



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

How can it be a week and a half to go? This has certainly been a weird arrangement this term! I'm sure it will be worthwhile though. I'm really looking forward to the Commonwealth Games. I have some tickets to events but I'm also looking forward to the many music and cultural events that the Games have brought to Melbourne.

Baton relay

A reminder too, that the Queens Baton Relay will be proceeding down the Mornington Peninsula tomorrow. I would encourage families to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity. Details of the times and locations have been heavily covered in local newspapers. Should parents decide to take children to see the Baton Relay, we will certainly understand. There will be no need to bring children to the office for a late arrival form but I do ask that parents accompany children to their classrooms if they are late in the morning. Please don't just drop them off!

Parking in gravel area

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are parking some distance from the sides of the gravel area, leaving little room for traffic in the queue to proceed. Please consider others in all of your parking, pick-up and drop-off procedures. It is also my strong suggestion that, if you park and wait for your children in the gravel area, you actually leave your car and assist your children to safely load and enter your vehicle. Leaving children, especially young ones, to their own devices can often lead to rash and impulsive actions that can be a risk to their safety.

Local parking inspectors

We have had a notice from the Mornington Council that Shire Rangers will be conducting traffic awareness programs around local schools. They will be targeting dangerous driving and parking around schools at pick-up and drop-off times and have particularly highlighted overstaying in short stay parking, parking on nature strips, stopping in 'no stopping anytime' areas, double parking, parking in disabled bays and parking in bus bays. Shire Rangers will be issuing 'caution notices' to drivers to heighten awareness of the need for the safest possible practices around schools.

School Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as School Leaders for the

year 2006. As usual, it is an outstanding group of young people who, I am certain, will represent our school and their fellow students with distinction. The Captains have already attended the Youth Leadership Conference in Melbourne as part of their leadership training and soon our Vice Captains will attend a Youth Leadership Forum at Toorak College. We wish all of our school leaders the very best of good fortune in their important roles.

School Captains

Sarah Matthew

Junior School Council Chairs

Aden Shannyn

House Captains 2006

Jones:

Jessica Lachlan

Bronte Jacob

Benton:

Sam Kristen

Cameron Kate

Coolart:

Jake Danielle

Tayla Mitchell

Baxter:

Rachel Andrew

Felicity Andrew

Reading Challenge

As you probably have seen, the Premier's Reading Challenge has begun in earnest. I would encourage all of our children from Years 3 to 6 to get involved in the reading challenge. Last year, Tyabb won an award, presented by our local state member, Rosy Buchanan, for the highest percentage of children completing the challenge. This is a most worthwhile pursuit! It will not only encourage children to read more but, by providing a reading list, it encourages them to read quality, age-appropriate literature. Children in Years prep to 2 are welcome to enter the reading challenge through the website if they wish.

Water Safety

Next week, the Years 5 and 6 children will be involved in their water safety program at Mothers Beach, Mornington. It is always a magnificent program and we never fail to receive incredibly positive feedback from both children and the parents who get involved.

Returning notices

A strong reminder to parents from the teachers about the importance of returning notices "*promptly and on time*". Organising a camp or excursion is an incredibly complex

and time-consuming task. We try to give parents adequate notice prior to an event. Final dates for notices and payments are often dictated by circumstances beyond our control like bus companies and excursion venues. Arrangements are often greatly affected by the numbers of students attending. It is also a good exercise in developing responsibility in children to insist that notices are presented to parents on the day they are received and returned to school on or before the due date. Please assist us and the grade teachers by taking the time to attend to this most important issue.

Camp and excursion attendance

Whilst on the subject of camps and excursions, it has come to my attention recently too, that some children are "*choosing not to attend*" organised camps and excursions. This, to me, is simply unacceptable on several different levels. My main concern is that children are given the freedom to choose whether they attend or not. Some parents may disagree with this view so let me explain. I am a strong exponent of giving children choices and allowing them to have some say in how certain aspects of their lives will proceed. However, this is a progressive skill that should be developed as children grow older. The responsibility for decision making can only be properly taken on once there is a full understanding of the implications of those decisions. It seems to me that some parents are allowing children to make decisions on things that are beyond their understanding. I believe that, in these circumstances, it is our responsibility as parents to make decisions for our children "*in their best interest*". Our camps and excursions program is carefully crafted to support our classroom curriculum. When students don't attend, they often miss key experiences that impact on their involvement and understanding in later follow up work. It can also affect their social relationships when other children return full of things to talk about and happenings to discuss. I understand that, for all sorts of reasons, parents may choose not to send children to various activities.

My concern is that often it is not the parents who are making the decision or that they indeed may be making the decision but for the wrong reasons.

