

**Issue 1 2016  
February 3rd**



# Macarthur Primary School

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## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to our first official newsletter of the 2016 school year. The students have all settled in extremely well and made a great start to the school year. This year we have 79 students enrolled with us - our highest numbers for quite some time! This includes 16 Foundation (Prep) students - who have all made a terrific start and are quickly learning the ways of school life at Macarthur Primary.

### Foundation (Prep) Students

You will have noticed this year that I have begun referring to our youngest students as being in Foundation Year Level - this is to align with the term being used nationally for students in the first year of school, which we have always known as Prep. Our Foundation students again this year will not attend school on a Wednesday during February. They will instead be coming into school for 1 hour blocks on these days to conduct assessments in English and Mathematics with Miss Thomson, and will commence school full-time from the beginning of March.

As mentioned, we have 16 Foundation students this year - welcome to each of these students and their families, some joining us for the first time.

### Swimming Program

Our swimming program commenced on Monday for all students. The weather has been reasonably kind to us so far and we hope this continues for the duration of our swimming program.

Once again we have engaged the support of staff from Jayson Lamb's Splash Factory and the students have approached lessons with enthusiasm and have made strong starts towards improving their confidence, awareness and abilities in the water.

Children have been going down to swimming lessons in groups different to their regular classes, with students in grades 2 and 3 swimming at 1:00pm, Foundation and grade 1 students swimming at 1:30pm and students in grades 4, 5 and 6 swimming at 2:00pm. Children will need to bring their swimming gear each day (except Wednesdays) including suitable footwear (no thongs please) to walk down to the pool and back.

Our School Swimming Sports will be held at the Macarthur Pool on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February - further information will be published regarding this event in the newsletter next week.

### Commencement and End of School Day

We would like to remind all families that children are to enter classrooms of a morning or at break times through the doors at either end of the main building and not through the front door near the office, with this entrance

### Office Hours 2016

Monday - Thursday

8:45am - 9:00am

9:30am - 3:45pm

For appointments please  
ring 03 55761245

### School Day:

Start of day: 8:45am

Classes begin: 9:00am

Recess:

11:00—11:30 am

Lunch: 1:00 - 2:00pm

End of Day: 3:30pm

### Term Dates

#### 2016

**Term 1:** 27 January (school teachers start) with student free day Thurs 28th, students start Fri 29 Jan

**to 24 March**

Easter Fri 25 Mar - 28 Mar

**Term 2:** 11 April to 24 June

**Term 3:** 11 July to 16 Sept

**Term 4:** 3 Oct to 20 Dec

### Banking details:

Bank - NAB

BSB: 083 663

Account name:

Macarthur Primary School

Acc No: 621328156

Ref Details - your name.

only to be used by parents and staff. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter, which will help us ease congestion near the administration and Foundation classroom area. Children are expected to arrive at school at 8:45am and enter their classrooms to prepare for the day ahead and read quietly prior to our assembly commencing at 8:57am. Our school day concludes at 3:30pm. Parents are reminded that they need to park their car and walk to the amphitheatre to collect your children. Under no circumstances are children to walk through the school car park unattended. Thank you for your assistance with this matter in ensuring all of our students remain safe.

### **Newsletter**

Once again our newsletter will be published and distributed each Wednesday. A reminder that if you have any inclusions for the school newsletter (e.g. community or sporting events - please note we will not accept advertisements from businesses) they need to be provided to Sylvia in the office by 4pm on a Tuesday.

### **Sporting Schools**

We will once again be offering our Sporting Schools Program in 2016, which we plan to commence on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This after-school sports program will run from 3:30 - 4:30pm under the guidance of qualified coaches and is available to all students in grades Foundation to 6. Included in this newsletter is an enrolment form should you wish to enrol your child in this program and please feel free to contact me should you require any further information. I ask that forms are please returned by next Friday 12th February.

### **Athletics Practice**

At the completion of our swimming program we will turn our attention to Athletics, ahead of the Southern Grampians Schools' Sports Association (SGSSA) and our own school athletics sports, later this term.

