Dear Parents
Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone and catching up with what everyone did in the holidays. The tone around the school is extremely positive and it has been fantastic to visit classrooms and feel the ‘buzz’ across the school. It has been lovely to meet our new students and their families, and it is great to see how students have settled into their classrooms. Our Foundation (Prep) students have smiles on their faces and are enjoying learning the routines in our school – ably assisted by staff and their amazing Grade 6 buddies. It was lovely to spend time chatting and getting to know some of our Foundation parents during morning tea. During this term there will be a number of events where you will have opportunities to meet with staff and other parents. All dates will be included in following newsletters. We encourage everyone to come and be part of our fabulous Buln Buln School Community. I have included in this newsletter much information that current parents and students already know, but it is useful as a reminder and vital to those of you new to Buln Buln.

We welcome the following teachers to Buln Buln Primary School this year:

Kellan Fitzclarece | Leanne Johnstone | Nicole Robinson

Getting To Know Your Class
On Wednesday 10th February there will be an opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher to get information about how the grades work and the expectations for the year. These are not parent / teacher interviews, which will take place towards the end of terms 1 and 3. The timings for the presentations are:

- 5-6: 6 - 6.20pm
- 3-4: 6.30 - 6.50pm
- 1-2: 7.00 - 7.20pm
- Foundation: 7.30 - 7.50pm

Communication
For Buln Buln Primary School to operate effectively we need to ensure we have structures in place which prioritise communication. It is extremely important to us that you feel comfortable to come and chat with us – both informally and formally. To build a positive relationship with your child’s teacher please either: use your child’s diary; ring him/her for a chat; or make an appointment to discuss anything you would like to share. The time before and after school is usually busy with students arriving and ensuring everyone starts and ends their day positively so if you would like to chat during these times, please let your child’s teacher know beforehand so a time can be organised. I am always available to discuss any issues with you, though if it is a classroom issue it is preferable if you talk to your child’s teacher first. Lyn is always available at the Office and she is an amazing wealth of knowledge for all administrative matters.
The Department has a brochure which outlines the process for parents who wish to discuss any issues they have. The brochure is attached as it has some useful information on how to raise concerns in a school setting.

We are always looking to improve communication across our school and appreciate feedback on how we are communicating with you. Please feel free to contact me via phone, email or in person if you have any feedback for us to consider. Last year it was great to receive feedback as it provided me with the perspectives of our school community as we moved forward.

Sentral
Sentral is the major online system we use to communicate with you. We use Sentral to share your child’s progress throughout the year. Work samples are uploaded regularly so you are able to see how your child is progressing. Your child’s attendance is also recorded in Sentral and you are able to contact us via Sentral to let us know the reason for your child’s absence. The calendar on Sentral is important as it provides information on events that are happening. We are continuing to explore our use of Sentral and hope to expand its use throughout this year.

This week, letters will be sent to the new families with your family access key and the addresses that you need to register. **If you already have children at the school your login details remain the same. (If you do not have a login, please contact us.)**

Attached to this newsletter is a handout which outlines how to access many of the components of Sentral mentioned above. There will be more handouts throughout the year.

**Sentral Workshop**
On Tuesday, February 9th we are offering a workshop on our reporting system, Sentral. The session will demonstrate how to log onto the program, how to access reports, student profiles and work samples and using Sentral to explain your child’s absence if he/she is absent from school. Please bring any questions you have so we can ensure everyone is able to access the program.

Laptops and assistance will also be available on the night for those of you who would like some assistance registering for Sentral. The workshop will run from 5pm – 6pm.

**Attendance**
All students are expected at school every day. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have a pre-arranged appointment. Explanations of why a child is absent are required and this can be done in Sentral. Daily learning time starts at 9am so please ensure your child(ren) is in school prior to this and ready to begin.

**Sun Smart**
An ongoing reminder that it is now well and truly into the SunSmart period and that students need to be wearing broad brimmed hats. The link below will allow you to install the free SunSmart app on a smart phone or tablet. [http://www.sunsmart.com.au/tools/interactive-tools/free-sunsmart-app](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/tools/interactive-tools/free-sunsmart-app)
The UV alert now can also be viewed on the school website homepage.
School Fees
School fees are $110 for the year. Prompt payment is much appreciated, as these funds are used for classroom and specialist resourcing. A payment plan is available if needed - please see Lyn Weller in the school office.

Anaphylaxis
Anaphylaxis is an acute reaction to certain food items and insect stings. It is a severe and potentially life threatening condition. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow’s milk, bee and other insect stings and some medications. Signs and symptoms range from mild/moderate hives/ rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling to severe cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse or cessation of breathing. The Education Department policy for schools is to reduce the risks of an anaphylactic episode through awareness, avoidance and action.

