Welcome to 2016

I would like to welcome everyone to the start of the school year!

I hope you all had a restful break with your wonderful families. Many families and staff talked about a very relaxing break this year. It was great to have the time to get in some games of golf and spend lots of time with my granddaughter – both of which required me to have a little rest afterwards!!!

Welcome to our new families and students across the school.

We have started the year with 294 students. Our Prep students have settled into school routine very quickly, due largely to the success of our transition program and the preparation at home and school. It is always a pleasure to watch their faces on their first day of school. Pretty cute really!!

We welcome Jessica Holford to our staff as a teacher in the 1/2 area. We also welcome three pre-service teachers who will be working with us throughout the year Emma Hodgson and Matthew O’Carroll in the 5/6 area and Jarryd Foster in 3/4D.

Our staff profile for this year is:

Acting Principal: Lois Weldon
Assistant Principal: Mandy Carmichael

Class Teachers
Prep D Narelle Derix
Prep S Julie Shaw
Prep/1 Gabbi Bolton
1/2 D Karin Dudley
1/2 H Jessica Hodson
1/2 J Jessica Holford
1/2K Cassie Kennedy
3/4 D Kathy Derek
3/4 F Kellie Ferguson
3/4 W Steve Watling
5/6 C Mandy Carmichael
5/6 M Marcus Mulcahy
5/6 S Ally Synot

Specialist Staff
PE: Zac Vansittart
Visual & Performing Arts: Wendy Hodges
German:
Anne Santamaria
Admin Staff
Business Manager: Wendy Andrew
Reception: Marianne van der Zee

Integration Aides
1/2 area: Lynne Andrew, Tracey Delaney
3/4 area: Andrew Lewin, Elizabeth Crombie
5/6 area: Tammy Hogan, Bec Schefman

Stephanie Alexander
Kitchen: Jane Barnett
Garden: Elise Ioviero

Community Building
As effective communication is vital to the success of any partnership we are endeavouring to improve our processes.

Ongoing communication and information will be provided across the year through our School Website, School Newsletter, School App (Tiqbiz), Emails and Notices (which will also be made available on the school website).

You are also welcome to attend our assemblies each Friday afternoon around 3pm and check the calendar on our website for upcoming events. (click to view)

In Term 1, we have planned the following events to build community and increase communication:

Information evenings Level 3/4 and 5/6 were held on Tuesday Feb 2nd. Preps - 2 will be held next Tuesday at 6.30pm.

Welcome to 2016 Family Night will take place on Friday Feb 26th between 5pm and 8pm. More information will come to you today through our communication options.

I hope that you are able to take advantage of these important opportunities to make connections across the school and I would appreciate any feedback to ensure that we are doing the best we can to communicate effectively.
Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools

In light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools, I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority. If you have any questions please contact me.

School Council Elections – 2016

It is the time of year where we call for nominations for School Council. Ongoing Members are elected for a two year term and half the members must retire each year. This creates vacancies each year for the annual school council elections. Retired members are welcome to re-nominate. Please find some information about School Council and the notice of election and call for nominations. There are 3 vacancies for the 2 year term in the Parent member category this year. There is also 1 casual vacancy for a 1 year term which has come about through a resignation. The person filling this position can be co-opted by School Council.

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:
1. A mandated elected Parent category – More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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 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
- encourage 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.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to collect a nomination form from the school office or on the school website and arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Available with this newsletter and on the website are the:
- Notice of Election and Call for Nominations
- Nomination Form for Parent Member Category
- Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, please return it to me by Thursday, 11th February. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections if they are needed.

Please see me if you require further information. The first meeting of the new School Council will be held on Wednesday 8th March. I look forward to working with our new School Council to achieve the goals as set out in our School Strategic Plan.

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF)

Forms regarding this government financial assistance went home earlier this week. These funds ($125 for primary school students) are given to the school to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. Please contact Marianne in the office if you have any questions.

Essential Items Payments Reminder

If you have not already done so, could you please pay the Essential Items component of each child’s booklist at the office.

This money supports our Computer/ICT program, whole class materials and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden. These are all programs that help identify Carrum within the community and they need to be amply resourced to continue at the standard that we are proud of.

Bikes in the bike shed

Please ensure that your child’s bike is collected at the end of the day. We cannot guarantee their security if left in the bike shed overnight.

Thank you for your support in making the start of 2016 such a great transition for our students. Please remember that I would love to talk to you if you have any feedback or concerns because we all want the best for our students, teachers and families.

Cheers, Lois Weldon, Acting Principal
Three Cheers for our Birthday Stars!

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Sparkle Day
December 18 2016
Many thanks to all of those who contributed to Sparkle Day by bringing a gold coin to school. We were able to donate $274 to the Starlight Children’s Foundation to help brighten the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children. Carrum Caring for the Community.

Julie Shaw
Social Service Co-ordinator

Garden Class
We have had a great start to our garden classes.

The new Grade 3 students have jumped right in with plenty of enthusiasm! It is wonderful to have all our little gardeners back on deck help as we get our veggie beds and grounds up to scratch again. Thank you also to those parents who have volunteered to come along and help. Extra helpers are always welcome. Elise

UNIFORM SHOP CLOTHING SALE
ALL ITEMS $5
Friday 5 February from 2.30pm
City of Kingston
Before & After School Programs

- Available to all families enrolled at participating schools, including new prep enrolments!
- Staffed by highly qualified educators, each with their own skills, passions and talents to share with your children
- Offers children a fun environment where they can interact with their peers and engage in exciting experiences
- Provides a healthy breakfast to children before school and a delicious and nutritious afternoon tea for children after school (while catering for all dietary requirements and restrictions)
- Available school days 6:45am until school start and school finish until 4:15pm
- Offers care for children when schools are closed for curriculum days
- Provides easy online enrolments and has a handy mobile app that helps you manage your bookings
- Attracts 50% Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit for eligible families to reduce the cost!

How to enrol
2. Create an account through My Family Lounge
3. Enrol your child and select required days
4. Your child joins in the epic fun at the program!

Contact us
Phone: 9581 4887  beforeandafterschoolprograms@kingston.vic.gov.au

Free Dance Class Trial!

Present this voucher upon arrival. (Expires Feb 20, 2016)

KIDS DANCE CLASSES
Boys & Girls Welcome!

ADULT DANCE CLASSES
All ages & all level’s welcome!
FUn. ENERGETIC. TECHNICAL & CREATIVE

2 Lamana St, Mordialloc, Vic. 3195
Contact Miss Casey for bookings
M: 0420 356 232
E: missbrianna@glitterytappingwonderland.com

Ballet * Tap * Jazz * Hip Hop * Fairy Dancing * Adult Classes
www.glitterytappingwonderland.com
Hey folks, you’re invited to our Carrum PS ‘WELCOME TO 2016’ Celebration on Friday, 26 February from 5-8pm. It’s a Massive BBQ Cook-Up, Disc Spinning DJ, Cakes & Bakes, Break Dancing Goats, Kids, Families. It's a big Carrum PS 2016 kick-start! Join us!!