Calendar of Events

Friday 6th November
Assembly item—M16

Friday 13th November
Assembly item—Preps

Friday 20th November
Assembly item—CPPS Band

Friday 27th November
Assembly item—M14

Every Friday
Parent’s Coffee & Chat from 2.35pm in the SLC Café.

Breakfast Club is in the MPC each morning 8.45-8.55 for toast with Tony in case you didn’t find the time for breakfast.

2016 Prep Transition has begun,
Whole School Transition starts soon!

Students enrolled for Prep 2016 have begun their transition to school. Each week they spend a morning here at school, learning their way around, having fun, meeting new friends and meeting the teachers.

Our whole school transition program begins on Thursday 19th November. The transition program facilitates students making a smooth progression into school, through the school into new areas and onto secondary college. It provides students with the opportunity to work with a variety of staff within each area. Students take part in Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing activities in their new area whilst experiencing being in a different classroom with different students and teachers. It is a fun way of getting to know other people and aims to reduce anxieties students may have in preparation for the new year.

Transition days and times this year are: 9-11 each Thursday beginning 19th November (26th November, 3rd and 10th December).

Please ensure your child is at school on these days so they are a part of the program. Students who are leaving Coral Park in 2016 will continue as part of the program. Year 6 students will take part in their own program addressing their Hopes & Fears for Secondary College and preparing an exciting finish to the year.

If your child is feeling anxious about next year, please ensure their classroom teacher is aware of this. Do not allow them to remain at home on these days as that doesn’t help them to manage their anxieties. Being apart of this program helps them to build their resilience and be part of the change process.

In the last week of the term, on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December, students will be in their 2016 classrooms, hopefully with their 2016 teachers. They will find out who their teacher and classmates are for the following year and spend two days working together to help build connectedness as a group.

On Wednesday 16th they will return to their current 2015 class and teacher to share and discuss their experiences. On Thursday 17th December, classes will have individual class parties and rewards celebrating their successful year together.

Friday 18th December is the last school day for the year, please remember we have a 2.30pm finish on this day. Assembly will begin at 1.45pm and finish at 2.25pm.

If you are leaving us to begin at a new school in 2016, please notify the school office as soon as you can. Knowing how many students we will have for the following year helps us to better plan for that year.

Many thanks to our wonderful parents group, headed by Liz, Kahli & Fiona who organised our fabulous school disco. Students were very happy to dance to the tunes played and had fun. In total they raised approximately $450 for the school, a super effort!

Thanks to JK the Singing DJ who supplied equipment for the night and to Dean, one of our dads for playing the dance tunes. It was a great night, thanks to all who came and had lots of fun.

Safety Before School

This week we have had many students arriving at school before 8.30am, some as early as 7.55am. A reminder to all parents that students are not to be at school before 8.30am. Staff are not on duty in the school grounds before 8.45am. Students who arrive before 8.30am will be placed in Before School Care at a cost to parents.

We have also had a number of students go to the milk bar before school. Once students enter the school grounds, they must remain at school for their safety. Please reinforce with your child that it is a risk to their safety if they go beyond the school boundaries. Once again, please also ensure they are not being dropped off for school prior to 8.30am.
Every day counts – ensure your child attends school every day

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Sadly absences are becoming more frequent and late arrivals are happening every day!

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future. Missing the introduction to the day sets a child back in their learning and interrupts the flow of instruction, however, it is better that children come late rather than miss a whole day. A student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

It is a legal requirement that children attend school every day. It is also a legal requirement that parents inform the school of the reason for a child’s absence. Shopping, birthdays and visiting relatives are not legally worthwhile reasons for your child missing a day of school. If your child attends a doctor due to illness, it is best to ask for a medical certificate to validate your child’s absence. From 1 March 2014, new laws mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Parent responsibilities

Parents are required to ensure their child attends school and to provide an explanation for their child’s absence from school, and the school must record in writing the reason (if any) given by the parent. The principal must be able to determine from the records if the excuse given was reasonable in terms of the parent meeting their legal obligations.

Parents must inform the school of the reason for their child’s absence so that the school can:

- determine if the child’s absence needs to be excused by the principal, in line with school policy and these guidelines
- determine the appropriate follow up to ensure the child’s education and wellbeing is supported
- record if the parent has a reasonable excuse for not meeting their obligation to ensure their child attends school each day.

Where possible, parents should inform the school in advance of upcoming absences.

School responsibilities

The school must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and in every class in secondary schools and record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary to:

- meet legislative requirements
- discharge schools’ duty of care for all students
- assist calculation of the school’s funding
- enable the school governing body (school council in government schools) to report on student attendance annually
- meet Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements (for VCE students).

Accurate and comprehensive student attendance records, including the reasons for any absences provides evidence for any further enforcement proceedings including issue of an Infringement Notice (and any appeal) and court proceedings if it appears a parent may not have met their legal obligations to ensure their child attends school.

A BIG THUMBS UP and well done to:

- Thumbs Up to the families who have already returned and paid for their 2016 booklists. Wow, that was quick! What SUPERSTARS!
- Thumbs Up to the families who have let us know of their intention of leaving the school for the 2016 school year or having an overseas holidays, this greatly assists with forward planning.
- Thumbs Up to all the families who regularly arrive on time for learning.
- Thumbs Up to the students who read 5 or more nights each week.
- Thumbs Up to the students who came along and the parents who helped out at the Fluoro Disco. Thank you to the families who supported the disco, assisting with raising funds for our school.