We have a number of students who have nut-related allergies. By making the school community aware of the seriousness of the risk we ask that foods brought into our school NOT INCLUDE NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS.

House Structure
Our house structure worked well in 2015 and we are continuing with it this year. The students have been informed (or reminded) of their houses and the colour that represents it, as well as being introduced to their captain and vice-captain. The Captains will represent the school at community events, lead assemblies and be exemplary role models for our student community. Their vice captains will be there to deputise and assist them with their duties. Siblings have been allocated to the same house to develop a real sense of community and belonging. House points will be awarded for learning, attitude, good work, improvement, attendance, social skills etc. A running tally of points will be kept with the weekly award of the House trophy. The houses are named Kestrel (Yellow), Harrier (Blue), Kite (Green) and Falcon (Red).

Kate – Captain Falcon House
Tom – Vice Captain Falcon House

Soph – Captain Harrier House
Vinnie – Vice Captain Harrier House

Rhys – Captain Kestrel House
Larah – Vice Captain Kestrel House

Jess – Captain Kite House
Anna – Vice Captain Kite House
Visitor Badges
There are badges at reception that must be worn by all visitors to the school. As a community we are excellent at signing in and out of the building. This helps staff and students more clearly identify who visitors are and also ensure that we are fully following OH&S requirements.

This badge is for those of you helping in class, around the school and on school excursions. It is already pre ticked for the Working With Children Check as this is a pre requisite of working within the school in any capacity.

This badge is for general visitors to the site, i.e contractors, parents visiting staff, etc

If a student is late, this needs to be collected from the office and handed to the teacher.

If there is a need to pick a student up early for an appointment, please sign them out of the office and collect this badge. This then must be handed to the class teacher.

There are other badges that you might see as you visit the school relating to pre service teachers, work experience students etc. These will assist you in knowing the purpose of any unfamiliar ‘faces’ around the school site.

Newsletters 2016
Our newsletter is an important document to read each week. It is used to inform you of current events happening at school and to share news that impacts on the learning of your child. Some of the information that can be found in our newsletters include: School Council news; Parent Club news; weekly student award winners; calendar dates (these can also be found in Sentral); photos and reports of special events; a Principal report; and anything else we feel we should share with you.

Classroom Helpers
Teachers welcome the support of parents in a range of activities. Please note that classroom helpers must have a Working with Children Check (available online at this link: http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/ ) completed before they can be a helper. Any helpers are to sign in and out at the office and wear a name tag for that time.

Assembly
This year Assembly is on Monday mornings at 9am. After feedback from parents and staff, and discussions at School Council, we decided to change it back to Mondays. We enjoy welcoming families to assembly to celebrate the success of our students. It was lovely to have so many parents come and share this with us.

Lunch Orders
School lunch orders are up and running each Wednesday and will commence tomorrow. Please place your child’s order in a brown paper bag and if possible, please use correct change. There is an attachment to this newsletter with all current prices, please note prices have changed since last year.
Conveyance Allowance
If you travel further than 4.8km to school and Buln Buln is your nearest state school you may be eligible to apply for a conveyance allowance. This helps offset the costs of travel. New applications need to be completed and returned by February 16th. No new application is necessary if families were previously entitled and circumstances remain unchanged. Application forms are available from the office.

Parking
It is important that I strongly emphasise the importance of safe car parking. Please park safely and wisely as the school zone gets very busy. The top car park can only be accessed by making a left hand turn when entering and exiting due to the line marking restrictions. Please do not ignore the no parking signs. Under no circumstances, park on the grass verges approaching the school from either direction as this obscures driver’s view of the crossing. Please also be aware of parking laws in terms of how close you park to junctions etc. There is plenty of parking no more than two minutes walk away at the footy oval.
The school park is not to be used for dropping off or collecting students unless in before / after school care. Please help us keep everyone safe at these busy times of day. Below is a diagram of traffic flow.

LEGAL ACCESS TO TOP CAR PARK
(Due to road line markings)

Mowing
Attached to the newsletter today is a flyer asking for families to put your names down on our mowing roster. The school has both a ride on mower and a push mower on site available for families to use and all fuel is supplied. With the help of many families we can spread the workload and therefore decrease the number of times you are requested to help out. Please see Lyn at the Office if you are available.
**Icy-Poles**
Our grade six students sell icy-poles during Terms One and Four in the undercover area for 30c and 60c each.

**CSEF Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**
Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of term one, 2016, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists.
A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards, camps, sport and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, education and fun activities.
Application forms are attached with the newsletter or available from the office. All completed forms to be returned to school by Friday 12th February.

