CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February
- Fri 24 Bush Dance - 6.30pm - 8.30pm.
- Fri 24 Bush Dance Workshop for Students

March
- Mon 6 - Thurs 9 Grade 5/6 Camp - Sovereign Hill
- Mon 13 Public Holiday
- Fri 31 Last Day Term 1

2017 School Captains

Bunyip Primary School
School Captains 2017

Brody Turner
Charna-Rae Stephens
Lachlan Hogben
Taylah Clark

Office Organization

Wendy Whyatt and Tamara Van Wel

On Monday several Notices were sent home.

Orange - General notice regarding Office information.

Green - Bush Dance information and permission form.

White - Acceptable Use Agreement for students and parents.

Scholastic Book Club order forms. - These order forms are due back no later than Friday. Please read them carefully and return them to school ASAP.

Parking During School Pickup and Drop Off

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that when parking in our car parks you must reverse in. Also please park in a sensible manner. Leave a car door width between the cars when parking. This is in our car park policy and is there to keep all of our students safe. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

I would just like to welcome back all our students and their families. I hope Christmas and the New Year provided opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment. Our grounds are looking really good at the moment and we have put new sand in all our sandpits and also put new soft fall in all our playground areas. We have planned further maintenance work to repair various areas that need maintenance. You will also notice that on the bike shed side of the school the overgrown area has been fully cleared and will now be easy to mow and maintain.

An Acceptable Use Agreement was sent home to families for each child that currently attends Bunyip Primary School. This agreement outlines the expectations of student behaviour for use of the internet and digital technologies at Bunyip PS. Before a child will be allowed to use the internet or digital technologies at the school we will have to have a completed form returned to the school.

While I’m on the subject of Digital Devices, I would like to convey expectations of electronic devices that students bring to school. Student electronic devices, phones, iPods, iPads, etc. need to be turned off upon entry to the school and must stay in a student’s bag all day. These devices are not allowed to be used during the school day, unless a student has been given permission to use it in class, for educational purposes, by the classroom teacher. Where a student fails to respect this requirement their device will be taken from them and stored in the Principal’s Office. For the first offence it will be returned to the child at the end of the day. For a second and following offence it will be taken and the parent will be required to collect from the School Office. Where a student flagrantly fails to respect school expectations in regards to private electronic devices they will be banned from bring their dive to school.

Where your child rides a bike or scooter to school they are required to wear a helmet for safety reasons. This has been a school requirement for many years now. While the vast majority of our students respect this, we have a few who don’t. It only takes one accident involving their head for permanent and lasting brain injury. Many years ago as a teacher I experienced this when a student, in the grade next to mine, was riding a scooter to school and hit something an flew off their scooter. They sustained a serious brain injury, which left them totally dependent for the rest of their life. This child was a vibrant and intelligent young boy. Please, can all parents make sure their children are wearing helmets if they ride to school.

We are looking forward to a really positive year for 2017. The school has been accepted into a DET initiative to develop a more collaborative approach to teaching and learning across the school. A key aspect of this initiative is intensive training for three staff to become instructional leaders for teaching in the school. The staff have worked very hard over the first three pupil free days to complete full curriculum maps and guides for Prep to Year 6. These documents will overview and guide the implementation of the New Victorian Curriculum at Bunyip Primary School.

Dale Hendrick
Acting Principal

Book Club

Scholastic Book Club went home on Monday with all students. It is due back this Friday.
Senior Scoop
Mrs Howard, Mr Craig, Mrs Ingram and Miss Dore
Welcome back everyone and welcome to our newest members of the Senior School. As you all know our camp at Sovereign Hill is only three weeks away. Please return all relevant forms as soon as possible. We have already had a meeting with students to go over lots of information and there will be several more before we go. If you have any questions about anything please do not hesitate to ask.
Homework requirements for our students continue to be the same. Each child is expected to read for at least 20 minutes every evening, practise their weekly spelling words and know their multiplication/division tables thoroughly. Other items of work may be set by individual teachers as required during the year.
There are times during the year that we would like to view DVDs relating to our themes and topics. Sometimes these DVDs are rated PG. If you do not want your child to view these programs please let the classroom teacher know.
Our first unit of study is about Life on the Goldfields. Mixed maths across our team has begun and most other programs will begin in the next week. If you have any concerns or questions please see any of us.

Middle Memos
Mrs Smith, Miss Savage, Mrs Stewart and Miss von Schlippe
Welcome back to all our grade 3/4 students and their families. We are looking forward to a great year together. Please take the time to read the 3/4 information sheet that was sent home. It contains important information on the running of our classes and what is expected of students. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to pop in and see us.

Junior Jargon
Miss Withers, Mr Kent and Mr Lodge
Welcome back to another great year of school! This first full week has been a busy one! Our Grade 1/2 students have been completing lots of assessment including the English online interview. Mr Kent has been completing these interviews in a one on one setting. We would like to give a big thanks to Miss Leatham who has been teaching Mr Kent’s Grade this week while he completes these tests. Next week we will gradually start to bring home our readers, so keep an eye out for these. Information about readers is in the 1/2 area expectations notice we sent home last week. All of our children have had a wonderful start to the term and we look forward to working with them this year!

