# From the Principal’s Desk

**Smooth Start**

We have had a very smooth start to the school year with students quickly settling in to school routines. Teachers have been spending the first week establishing classroom expectations and organisational procedures with students through our Learning to Learn Program. This time spent at the start of the year is critical in establishing classroom routines and a good working environment for children.

This week teachers are also beginning assessments with students. Today teachers began conducting individual literacy and numeracy assessments with all children in grades prep one and two. This gives teachers a clear picture of the starting point for student instruction. Assessments will also be conducted in the older grades and children will be setting individual learning goals over the next few weeks.

**Swimming Program**

Our swimming program will begin next week, Monday February 13th, with lessons conducted in the afternoons at the Macarthur Pool by instructors from Jason Lamb’s Splash Factory in Warrnambool. Lesson times are as follows:

- 1.15pm - 1.45pm: Grades 2/3
- 1.45pm - 2.15pm: Grades Prep/One
- 2.15pm - 2.45pm: Grades 4/5/6

Lessons will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons for two weeks. There will be a change in lunch time during the swimming program with all children eating lunch at 12.30pm not 1.00pm.

**District Swimming Sports**

The district swimming sports will be held at the Macarthur Pool on Wednesday, February 22nd. This is the first time we have ran the event in Macarthur and I would like to thank Brendan Gay for the assistance he is giving with the organisation of this. The final details of start times are still being confirmed and Coral Shepherd will be attending a district meeting on Thursday night when decisions will be made. I will call a meeting next week of parents who have offered to assist once all details are clear.

**Athletics Training**

Today we began athletics training with all students and I would like to thank the many parents who have offered to assist with this. We will conduct training each week all term. After the swimming program is complete we will change the training day to Tuesday afternoons which will allow our prep students more chance to participate. The date of the district athletics at Pedrina Park is also being confirmed on Thursday at the district sport meeting. Decisions will then be made at a school level on when is best to hold our own Athletic House Sports Event.

**Emergency Plans**

This week we have been practising emergency drills. These have included fire drills, offsite relocation and lockdown drills. These are part of our planning for management of emergency situations including bushfire threat.

I have included some information cont’d page 2
regarding our bushfire plan for parents. Please read this information carefully. In event of a bushfire our emergency assembly area is the bluestone building, our current grade 4,5,6 classroom. Remember our school would be closed on a declared Code Red Day and all buses would be cancelled. No-one, including staff are to be on the school site on these days.

Staffing and Roles
Staff for this year are as follows:
- Grade Prep/One: Sharna Cunningham (4 days)
- Grade 2/3: Darren Hilliard
- Grade 4/5/6: Jacinta Mulder
- Coral Shepherd: Prep/One (Friday) Phys Ed, Music,
- Sylvia Luke: Business Manager/Classroom Support
- Suzy Millard: Classroom Support Prep/One, Cooking Program
- Jullie Timms: Classroom Support, Corangamite Library Service
- Ann McNaughton: Art
- Liz Beavis: MARC Van Library
- Hazel Lehmann: Music Tuition (Tara’s Music School)
- Aditya Kangala: I.T. Support

Specialist programs
We will run the following Specialist programs this year:-
- Phys Ed, Music, LOTE (French), Kitchen Garden Program, Art, Library.
I will send a timetable to families with times for specialist lessons for each grade. Our art program will begin this week and MARC Van will begin next week. Phys Ed, Music and LOTE will begin after the swimming program is finished in week 4. The Kitchen Garden Program will not begin fully until term 2 due to Tuesday afternoon athletics training. This will include gardening, science and cooking for each grade. We will, however try to begin the garden part of the program this term as time permits with small groups.

Vegie’s For Sale
We will have quite a few vegetables for sale this term as they become ready. Lorrie Leadbeatter is coordinating the harvest and sale of vegetables for the school. We have the following ready now:
- Zucchini, squash, silverbeet and tomatoes.
Lorrie will put a notice up in the corridor each week with what is available for sale at $1 per item (bag or bunch). All proceeds go to support the development of our garden program.

Office Hours
There has been a change in Sylvia’s hours of work in the office this year. Sylvia will now be working three full days in the office on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in her role as Business Manager. Could parents please contact Sylvia on these days with any administrative matters needing attention.
Sylvia will be working some additional hours on Thursday but in a different support role, including classroom support.

Active After School Program
We plan to begin our Active After School Program this term after the completion of the swimming program. This should begin on Wednesday February 29th. Leonie Dyson will be coordinating the program on the Wednesday afternoons, including sending out notes and organising the groups and employment of coaches. Coral Shepherd will coordinate the in school session run by teachers and staff on Friday afternoons. More information will be sent home soon.

Thank you everyone, for making the start of the school year such a positive one.
Lynn Lyles
The Grade 6 leaders
Bottom left Hayley reporter and bus captain
Bottom middle left Hannah J.S.C president and bus captain
Bottom middle right Tara J.S.C secretary
Bottom right Jayden J.S.C vice president and treasurer
Top left Kyle T reporter
Top middle left Lorrie Garden coordinator
Top middle right Charlie School captain and bus captain
Top right Temika School captain and bus captain
(J.S.C Junior School Council)

House captains and Vice
Bottom left Hayley Yellow vice Captain
Bottom left Middle Kyle S vice Captain
Bottom right Taylah Purple vice Captain
Bottom middle right Jayden purple Vice Captain
Top left Kyle T Yellow Captain
Top middle Charlie Purple Captain
Top right Tara Purple Captain

Special Birthday wishes to
Dallas Kawau (9th)

Art News:
Art classes resume this Thursday 9th February.

