Dear Parents

We have started 2017 with 182 students. The yard is very busy at recess and lunchtimes but it is wonderful to see the positive interactions between our students. Our Foundation students are settling in well which is a credit to all. It is lovely to see students stepping in when they see someone is by themselves and assisting them in finding something to do or someone to play with. Our Peer Mediators play a key role in this process. They monitor students in the yard and are always on hand to assist students when they feel lonely or need to discuss something. We highly value our Peer Mediators in contributing to make our yard a safe and friendly place to be.

School Council - Are you interested in joining our School Council?

School councils have three main responsibilities:

- Finance – overseeing the development of the school’s annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school’s financial operation.
- Strategic Planning – participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan.
- Policy Development and Review – developing, reviewing and updating policies that reflect a school’s values and support the school’s broad direction outlined in its strategic plan.

Our School Council meets monthly on Tuesday nights. We are looking for 3 Parent Representatives and 2 Community Members. If you are interested, please come and see Lyn or myself. Nomination forms are available at the office.

Elections are now open for this year’s School Council.

Nominations close next Tuesday, February 14th.

Parent Afternoon Tea

On Tuesday, February 21st we will be having a Welcome to Buln Parent Afternoon Tea. We hope that many of you are able to attend. It will start at 2pm and be followed by our Parent Club Meeting and AGM.

CSEF Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of term one, 2017, 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 17th February.

Have a great week
Nicole Ball, Acting Principal

ICARE Awards
MOWING ROSTER

February
25/26 Zeldenryk

March

Max, Georgie, Nataly, Daniel, Caitlin, Rhyce, Phoenix, Rieley, Harley, Abbey.

Our weekly assembly awards are given to students who demonstrate outstanding behaviours based around our ICARE school values of Independence, confidence adaptability, respect and excellence.

Reasons for awards this week included:
- Displaying excellent ICARE values in the classroom.
- Showing independence in school work
- Displaying confidence in school work
- Being organised with diaries and reading
- Being confident with your speaking and listening
- Displaying confidence in settling into our school

Special Religious Instruction (SRI)
SRI is being offered again this year. It will be run on Mondays during part of lunchtime. Students wishing to participate in the program must have a permission form completed. The form is attached to this newsletter.

PARENT CLUB
AGM TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY, 2.30PM
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 0428 390 443.

The Parent Club AGM will be held this Tuesday 21st February at 2.30 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, Janine Sharman
PC President.

IN THE ART ROOM TERM 1
This Term we will be continuing to build on knowledge and skills developed in 2016 along with our organisational and time management skills. Our theme this semester is Australia which will cover many areas including Australian artists, bushrangers and explorers.

This year we will be participating in the “School Display” exhibition at the 2017 Warragul & West Gippsland Agricultural Society Inc. Annual Show, to be held on Saturday 4th March, 2017. The theme is “Australian Flora and Fauna”, which compliments our area of study.

Our school can choose to display drawings, paintings, models, dioramas, or any other masterpieces. There will be a selection of pieces from each year level across several weeks to showcase different skills and techniques.

So we will be busy in the Art Room.

For students wishing to enter their own work independently, 2017 Show schedules and entry forms can be obtained from the Show Secretary, Ms Tonnie Schipper on 56 231 005, or alternatively can be collected from the Warragul Gazette office.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
It has been a great start to the school year and with the first Monday assembly yesterday the school year feels like it has now ‘officially’ begun. It was wonderful to see all the new Prep students lined up and singing along with the lyrics of the National Anthem. I
particularly enjoyed spending time in the Prep classes last week, seeing how all the new students have been welcomed and have settled into the school.

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. A favourite quote of mine follows, this guides much of my work as Chaplain:

_We can not 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._

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.

Being a faith based worker there are times that I write in the newsletter about our common or individual beliefs and ICARE school values. When I do so my intention is to be respectful and inclusive of all people. On this occasion I wanted to reflect on a song that I sang yesterday in my church community. It is called The Servant Song. Some of the lyrics build on the quote above with words worth a read: _We are pilgrims on a journey; And companions on the road; We are here to help each other; Walk the mile and bear the load._ The song also refers to the reciprocal benefits of this way of being in the world. When we strive to serve and support others we can also be open to the same form of care being extended to us. It does not take long to see that our world, country and community has need of much compassion. Our media bring us so many stories of people. The lyrics go on to say; _I will hold my hand out to you; Speak the peace you long to hear; I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh I’ll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow; Till we’ve seen this journey through._ For me this sums up how I see chaplaincy at BBPS.

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. For those who have not filled out the consent form attached this can be printed or collected from the office, completed and returned to the school. In addition you can visit or phone and speak to me to discuss any issues. Some families who are going through challenging times, due to illness or other unexpected life events, find that their child benefits from some extra support in addition to what the other caring members of the school staff provide. When we are aware of a particular need teaching staff and I can work in conjunction to provide the level of care that assists both the child and family to cope with these challenges.

I look forward to another great year of learning in 2017

Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS
Cyber Safety for Families
The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has gained accreditation as an eSmart Library. During summer we’re offering a series of workshops with guest speakers from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation offering cyber safety strategies.

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For more information
Call 5622 2646
Book at wgic.eventbrite.com.au
wgic.vic.gov.au