ISSUE 1
30th January 2015

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…
♦ Thursday, 29th January ~ Start Term 1
♦ Friday, 30th January ~ Assembly 3pm
♦ Sunday, 1st February ~ Working Bee 8:30am

What’s Happening Next Week…
♦ Thursday, 5th February
~ Newspaper to take Prep photo 11:30am
~ Prep Information Night - 6:30pm
♦ Friday, 6th February to Thursday, 12th February
Gr 2-6 Swimming Program 1pm-3:15pm at Tallarook Pool. Parent Helpers required for walking to and from pool.

What’s Happening later in this term …
♦ Friday, 13th February ~ Meet & Greet Family Night - details to follow.
♦ Wednesday, 18th February ~ McHargaroook Cluster Swimming Carnival Grade 2-6 at Lancefield Swimming Pool
♦ Friday, 20th February ~ School Photos
♦ Friday, 27th February ~ Curriculum Day - students not required at school on this day.
♦ Thursday, 5th March ~ Prep-Gr 1 Swimming Program 10:15am-2:15pm at Seymour Sports & Aquatic Centre
♦ Friday, 6th March ~ Gr 3-6 Movie Night 7pm-11pm
♦ Monday, 9th March ~ Labour Day Holiday
♦ Friday, 13th March ~ Gr 4-6 Summer Sports Day at Wallan
♦ Friday, 20th March ~ Prep-Gr 2 Movie Night 7pm-10pm
♦ Monday, 23rd March ~ Curriculum Day - students not required at school on this day.
♦ Wednesday, 25th March ~ McHargaroook Cluster Cross Country 10am-3pm

DET STAFF CAR PARKING
We have limited car parking spaces in the staff car park, please could parents/visitors to our school, park on the road and not drive or walk through the staff car park to enter the school yard. We encourage you to teach your children to walk along the pathways and use the school crossing whenever possible. Please only allow your children to enter and leave the school property through the front gates. Thank you for helping us keeping ALL our students safe!

VISITING THE SCHOOL
Department guidelines stipulate that visitors to our school are required to sign in at the office before going to the classroom or working around the grounds.

Remember, if you’re doing more than dropping off or collecting from school you must sign into the Visitors book at the Office. Thanks.

SCHOOL CROSSING
A reminder to families to use the school crossing when crossing Main Road.

The school crossing is supervised between 8:15am to 9:00am and between 3:15pm to 4:00pm.

Events will be added/updated on the School Website Calendar on a regular basis.
Welcome back to all of our families for the 2015 school year. It was a real pleasure to see so many smiley happy faces yesterday. I’m delighted to report that we’re off to a very positive start in all the classrooms – well done everyone!

A special welcome to Josh & Zac Kennedy, Huw & Rhys Cocking, Matilda Fry, Kiara Nedanovski as well as all the new Prep students: (Darcy Arandt, Max Barclay, Katie Barnbrook, Evie Birks, Saxon Boyd, Aysa Crawley, Cruze Daynes, Blake Dyson, Leon Goode, Georgia Hoppner, Nic Houghton, Maxx Huret, Benny McCarthy, Andrew McGhie, Lachlan McMaster, Zeth Monaghan, Kaiden Morritt, William Munro, Stephen Reilly, Amber Sherwood and Levi Thomson) and their respective families. We look forward to an exciting learning journey with you all.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to welcome Catherine Hurst and Brooke McDonald to Tallarook Primary School as the Prep classroom teachers. Brooke will teach on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday while Catherine will teach Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Catherine and Brooke are both keen and energized about taking up a teaching role with us and are enthusiastic about their shared teaching responsibilities. Best wishes especially to Brooke and Catherine (newbies) but also to Jonathan, Kelly and Vera who return in new Grade levels to another sensational year at TPS!

At the end of last term several parents attended a Parent Forum where we engaged in honest and meaningful conversation that has helped us make more informed decisions about student reports, opportunities for engagement and increased communication as well as programs to be run in our school. Parents requested these forums be held regularly so I’ve slotted one in for each term. These have all be inserted onto the school calendar on the website. This term’s Parent Forum will be held on Thursday, 12th March at 9am in the Alec McKay Building.

A couple of important announcements:
• Assembly to be held every Friday at 3:00pm, on the asphalt, except during the Grade 2-6 swimming program when they will be held at 9:00am.
• Junior School Council badge presentation next Friday at 9:00am.
• The Grade 2-6 swimming program begins next week. We require additional adult helpers to assist during the walk to and from the pool. Please let Vera or Kelly know if you’re available to assist.

Hope to see many of you at Sunday’s Working Bee from 8:30am.  

Lynette Robberts

PS. Our next newsletter will be sent home on Monday, 9th February.
Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the new school year. It’s been so great meeting new families and see our returning families again.

I am at TPS on Thursdays this year, working in school Wellbeing. Students and families are welcome to come chat with me anytime, about any concerns at home or at school. Communication is everything and I am here to support families so that your kids can be happy, resilient learners at school.

Just a quick reminder about children with medical conditions; please make sure the school knows and the appropriate management plans are up to date and school has a copy. Also HATS this term as part of our SunSmart policy ;)

Annabel :)

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**2015 Term Dates**

Term 1: 29th January — 27th March  
Term 2: 13th April — 26th June  
Term 3: 13th July — 18th September  
Term 4: 5th October — 18th December

**Curriculum Days**

*Students are not required at school on the following days this year:*  
Friday, 27th February  
Monday, 23rd March  
Monday, 2nd November

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonable low cost student accident insurance policies are available from the private insurance market. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare.