Prep
Mrs Guy and Mrs Leatham
Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a relaxing fun filled holiday with your family. Please remember our doors are always open so feel free to pop in at any time and join in with your child’s learning plus chat to us. This week we will be learning about the sound Bb, so encourage your child to bring in items beginning with this sound to share with the grade. Ask your child to sing the song to help remember this sound plus show you the sign for Bb. Encourage your child to read their take home reader every night, plus discuss their day. Practising the take home words will assist with reading and writing and if you have time play maths games together, such as UNO, snakes and ladders plus card games. Most importantly have fun learning!
Library Lingo!

Welcome back to our lovely Library for 2017!

- Students in Grade Prep – are able to borrow 1 book.
- Students in Grades 1 – 2 are able to borrow 2 books
- Students in Grades 3 – 4 are able to borrow up to 3 books.
- Students in Grades 5 – 6 are able to borrow up to 4 books.
- Students in Grades Prep – 2 usually select books to be read with a parent. These books are not required to be matched to their reading level.
- Students in Grades 3 – 6 are required to borrow some books that match their reading level. These are used in their classroom reading programs. Students select their books using a recommended procedure. Please note that it does take some students time to select their books with accuracy. Students are also able to borrow books to be read with a parent. All students at this level are expected to borrow books from the Library on a regular basis.
- All students in Grades Prep – 6 should read at home every night.
- Books may be borrowed for 2 weeks.
- After 2 weeks, students can re-borrow their books or return them to the Library.

Each classroom has a special box where books needing to be returned to the Library are placed. Students can also return their books directly to the Library.
- Students in Grades Prep – 4 are required to use the Bunyip Primary School navy blue book bag when they are transporting books to and from school. This helps to protect books from food and drinks.
- If books are damaged, the Library needs to be notified. If books need to be replaced a donation of $10 towards the new book is required.
- If books are lost, a donation of $10 is required. Please note this policy is endorsed by School Council. As a government school we always operate on a tight budget so these $10 donations are necessary.

Please contact me if you have any queries or concerns about our Library procedures.

Mrs Gatti
Librarian

Gardening Cooking Club

Welcome back everyone. At Bunyip Primary School we run a Gardening Cooking Club every Tuesday during lunch time. During these sessions students from any grade are welcome to join in with a 4 week rotation which includes 1. working in the vegie garden planting, weeding and mulching. 2. cooking with produce grown in the school garden. 3. working on a permanent Art work to go in the school and 4. visiting Hillview Aged Care facility. If you would like to go to Hillview by bus please come and see Mrs Guy in Room 1 to organise permission forms. These permission forms must be signed before going to Hillview. All welcome!
Thank you to Mrs Talbot for looking after the vegie garden over the holidays. Because of your help we were able to cook bruschetta. Yum...
Parents & Friends Association invites all family members to attend the evening of **Friday 24th February 2017** for a family Bush Dance.

**IT IS FREE TO ATTEND**

Held outside the Staffroom (if wet in the School Hall).

Come and join in the night of fun and laughter.

Bring GrandPa & GrandMa, Brothers & Sisters, Aunts & Uncles, Friends and other Family members.

**TIME:** 6:30pm – 7:00pm.

Bring a picnic (BYO everything, including chairs/rugs)

or support the P&F Sausage Sizzle.

7:00pm – 8:30pm.

Bush Dancing with the ‘Billy Tea Bush Band’.

We hope you can come along, learn some dances, meet some new families.

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**Welcome Prep / 1’s**
As many of you know I embarked on a life changing journey to Uganda these past school holidays. ‘Life changing’ might seem like a pretty drastic description but to be honest it doesn’t even begin to describe what I experienced and learnt, who I met and taught or what I did. My three weeks in Uganda were out of this world.

The LRTT fellowship begun on the 5th of January in the international airport of Entebbe (which was no bigger than Bunyip Primary School). Here, 16 Australian teachers, 1 Irish film maker and 2 English team leaders met for the very first time. We travelled by bus to our first location of Jinja, situated along the Nile River. Here we begun some team bonding activities which included white water rafting grade 5 rapids and bungee jumping. It certainly made the group form connections quickly through fun, yet terrifying experiences. What a way to be welcomed to Africa!

From Jinja we endured 3 flat tyres, endless bumps and copious amounts of dust on our 14-hour bus ride to Kanungu. If we weren’t already a tight knit family, this bus ride made sure we were with fellows sleeping on shoulders left, right and centre. Kanungu is where we spent most of our time. We were based at the Lodge, a place I feel privileged to have called home for three weeks. The Lodge was absolutely magnificent. It consisted of Bandas with thatched roofs and clay brick floors, a roaring camp fire each night, views of the Congo across the mountainous jungle and beautiful Ugandan staff who took the very best care of us. Uganda really didn’t need to try hard to make me fall in love with it.