Athletics training sessions for all students in grades Foundation to 6 will take place this year on a Monday afternoon between 2:15 and 3:15pm. Further in this newsletter is a parent reply slip - if you are able to assist with these training sessions your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

### **Dates for 2016**

Attached to this newsletter is a document containing known events and their dates for 2016, for you to mark on your calendar. Some of these activities are still waiting on confirmation however we will let you know as soon as they are known. If you are interested in helping with any of these events, such as attending to assist with supervision etc. for sporting events, camps and excursions, please let the classroom teacher of your child know or myself as soon as possible. Whilst it is not possible to include everyone interested in some of these activities we certainly do appreciate your support.

### **Basketball Towers**

Over the past two days work has been taking place to replace our basketball towers, which also double as netball goals, necessary to ensure our facilities for students (and the community) are at a safe and acceptable standard. This project has been thanks mainly to a grant received through the AGL Macarthur Windfarm Community Grant - we look forward to putting this new equipment to good use!

### **Working Bee**

On Saturday we had a great turn out of people to help with the completion of tree removal tasks within our school environment. This has been a huge team effort and I thank all those who were able to donate some time. Whilst some areas may look a little bare,



discussions will be held throughout the year to put plans together to plant new trees and develop various areas to beautify and improve our school grounds. In particular a big thank you to Brian Nield and Andrew Wortley for supplying their heavy machinery to make this task more manageable for those involved.

### **Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR)**

Our school is listed on the BARR, which was put in place following the Black Saturday fires a few years ago. As a result, if a Code Red day is declared, our school will be closed. If such an occasion arises, all efforts will be made to give as much prior warning as possible. Additional information regarding Code Red and Extreme Weather Conditions days can be found further in this newsletter.

### **Emergency Drill**

To ensure all staff, students and visitors to the school are prepared in the event of an emergency, at different times throughout the year we will rehearse various responses to potential scenarios that may arise in a setting such as ours. Generally these drills will take place without prior notification in order to maintain authenticity, however I am informing you on this occasion that we will be staging an 'Emergency Drill' at our school tomorrow. Our process tomorrow will be a "Shelter-in-place" procedure, to simulate a response similar to what may take place if there was a bushfire in the area. With this drill being early in the year, and with our new Foundation students just getting used to school routines, on this occasion children will be pre-warned of what will be taking place and staff will be discussing in class with students the process which will unfold at some stage throughout the school day.

Welcome back - and have a great week!

Ben Kelson  
Principal

### **CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)**

The Victorian Government has unveiled a new \$148 million initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

**Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply.** \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

CSEF applications open from term one 2016.

Victorian government Year 7 students (in 2016) who are CSEF recipients are also automatically eligible for a uniform package. For more information regarding this initiative please see [State Schools' Relief](#).

**If you hold a Centrelink Concession Card, please apply. An application form is available from the school office. Bring in your Concession Card to be sighted/copied.**

**Applications will close 29th February 2016.**



**Private Music Tuition** will once again be available for Piano and Guitar on Mondays during school time.

If you are interested, or would like more information you can contact Hazel directly on 0427044759 or by ringing Tara's Music School on 55723409.



**ATHLETICS PRACTICE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I am able to help with athletics training at the school on (please tick):

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

If there is a particular area that you would like to assist with (e.g. running events, high jump, discus etc.) please lit it on the line below.

\_\_\_\_\_

**MACARTHUR PRIMARY 'SPORTING SCHOOLS' PROGRAM**

Permission form for TERM 1 2016

I would like for my child/ren:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

To participate in the Macarthur Primary 'Sporting Schools' Program, held after school between 3:30 and 4:30pm, on the following dates:

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

I acknowledge that this activity is outside of regular school hours and I will be required to collect my child/ren from school at 4:30pm. In the event that you are unable to collect your child please contact the school and inform us as to who will be collecting your child.

Health/Dietary Allergies/Needs:.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian:.....

Date:.....

**BUS NOTE**

My child/ren \_\_\_\_\_

Will be attending the Macarthur Primary After School Sport Program on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and **WILL NOT** be travelling on the bus.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:.....

Date:.....