Dogs in the school grounds

Increasingly it seems, people are bringing dogs into the school grounds during school time. **Health regulations stipulate that dogs should not be on school premises.** I know that many people walk through the grounds with dogs in the evening and on weekends. Whilst the dogs should not be on the school grounds, according to regulations, the fact that we have responsible community members in our grounds at these times can be a protective factor in terms of possible vandalism. So long as they clean up any mess left in the grounds then I don't mind this practice. I am concerned though that dogs brought here in school time present a whole other safety and health concern. With so many children and parents in the area at the one time and, given the innate unpredictability of children and dogs, there is potential for risk that is unacceptable. I would ask that parents do not bring dogs into the school grounds during school time without specific permission and prior arrangement, eg. prep pet show.

Head Lice

It has been brought to my attention that Head Lice are rife in the school once more. Given our warm, humid weather lately, you would not be surprised to hear that it is a problem in most schools at the moment. With no government funding available to combat this problem from a school perspective, we rely heavily on parents to be informed and vigilant on this issue. Please take the time between now and next term to check your children carefully or have them checked by someone. If you suspect head lice, please commence treatment as soon as possible. Once treatment is completed you must then "diligently" comb out all evidence of lice and eggs from the hair. Even what may appear to be dead eggs can result in reinfestation. Careful and appropriate treatment of bedding, clothing and soft toys is also important. There is information available at the school office or at the local council where you are also able to purchase head lice treatment. Next term, you will see information about parent education and a new locally managed checking program for head lice so keep your eyes on the newsletters. OK, enough about head lice. You can stop scratching now!

Have a great week everyone.

Greg Lacey, Principal

From the Acting AP's Desk

Many of the programs we offer at school wouldn't happen to the same extent without the support of our dedicated parents. Every time we ask for assistance, and often even before we have time to ask, we have a group of parents ready to help. Over the last week I have been working on the organisation of the Environment Centre and Water Safety Week. In both cases I have been grateful for parent offers of assistance and support. Thank you everyone.

Environment Centre

Last year a team of children, parents and teachers worked with the Gould League to design our environment centre. It includes a chook pen, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, potting benches, rainwater tank, compost bins, worm farms and a teaching area with seating and a table. One Saturday of hard work saw the centre start to take shape with the building of garden beds, gravel spread, delivery of the water tank and then fencing contractors completed the fencing. Once again this year we have a wonderful group of parents who have offered their support and expertise to get this project up and running. We are planning a working bee for early next term to complete a major part of the centre so that the children can begin their work. We would really appreciate your support so keep an eye out for the notice next term.

Our talented artists at work



Next week Years 5 and 6 are off to Mothers beach at Mornington to participate in water safety activities including endurance swimming, surf skis, snorkelling and rescue procedures. Parents have offered to collect the equipment trailer each day, assist with group activities and generally help out where needed. This support is essential for this program and is appreciated by both the teachers and kids.

Snake Challenge

As I mentioned in the last bulletin Sharon Wright had decided to take on the challenge of improving those unsightly blue snakes near the oak tree. Last Wednesday, armed with pots of paint and groups of enthusiastic painters, Sharon began the task of creating works of art out of the bright blue disasters! The end result is fabulous. If you haven't seen our new colourful and patterned snakes, make sure you have a look next time you are in the school. Well done everyone – your work looks great. We are looking forward to your next playground art project.

Charlene Duthie

WANTED

Bales of hay for our Environment Centre. Please contact me at school if you can help.

Thanks Charlene.



Last day of Term 1 Friday, 10th March Dismissal time 2.30 pm.

After School Care will operate from 2.30 pm in the Hall on the last day.

Water Safety Week

information forms. To ensure we have up-to-

date details for students, please forward the Student Information details even if there are no changes to be made. If you have misplaced your child's information, please contact the school office.

Art Room News

Congratulations to all the children who were involved in creating the fabulous snakes in our school grounds. All children worked co-operatively as part of a creative team. Thanks to Kimberly Cox for her early help in this project. The next project to get underway will be some hand painted tiles for the free standing drink tap area near the grade 5 rooms. Children must have an art smock to be considered for this activity.

We are also calling for a professional tiler to donate their expertise to lay these tiles once complete. Please send a note to the office or to Sharon Wright if you are able to help.

The art room also needs donations of clean ice-cream & margarine containers & lids and washed meat trays at the moment.

Many thanks, Sharon Wright

Out of School Hours Care "Kid's Club"

End of Term 1 already! Children enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

The committee meeting on Tuesday evening was well attended. Thank you. New members are always most welcome.

