NEWSLETTER

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PRINCIPAL: LYNETTE ROBERTS
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT: SHARON DWYER

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
Wednesday, 1 February ~ Prep students not required at school
Friday, 3 February ~ Assembly, 9:00am
Friday, 3 February ~ Billy Tea Bush Band (refer page 5)

What’s Happening Next Week
Monday, 6 February - Friday, 10 February ~ Gr 2-6 Swimming Program @ Tallarook Pool 12:45pm-3:00pm
Wednesday, 8 February ~ Prep students not required at school
Thursday, 9 February ~ Classroom Information Night, Prep/1 @ 6:00pm; G2/3 @ 6:15pm; G4-6 6:30pm
Thursday, 9 February ~ Excel Music Lessons Information Session - 11am
Friday, 12th February ~ Assembly, 9:00am

What’s Happening the Following Week
Wednesday, 15 February ~ Prep students not required at school
Friday, 17 February ~ Assembly, 9:00am
Friday, 17 February ~ District Swimming
Friday, 17 February ~ Parent Helpers Course, 2:30pm-3:30pm

2017 TERM DATES
Term 1: Monday, 30 January to Friday, 31 March
Term 2: Monday, 18 April to Friday, 30 June
Term 3: Monday, 17 July to Friday, 24 September
Term 4: Monday, 9 October to Friday, 22 December

2017 CURRICULUM DAYS
(student free days)
Monday, 30 January
Friday, 10 March
Monday, 21 August
Friday, 1 December

2017 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
Monday, 13 March ~ Labour Day
Friday, 14 April ~ Good Friday
Monday, 17 April ~ Easter Monday
Tuesday, 25 April ~ ANZAC Day
Monday, 12 June ~ Queen’s Birthday
Friday, 29 September ~ Friday before AFL Grand Final
Tuesday, 7 November ~ Melbourne Cup Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Lily Bain ~ 18 January
Zac ~ 20th January
Huntah ~ 29th January
Kaylan ~ 2nd February
Summer ~ 4th February

Welcome to the 2017 school year
Welcome back to the 2017 school year. I'm always so excited to watch everyone return, especially our Preps, who enter with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. We have had an extremely smooth start, thanks to our 2016 transition program. Our Prep, and other new students across the school, happily entered their classrooms leaving some parents looking proud albeit a little tear-y! This year we are delighted to welcome seven 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 nine Prep students, we welcome five 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 items of general information that are pertinent to share:

**Wednesdays in February:** For the month of February, Prep students are not required at school on Wednesdays. Mrs McLeish will make individual appointments with parents to bring these students in for assessments.

**School staff:** The Tallarook Primary School staff for 2016 are as follows:

**Classroom teachers:** Alec McKay Memorial Building (Prep/Grade 1) ~ Natasha McLeish
   Dabyrminga Learning Space (Grade 2/3) ~ Kelly Pollard
   Rook Ranges Learning Space (Grade 4-6) ~ Emma Vandenhoven

**Specialist teachers:** Indonesian ~ Jacqueline Cullum (Across Prep-Grade 6 every Friday)
   The Arts (Music, Term 1) ~ Mrs Sherwood

**Visiting teachers:**
   MACC (Art) ~ Paul Allen
   MARC (Library) ~ Ms Darcy Smith
   Support staff:
   Welfare Officer ~ Katrina Stathis
   Pastoral Care Officer ~ Peter Ackland
   Intervention Support and The Arts ~ Luci Sherwood
   Teacher Support ~ Lindy Plenty
   Student Support Services Officer ~ Carmel Biro

**Administration:**
   Principal ~ Lynette Robberts
   Admin Officer ~ Sarah Stritthof (Wed-Fri only)

**Staff meetings:** All staff attend meetings at school on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:45-4:45pm. 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 support an “open door policy”. All staff (and students) enjoy and welcome parent participation at school. Over the coming weeks you will be invited to join our classroom helpers program, Friends and Family 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. Please come chat to me if you’re interested to find out more.

**Classroom helpers:** In order to assist in the classroom at Tallarook Primary we require you to 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, 27 February from 9:30-10:30am. 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 2-6 students will be participating in this program all of next week at the Tallarook Outdoor Pool. The Prep/Grade 1 swimming program will take place at a later date. The letter that was available on the website is attached to this newsletter. Please ensure payment is made by the due date, or come discuss this with me before the end of this week.

