Recent Success

What a fantastic start to the school Year! Our students have settled in really well and the staff are to be commended on how engaged the students have been over the first couple of weeks. Our Preps are off to a flying start learning all about respect and general school life. It is wonderful to walk into their classrooms and see their smiling happy faces each day.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Hello and welcome to this week’s newsletter. Over the past 2 weeks I have been getting to know all of the students and their parents by standing at the front gate each morning and afternoon. It has been fantastic to see our children eagerly coming in the gate with big smiles on their face and saying hello to you their parents.

One of the things I have noticed is that we have a very busy road out the front of the school and parking is often at a premium. Please be mindful that we are all in a hurry in the morning and after school and I would hate to see any of our students or parents injured. Please make sure you drop off your children in the designated zones and then move on so the next family can do the same. If we all work together respectfully any serious incidents can be avoided.

Last week saw the commencement of the AFL Women’s league. What a fantastic innovation this has been for providing role models to young girls. It’s amazing what can be achieved if you have a growth mindset. Maybe one day we will be able to say that a young girl from CPPS is playing in the league.

My Top Tips

Unleashing your school spirit!

✓ Be willing to take time out from studying to get involved in school activities.

✓ Whatever the activity or cause, make sure you are passionate about it.

✓ If you are passionate about a cause, consider starting up your own club or committee!

✓ Remember school spirit can be as simple as showing up to support your peers in an event!

THE BENEFIT OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

The start of new school year brings with it new and exciting opportunities! While it’s easy to forget when you are staring at new books and stationery that are stacked up on your school desk or feeling their full weight as you pick up your school bag and carry them home. There is more to school than homework, studying and academic achievement (although these are important) School and learning is meant to be enjoyable!

Your teachers want you to enjoy the learning experience and have positive memories that you will look back on and cherish. Unfortunately, sometimes school spirit and pride gets overlooked. Your school time is limited so make sure to take full advantage of everything your school has to offer. There are many opportunities to get involved and show your school spirit, from performing in the school concert, being part of the walking to school program or joining in the fun of a lunchtime club. Getting involved in a range of activities will benefit you in many ways and help you to shape your experience at school. So, get involved and enjoy all the learning experiences that Coral Park Primary School has to offer.
Reminders:

Hats are an essential part of our school uniform and I am very pleased to announce that almost all of our students have had their hat at school and have been wearing them in the yard. Please ensure that your child has their school hat to wear from September to May as it protects them from the harsh rays of the sun and also helps to prevent skin cancer when they are older.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
School council plays an important part in the running of Coral Park Primary School. The council is a great way to get involved in the school and to understand why decisions are made and for what purpose. If you are interested in nominating to be part of our council, please call into the office and pick up a nomination form. The nominations will close on Thursday 16th of February by 4pm.

PLAYGROUP
Playgroup is now on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is free of charge and runs from 9am until 11am in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

BOOKLISTS
Thank you to the many parents who have paid for booklists for their children. Payment is now overdue, so if you haven’t already paid, please contact the office to pay or arrange a payment plan if necessary.

SCHOOL NURSE
Michelle Baker, our visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Training will be attending our school in Term 1 to conduct Prep health assessments. Michelle is also able to see other children as requested by parents or teachers (with parents’ consent).

The purpose of the visit is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment; to link children, families and the school to services available in the community; and to provide information and advice that promotes health and wellbeing.

Parents of students (other than Prep students) who wish their child to be seen need to complete a referral form that is available at the school office. Completed forms for the school nursing program need to be returned before 14th February.

\[ \text{‘GETTING TO KNOW YOU’ BBQ} \]

\textbf{Tuesday 28th February}

Students and their families are warmly invited to come along for an informal afternoon & evening of games and a sausage sizzle. There will be information sessions throughout the afternoon and a chance to have a chat with your child’s teacher.

- Prep Session 5pm
- Grade 1 & 2 Session 5.30pm
- Grade 3 & 4 Session 6pm
- Grade 5 & 6 Session 6.30pm
Welcome to Coral Park

We are delighted to welcome all our students and families to the 2017 school year at Coral Park Primary School. A special welcome is extended to all our new students and their families. It has been wonderful to see all of our students coming to school with smiles on their faces and enjoying learning and spending time with their friends. We look forward to building positive relationships with all our students and families throughout the year.
School Council Election 2017 - Information for Parents

The School Council comprises parents, the principal, staff and sometimes community members. It assists in setting the educational policies of a school. Councils have between six and fifteen members. Our school has six members on School Council and 2 regular volunteer staff members. You don’t need any particular qualifications or experience—schools look for enthusiastic parents who want to help improve the school environment, wellbeing and learning outcomes for all students. School Councillors are elected for a period of 2 years following which they may renominate for a further 2 years or until their children leave the school. Current School Councillors whose term of office is completed are able to re-nominate and parents not previously on School Council are also able to nominate for School Council. Our School Council meets at the school twice each term, often around the second Wednesday of the month at 4.00 pm. If you would like further information please contact me via the school office.

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 statewide 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?
For most school councils, 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 engaged in work 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 - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.
Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires 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 also 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.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencements of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister of Education.
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent 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, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. 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.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations
I am calling for nominations for School Council and giving notice that an election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Coral Park Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Thursday 16th February 2017. The timeline below is part of the ‘Notice of Election’.
If the number of nominations is equal to, or less than the number of vacancies then there will be no ballot. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

Notice of election and call for nominations — Thursday 9th February
Closing date for nominations — Thursday 16th February at 4pm
List of candidates posted — TBA
Ballot papers distributed (if required)
Close of ballot — TBA
Vote count and declaration of poll — TBA

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions vacant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET member</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in the newsletter and in a prominent position at the school.
The new School Council will meet for the Annual General Meeting and co-opting of new members at a date TBA.

Justin Thompson
Principal