers (Mrs Pollard and Mr Quarrell) will make individual appointments with parents to bring these students in for assessments.

**School staff:** We’ve had several changes to staffing this year. I’d like to farewell Annabel who over the holidays vacated the position of Welfare Officer in order to further develop her Art Therapy practice. In her place I’d like to welcome Katerina Stathis who is a qualified Music Therapist and Social Worker. I’d also like to welcome Jacqueline Cullum who will be teaching Indonesian to all our students. So, in a nutshell, the Tallarook Primary School staff for 2016 are as follows:

**Classroom teachers:**
- Dabyminga Learning Space (Prep-Grade 2) ~ Mrs Pollard and Mr Quarrell
- Rook Ranges Learning Space (Grade 3-6) ~ Mrs McDonald, Miss Hurst and Miss Vandenhoven

**Specialist teachers:**
- Indonesian ~ Mrs Cullum
- ICT and Drama ~ Mrs Sherwood

**Support staff:**
- Welfare Officer ~ Miss Stathis
- Teacher Support ~ Lindy Plenty
- Student Support Services Officer ~ Carmel Biro
- MACC (Art) ~ Miss Hodge
- MARC (Library) ~ Mrs Ahern
- Pastoral Care Officer ~ Peter Ackland
- Teacher Support ~ Sarah Stritthoff

**Administration:**
- Principal ~ Lynette Robberts
- Business Manager ~ Nicole Rotherham

**Staff meetings:** All staff attend meetings at school on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:45-5:00pm. We certainly encourage parents to catch up casually with teachers as the need arises, but please be aware that staff will need to excuse themselves for these compulsory meetings. Parents are encouraged to make a meeting time with staff to hold longer discussions as this will also ensure the staff member can give you their full attention.

**Involvement in school:** We enjoy and welcome parent participation at school. Over the coming weeks you will be invited to join our classroom helpers program, Parents and Friends’ Club or nominate for School Council. For parents who are time poor and cannot commit to assisting during working hours, we have ways in which you can assist at home – either covering library books or home readers, researching information, laminating or cutting out classroom resources and many more. No experience is necessary to assist with the jobs within our school. It’s a great way to meet other school families.

**Classroom helpers:** In order to assist in the classroom at Tallarook Primary we ask that you attend at least one Classroom Helper’s Program and obtain a Working With Children Check. Please visit us in the office if you have any questions regarding these requirements. The next Classroom Helpers Course will be held on Monday, 15th February from 6:30-7:30pm. Even if you’ve completed a course in the past you are most welcome to come again as the strategies and skills discussed can be useful when assisting your child at home too.

**School swimming program:** Our Grade 3-6 students will be participating in this program all of next week at the Tallarook Outdoor Pool. The Prep-Grade 2 swimming program will take place at the Seymour Indoor Pool on Friday, 11th March. Permission notes and additional information will be sent home tomorrow.

**Daily reading:** Our students are expected to read daily. In the past we celebrated ‘reading nights’. At assembly this Friday we will give students a certificate to recognise the reading nights over the holiday period. From today we will begin counting every reading session that is signed off in students’ diaries beginning with ONE from tonight.

**Lunch Time Clubs:** If you can be available to organise and run or supervise a lunch time club, please see me as our students are very keen to get lunch time clubs going again.

**TEAM:** As our students embark on the TEAM Program, they are learning about all about Values. Specifically our students will be learning about, and doing activities, that focus on the Tallarook Primary School Values and why we have them. They will also be learning how to work together collaboratively and cooperatively. Each week we will focus on a different school value beginning this week with CARING. Our school values are — Fair Go, Caring, Respect, Responsibility and Personal Achievement. Over the next few weeks students will be also be learning about perseverance and the importance of making mistakes so as to learn. Following that time they will focus on the topic of bullying, i.e. What is bullying? Who is a bully? Who is a target? What to do if you are bullied. What are bystanders?

**School Camp:** Grade 1-6 students will be going on camp on Monday, 7th March to Campaspe Downs, Kyneton. The Grade 1 & 2 students will be there for two days and one night and the Grade 3-6 students will be there for three days and two nights. Further details will be included in a separate letter sent home with students tomorrow.

**Student Leaders:** Our Grade 6 students received their leadership badges today. Again, congratulations and best wishes for a sensational final year at primary school.

**Assembly:** Our weekly celebration of school learning and achievement will take place each Friday at 3pm. Looking forward to seeing you there. This Friday students from each Learning Space will share important elements from the TEAM program.

Finally, on behalf of our entire school community I’d like to express thanks to the following community members who helped prepare our school grounds for the beginning of the year:

- Greg Lindner for preparing the space for the new storage container, Leigh Arandt and Adam Mumford for their work on the Chook House, Cheryl Greenshields and Bronwyn Arandt for cleaning up of the undercover area, Geoff Rotherham for modifying the sandpit to keep the sand in and Warrick Kendall for loaning the equipment required by Greg to prepare the space for the storage container.