Q.A. - QUALITY ASSURANCE UPDATE
Surveys have been sent out for families and children in preparation for the validation visit. Return date for the surveys is Thursday, 9th March please. We really appreciate your input.

There are plenty of opportunities for children to play outside. Hats are required next term. Children have responded well and almost all children have a hat in the Hat Box.

Accounts are sent out fortnightly and a zero balance is required at the end of the term.

Deidre and Marlene.

**School Cleanup Day
Tomorrow,
Friday, 3rd March**

Don't forget to bring gloves tomorrow. All students will participate. A bucket and tongs would also be handy.

Want to challenge your mind?

Since 1998 more than 13,500 students in Years 3 - 9 from across Australia have participated in the GERRIC Talent Searches for academically gifted students. This year's testing will be held on Saturday, 20th May. For further information and to find your closest test site go to: <http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au> or contact the GERRIC Office on (02) 9385 1972 or 1800 626 824.

Peninsula Connection

Beginning again Term 2. The time frame will be the same as 2005, with notices sent home in mid April and the program commencing early May.

Sue Shergold

PFA NEWS

Well first of all I'd like to thank all those families who completed and returned the Fundraising Survey. We got quite a good response which will give the committee a few decisions to make. Now don't forget to get all your Lolly orders and money in by the end of this term (Friday, 10th March) so they can be ordered over the holidays and delivered to you at the start of Term 2.

Our next PFA Meeting is the 3rd April (second Monday in Term 2) and myself and the committee would love to see some fresh faces along with our 'old favourites'! Please do consider coming. It's very relaxed and quite enjoyable (a glass of something could be involved), you get to find out the goings on of the School and also meet other Mums and Dads that you might not necessarily have the opportunity to meet. Also your child/children love to know that you participate in a special way too.

So have a great remainder of Term 1 and a safe School Holidays.

Narelle Harvey
PFA President
5979 2710

FORWARD DATES

MARCH	
Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th	Water Safety Program - Gr 5 & 6
Friday 10 th	Last day of Term 1 2.30 pm dismissal time

Monday 27 th	First day of Term 2
APRIL	
Monday 3 rd	PFA Meeting at 7.30 pm
Friday 7 th	Curriculum Day
Friday 14 th	Good Friday
Monday 17 th	Easter Mnday
Thursday 27 th	Proposed Walkathon
MAY	
Thursday 11 th	Mother's Day Stall

MELBOURNE 2006 QUEENS BATON RELAY

The Queens Baton Relay is arriving on the Mornington Peninsula tomorrow Friday, 3rd March. The Baton will travel from Mt Eliza to Sorrento via runner and convoy.

All schools, sporting groups and community members are encouraged to support the runners and convoy as they pass through the Peninsula. The Baton will make 3 stops for photos en-route to Sorrento:

- Mornington Park between 8.49 am and 9.09 am.
- Rye Foreshore (Sand Sculpting Event) at 11.01 am.
- Sorrento Pier - loading ferry at 11.40 am.

If you require any further information see school noticeboard (detailed map on display) or contact Events & Festivals on 5950 1683 (Mornington Peninsula Shire).

Oliver's Creek Reserve

The next working bee in Oliver's Creek will be on Sunday, 26th March which is the last day of the school holidays. Please put this date in your diary and come along anytime between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon.

However, don't forget the School Cleanup Day tomorrow Friday, March 3rd when some grades will be cleaning up the reserve.

Heather Tytler
(Friends Group
Coordinator)



Library News

Reading Challenge

Parents of Grade 3-6 children please make sure that you have returned the Reading Challenge Permission slip. I would like to get all the names and logins finalised before I leave.

Olivers Creek Working Bee

Sunday, 26th March 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Come along and help out in the reserve for an hour or two. It is a great chance to see this resource which is right next door to our school. Just bring some gardening gloves and general gardening tools.

Farewell from Heather

This is my final chance to write in the school newsletter. The past 6 weeks have certainly flown.

We always hear so much about how education has gone backwards and the children don't know the basics. Well I have seen many changes since I started teaching. I first started teaching in 1971 at Flemington Primary. I had a prep grade of 34 children to start with but the numbers grew to 43 by the end of the year as more immigrants arrived. I was teaching in a single portable with no carpet, a few boxes of Cuisenaire rods (used for maths), no take home books, only a couple of reading series to read at school and half a grade who couldn't speak English. Of course air conditioning and computers were not even heard of. By the end of the year I was pleased if they knew their alphabet and could read 10 basic words. After 3 years there, with 950 students at the school, I moved to Bennetswood Primary for three years then on to Lilydale West, Mount Evelyn, Montrose and Yarra Road Croydon. All these schools were smaller and better equipped than my first school. I gradually noticed changes in teaching, especially in the basics. Teachers were receiving better training and starting to use a sequential approach. They were also focussing more on children's abilities and teaching in ability groups.