Our official teaching role begun on Monday the 9th of January at the Great Lakes Regional University. We were partnered up with another Australian Fellow and assigned a group of Ugandan teachers to work with for a fortnight. We planned and taught various topics including planning, behaviour for learning, assessment for learning, questioning, group work, marking, differentiation for support and special needs education. The learning and teaching was a two-way street with the Ugandan teachers teaching me just as much as I was teaching them. It is so easy to take what we have for granted, and I have learnt that what we have is more than Uganda could ever dream of. Class sizes in Ugandan schools are often 60+ children, classrooms are less than half the size of ours, and attendance and access to resources is very poor. Despite all the rewards of Teaching teachers the program certainly had its challenges. I had to think on my feet to answer questions and give examples in the Ugandan context, overcome language barriers and uncover my knowledge and confidently deliver it to other teachers. We were in a constant battle against flat tyres and being on time wasn’t easy, for myself or the Ugandans. Regardless of this, the program was truly inspiring and I could tell that the Ugandans got so much from it which was the true reward!

Something that I have taken away from this experience, more than anything else is the change in attitude of one of the teachers I was mentoring. A whole lesson was dedicated to behaviour for learning and after some discussion I discovered that corporal punishment is still occasionally used in Ugandan schools. One teacher in particular was quite adamant that it was necessary to use corporal punishment so that students receive an appropriate consequence. It took a lot of persistence and explanation on my part to have this teacher come to the understanding that corporal punishment should never be used. We discussed the use of positive reinforcement and rewards as well as negative consequences that could be used and all the teachers went away full of ideas and excited to implement some strategies. I couldn’t think of a more successful lesson than this. These teachers now had various tools to use with challenging students and the students were not receiving painful punishment. This put everything into perspective for me and reiterated that my choice to spend my holidays volunteering was meaningful!

In between teaching we had the pleasure of going on safari in the Queen Elizabeth National Park, relaxing at Lake Bunyonyi, Trekking the Bwindi Impenetrable Rain Forest for Gorillas and slipping and sliding down a gorge to search for chimpanzees.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and interest in my trip. I really appreciate all the well wishes and the donations from last year. If you want to know more about the LRTT program don’t hesitate to ask or head to the website https://lrtt.org/fellowships
COMMUNITY NEWS

2017 Bunyip Soccer Club Registration Day
Registration will take place at the Bunyip Soccer grounds:
Sunday 19th February, 10.00am – 12pm.
Wednesday 22nd February 4:00pm to 6pm Payment of fees is required at time of registration. Looking for Junior Coaches/Volunteer’s, please express interest if interested.

Art Class for Teenagers and Upper Primary Kids
Tuesdays from 4.00pm until 5.30pm
Class starts 7th February and runs for 8 weeks
Cost is $7.00 per class and a $6.00 Yearly Membership
Bookings: Bunyip Community House - 5629 5877

Drouin Girl Guides – Join us!
Make Friends, Have Fun, Learn new skills, Leadership, Community Service
Contact: Diane, PH: 0407 044 573
drouingirlguides@live.com
Units Meet at 4-6 Victoria St, Drouin
Mondays: 5-7yrs – 5pm – 6:30pm, Seniors: 11-15yrs – 7 - 9pm
Wednesdays: 8 – 10yrs - 6pm – 8pm
OR
Join us for our Open Day – Sat March 18th between 10am-12pm

Hookin2 Hockey
West Gippsland Hockey Association
Bellbird Park, Lampards Road, Drouin
Monday 27th February 2017 at 4.30pm
Contact - Margaret Austen - 0438 251 448
marg austen1965@gmail.com
General Information

What is a school council and what does it do?
All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted 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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET 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. DET 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.

The School Council is the governing body of the school and makes decisions at a local level within the guidelines set by the Department of Education and Training (DET).
The Bunyip Primary School Council consists of -
- 8 elected parent representatives
- 4 elected DET representatives
- 1 Principal (non-elected)
- 2 co-opted representatives
- 1 P&FA
- 1 Community Member

The annual election of half of the council membership (2 year term) occurs during February each year. The elected term of office for new Councillors is two years.

There are two separate elections- one for the election of parent members, and one for the election of DET employee members.

The maximum number of DET/parents who can be elected to the parent category at Bunyip Primary is 2 (see nomination forms for definitions). If nominations exceed vacancies an election will we required.

2016 Timeline:
Wednesday Feb 8          Call for Nominations
Friday Feb 17             Nominations close
Wednesday Feb 22          Distribute ballot papers if required
Wednesday March 1         Close of ballot
Friday March 3             Count votes and declare the poll
Monday March 13           New School Council Meeting (AGM)

Nomination forms are available from the General Office and completed forms must be returned within the 7 day timeline.

At these elections 4 parent representative’s term of office will be concluding:
- Tim Blackley
- Tracey Cooke
- Di Price
- Vacant

2 DET representatives will also be retiring:
- Louise Morten (1 year)
- Chris Kent
- April Dore

I would like to thank all School Council members for their significant contribution to our successful school, and for the work, time and effort that they have provided. School Councils play a very important role in successful schools. We need keen, interested and committed individuals who are prepared to work as a team to further develop and improve our great school.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require more information about the election process and procedures.

School Council Nomination Forms are available from the General Office.

Dale Hendrick
(Acting Principal)