All students require an art smock to protect their clothing.
Some of our glues and paint art particularly
unforgiving on school uniforms.
If your child’s art smock, from last year still fits,
please make sure it is washed and returned to school.

Smocks do not have to be especially
made for school, an old shirt with the
sleeves cut down will be quite adequate.

Thankyou
Anne McNaughton

Parent Contribution 2012
School Council has set the Parent Contribution
for 2012 at $140 per student. This is broken up as follows:-
+ Student Requisites $40
+ Cultural and Arts Performances $40
+ Swimming $40
+ Excursion Travel $10
+ Garden Program $10
Parents with a family membership of the
Macarthur Pool will be entitled to a $10 per
student reduction on the swim program fee.

Corangamite Library:
Reopens on 8th February 2012 and operates
Wednesday afternoons from 1pm - 5pm.

Jullie has an extensive range of
books, talking books, DVD’s etc
AND if it’s not in the library, she
can order it for you.
Come in a see her.
Education Maintenance Allowance Information for Parents 2012
The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 29 February 2012 for instalment 1 and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:
on the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2012) for the first instalment and
on the first day of 3rd Term (16 July 2012) for the second instalment:
(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TP), OR
(c) be a foster parent AND
(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates
The application form must be lodged at the school by:
29 February 2012 for the first instalment or
3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

Important information
A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.
If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school.

Application forms are available from the office.
NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED AFTER 29 FEBRUARY 2012 for semester 1.

FUN AT THE TYRENDARRRA SHOW –
11 FEBRUARY 2012
Kids make sure you get along to the Tyrendarra Show – there’s guaranteed fun for everyone. The “Guess the Character” section in the scarecrow competition is continuing – you could win yourself a voucher from “The Little Book Shop” in Portland! There will be a scarecrow at the Show and all you need to do is guess which character from a well-known book it resembles. You can also enter your own scarecrow.

Come along and be amazed at the incredible feats of Roy Maloy and Irish O’Reily.
Other attractions: lego competition, merry-go-round, stage coach rides, mobile animal nursery, pet competition, jumping castle, karate, gymnastic & karate displays. You can also enter a lot of other sections – cooking, art, photography, junior show kids, farm & garden, flowers etc. Come along and learn how your food is produced from the “Australian Year of the Farmer” roadshow. Ring Robyn Nunn on 0427295271 for more information.

Tara Music School 2012
Hazel Lehmann, from Tara’s Music School, is again offering private music tuition in keyboard, piano, organ and guitar.

Lessons are $20.00 per lesson, for 20 minutes, on Mondays, at the school.

If you are interested you can contact the Music School on 55723409 or you can contact Hazel directly on 0427 044 759.

Beginner Recorder Group

Hazel is looking at starting a new recorder group. If your child is interested and willing to give up some of their lunchtime, please let Hazel know.

All they need is a recorder, which can be purchased from Hazel for $12.00.
MACARTHUR TENNIS CLUB.

Monday after school Tennis will resume on Monday 13th Feb at 4 o’clock till 5.30 so if anyone who is interested are most welcome to come and join in.

MEMBERSHIP PRICES FOR 2012 YEAR  (these prices are not expensive)
Family. $25.00
Senior $15.00
Junior [under 16 yrs] $10.00
Court hire $10.00 [per 4 players]

If you are a member you are entitled to play whenever you wish. The key is available from the milkbar. A receipt book is also there.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 27th FEB
[ note a change of date]
will be held at the club rooms at 8 pm
If you have a family and are interested in tennis you are welcome to attend. We would like to hear what people would like as far as a tennis program goes. This is your chance to speak up. If there is interest this can be organised. We are very fortunate to have two new synthetic courts in a small town. We as a committee believe that every small town needs tennis courts.
We also need the support of the community. So come along and let us hear your story.

Macarthur Tennis Club presents
MIXED NETBALL
Starting Monday 13 February at 6.00pm
at the Macarthur Tennis Courts
Cost $2.00 per player

Enquiries phone Narelle 0355 761 279

Calendar 2012

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Bushfire Plan Information for Parents

Children should be safe at school if a major fire threatened. Officials considered that the school building and the grounds provide a safe refuge and students would be kept inside until the danger has passed.

Children, staff and visitors would assemble in the bluestone building (grade 4/5/6classroom) in the event of bushfire.

Parents would be advised not to try to collect children from school as the school is a safe refuge and all students will be well cared for during such a crisis. Students will only be released to a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN on such occasions.

Buses will be held at school if there is known to be any danger along bus outlets. Parents should expect delays if fires are running and may obtain information by ringing the school, or by listening to local ABC Radio on 594 & 1602 AM, 3HA on 981 AM and 3YB on 882 AM for announcements. Please contact the school if you know of possible dangers along a bus route.

Bus drivers have instructions to stop and seek information if they see evidence of fire. They will not drive through smoke and will seek a safe refuge if there is any possible danger. Children will not be left at bus stops when there seems to be potential danger from fire unless someone is there to collect them.

If buses are delayed we will attempt to contact these parents, but please remember that it is not always possible to make these telephone contacts.

Parents are reminded that the most dangerous place to be in the event of a wildfire is on the roads or caught in the open. Parents should not place themselves or others at additional risk by driving to the school if conditions on the roads are hazardous.

The school will be closed on CODE RED DAYS. School buses will be cancelled. No staff or students will attend school.