What’s Happening This Week…
♦ Monday, 9th - Thursday, 12th February Gr 2-6 Swimming Program 1pm-3:15pm at Tallarook Pool. Parent Helpers required for walking to and from pool.
♦ Friday, 13th February ~ Assembly 3pm on the asphalt. Join us for another performance from the Prep students
♦ Friday, 13th February ~ Meet & Greet Family Night - 6:00pm start

What’s Happening Next Week…
♦ Wednesday, 18th February ~ McHargarook Cluster Swimming Carnival Grade 2-6 at Lancefield Swimming Pool
♦ Friday, 20th February ~ School Photos

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 keep ALL our students safe!

Prep News
Home reading will be sent home from this Thursday. Look out for their reading folder which will contain their reader and diary.
What wonderful weather we’ve enjoyed for the start of our Grade 2-6 Swim and Survive swimming program! I can report that although the water was frightfully cold initially, once I started moving around in the water I felt fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed being immersed! A reminder that all parents/caregivers are invited to join our students for swimming on Thursday.

Last Thursday Catherine Hurst and Brooke McDonald ran the Prep Information Night. Many thanks to the parents/caregivers who managed to attend. For those who were unable to make the session, it has been video recorded and is available for viewing. Please see Nicole when you’d like to view the session as she will ensure you have access. A reminder to parents/caregivers of students in all other grade levels that the Meet and Greet Family Fun Night will start with a 10 minute information session in each classroom. Times for these sessions are on the flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

Do you have any thick telephone directories/yellow pages that you no longer require? We are in need of them at school. Please bring them into the office.

We’re looking for anyone in our school community who would like to run a lunch time club with our students. If you are interested, please see me.

Our Suggestion Box is now in the office. Anyone in our school community is welcome to place their suggestions in this box.

This week, all students who have been identified through the enrolment forms as being asthmatic will be given a ‘School Asthma Action Plan’ form. All students who have asthma will require their parents to fill out the form and return to school a.s.a.p. Families will have the option to agree to the Victorian School’s Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid or provide an individual action plan signed by the family doctor.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Family Fun Night on Friday from 6:00pm.

Lynette Robberts
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.
Mitchell Majors Baseball Club

Wanted: No experience required... Boys and Girls aged 5-10 to have fun and join in the FUN filled Summer T-Ball programme.

Each Friday evening from 6pm, at the Mitchell Majors Baseball ground Broadford (Piniger Street - next to the stadium) starting Friday 13th February. Participation fee of $2 per child for each session which covers use of ALL equipment required. Food and Drinks are available at very cheap prices BUT don't forget to bring your parents, a pair of shoes to run in and a hat.

For more info Phone: Phil 0419 154 047 or Lance 0417 136 644

Mitchell Majors Baseball Club is having a “Come and Try” on Saturday 28th February from 10am – 12pm.

See how fast you can throw a ball at the Speed detector or try your skills against the pitching machine.

If you are between 8-58 yrs old then you qualify to come and join in the fun...

Where: at the Mitchell Majors Baseball Club in Piniger Street (next to the Stadium).

For more info Phone: Lance 0417 136 644 or Phil 0419 154 047
The night will begin with a 10 minute Information Session in each classroom for parents as follows:

- 6:00pm-6:10pm ~ Grade 1
- 6:10pm-6:20pm ~ Grade 2/3
- 6:20pm-6:30pm ~ Grade 4/5/6

While the Classroom Information Sessions are being run, the House Captains will be running a group session to design and create a new mascot and slogan for each of our houses (Dabyminga and Rook Ranges.). We look forward to parental input and many creative ideas being shared!

At 6:30pm, the real fun will begin! Adults and children will earn points for their house through participation in a variety of fun activities.

Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the night so please ensure your family has been fed dinner before you arrive at school.

For planning purposes, we need to know who is coming. Please complete and return the slip below to school no later than Tuesday, 10th February.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Meet & Greet Family Night ~ Reply Slip

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

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