Have a great week………………… Lynette Robberts
2016 TERM DATES

Term 1: Monday, 1st February 2016 to Thursday, 24th March
Term 2: Monday, 11th April to Friday, 24th June
Term 3: Monday, 11th July to Friday, 16th September
Term 4: Monday, 3rd October to Tuesday, 20th December

2016 CURRICULUM DAYS
(student free days)
Friday, 11th November

2016 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Monday, 14 March ~ Labour Day
Friday, 25 March ~ Good Friday
Monday, 28 March ~ Easter Monday
Monday, 25 April ~ ANZAC Day
Monday, 13 June ~ Queen’s Birthday
Tuesday, 1 November ~ Melbourne Cup Day

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff, and visitors. The school recommends that these items not be brought to school, in particular valuables such as mobile phones, iPods, etc.

To promote equity at school we also ask that NO students bring toys or sports equipment to school to use before, during or after school. We will organise lunch time clubs and borrowing of sports equipment in the next couple of weeks.

Tissues

Would families please send along a box of tissues with each child for their classroom. Thank you

Pancake Day

Tuesday, 9th February 2016

Breakfast Club will be running a Pancake Breakfast next Tuesday from 7:45am. All funds will be forwarded to Uniting Care. To assist with catering, please indicate, on the form below, how many Pancakes you wish to order. Pancakes cost 50c each and include a topping of your choice (maple syrup, lemon, sugar, or jam).

Please return order form and money to the office no later than Friday, 5th February.

PANCAKE DAY ORDER FORM

Family Name: ........................................................................................................................................

Child’s name: ................................. No of Pancakes @ 50c each: ........ Total: ...........

Child’s name: ................................. No of Pancakes @ 50c each: ........ Total: ...........

Child’s name: ................................. No of Pancakes @ 50c each: ........ Total: ...........

Total Enclosed: $..........................
WHAT IS ‘CLEAN FOOD’?

Students are encouraged to enjoy a healthy snack whilst working at their desks. ‘Clean food’ is a snack that can be eaten without creating messy tables, sticky fingers or smudged work. It preferably comes to school in a small reusable container and does not require the students to leave their desks to peel fruit into the bin or leave the classroom to wash hands afterwards. The idea is for the student to be able to eat the snack whilst still working.

We would like to give you some examples of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ ‘clean foods’ to assist you with providing this healthy snack for your child.

‘Good’ clean food:
- small apples or large apples cut into smaller pieces
- grapes
- cheese cubes and kabana
- carrot sticks
- celery sticks (topped with cream cheese or peanut butter is great but please do this at home – too time-consuming for students to be doing in classroom)
- dried fruit, nuts and seeds

‘Bad’ clean food: (healthy to eat but more suitable for recess/lunch time)
- oranges (even when cut in quarters they drip and create sticky fingers and if not cut they require the student to stop work to peel them)
- mandarins already peeled and segmented
- bananas
- pears, strawberries (create sticky fingers and juice drips onto work)
- watermelon (too juicy, messy and sticky)
- muesli bars, fruit bars etc are ‘clean’ to eat but these foods are suitable for recess and not during ‘healthy snack time’

P.S – don’t hesitate to have a chat to your child’s teacher if you are in doubt or have any queries!
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Tallara Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00 pm on 08/02/16. The ballot will close at 3:00 pm on 22/02/16.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Lynette Robberds
Principal

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

Applications Close
29th February 2016
School Council Elections – Information for Parents
School Council Elections 2016

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Lynette Robberts for further information.
CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance to help families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school/campus. The conveyance allowance is available to eligible students travelling by public transport, private car and private bus. The conveyance allowance is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

Eligibility criteria:
The eligibility criteria varies depending on the type of school attended and where it is located. Students attending a government or non-government school must:
• attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible
• be enrolled at a school/campus outside Melbourne’s metropolitan conveyance boundary
• reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended
• be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

Students attending a government or non-government specialist school or Department-recognised special setting must:
• attend their nearest government or non-government specialist school or Department-recognised special setting
• reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended
• reside within the Designated Transport Area (DTA) for the government specialist school attended (applicable to government students only)
• be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

Note: Specialist schools and special settings located within metropolitan Melbourne are not subject to the conveyance allowance boundary and students may apply for a conveyance allowance. Special settings include:
• deaf facilities
• English language schools and centres
• re-engagement centres
• Secondary Teaching Units.

Note: Department-recognised special settings such as deaf facilities and re-engagement centres are determined by the Wellbeing Health and Engagement Division

Payment amounts:
Depending on how a student travels to school, an eligible student may be granted a conveyance allowance based on:
• the least expensive public transport fares; and/or
• a distance based allowance when travel is by private car and/or private bus.

Application forms can be collected from the office. All applications need to be received by the school no later than Monday, 29th February 2016.
Have you ever thought...

‘If only my children would listen, things would be calmer at our house!’ or

‘Sometimes my child’s behaviour makes me feel really angry’?

You are not alone!

Come and join us at the:

‘Tuning in to Kids’ Parenting Program

A six session ‘emotion coaching’ program for parents and carers of primary school age children where you will learn how to

• Communicate with your child.
• Understand your child’s needs and emotions.
• Help your child learn to manage their emotions.
• Assist your child to deal with conflict.
• Have the tools to help manage your child’s behaviour

Starting: Thursday 4th February 2016 for 6 Thursday evenings
Time: 7pm to 9pm
At: Broadford Community Centre
158 – 162 High Street Broadford

This is a free program.
Program is open to all members of the public
Bookings are essential as places are limited

To register or for further information contact Joanne at Primary Care Connect
Tel: 5823 3200

Brought to you by Hume Region Parent Education Service