**Hawkesdale & Purnim Dist Tennis Ass Inc**

Broadwater White 8-50 d Broadwater Green 1-31  
 Wangoom 9-54 d Minhamite Yellow 0-7  
 Illowa/Mailors Flat 7-50 d Willatook 2-26  
 Hawkesdale 8-50 d Port Fairy 1-21  
 Hawkesdale 96.5  
 Illowa/Mailors Flat 92.5  
 Wangoom 88.5  
 Broadwater White 84  
 Minhamite Red 63.5  
 Broadwater Green 48.5  
 Willatook 43.5  
 Port Fairy 38.5  
 Minhamite Yellow 16.5

**Kate Schultz Sec P** 0438 017 569  
 E [hpdt@outlook.com](mailto:hpdt@outlook.com)

**VOLUNTEER FOR A FREE TICKET TO THE PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL!**

The Macarthur Kindergarten will again be providing a team of volunteers for this year's Port Fairy Folk Festival (March 11th-14th) to undertake a crowd management role. This is the kindergarten's major fundraiser for the year, and a lot of fun to boot! If you enjoy music and would like free entry to the Festival we still have vacancies in our schedule. To qualify for a free ticket volunteers need to work a minimum of two 5 hour shifts.

Please contact **Jane Young** on **0459 149 280** if you are interested in volunteering.

**TYRENDARRA SHOW TIME AGAIN !!!!!!!**

**SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY (HORSEMANSHIP CHALLENGE SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY)**

The Tyrendarra community is proud to present its 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Show – Saturday 13 February. Get the kids busy preparing to enter some of the many competitions – scarecrows, pets, art, horse riding, beef cattle junior judging, beef cattle junior handling, farm & garden, craft work, lego, floral art, cookery, photography, junior show kids & much more! The lego section has 3 classes – check all the information out on our website:

[www.tyrendarraagriculturalshow.com.au](http://www.tyrendarraagriculturalshow.com.au)

In addition to all the fun of the Show, there will be mini golf, photo booth, free stagecoach rides, small train rides, animal nursery, animal zoo, face painting & chainsaw wood carving.

On Sunday 14 February the Tyrendarra Horsemanship Challenge will be held at the Showground. This commences at approximately 8.30am and 40-50 competitors are expected. Competitors will vary in experience from those still on lead learning how to trot to those who have been riding for 60 years. It is judged on how the horse & rider work as a team.



**Calendar**

PD - Professional Development  
 Conf - Conference  
 PM - Principal Meeting  
 WNM - Warm Network Meeting  
 JSC - Junior School Council  
 ASSP - After School Sport Prog  
 KGS - Kitchen Garden Science  
 SC – School Council

BK Ben Kelson  
 JM Jacinta Mulder  
 DH Darren Hilliard  
 DS Daniel Smith  
 RT Rachell Thomson  
 AM Anne McNaughton  
 SP Stacey Pemberton  
 JT Jullie Timms  
 SL Sylvia Luke

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 24	25	26 Australia Day Holiday	27 Staff Commence	28 - Student Free Day -Parent Teacher Transition interviews	29 - Students commence	30
31	Feb 1 -Swim Prog	2 -Swim Prog	3 - Prep day-off	4 - MARC (library) -Swim Prog	5 -Swim Prog	6
7	8 -Swim Prog	9 -Swim Prog	10 - Prep day-off -SGSSA—Swim trials @ MacPool	11 - Art -Swim Prog	12 -Swim Prog	13
14	15	16 - Mac Swimming sports	17- Prep day-off -Gr6 Transition Baimbridge Coll - SchoolCouncil	18- MARC(library)	19	20
21	22	23	24- Prep day-off	25 - Art	26 * Gr 6 * Student Leaders Congres s Warm	27



Department of  
Education & Training

## Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools



### School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.

School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, and carried out necessary maintenance works within our school environment.

### What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- 

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

# MACARTHUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Dates of Events - 2016

*To assist parents with planning we have created a list of expected activities and events for you to include on your calendar at home. Dates shown are indicative only and due to circumstances beyond our control, some of these may change. We will endeavour to provide as much notice as possible should this occur.*



