Excellence..................Teamwork..................Support..................Effort

CALENDAR

February
Thu 5th School Nurse visit
Thu 12th School Council Meeting 4pm  Book Club Orders & Money Due
Mon 16th - Fri 27th Swimming program – UniSports 2-2:45pm
Tues 17th Parent forum with facilitator to discuss/contribute to the school’s new 4 year Strategic Plan. All encouraged to attend and have input. Childcare provided 3:45-5pm.
Sun 22nd Primary School Swimming Sports –50m Events, 10.15am Start, Eureka Swimming Pool
Wed 25th Primary School Swimming Sports –9 & Under 25m Events, 7pm Start, Ballarat Aquatic Centre

March
Mar 2nd 2 Staff at CPR training 8:45-10:30
Mon 9th Labour Day
Tue 10th Moorabool Cluster Network Staff Conference (students not at school)
Thu 12th School Council Meeting 4pm
Fri 27th Last day of term – casual dress day

April
Fri 24th Athletics Sports – Llanberris Reserve (full day)

NOTE: Foundation students (Preps) do not attend school on Wednesdays in February however are expected to participate in swimming classes at the University pool.

From the Principal:

Today the Foundation students are at home with the first of the Feb. Wednesdays off, resting. Let’s hope they can recharge their batteries for another 2 days at school and the parents have a lovely time too. It was wonderful the way all their big Buddies worked with them last week, getting to know each other and starting to establish supportive relationships. All of the other students in the school have teamed up with a buddy this year too. Meeting and working with buddies will be a regular occurrence.

Thanks to Mandy O. for her work with a few repairs around the place and for keeping a check on improvements/repairs we still need to make. We’ve been talking with Lindsay from the Moorabool Shire about improvements to our car parking and general parking ‘situation’ (increased numbers and cars with inadequate space). We intend to extend the car park down to the blackberries and are looking for someone with a grade who might level it for us ready for a few truckloads of blue metal and an extended barrier. So that children can simply go to their cars down the fence line rather than across the road. If you can help or know of someone who can, please let me know. Lindsay may be able to get the Shire’s grader-I’ll know in a week what they can do- just in case, if you can help it would be appreciated.

The Shire is also:
- Checking into the health of the two eucalypts each side of the roundabout
- Building grating the tunnel under the oval into next year’s major works, and
- Spraying the blackberries and clearing the drains either side of the drain under the oval (spraying will be done well before children arrive and we’ll section the area off with orange tape)

Thanks to all the parents whose children received netbooks (rented from the school) this week. The children are very excited and have begun using them already. If there is ever a problem with them, I can contact Jason, our techie, who visits every 2nd Friday and see what he can do in the interim.
For all new parents, we use private transport to take students to/from swimming and we prefer to carpool. With the permission form you will notice another form about transport and it’s important that you return this as well as the full-page form.
Till next week, Jude Porteous, Principal

Welcome to a new school year everyone. It’s great to see Ruby, Rafferty, Hudson, Lane, Celia and Clare trying so hard to get used to the challenges of starting school. Well done to the parents also: it takes effort to support your child to get off to a great start! The Year 1 students are also being very helpful. All students across the school have been paired with a buddy and will be doing activities together as part of our student wellbeing program.

Please send in all book supplies, extra glue sticks, reading pouches etc. Children are given one or two items and the rest is stored and given out as needed. It is important to have every item named! Don’t forget a smock and a library bag also.

All parents should have received the Show and Tell roster for the term. Please see me if you haven’t. Foundation children are beginning to learn the alphabet sounds and will be bringing take home books to begin independent reading. If you haven’t purchased a reading pouch yet, please see Belinda in the office. Initially, the books will focus on a single letter of the alphabet. Please read and discuss with your child, asking them to find the letter in the text and linking the letter with the sound at the beginning of the word – ‘s’ is for sock. It is a good idea to establish a regular reading time each day. You only need to spend 5 or 10 minutes on take home books at this stage. It is equally important that you continue to share picture books regularly, perhaps at bedtime.

Our play theme at present is Summer fun. In maths grade 1s are reviewing numbers to 100. Foundation children are learning about making groups. Knowing what the children are learning about each week might help you to talk about and link their learning with what you do at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to make contact with me.
Have a great week everyone, Mrs East

Welcome back everyone I hope you all had a fun and relaxing break over the holidays. Congratulations to Dexter for receiving the classroom award this week for settling in well to his new classroom and school. It’s fantastic to see that all students have been reading at home each night. Keep up the great work everyone!

This term we are focusing on Under the Sea and will be writing and creating many pieces based on this theme. We have begun by writing a diary entry of a sea explorer. This week in Maths we are focusing on place value and counting and will be identifying odd and even numbers. All students have been given spelling words to practise this week at home to prepare them for their test on Friday. Students will receive new words each week and it is very important for them to practise these as it helps them with their writing. Grade 3’s will also be receiving Maths homework each Friday which will be due the following Friday.

In Science this term students in Grade F-2 are exploring things that grow. They will be observing and investigating mealworms as they grow and develop. In Grade 3-4 students will be learning about plants and how they grow. They will be doing this through an experiment where they will observe the growth of a broad bean plant through its different stages. The Grade 5-6’s will be studying Desert Survivors and will be looking at plants and animals and their features that help them survive in the desert.