In 1993 I arrived at Tyabb as Curriculum Coordinator. I spent the first three years working with the staff to develop a better curriculum program that would meet the needs of the children we teach. Then I became involved in leading Early Years Literacy. The teachers in Prep to four spent hours coming to training sessions and honing their new skills in their classrooms. I also spent time training parents and classroom helpers.

I have worked in some good schools before but I have never worked in a school where all the elements of a school are outstanding –

the leadership, teachers, parents and students.

It is this partnership that, I believe, makes this school great. It is this connection that has given our school such a great reputation on the Peninsula and beyond.

Is education sliding? Certainly not at Tyabb and I don't believe that it is anywhere else in this state.

I would like to thank everyone at Tyabb for sharing the journey with me and I wish all students all the best in the future.

Heather Tytler
(Almost retiree)

The Sports Arena

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual District Swimming Carnival was held last Friday at the Crib Point Swimming Pool. The weather was perfect for swimming, (maybe a bit warm for just watching) but the kids were hyped, fit and ready to race. Our swimming team captains, Andrew and Felicity Elliott headed the cheer squad of enthusiastic spectators and although our final hour point score didn't quite match Balnarring Primary School, we came home with some great results.

FREESTYLE- Maddison 2nd, Georgia 3rd, Bronte 2nd, Scott 5th, Andrew & Andrew both 1st.

BACKSTROKE- Shae 2nd, Felicity 3rd, Scott 3rd, Andrew 2nd, Sam 2nd, and Natalie, who after swimming a dead heat in her first swim and having to race again, came 2nd. Fantastic effort.

BREASTSTROKE- Emma 2nd, Tara 2nd, Samantha 3rd, Riley 3rd, Dylan 2nd and Aden 3rd.

BUTTERFLY- Georgia 3rd, Felicity 2nd and Justin, Andrew and Natalie all winning and going on to Zone Level next week.

We also have 2 relay teams going to the Pines Forest Swimming Pool next Wednesday to compete at Zone level. The 11yr Boys Freestyle Team (Andrew, Rylan, Justin, Wade) and Boys Open Medley (Andrew, Aden, Andrew, Sam). The Open Girls Medley Relay (Rachel, Samantha, Felicity, Maddison) came 3rd and the same team with Bronte replacing Maddison in the Freestyle Relay, came 2nd. The 11yr girls Freestyle Team (Georgia, Rachel, Monique, Maddison) came 1st in their heat and 10 yr girls team (Natalie, Jaimee, Emma, Emma) came 2nd. The 10 yr boys (Scott, Marcus, Mitchell, Jack) came 3rd and our 12 yr Boys Freestyle Team (Andrew, Tristan, Sam & Cameron) came 2nd.

Congratulations everyone!

BASKETBALL TEAMS

The Westernport Schools' Basketball Competition starts this week, 3rd & 4th of

March. We have 8 teams registered at this stage and we can extend that if we get more children wanting to play. A big 'Thank You' to the parents who have offered to help out with coaching, managing or scoring. Remember, the kids are there to learn how to play and ultimately, have fun!! The Prep OZ Ball also starts this weekend. Registration is at the Somerville Stadium at 9 am - 9.45 am.

PHYS-ED CLASSES

A terrific effort has been made by the children to remember runners, drink bottles and hats on the days of their PE classes. Thanks everyone. Keep it up!

MON - Prep grades & 2H/M

TUES - Gr 2D, 6C & 6S

WED - Gr 1G & 1B, 3S & 3/4L, 5J & 5/6G.

FRI - Grs 4M & 4W

Keep on keeping on,
Kathie Toft.

Basketball Victoria

"Hoop-It Like the Stars" FREE

Commonwealth Games Come & Try Basketball Session for beginners with qualified coaches to guide the children. Friday 24th March at Somerville Recreation Centre from 1-3pm. Limited places available. For a registration form please call the school office. (see school notice board for more information).

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE HASTINGS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Tuesday 14th to Friday 24th March

At: Basketball Stadium – Bittern
(Mel. 164 D8) Hendersons Rd
Bittern 3918

Hours: 7.30 am to 6.30 pm

Enrolment Details:

Date: Tuesday 7th March

Time: 2.30 pm to 7.30 pm

At Hastings Shire Office,
Marine Pde, Hastings

Enrolment forms available from the school office, Mornington Peninsula Shire Offices and the Mornington Leisure Centre. For more details please phone Joan Wust (Co-ordinator) 5950 1641