PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

ISN’T IT GREAT WHEN………We have two of our SRC representatives, Eric from 6S2 and Liana from 5L22 deliver an extremely comprehensive report to Council. Their delivery was entertaining, extremely clear and presented in such a mature way. They answered questions and certainly gave us an overview of what they will be up to for the year. I know their parents were extremely proud of them and I can assure you that their audience was very impressed.

We are also extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents on our School Council. Last night we discussed our progress in line with the strategic plan and are pleased to report that we have exceeded many of our targets. They were also involved in budget discussions and planning for the future. We have School Council elections coming up and have two vacancies so please consider this fantastic opportunity. You will be getting a letter home today and please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are interested and need to ask further questions.

Please find on following pages School Council Election process, timetable and nomination form for parents.

ATTENDANCE

At Maramba Primary School we believe that student success is dependent upon good attendance at school. Students need to attend school regularly in order to participate fully and gain maximum benefit from their schooling. Regular attendance enables students to access a full education, allowing them to reach their full potential. Students with poor patterns in primary school usually have poor patterns in secondary school and often disengage from school. There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life. Poor attendance also makes it difficult for children to form positive relationships with their peers therefore; we feel that good attendance is essential for our students.

We thank you for your support in getting the children to school on time as it is very disruptive to not only them but others when they are late. Quite often if there is a continual pattern with lateness a child could miss a particular area of learning regularly. Even if a child was to have average attendance they would still lose a year by the time they completed year twelve. We are always looking at ways to improve attendance as it is critical to your child’s overall development. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason. Further information from the department is contained in this newsletter on page four. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school if you are experiencing difficulties as we can always be of assistance.

Andrew Groh

Maramba Primary School’s values are ‘Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience’
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Playgrounds: We have a number of different playgrounds which are designed for differing age groups and have restrictions about who can play where to ensure the children’s safety. Before and after school we would appreciate it if parents encouraged their children to play on the correct playgrounds to reduce the risk of any potential injuries. Yard duty teachers will speak to children who are on the wrong playgrounds and redirect them to a more appropriate site.

Student Leadership: Luke Donnellan, our local Member of Parliament, will present student leadership badges to our all of our captains on Monday 17th March at a special assembly. Our SRC representatives, Meeters and Greeters and new Peer Mediators will receive their badges the following week on Monday 24th March. We look forward to celebrating our 2014 leaders with our community and acknowledging the important role they play at our school.

School crossings: We have received this information from the City of Casey addressing concerns raised by parents about surveillance of our school crossings.

Currently the City of Casey’s School Crossing Unit is conducting both “crossing counts” and “staff assessments”. These are ongoing requirements. It has been brought to our attention that school staff and parents have raised concerns worrying that the people may be taking footage or “watching” the children.

We apologise for causing alarm. These have been conducted for many, many years without any concerns, but in the environment we live in these days, we can understand and appreciate it being brought to our attention.

For your further information, our staff will be wearing yellow safety vests and will either be sitting in their car or on a chair. They will be in possession of a Working With Children ID Card and a Casey Staff ID Card. Crossing counts are conducted to enable us to justify the existence of the crossing to VicRoads, and to in turn, obtain a subsidy and the staff assessments are conducted to ensure our staff are working within our guidelines to keep your school community safe.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call our office on 03 5995 2218.

Sue Peterken

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PLANET SAVING COMPETITIONS Week 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RUBBISH FREE LUNCH</th>
<th>Walking Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep – Gr 1</td>
<td>Room 6 on 71%</td>
<td>Room 6 on 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2-4</td>
<td>Room 15 on 42%</td>
<td>Room 16 on 66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5-6</td>
<td>Room 4 on 55%</td>
<td>Room 3 on 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Planet Savers Tip: Wash your car on the grass rather than on a hard surface where the detergents will wash off into the storm water system.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>NOTICE</th>
<th>NOTICE DISTRIBUTED</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>PAYMENT DUE BY</th>
<th>DATE OF EXCURSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Term One Newsletter</td>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 6</td>
<td>2014 Swimming Carnival Trials</td>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>March 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coolamatong Lake Camp Deposit</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>$50 Deposit</td>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>May 20 - 23</td>
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<td>Cost: TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Friends Unit - bring a potato</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Term One Newsletter</td>
<td>Feb 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Term One Newsletter</td>
<td>Feb 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Term One Newsletter</td>
<td>Feb 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gr 1 Homework book &amp; Spelling</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Edwin Flack District Tennis Cup</td>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>March 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dandenong Market Excursion</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>March 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Casey Student Leaders Reception</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep - 1</td>
<td>Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
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<td>helpers</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 6</td>
<td>Girls Auskick Program</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>May 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>School Photo Envelopes</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>March 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Electronic Newsletter subscribe</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>information</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>School Council Elections 2014</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>March 6 Closing date</td>
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Students will not be able to participate in the activities if payment has not been received by the due date. Notices also available on our website www.maramba-ps.vic.edu.au

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will begin Monday 3rd March from 8.15-8.45am in the new gym. Cereal, Toast, Juice and Milo will be on offer to students.