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**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 arrange lunch time clubs and borrow of sports equipment in the next couple of weeks.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Isabella Warrior - 8th January  
Alex Sherwood - 11th January  
Zac Kennedy - 20th January  
Jake Quinn - 27th January  
Levi Thomson - 29th January  
Kiara Nedanovski - 31st January  
Kaylan Atar - 2nd February  
Summer Dawson - 4th February  
Abbey Kendell - 4th February  
Will McGhie - 8th February  
Mahni Thomson - 8th February

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**Tissues**

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

Thank you
Thank you to all those families who worked so hard at labelling all stationery and returning it to school today. If you haven’t yet completed this huge task, please could you ensure you send all items to school as soon as you manage to do so.

It was wonderful seeing so many students with drink bottles and healthy snacks today. Please continue helping us establish regular school routines and effective learning by ensuring your child is at school punctually and has plenty of healthy clean snacks and food (in reusable containers) as well as a refillable drink bottle containing water each day.

Home/school communication is essential in building positive relationships. Our intention is to send any correspondence such as newsletters, permission notes, etc home on Mondays, whenever practicable. Newsletters will also be available on our school website (www.tallaroo ks.vic.edu.au) by close of business on Mondays. Please help your child develop a routine that involves sharing their diary with you each day as well as your expectations regarding any communication from school. Any correspondence (notes or money) you send back to school must be placed in a ziplock bag or envelope with your family name visible on the outside and then placed into the classroom basket by your child.

Daily home reading will be sent home next week. It is an expectation that every child reads daily and completes their diary, as instructed by their classroom teacher.

Over this week and into next, we will all be completing a variety of TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) activities with our students. We will look at setting up positive learning spaces and making sure that all students have their voice heard while we have discussions about what an effective classroom, teacher and student is. Please encourage your child to share their day with you. Some prompts to get conversation going: “Tell me the most fun thing you did today.” “What was the most interesting thing that happened at school (or in the classroom) (or at playtime) today?” “What was the funniest thing you saw/heard/did today?” “Tell me one new thing you learnt today” “Did you have any surprises today?” Students from each classroom will share some of their work during assembly tomorrow (Friday 30 January).

Next week, our Grade 2-6 students will participate in the swimming program at the Tallarook Outdoor Swimming Pool. At school, the main focus will be on continuing the work done this week with regards to building a positive school climate. Staff and students will work to ensure that all students know the code of conduct as well as our school values. Due to the swimming program assembly next week will be held at 9:00am on Friday morning.

MACC (visiting Visual Art teacher) and MARC (visiting Library teacher) will be offered on alternate Mondays. MACC will begin this Monday, while MARC will begin the following Monday. If your child does not already have an Art smock at school please send one in as soon as possible as students will not be participating in art sessions if they do not have the appropriate protective clothing.

Music/Performing Arts will be delivered by Luci Sherwood on Wednesdays.

LOTE (Indonesian) will take place on Fridays in a similar format as last year. Soedjono and our classroom teachers will work together to ensure our students are given every opportunity to build language and cultural awareness and knowledge of Indonesia.

Our new Daily Session Times:
- Session 1 ~ 9.00am - 11.00am
- Recess ~ 11.00am - 11.30am
- Session 2 ~ 11.30am - 1.00pm
- Lunch ~ 1.00pm - 2.00pm
- Session 3 ~ 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Classroom timetables will be inserted into your child’s diary next week and will be included on the website. Information sessions will be held by class teachers, in the Alec McKay Building, as follows: Thursday 5th February at 6:30pm for Prep parents and Friday 13th February. I encourage all parents to attend these sessions as staff will clarify their expectations and aspirations for the year.

To help your child feel organised and ready for the day we ask for your child to be at school no later than 8.50am. This will also allow your child to spend time socialising and catching up with their friends before entering the classroom. We remind families of students not using the bus service that students should NOT arrive at school before 8.30am, as staff use this time to set up classrooms and hold meetings, and cannot supervise additional students in the yard.
Parent Helpers Course

Our school policy states that any adult volunteering or wanting to be actively involved in assisting with student learning at Tallarook Primary are to first complete a Parent Helpers Course as well as obtain a Working With Children’s Check.

Our next Parent Helpers Course will be run on Tuesday, 17th February at 6:30pm.

Attending the Parent Helpers Course will also provide you with many strategies you can use at home to support your child with their learning at school. This Course is not just useful for parents wishing to volunteer at school, it is also useful in helping you understand the processes that take place at school and to assist you with developing relationships within the learning community. Please complete and return the reply slip, if you wish to attend.

Parent Helpers Course Reply Slip

Name: ………………………………………………………………..

Yes, I will be attending the Parent Helpers Course on Tuesday, 17th February.

Please return slip to the office no later than Friday, 13th February.

School Council Elections 2015

Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

Tallarook Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00 pm on

13. 02. 15 (insert date and year).

The ballot will close at 4:00 pm on

20. 02. 15 (insert date and year)

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 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017</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 Roberts

Principal
School Council Elections – Information for Parents
School Council Elections 2015

**What is a school council and what does it do?**
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?**
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 employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school. Tallarook Primary requires FIVE in this category.

- **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. Tallarook Primary requires THREE in this category.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Tallarook Primary requires TWO in this category.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

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.

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.