Calendar of Events

**FEBRUARY**

Don’t forget, every Friday the Student Leaders host Parent coffee & chat in the MPC from 2.35pm. Come along and meet with other parents.

- **Friday 19th February**
  - Assembly item M16

- **Tuesday 23rd February**
  - Parent/Teacher/Student Communication Meetings
  - 3.50-7.30pm

- **Friday 26th February**
  - Assembly item J10 & J11

**School Photo Day**

**Wednesday 23rd March**

Homework Club has started

Each Wednesday you can join with Tony & Mandy in the Homework club in the library between 3.30–4.15pm.

Parents must collect students by 4.15pm from the library.

Parent/Teacher/Student Communication Meetings

**Tuesday 23rd February**

3.50pm—7.30pm

Book your time in NOW!

These meetings early in the year allow teachers to report to parents on how their child has settled into the year and their Student Learning Goals for the first half year. It also allows parents to inform their child’s teacher of any special needs, strengths, concerns and interests. Students are asked to attend communication meetings with their parents. It is important for them to be involved in conversations about their learning goals and expectations of them at school.

On this night, Matt, our ICT Coordinator and other specialist staff will be available in the library throughout the evening to assist you with logging on to our communication system Sentral, if you haven’t already created your account. This is an important aspect of communication between home and school on which you can send and receive messages with teachers, notify us of student absences and reasons and view your child’s learning progress.

Keeping focus on the 2016 school year

As the kids settle into the new school year, did you remember to tick off “see the optometrist” on your “back to school” list? Children often assume that how they see is normal. It is estimated that 80% of learning is experienced through vision and so children with undetected vision problems can have trouble keeping up and as a consequence might become impatient, lose focus and start misbehaving or not enjoying school.

Along with allergies and asthma, eye disorders are the most common long-term health problems experienced by children.

The most frequent vision problems experienced by children are those affecting the ability to see clearly and sharply. These include short-sightedness (blurred distance vision), long-sightedness (difficulty focusing up close) and astigmatism (the distortion of vision due to the irregular shape of the eye). These conditions can be very easy to correct, with a simple measure: glasses. Other vision problems need to be detected and addressed early to reduce risk of long-term vision concerns such as a turned eye (strabismus), or a so-called lazy eye (amblyopia). These conditions require management by an eye health professional, such as an optometrist. Untreated amblyopia can even lead to permanently reduced vision in the affected eye. Incorporating regular eye examinations with an optometrist into your child’s health routine can give peace of mind and the best start to the school year – you don’t need a referral from a doctor and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. For more information or to find an optometrist in your local area, visit www.optometrists.asn.au/victoria.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

At Coral Park Primary School we highly value the volunteer help received from parents/guardians. This assists staff to run quality classroom and excursion programs. In 2016, all volunteer helpers will require a ‘Working with Children Check’ (a state-wide requirement in Victorian schools). Visit http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/index.html to apply online for the free check. An application summary, proof of identification and a passport quality photo will then need to be lodged at an Australia Post outlet. You will be issued with a receipt which you can use as proof of having applied for a check until you receive your ‘Working with Children Check’ card in the mail. Please bring the receipt and then the card to the office so that copies can be made for our records. Please note that checks are valid for five years before requiring renewal.
School Council Election 2016 - 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 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 commencement 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 on Monday 22nd February 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, from Monday 22nd February, and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday 29th February 2016. 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 — Monday 22nd February
Closing date for nominations — Monday 29th February
List of candidates posted — Wednesday 2nd March
Ballot papers distributed (if required) - Thursday 3rd March
Close of ballot — Thursday 10th March at 4pm
Vote count and declaration of poll — Thursday 10th March at 4pm

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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

Gill Gray
Principal
Some Reminders

September to May are Sun Smart terms – all students and staff must wear wide-brimmed hats when outside. NO HAT, NO PLAY

Classroom teachers are on duty in their rooms each morning from 8.45am and again after school until 3.45. Parents are welcome to call in at these times but once learning time begins at 9.00am, teachers are not free to stop and chat. If there is a concern that needs to be addressed, please make an appointment with the teacher for before or after school.

