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, 16th February ~ MACC (Art)
- Tuesday, 17th February ~ Parent Helpers Course, 6:30pm.
- Wednesday, 18th February ~ McHargarook Cluster Swimming Carnival Grade 2-6 at Lancefield Swimming Pool
- Friday, 20th February ~ School Photos

What’s Happening Next Week...
- Monday, 23rd February ~ MARC (Library)
- Friday, 27th February ~ Curriculum Day students not required at school on this day.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be taken this Friday, 20th February from 9:00am.

Personalised order envelopes were sent home with every child last Monday. Please return order envelopes no later than Wednesday, 18th February, even if you are not purchasing photos. Family photo order envelopes are available from the office.

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform on the day. We have noticed students beginning to wear a variety of items that are similar but NOT part of the school’s official uniform policy. Please refer to the policy and/or the photos below if you’re unsure about what is included in our policy.


Boys Summer Uniform
- Royal blue or yellow polo shirt
- Royal blue school windcheater or polar fleece jacket
- Yellow & blue basketball shorts or grey shorts

Girls Summer Uniform
- Blue & white check dress, royal blue or yellow polo shirt
- Royal blue school windcheater or polar fleece jacket
- Royal blue skort or yellow & blue basketball shorts
We’ve had a magnificent start to 2015 already. I have no doubt that this will continue as we enjoy a community of active learners and participants. Reflecting on just a couple of events we have already enjoyed…..

The Prep Information Session run by Catherine Hurst and Brooke McDonald provided an opportunity for parents/caregivers of Prep students to socialise as well as find out the expectations of the teachers, routines in the classroom and ways to partnership in order to maximise student learning. My thanks to Brooke and Catherine who allowed this session to be videoed so that parents who were unable to attend can also watch the video and still feel included in the sharing of information.

The Grade 2-6 Swim and Survive Program at the Tallarook Outdoor Pool is now over. Feedback from parents and students has been really positive and I’ve been blown away by the visible improvement in skill demonstrated by our students. This Wednesday our students will head to the Lancefield Outdoor Pool to participate in the McHargarook Swimming Carnival. If you’re able to assist on the day, PLEASE see Nicole or me as soon as possible.

The Meet and Greet Family Fun Night on Friday evening was terrific fun despite the weather being such a challenge! It was wonderful seeing so many families keen to embrace the physical activities as well as enjoy the opportunity to participate in houses while also broadening social networks. Evenings like these are wonderful occasions where students get to watch their parents practise how to meet other unfamiliar people and make friends. We can teach these skills but for students to watch real life role play is the most effective teaching and learning possible, so, thank you for once again working with us to teach by example!

The Meet and Greet Family Fun Night was kicked off by 10 minute Information Sessions run by Jonathan Murphy, Kelly Pollard and Vera Lavis while students and their parents worked in House groups to begin creating House mascots and mottos. The work on the mascots and mottos will continue during the weeks ahead and once they are finalised the school will get banners made. We’ll keep you posted on the progress and we thank you for your input☺

Friday night ended with families mingling while enjoying sausages and icypoles. My sincere thanks to Cheryl Greenshields for donating and cooking the sausages we all got to enjoy. I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Warrior and Cheryl Greenshields for working with Nicole and me to organise the activities and flow of the event.

A couple of reminders about road safety around our school:

- Staff car park ONLY for staff. Please do not allow your students to enter or leave school using the staff carpark.
- Students to enter and exit cars using the “Safe Door” only. (The door that opens onto the pavement.)
- All pedestrians to use the school crossing. Please do not encourage or allow your children to walk 10 or 20 metres away from the school crossing and then cross the road.

You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents. In response to the report’s findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its parent payment policy. As a result of any changes to the Department’s policy, we will work with our school council to update our own policy. We don’t expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance. The Department’s parent payment policy is what we use to guide us in deciding what we will ask you to pay each year. We review our own parent payment policy, in conjunction with our school council, on a yearly basis and notify you of any changes through direct, personal correspondence. Our aim is to ensure our policy meets parents’ expectations, while also ensuring that all of our students are able to participate in the programs we offer. Our policy sets out what we ask you to pay for to support your child’s learning, such as books and stationery, and what we ask for optional extracurricular activities. Our policy also sets out what we ask parents to make voluntary contributions to, and where these funds will be directed (for example, to assist with new building and grounds works, or purchasing library and sports equipment.) As always, if you have any queries, or would like to discuss how the school can support you in financial matters, please discuss these with me.

Congratulations to Zac Kennedy who travelled back to Sydney at the weekend to compete in the NSW Regional Athletics competition. Zac came 1st in the Under 9 Boys 700 metre walk. He will now compete at the NSW State Championships in March.

Finally, my thanks to Tracey Munro, Tara Berry and Eric Houghton who nominated to be actively involved on School Council for the next two years.

Lynette Robberts

P.S. Canteen will begin on Friday 6 March - information about ordering, etc will be sent home shortly. If you’re available to assist with the administration functions please see me.