Please ensure that all students wear their sports shoes on the following days:
F-2: Thursday and Friday
3-6: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Have a great week everyone.
Miss Fisher
We’ve had a great start to the week with everyone slowly understanding the new routines, settling into work and being very purposeful. It’s terrific to see those who are ‘flying’ already with their reading at home and developing independent learning habits. This week on Friday the students will be receiving their homework for next week- weekly spelling words to Look Cover Write Check/test etc and some Maths. Each Friday they are expected to have practised their words, finished their maths h/w and read at least 4 nights of the week at home and recorded it in their reading diaries. Please support this as we have tests/check off achievement each Friday. ....and give dojo points of course.

This term we’ve started 2 short topics in History – 5/6 Migrants and their contributions and 3/4 Change and continuity. Our Reading material in guided reading sessions will be based around these topics and the science topics.

Have a great week,
Ms Porteous

Music

This term we will be focusing on Drama as well as Music. In our first week of classes, we learnt about tableaus, which are frozen pictures or ‘postcards’. Students in our classes were given emotions to enact. Then they were asked to become things or to perform a task. Using their bodies and expression, they were given three seconds to freeze in position. Some students found it challenging not to make sound or to move! Others were challenged by coming up with ideas quickly.

Mrs Lyons

Lunchtime Music Groups

Singing Group Monday lunchtime from 1:40-2:10pm
We welcome new members as well as previous members.

Recorder Group Tuesday lunchtime from 1:40-2:10pm
Ideally, the students should bring their own recorder (Yamaha preferred) and a display folder to keep their music in.

Mrs. Lyons

Playgroup will be 9am – 11.30am every Thursday morning.
Please bring a hat and a piece of fruit to share. All school and non-school families welcome.
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 and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD 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.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

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 the principal for further information.**

**DUNNSTOWN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB 2015**

Dunnstown Football Netball Club is currently recruiting junior players for the 2015 season. Some of your classmates already play for Dunnstown so come and join them at this great club. Dunnstown has excellent coaches and has run a successful junior program for many years. It is also your local Central Highland's club (10 mins to get to training from Lal Lal). We are currently looking for players for all age group junior teams so if you have any older brothers or sisters they would also be most welcome. Pre-season training will start in March and the Central Highland's season commences on Saturday the 11th of April. We will also be running an Auskick program at Dunnstown this year. You can register for Auskick at: [http://www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au)

For further enquiries contact Dominic Hanrahan on 04 - 1227 9948 (Junior President), Paul Britt: 04 - 1933 1057 (Under 12's Coach) or email: dunnstown.juniors@hotmail.com

**School Banking**

School Banking Day is Thursday.

If you would like to start school banking for your child, there are 4 ways to apply for a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account.

1. **Online** by logging in to netbank.com.au (existing Commonwealth Bank Customers only);
2. **In branch** by visiting any Commonwealth Bank branch;
3. **Over the phone** by calling 13 2221; or
4. **Application form** (paper-based available from Belinda in the office).

Please note that **library bags** are required for your children this year to borrow from the library. Year 1-6 students would have received a bag at the literacy trail last year which they can use.

**Art smocks** are required for all students; please send something along for your child to use as an art smock as soon as possible.

We are running a challenge this week to see which class can be first to have 100% of children with library bags and smocks.

Assembly will be on Monday mornings, parents are welcome to attend.
Below is a list of instrumental choices offered at Lal Lal Primary School by Fiona Lyons and Frank Francica. Paired or group lessons may be available where students are of a comparable standard and ability to progress (not guaranteed).* In these instances the cost of the individual lesson can be shared among the participants. If the instrument your child wishes to learn is not listed, you can still put in a request. We will attempt to secure a teacher but cannot guarantee that lessons will be available. Another consideration is the age, developmental stage and physical size of the student. Please contact me if you would like advice on whether a child is ready for a particular instrument.

*Piano, guitar and drum lessons would not be suitable as paired or group lessons.

*The teacher will advise parents if the paired or group arrangement is not working for any reason.

Lessons will be billed in advance, and are payable either as a full-term or half-term payment. Enrolment in individual lessons reserves the student’s time with a teacher. If lessons are missed due to another commitment, it is important that 48 hours prior notice is given to the teacher. When a lesson is missed due to illness, the parent should notify the teacher as soon as possible and where practicable, the teacher will try to arrange a make-up lesson for the student.

Piano, vocal, guitar, recorder, flute, saxophone, clarinet, drums and music theory at $25 per half hour lesson.

Fiona Lyons: 0448880196

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Student’s surname:_________________ Student’s given name:_________________

Student’s year level:________

Name of instrument requested:___________________________

Lesson type:  [ ] Individual  [ ] Paired  [ ] Group

Has the student had lessons on this instrument previously?  Yes/No (please circle)

Years of experience/examinations or grades completed:________________________

If you have selected paired or group lessons and they are not available, would you like your child to have individual lessons?  Yes/No (please circle)

Do you need to hire an instrument?  Yes/No (please circle)  (further costs will be advised in advance)

Further information:______________________________________________

Contact name and number:_______________________________________

Email:_______________________________________________________