Welcome to our 2014 school year. We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break and are refreshed and ready for an exciting and rewarding first term. Welcome to our new families. We look forward to working together for the benefit of your children.

Welcome to our new teacher Miss Louise Chalmers. Louise will be teaching our Grade 2/3 students.

Brimmed hats are an essential part of our school uniform for first and fourth terms. All children must wear a brimmed hat outside or will be directed to the shaded bench seat area for the duration of lunch and recess. We do expect children to wear uniform to school each day - any combination of blues and white, and we ask parents to help us enforce this School Council regulation.

Many thanks to Kelly Johnson and family who maintained a watering schedule for our gardens over the break ensuring that our gardens were well watered.

Welcome Prep students who begin their school life: Carly Anderson, Elsie Brown, Liley Brown, Ava Cunningham, Ella Hollier, Sophie Jackson, Chloe Johnston, Jayden Mellor, Brayden Rip, Brydee Shanks and Sarita Toner.

Prep students will not attend school on Wednesdays for the duration of February.
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE IN 2014

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps to cover the costs related to your child’s schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child’s education up to the age of 16.

In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:

- $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

To be eligible for the EMA:
1. Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
2. Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
3. You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
   - be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   - be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
   - be a temporary foster parent.

Submit your application to the school by the due date:
- 28 February 2014 for the first instalment*
- 1 August 2014 for the second instalment.

Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between March and August.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify that the cardholder is receiving a benefit.

An application Form is attached to this newsletter.

AQUATIC EDUCATION

Aquatic Education Program commences on Wednesday 5th February for all students in Grade 1-6. Students will need to bring bathers and towel each Wednesday for the duration of February.

Attention: As a whole school procedure and school rule NO parent will be phoned if their child forgets their swim gear. Instead; your child will remain at school and complete water safety and swimming educational activities. Permission forms have been sent home with all students in Grade 1-6.

TERM 1 SUN SMART HATS

It is school policy that sun smart hats be worn outside by all students (and staff) during terms 1 and 4. Students are being given this week to get things sorted out but from next Monday 3rd February this will be strictly enforced.

Any student who does not have a hat will be required to sit on the bench seats in the shade. This consequence is to help remind students to bring their hats to school and to reinforce the importance of this rule.

Bucket hats are available for purchase from the Administration office at $8 each

PARENT SUPPORTED MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGE

This funding is extremely important to the school as it forms a part of our overall school operating budget and is used and relied on for:

- Cultural Performances
- Classroom materials including student stationery (eg: paper, pens, pencils, books).

School Council has set the 2014 Parent Supported Materials and Services Charge (formerly known as school fees) at $150 per child.

The Parent supported materials and services charge is due now from all families and can be paid at the school office. (We also accept payment plan)

TOORA HEATED POOL - Movie Night
FRIDAY 7th February
$8 per person entry

BBQ tea available for purchase
Gates Open and Inflatable Commando from 5.30pm
Movie starts approx. 9pm
BYO chairs, blankets, lilos, bean bags etc...

STRICTLY NO ALCOHOL - BAGS WILL BE SEARCHED
ENQUIRIES TO ERNIE OR CAROL ON 56 862 296
REMINDER:
- All visitors to the school MUST sign in at the office before entering the classroom area.
- Bus travellers must have a note handed to either the office or Bus Duty teacher or a note in the communication book if they are not travelling home on the bus.
- Bus Students are Supervised from 8:15am until 3:50pm. All other students are supervised between 8:40am - 3:30pm.

2013 OUR YEAR IN PICTURES
We still have some copies of this beautiful book available for sale at $20 ea. Please drop into the Admin Office to have a look or to purchase your copy.

GROUND NEWS
We are very pleased with our new outdoor furniture that arrived this week and our shaded area off the side of the sports stadium that was built using recycled materials from our ‘old’ school over the break. The workmanship of Bill Keech (furniture) and Corrie Grevan - (Shelter area) who completed the projects is very much appreciated.

At the February School Council meeting (Thursday 13th February at 2:00pm) the next stage of the job (concreting/paving the covered area and permanently affixing the outdoor furniture) will be discussed.

A thank you goes to our groundsman Les Osborne who maintained the grounds over the break and to our families who volunteered time over the break to ensure our gardens were looking beautiful for the start of the new school year.

Mr Whittle and the students of Grade 4, 5 & 6 have enthusiastically adopted the caretaker role of our Kitchen Garden - we look forward to tasting fresh produce in the near future.

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Students in Grade 2/3 were happy to be using the new outdoor furniture
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WELCOME Miss Chalmers
Miss Louise Chalmers is the Grade 2/3 classroom teacher.