**Have a great week**
Nicole Ball
Acting Principal

**SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS**
I would like to welcome old and new to 2016. We are off to a fresh start with new staff, programs, parents and students. My aim is to make all new faces to our school to feel welcomed. There are many ways to help you feel a part of your child’s journey through our School. We have working bees, a mowing roster, parent helpers in the classroom, Parent Club and School Council. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for up and coming events and jump right in. There are also many avenues for communication. You will receive a lot of information in your newsletters and some classrooms use diaries. You can of course organise to speak to teachers, Mrs Ball our Acting Principal, Lyn Weller in the Office and we also have Barbara Kingwill, who works on Monday and one other day each week, who is our Chaplain. You can always seek myself, Mel Brown (school Council President) and Jan Doberer (Parent Club President) for any questions or queries as well. Here’s to a busy Term 1.

**PARENT CLUB**
AGM TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY, 2.00PM

Welcome back to school everyone and welcome to all our new prep parents. We hope you enjoy your time at our school, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me on 0447 360 810.

The Parent Club AGM will be held this Tuesday 9th February at 2.00 pm. A number of positions will be up for nomination, so please feel free to come and join us. We also need to put together a list of fundraising events to submit to School Council for approval. If you have any new ideas please let us know, as we are always trying to think of fun new ways to raise money for our school. If you are unable to make the meeting, please call me to discuss your ideas so I can table them at the meeting next week.

Thanks, Jan Doberer
PC President.
FROM THE CHAPLAIN

It has been a great start to the school year but with our first Monday assembly yesterday the school year feels like it has ‘officially’ begun. Our school is full of excitement and a touch of nervousness that a new year brings. I have particularly enjoyed spending time with the prep/one classes and watching how all the new students have been welcomed into the school. The grade six students have been doing an excellent job looking after their buddies and making sure that they feel comfortable in playground.

Many parents will already be familiar with the role that I play at the school and I look forward to getting to know the new families. One thing that I do is to set up a small display area in the staff room. It will often be a creative exhibit of current events which regularly feature stories and quotes.

At present the display features bright colours, a Leunig cartoon “The first day of School” and a quote by Marianne Williamson which focuses on letting our light shine. Leunig’s writing begins on a humorous note but the thought provoking aspect of his cartoon is conveyed in the final two lines of his verse which states;

For the rest of our lives we still had the spark
From the wonderful first day of school.

For me the spark to which Leunig refers is created by teachers and other school staff through the welcoming environment and engaging learning opportunities which they provide. In response students are enthused and the spark for learning continues to develop. Families also have an important part to play in encouraging and supporting students throughout their schooling so that they never lose sight of the wonder of learning. And even when learning is difficult or scary they are able to take on the challenge of being lifelong learners. In addition, as Marianne Williamson quote conveys, when students let their own light shine they give others the chance to do likewise. In effect the love of learning becomes contagious and enables us to enjoy the company of others and the learning communities that we grow up in.

Another favourite quote of mine follows:

*We cannot do great things, only small things with great love. It is not how you do but how much love you put into doing it – Mother Teresa.*

This is something that guides much of my role as Chaplain. So often it is the small and simple acts of ‘friendliness’ that make all the difference for child and adult alike. A smile and a word of encouragement cost the giver nothing, yet they offer the recipient a priceless gift. Our school, homes and our community are enriched when we respond to each other with caring and kindness.

Each week I will be at the school for two days, this includes Monday and one other day during the week. If you would like to speak to me, or arrange for me to chat to your child this can be organised. More details on this will be in the next newsletter.
I look forward to another great year of learning in 2016
Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS

Buln Buln Netball Club Registration Night and Light Training.
When: Tuesday 2nd February
Where: Buln Buln Netball courts. Time: 6pm-7pm
All junior grades: Under 11, 13, 15 and 17’s.
Contact Teresa Martyn

HELP REQUIRED!

To ease the workload of our small, but dedicated team of volunteers, we are seeking more families to register their names on the moving roster.
All you need to do is mow the lawns and all equipment is supplied.
The more families we get to register means less work for everyone.
If you can assist, please leave your name at the Office or phone 5626 8330.

Piano Lessons at school...
Enrolments now open for 2016
Learning an instrument can improve academic, physical and social skills, refine discipline and patience, and enables creativity.
- Individual Piano lessons
- All ages and levels
- AMEB exam options
- Eisteddfods
- Music Theory
- Learn for enjoyment!

Enquiries: Mrs Jenny Treble
0417 589 570
treblesmusic@dcsi.net.au

Piano lessons start this Thursday. Please contact Jenny if you are interested.