Month	Event	Date/s	Comments/notes
February	School Swimming Program	1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Not on Wednesday
February	SGSSA – Swimming Trials	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm – trials for interested students at Macarthur Pool
February	Macarthur Swimming Sports	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 – 3:00pm at Macarthur Pool. No additional cost
February	Grade 6 Transition Day at Baimbridge College	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Current grade 6 students only
February	AFL Football Clinic	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Grades 3-6 at Hawkesdale
February	Grade 6 Student Leaders Congress	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Held at Deakin University in Warrnambool
March	Division Swimming Championships - Warrnambool	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Grades 4-6 – entries based on qualifying times
March	Southern Grampians Schools' Sports Association (SGSSA) Swimming	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Selected students from grades 3-6 at Peshurst Pool
March	Macarthur Athletics Sports	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	All students in Prep to 6 held at school
March	Pink Stumps Day Cricket Match At 12:00pm, BBQ lunch	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 6 Leadership Group Fundraiser (McGrath Foundation)
March	Visiting Performance at 2:00pm	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Grades P-6 at school – paid for through parent contributions
March	Labour Day Public Holiday	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Public Holiday – no school
March	Responsible Pet Ownership Program	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Students in grades Foundation to 2
March	SGSSA Athletics at Pedrina Park in Hamilton	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> (Back up Mon. 21 <sup>st</sup> )	All students in Prep to 6 – parents transport children to/from event
March	Greater Western Region Swimming in Ballarat	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Qualified students from Division Swimming Championships
March	Grade 6 Grampians Rural and Small Schools (GRaSS) Camp	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Transition camp for grade 6 students at Grampians Retreat, Dunkeld (Cost approx. \$55)
March	LAST DAY – Term 1	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm dismissal
April	FIRST DAY – Term 2	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	
April	Division Athletics in Warrnambool	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Qualified children from SGSSA Athletics

May	School Photos	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents to pay based on photo package selected
May	Warrnambool May Races Public Holiday	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	No students to attend school – public holiday (Moyne Shire)
May	NAPLAN – Language Conventions and Writing	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 3 and 5 students only
May	NAPLAN - Reading	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 3 and 5 students only
May	NAPLAN - Numeracy	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 3 and 5 students only
May	SGSSA Cross Country at Tarrington Lutheran School	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Selected students from grades 3-6 (parents to transport – no cost)
May	Division Cross Country in Warrnambool	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Qualified students from SGSSA Cross Country Event
June	Visiting Performance at 2:00pm	Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Grades P-6 at school – paid for through parent contributions
June	Region Cross Country	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Qualified students
June	Curriculum Day <b>TBC</b>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	REPORT WRITING – pupil free day
June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Public Holiday – no school
June	LAST DAY – Term 2	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm dismissal
July	FIRST DAY – Term 3	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	
July	Hooptime Basketball	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Grade 3/4 students in Hamilton
July	Hooptime Basketball	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 5/6 students in Hamilton
August	Curriculum Day <b>TBC</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Curriculum Planning (coincides with Sheepvention in Hamilton)
August	Grade 5 GRaSS Excursion <b>TBC</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Excursion to BioCats (Science) in Geelong
September	Visiting Performance at 2:00pm	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Grades P-6 at school – paid for through parent contributions
September	LAST DAY – Term 3	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm dismissal
October	FIRST DAY – Term 4	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
October	Grade Prep/1/2 Exc. And 1/2 Sleepover	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Activity – TBC Cost – approx. \$35
October	Grade 3/4 Camp	<b>TBC</b>	Cape Bridgewater (cost approx. \$200 - \$220)
November	Milo T20 Cricket	Date - TBC	In Hamilton for selected students from grades 5/6
November	Aust. Schools Triathlon	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Grades 3-6 (those interested) in Warrnambool
November	Visiting Performance at 2:00pm	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Grades P-6 at school – paid for through parent contributions
November	Grade 5/6 Camp	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sovereign Hill – Ballarat (cost approx.. \$250)

December	Grade 5/6 Camp	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	As above
December	Statewide Transition Day	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> - TBC	Grade 6 to Year 7 New Prep for 2017 Remaining students up a year level
December	School Presentation Evening	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> (TBC)	End of year presentation evening and BBQ
December	LAST DAY – Term 4	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	

#### Additional Programs

Other regular programs will take place throughout the year, with dates and times to be finalised. These include:

Clubs - in the last four weeks of term 3

Transition - various activities take place for current grade 6 and future Prep students, commencing in term 3

**We will inform you of any further activities and events through newsletter and class communications as they become known.**