Donations including; milk, margarine, Vegemite, jam, juice and Milo will be greatly appreciated.
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it's important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Notice of election and call for nominations</th>
<th>Thursday 27 February 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Thursday 6 March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Friday 7 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>3:15pm Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Vote count</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 March 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Self Nomination and Nomination Forms are available from the school office and our website: Maramba-ps.vic.edu.au
Appendix A: School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2014

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.

Note: Self Nomination and Nomination Forms are available from the school office and our website: Maramba-ps.vic.edu.au, under Whole School Notices
School Council Elections
Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the

............................................................................................................ school council.

Name:

............................................................................................................

Residential address:

............................................................................................................

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

............................................................................................................

Email:

............................................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of ......................................................, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development but not engaged in work at and for the school
Yes / No (please circle)
I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:
• an undischarged bankrupt
• of unsound mind
• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or
• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ................................................................. Date ............ / ............ / ............

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used
to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement
of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the
school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members, and notification whether
the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by the
principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on ..................................................

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the
school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Adam
Prep 12
Always trying his best and settling into Prep smoothly.

Charli
1R10
Settling in very well at her new school and trying her best.

Kane
2R15
Doing his very best work and concentrating very well.

Adam
Prep 12
Always trying his best and settling into Prep smoothly.

Charli
1R10
Settling in very well at her new school and trying her best.

Kane
2R15
Doing his very best work and concentrating very well.

Jordan
3G19
Trying so hard with his reading

Gurleen
4K25
Always completing her work neatly and on time.

Ashleigh
5H23
Settling into her school and making a great start to the year.

Cody
6W4
Putting in 100% effort into his work at all times. Great start to the year.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Maramba Primary School | 15th of October, 2013

Welcome Back

Welcome to 2014! We would like to give a warm welcome to those students and their families who are starting this year at our OSHC service.

Our Family at Before and After School Care had a great full first week back, catching up on holiday stories from the kids, seeing some familiar faces and meeting some new kids. We would like to introduce our new OSHC coordinator Alan Campbell for 2014 who has been spending the past week with the students to ensure a smooth transition into the New Year. We look forward to having Alan on board with us and we aim to work together to create a fun, caring, supportive, enjoyable program and most of all we are more determined to make kids smile. Welcome Alan!

This past week we have been busy making Valentine’s Day cards, roses and decorations on the art and craft table where students have created beautiful work for their friends and family.

Congratulations to Haylee Boyes (Grade 8) on her ‘Legend of the Week’ achievement! Well done Haylee!

Remember this is Term 1, which means SunSmart term. So please provide your child/children with sun hats to our service so we can go out and smile.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaustalia.com.au/holidayclubs

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

we make kids smile
www.campaustalia.com.au

Maramba Primary School & DEECD does not endorse any of the above advertising.
Become A Volunteer Host Family

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

Arriving in Italy:
Skelette [16] from France is full of excitement about discovering a new school system, a new culture and becoming a member of an Australian family. Skelette has a wide range of interests, including horse-riding, reading, painting/drawing, spending time with friends, watching movies and playing boardgames.

Kalle [17] from Finland is an accomplished cellist and pianist. He enjoys school and hopes to become a lawyer. Also a keen sportsman, Kalle loves running, golf and skiing. Both of his sisters have been exchange students and Kalle can’t wait to have his own exchange experience in Australia.

Find out more!
Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvie Kelly
Manager - inbound Exchange Programs
Phone: 1300 804 793
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

Open your home and hearts to an international exchange student! It’s easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!

Berwick Springs Junior Football Club

THE TITANS WANT YOU!

U8, U9, U10, U12, U13, U14 & Top Age (16 & 17)

Teams are being finalised this week, if you’re interested, we’d love to hear from you.

Please contact the Club Registrar via berwickspringsjfc@gmail.com

“Come and check out our Garden Workshop”

BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE FOUNTAIN GATE
64 - 86 Narre Warren North Road
Narre Warren Vic 3805
Ph. 8796 6600

WEDNESDAY
12th MARCH 2014
10.30am till 11.30am
Light refreshments will be provided

COOLABAH TURF

CASEY TIGERSHARKS SWIMMING CLUB

Now Recruiting!!

Have you ever wanted to join a swimming club, but didn’t know how?
Are you looking for a way to improve your overall fitness?
From 8 year olds to Olympians! We can cater for them all!
Can you swim 50m Freestyle & 25m Backstroke & Breaststroke

www.caseytigersharks.com.au

Try Out Day’s

WHERE: Casey RACE (Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne East)
WHEN: Saturday February 22nd @ 11:00am and... Saturday March 8th @ 11:00am
WHAT TO BRING: Swim Suit and Goggles

Please RSVP to: tigersharksrecruitment@hotmail.com.au
to gain FREE entry on the day for 1 swimmer and a parent.

Every child gets a showbag!
Cost: FREE

Maramba Primary School & DEECD does not endorse any of the above advertising.