To maximize learning time for all, students must arrive on time and attend school every day. Please ensure your child has arrived at school by 8.55am (but not before 8.30am) to allow themselves time to get settled and organized for the day. Dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours whenever possible. Remember, it’s COOL to be at school. It’s NOT OK to be away!

All classrooms are air conditioned so there is no need for students to be picked up on hot days. The Library and Art room are also air-conditioned and open at recess and lunchtime. If the temperature is too hot we implement a hot weather timetable where students have shorter outside break times.

If a student is feeling unwell for any reason, he or she is attended to in the first aid room and, if necessary, parents are notified.

Take away foods are not to be brought to school for lunch. Please do not bring McDonalds, etc into the school, you will be asked to take it home with you. These are considered special family treats to be had at home. We maintain a focus on healthy foods across the school and encourage healthy eating at all times. Students are encouraged to be a part of their lunch making process. It is astounding how many students up to year 5 have never buttered bread or made a sandwich. Parents can build up the skills of younger students to do this. By grade 4, students should be making their own lunch.

Please feel free to contact your child’s classroom teacher, our Assistant Principal, Rebekah Smithett, our Student Wellbeing Coordinator Matt Brand or myself if you have any queries or issues regarding the school. Any concerns or issues you may have with other parents or our students should be referred to us so we can assist in resolving the matter. Telephoning ahead to make an appointment time would be appreciated. We are all looking forward to continuing a fabulous, successful and productive Term 1.

Regards

Gill Gray, Principal

2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Once again Coral Park Primary School is inviting students in years 3 to 6 to sit the International Competitions and Assessments (ICAS) examinations in the following subjects:
Science, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics, English and Computer Skills.

The Competitions aim to provide an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement, to recognize and reward achievement at all levels and to provide students, parents and teachers with a comprehensive analysis of student performance.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The tests are an excellent preparation for National tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses. The UNSW certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.

All applications and payments must be received by Friday 18th March 2016.

Please collect a form from the office if you would like your child to participate in any or all of the assessments.

Last Tuesday was Pancake Day or ‘Shrove Tuesday’. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent a celebration in the Christian and Catholic calendar.

Last week students made pancakes with their buddy grade and raised money for Uniting Care. We raised over $320 to support people living in crisis.
Birthday Books

Thank you to Leanna, Joanne, Arian, Blake, Chase and Jayden for donating birthday books to our library.

We wish you all a very happy birthday.

School commences at 9:00am & concludes at 3:30pm. The arrival of children at school will be supervised from 8:45am. Children are also supervised while they are leaving school until 3:45pm.

Please ensure your child arrives in class by 8.55am. Late arrivals are a disruption to everyone and to learning time!

Would you like to sew your own owl?

The kid’s at OSHC are learning how to sew this term. This week we are going to be working on making our own owl toys. The owls aren’t the only wise ones at OSHC, we’ll also be working on making and solving puzzles.

If you’d like your child to join in the fun, come and visit Jess in the MPC before or after school, or go to www.campaustralia.com.au to enroll.

To enrol your child into the Coral Park OSHC Program, complete an OSHC Registration Form which is located on the Camp Australia website - www.campaustralia.com.au. All bookings, cancellations and account changes can 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.

If you have any queries please call Jess, the Kids Club Coordinator on 9799 6182 or drop in for a visit and see the programs in action.

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

Contact Us
Kids Club Direct: 9799 6182
School office phone: 9702 8398

Cathy-Lea
dance,music,drama
www.cathy-lea.com 9704-7324

Regency Calisthenics College
www.regencycalisthenics.com.au

LIND-ELLE
School of Dance
43 Strathaird Drive, Narre Warren South Vic 3872.
Ph: (03) 8790 2733. Email lindelledance@gmail.com

GUNNAMATTA
TRAIL RIDES

School banking has started. Don’t forget to encourage your child to send in their bank book to get fantastic rewards and be in the draw to win a trip to Australia Zoo to meet Robert and Bindi Irwin.

If you have misplaced your child’s book, leave a message at the office and a book will be sent home with your child.

If you would like your child to join CBA Dollarmites school banking, go to any CBA branch or ask for an application form at the school office.

Congratulations on teaching your child how to save.

If you have a book you would like to send home with your child, leave a message at the office and a book will be sent home with your child.