Student Emergency Contact Details: Parents please ensure that if you change any details you contact the school ASAP to ensure our records are up to date. Thank you in advance for ensuring we have the correct details at all times.
Birthday Books

Thank you to Natasa and Mrs Gray for donating great new books to our library. We hope you had a very happy birthday.

Parent Feedback Needed

We aim to please so would love more feedback on how we can improve. We often ask for feedback via the Coral News or our website, we have even prepared online surveys to try and get responses from parents as to how we can improve.

Now, our School Councillors & Parent Volunteer Group would like to give you more opportunity. Each Friday, Parent members will be in the SLC Café from 2.40pm, before assembly for you to meet and chat with. There will also be feedback forms that you may complete, if you don't wish to stop and chat, these are to be placed in the red letterbox labelled Parent Feedback.

Please, come and chat or drop us a note, we would love to hear your thoughts.

Social media—do you know what your child is accessing on their devices?

Social media is more accessible than ever - with the rise of smartphones and tablets, it has never been easier to jump online. For young people, it means being more connected than any other generation - friends are never more than a tweet away. Unfortunately this has also led to a rapid increase in cyberbullying and inappropriate interaction - to the point that at least one in 10 children are cyberbullied each year and one in 15 are receiving inappropriate material. Cyberbullying can be very different from traditional bullying, and many parents can feel ill-equipped to respond if their child is being cyberbullied.

Susan McLean, a former police officer and Australia's leading cybersafety expert, said even if parents have no experience with social media, by following a few basic steps, parents can effectively support their children to be safe online.

'Re Parenting in the 21st century requires you to be able to parent in the digital space,' Ms McLean said. Technology is firmly entrenched in our lives and that of our children so we need the tools to deal with issues as they arise. First and foremost, we need to know what they are accessing and when they are online.

It has come to our attention that a number of students are using Instagram. Is your child? Do you even know if they have an Instagram or Facebook account? The guidelines of use for these require children to be at least 13 years old, we can tell you, although students can't access this at school, some are using these applications. Please check your child's devices with them, encourage open communication and be able to check their accounts at any time. At night, keep their devices out of the bedroom, if need be, turn your wireless internet off so it can't be used.

'It's really important that if your child is being cyberbullied or harassed that you don't cut them off from social media and take their technology away - the vast majority of kids won't tell a parent if they are bullied and harassed online for fear of losing access. They would much rather put up with the bad to keep the good.' It is important to learn with them and teach them what is right and what is unacceptable.

Ms McLean said when confronted with their child being cyberbullied, parents should follow the cyberbullying quick response checklist:

- Reassure and comfort
- Don’t respond
- Block and delete the bully
- Report to the site
- Keep a copy
- Tell school (or relevant place) and seek action
- If ongoing inform police
- Support your child as they may have done nothing wrong, if they have, it is time to learn about unacceptable use.

The Department's Bully Stoppers website has a range of advice for parents, students and teachers about how to respond to all types of bullying. Visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicecybersafe.aspx for more information.

Physical Education at Coral Park

This term has been a very busy term already in physical education. The middle and senior students have been participating in the Hot Shot tennis program. There have been some very hot shots and all students have had the opportunity to rally with me. The students have learnt how to correctly score a game and how to play a set of modified tennis. In preparation for their hot shots tennis, the junior students have been learning about scoop ball which develops hand eye coordination necessary to be able to rally in tennis. They have had lots of fun throwing the ball long to a partner and catching with their scoop. I hope you are all using daylight saving and the warmer weather effectively by going for a walk as a family to keep up your fitness levels.

Regards
Bill Hains
Physical Education Specialist
CORAL PARK P.S. PLAYGROUP
Playgroup is on each TUESDAY (in the old hall) and Friday (in the art room) between 9-11am. Come along and join in.

Poppy badges are on sale at the office. $1 each
Remembrance Day is 11th November.

Coral Farm
Family Day
SUNDAY 22 NOV 2015
11:00am–3:00pm

Out of School Hours Care
To enrol your child into the Coral Park OSHC Program, complete a Registration Form which is located on the Camp Australia website - www.campaustralia.com.au. All bookings, cancellations and account changes must be done through the Parent Portal located on the Camp Australia website. Once enrolled be ready to get involved in FUN, QUALITY and ENGAGING experiences in a SAFE and HAPPY ENVIRONMENT.

Camp Australia would be happy to run school holiday programs here at Coral Park—we just need the numbers. If you may be interested in accessing a program in the holidays, please leave your name at the office. Jess, Kids Club Coordinator

Ensure your child is at school every day.
Every minute in the classroom counts.
Arrive by 8.55 for optimal learning time. NO excuses.

DANDENONG SHOW
November 14th & 15th 2015
Where the city meets the country, the Dandenong Show has lots to offer; farm animals, dogs, arts and crafts, amusement rides, showbags and fireworks. Don’t forget to visit the animal nursery and look out for the free entertainment. There is something for everyone!
Dandenong Show Grounds – Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street Dandenong
For further information please see our website www.Dandyshow.com.au