Principal’s Chat

It is hard to believe that we only have 2 weeks until the end of term 4. It has certainly been a very busy year and the last two weeks will be no exception.

Last Friday we had our whole school circus performance. It was great to see the excitement and enthusiasm on the children’s faces. They all put on an amazing performance for the end of the year.

A lot of organisation, planning and preparation has been taking place in preparation for the 2016 school year and we currently have an anticipated enrolment of 105 students.

Based on these enrolments I am really pleased to announce that all staff will be returning in 2016. I am very fortunate to work with a great team of people and as parents you should feel lucky to have very professional, enthusiastic and dedicated people teaching your children each day and being part of their lives. Staffing for 2016 is as follows:

Jodie Mengler – Principal
Debra Watson – Office manager
Bernadette McKenna – Grade P/1
John Paton – Grade 1/2
Helen Pyers – Grade 3/4
Danica Purcell – Grade 4/5
Brett Harris – Grade 5/6
Liz Grainger – Literacy Support
Debbie O’Byrne – Education Support
Kay Scanlan – Education Support
Alisa Burdett – Visual Arts
Mary Thorpe – Performing Arts
Peter Kuckhahn – LOTE Indonesian
Prue Robertson – Social Worker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 15th December
Grade 6 graduation dinner

Friday 18th December
Last day of term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal

Thursday 21st January
Stationery pack pick up/fee payment
day 10.30am-3pm

Thursday 28th January
First day term 1
A note is coming home with your child today indicating the class that they will be in next year and their teacher. Tomorrow is our whole school step up day and every student will spend the day in their class for 2016.

To celebrate the end of the year all classes will be having a class party in the last week of term. Class teachers will send home further information in regards to this but the days of the parties are listed below:

Prep – Wednesday 16th December
1/2 – Wednesday 16th December
2/3 – Thursday 17th December
4 – Wednesday 17th December
5/6 – Thursday 17th December

The volunteers that came along to the volunteers morning tea this morning enjoyed some very delicious treats prepared by all the staff. It was a great opportunity for us to say thank you to all of the parents and friends who have helped out throughout the year. We appreciate and value your support very much.

Last week was the start of summer and water safety week. In term 1 of 2016 all students will participate in our Swim and Survive Program. The information below has been provided by Life Saving Victoria along with some websites for you to take a look at to ensure safety around water at all times. It is very timely especially with the start of summer and the warmer weather.

We Play It Safe By The Water.. But does everybody else???

With WATER SAFETY WEEK just concluding and the summer holidays fast approaching, what better time to ramp up our water safety messages away from the pool.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVUh3pR9sQ&feature=player_embedded

The website below is brought to you by the Victorian Government to increase community awareness of water safety. This is another great way that we can help our community learn how to be safe at the beach, at the river, by the pool and while boating and fishing.


Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?

- Kellie will be absent next Monday and will be replaced by Alisa
- Jodie is attending a Principal Network meeting on Thursday morning.

What’s happening in the classroom?

Final Library reminder: As the end of the year is fast approaching it would be appreciated if you could ensure that all school library books are returned to school by tomorrow. Library notices will be sent home for overdue books. End of year processing is a huge task and if you have some time to help with the reorganisation of the library it would be much appreciated. Kindly let the office know if you are available.

Young leaders:

Young Leaders Friday FUNdraiser

Please leave orders with your classroom teacher.

Available each Friday are: Homemade Sausage rolls $2.50, Juice Box $1.50, Popcorn $1.00
Office Info

Centrapay: Families in receipt of Centrelink payments have the option of paying for stationery, fees, uniforms, camps etc. via regular deductions from their fortnightly payment. Accompanying the newsletter today is a Centrapay form which families can complete if they would like to start making regular payments to the school in preparation for back to school expenses. Part A, D and G must all be completed, then the form should be returned to the office and Debra will send it off to Centrelink. Please see Debra if you require assistance to complete the form.

Bus travel for 2016: In preparation for the start of 2016 ALL bus travellers must complete a new PTV application for permission to travel form. The form accompanies the newsletter today and should be completed and returned by Monday 14th December, 2015.

Grade 6 Graduation dinner: A reminder that dinner orders and payment of $19 per attendee (excluding the graduating child) were due back at the office TODAY. If you are yet to return your order and payment please do so by TOMORROW so that orders can be finalised with the venue.

Absence notes: Any families with outstanding absence notes are asked to send them to the office immediately so that attendance records for 2015 can be finalised prior to the end of the year.

Financial statements: Any families with outstanding payments for 2016 camps, excursions, fees and uniforms are asked to finalise their payments immediately. Please contact the office if this is not possible and an alternative payment arrangement can be discussed.

School Community

Fresh Fruit Friday:
This week’s volunteers are: Shelley Woods/Mickey Noy and Lauren Wilbern

Next week: NO Fresh Fruit Friday

A big thank you to Maldon IGA for their generosity in donating the fruit for FFF throughout 2015.
**Fundraising/Events survey:** Last week a Fundraising/Events survey was sent home to obtain feedback from the school community on the events we run at the school. A reminder to all families that we would like you to complete and return the survey to the office by **Wednesday 16th December**.

**Cybersafety event:** A Facebook Cybersafety event is being held in Castlemaine on Monday 14th December. The Facebook presentation is being held at the Ray Bradfield rooms with two sessions: 10am - 12noon and 7.00pm - 9.00pm

The sessions will be run by founder and Director of CyberActive Services, Janita Docherty, who is a sought after Facebook specialist who has been travelling consistently overseas and within Australia, to deliver Facebook presentations and to gain further research on ongoing trends in the digital space.

Janita is a former Victoria Police officer, recently retired after 21 years service. She holds a unique blend of knowledge which is unrivalled regarding internet safety instruction. Janita understands the multitude of digital responsibilities, from electronic abuse, to social media investigation and teen internet use. Her social media and Facebook investigation presentations have been conducted for specialist Law Enforcement units both within Australia and the United States. In a one off session, Janita is delivering a Facebook event to the community of Castlemaine and surrounds, with her Facebook Finesse’ presentation on Monday 14th December. This presentation has been tailored to specifically address the requirements of Facebook users online safety best practices and answer elements of Facebook queries she has received from locals.

As a leading authority in Facebook for personal use and safety, Janita is also offering individual bookings for 'Facebook audits' to those who require peace of mind that their Facebook account is locked down.

Don't miss out on this specialist presentation with instruction by Australia’s leading Facebook expert. Tickets available at [Eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/facebook-event-castlemaine-tickets-19770358675)

For further information or to book for an individual 'Facebook Audit' Session - please contact Janita: info@cyberactiveservices.com


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**Extra curricular catch up**

*DTM*

0407 502 438
drewthorpemusic@gmail.com

**2016 INSTRUMENT LESSONS**

- Piano and keyboards
- Violin, Viola & Cello
- Woodwind & Brass
- Singing and Vocals
- Electric, Acoustic & Bass Guitar
- Ukelele & Banjo
- Drums and Percussion

*$20/lesson - GST*

For inquiries, please contact Drew

Ph. 0407 502 438
drewthorpemusic@gmail.com
Facebook page: Drew Thorpe Music

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**Community**

**Christmas lights in Maldon**

To help make Christmas a little different in Maldon this year we would like to get as many people on board to light up their homes with Christmas lights and decorations for December. People are then asked to register their addresses so a map can be made to allow people to tour the town and see all the lights. Several homes in Maldon have already jumped on board and have their Christmas lights on display. For those interested in getting on board we ask that they SMS to 0439 436 664 or ring and leave their address details by no later than 11 December at 12pm.

Thanks and happy decorating!!!