Principal’s report:

Over the past few weeks, students have participated in whole school transition activities and have had the chance to get to know the various teachers across the school and learn what other areas of the school are like. Hopefully this will dissolve any fears or anxieties about the new year ahead. Next Monday and Tuesday, students will be placed in their 2015 classrooms to spend two days with their new teacher and classmates doing some ‘getting to know you’ activities and begin to plan their 2015 journey of learning. We hope this will help them to become less anxious about starting the new year and allow them to prepare their rooms and develop friendships prior to the end of the year. We consistently remind students that the work and social expectations are the same no matter what time of year it is and that we continue to have high expectations of behaviour and effort so not to let themselves and parents down in the last few weeks.

This Friday our year six students are off to Carrum Foreshore for their graduation picnic day with fun activities at the beach. On Tuesday 16th December they will dress in their best clothes for their Graduation presentation evening to be held at River Gum Performing Arts Centre. We look forward to sharing their special night with them. On Thursday 18th December, all students are going to Casey Fields for a fabulous whole school fun day to celebrate a successful year. Hopefully all students can join in with the fun activities to celebrate their efforts and achievements through the year.

Student reports and Portfolios will be sent home with your child on Wednesday 17th December. The sad part of this year is that we begin to say goodbye to some members of our school community. Not only do we farewell our year six students, but we also farewell some staff and families at the end of each year. Anita Broomhall, Kim Kerr and Simone Connell have decided to get out and about and look at what’s happening in other schools and have accepted positions elsewhere. I commend them on their decisions because as educators, it is important that we keep abreast of what is happening in education and other school environments. Our teachers regularly network with other schools and past colleagues to gain and share further ideas that benefit all students. We wish these staff members every success and thank them sincerely for their time and efforts, for Anita and Kim this has been many hours of dedication and enthusiasm over the past 15 years. We also welcome some new staff and returning staff to Coral Park. All staff and classroom placements will be listed in next week’s newsletter.

Regards

Gill Gray, Principal
Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays

**Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.**

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed.

And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It’s also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the “summer slide” – a term used to refer to students’ learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a ‘tap’ to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn. When they are not at school, however, that ‘tap’ is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources.

Children whose ‘tap’ stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose ‘tap’ may have been turned off for the past two months. Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others.

Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, preppy, eight-year-old or teenager. The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn’t be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To see what’s happening at Coral Park, visit our blogs at www.coralparkps.vic.edu.au, click on the blog link and visit the prep, junior, middle or senior site.
Healthy Food Raffle
Roheed, $10 for having a nectarine, sandwich and water.
Monika, $10 for eating oatmeal biscuits and water.
Jack, $10 for having 2 apples and one orange for lunch.
Sadhana, $10 for eating a sandwich and grapes.
Tamara, $10 for having a sandwich, banana, oat biscuits and water.

A BIG THUMBS UP and well done to:
Coral Park’s recorder group who performed at assembly last week.

Birthday Books
Thankyou to Devon for donating a book to the library.

If you would like to donate a birthday book you can purchase a book from the shops and donate it to the school or you can purchase a book at school for $10. Please see Linda in the library.

Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday time. Remember to lock up and look out and Stay safe for the holidays.

Sentral Parent Portal
The parent portal gives parents access to their child’s work, allows parents to report absences through the computer, make booking times for parent/teacher interviews, view student’s academic progress and keep up-to-date with school events and the school newsletter.

To enrol in the parent portal:
1. register by creating an account. (The link is on the school website)
2. Log into the Sentral parent/student portal
3. Wait until you receive an email to say you are an approved user
Log into your Sentral parent/student portal account and enter your unique code to link your account to your child or children.

Matt or a member of staff is available in the library from 9:00 each morning next week and would gladly assist those that would like some assistance with this process.

Kids Club will be open on the 19th of December from 2:30 PM till 6:00 PM

Join us on the last day of the year for fun games, contests and Christmas activities. Our room is being decorated, gifts are being made, and our reindeers are counting down the days.

If you would like your child to attend on the last day of school make a casual booking through the Camp Australia website or come and speak to Jess at the MPC.

Kids Club Direct: 9799 6182

Session times:
Before Care- 6:30am–8:45am
After Care- 3:30pm–6:00pm

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Please ensure you explain any absences your child has — remember, this is a legal requirement!