**Daily reading:** Our students are expected to read daily. At assembly this Friday we will give students a certificate to recognise the reading nights over the holiday period - if your child has read diligently and you have kept a record, please send this in by Thursday so we can prepare a certificate to recognise this reading. From today we will begin counting every reading night that is signed off in students’ diaries beginning with ONE from tonight. YES we will be returning to reading ‘nights’ and not reading ‘sessions’ as we’re taking the feedback provided to us last year into account.

**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 we begin the new year our students will, once again, embark on the TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) Program. They will focus on the school Values and will also be learning how to work together collaboratively and cooperatively. Specifically our students will be learning about, and doing activities, that focus on the Tallarook Primary School Values and why we have them. 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?

**Breakfast Club:** Once again we’ve been fortunate to qualify for the FoodBank Breakfast Program. Breakfast Club will be held every Monday from 8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m. beginning on Monday 13 February.

**Assembly:** Our weekly celebration of school learning and achievement will take place each Friday at 9:00 a.m. We have moved assembly to the start of the day so that our students will enjoy the specialist programs that will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. without interruption. Looking forward to seeing you there. This Friday students from each Learning Space will share highlights of their week with the community.

**Student Leaders:** Elections will be held TOMORROW and badges will be presented on Friday, at assembly.

Finally, on behalf of our entire school community I'd like to express thanks to the community members who helped prepare our school grounds for the beginning of the year as well as thank the Boulters who have kindly fostered the school chickens over the school holidays.

Have a great week..............................

Lynette Robberts
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 Friday, 10 March 2017.

Applications Close
30 June 2017

Please bring your Concession Card to the office for Sarah to sight and copy if you are eligible.
**STAFF CAR PARKING**

We have limited car parking spaces in the staff car park, therefore only staff are to park in the car park.

Parents/visitors to our school are to 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, with adult consent.

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.

**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.

**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 over the week. If you’re able to assist with any lunch time club, please let me know as soon as possible.

**SCHOOL CROSSING**

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

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

**2017 SWIMMING PROGRAM ~ Reply slip**

Family Name: ............................................. Student name(s): ............................................................

I give permission for my child(ren) to attend the school Swimming Program, walking to and from the Tallarook Outdoor Pool. I am / am not able to assist on the day. (Please see me if you can assist in any way)

I authorise the teacher in charge, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to authorise such medical or surgical attention as deemed necessary.

Contact numbers:

Name: .............................................................. Number: ............................................................

Name: .............................................................. Number: ............................................................

Signed: ..........................................................................................................................
SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEET ‘N GREET OPPORTUNITY.....
On Friday, 3 February ~ 5:30pm BBQ 6:30 DANCING

Will run a bush dance program in our school. The Billy Tea Bush Band is one of Victoria’s most experienced Bush Bands. Our students will once again participate in a program where they will learn dance and movement skills, develop co-ordination and confidence as well as enhance concentration skills.

This program will involve an afternoon workshop where students are taught several dances during class sessions. These workshops will take place during class time and will culminate with a Family Evening where students, family members and staff can socialise, share a sausage sizzle and then celebrate the dances together.

During the workshop session students will learn up to seven dances which they will perform on the night as well as to which they will invite their parents and the rest of the audience to join in the fun with! The cost per family for participating in the workshop is $10.

This will be the fourth year we’ve run this format for the Meet ‘n Greet in the hope that our entire community will celebrate the start of the school year and welcome all new members into our school community. The cost of running The Billy Tea Bush Band is heavily subsidised by the school, however, the cost of dinner is listed below. Please complete and return the reply slip below to indicate your attendance in order for staff to cater adequately.

REPLY SLIP - Please return to the office by Thursday 2 February

BILLY TEA BUSH BAND WORKSHOP
Yes, my child/ren will be attending the Billy Tea Bush Band workshop on 3 February.

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

$10 per family attached - YES / NO

BILLY TEA BUSH BAND FAMILY EVENING

Number of Adults: .............. Number of Children: ..............

______ Sausage in bread @ $1.50 each = $_________

______ Sausage in bread with onion @ $2.00 each = $_________

______ Drinks for sale at $1 each $__________ attached/enclosed