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.

**March**
- Friday 4th March
  Assembly item J1 & J2
- Friday 11th March
  Assembly item M5
- Friday 18th March
  Assembly item S14

**School Photo Day**
Wednesday 23rd March

**Homework Club has started**
Each Wednesday you can join Tony & Mandy for Homework Club in the library between 3.30-4.15pm.

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**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

A huge priority throughout the school is improving student attendance. We still have far too many students taking days off school for reasons other than ill health. We acknowledge that sometimes family circumstances can make it difficult for students to attend school, however there are a range of reasons why children miss school that are not valid.

Sometimes attendance rates can sound better than they actually are. As you know, part of the reporting requirement is that we include student attendance rates on student’s mid and end of year reports. In most things, gaining a score of 90% is pretty good. Not in school attendance! Although 90% sounds good, it translates to one day off per fortnight which means that the child has missed 20 days throughout the year.

That’s 4 school weeks (almost half a term) of learning that the child has missed.

If that attendance rate is maintained throughout the child’s primary schooling, by the time they graduate at the end of Grade 6 they will have missed 28 weeks of schooling.

That’s almost three terms!

The impact of poor school attendance can be massive in both the long and short term; as can be the effect of consistently arriving late. Inconsistent school attendance can lead to:

- Lack of continuity in the acquisition of skills and concepts needed to effectively progress through a student’s educational and work life.
- Difficulty maintaining friendships.
- Frustration and lack of connectedness.
- Resentment from the other students due to the amount of information that needs to be relayed to students who are consistently absent from school, causing disruption to the day-to-day program within the learning area.
- Disruption to school programs.

For our students to make the most of their academic opportunities, they need to be at school as many days as possible. We don’t want children attending school when they are genuinely sick but we need to seriously reduce the ‘other’ days off that some of our students regularly take.

**If your child’s attendance is at or above 96%**
They are likely to be a STAR PERFORMER. They will most certainly achieve the best grades for their ability. This will increase their opportunity to achieve future success in education and in life.

**If your child’s attendance is 94% - 96%**
“GREEN FOR GO!” For good attendance, they are likely to build on prior knowledge and wider opportunities for their future learning and success in life.

**If your child’s attendance is 90% - 94%**
“AMBER - TAKE CARE.” They will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it difficult for them to keep in touch with classroom lessons and school programs.

**If your child’s attendance is below 90%**
“AT RISK - IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED.” They are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or their learning. They will certainly find it difficult to maintain friendships.

Give your child the best possible chance in achieving their educational best, value their education and ensure they attend consistently and arrive at school on time and every day. (That means prior to 8.55am)
Senior Interschool Sport
Friday 19th February
On the 19th February the seniors played interschool sport against St. Kevin’s at Coral Park. The games were played fairly and the students had fun. My friend Orchard and I took some photos of the action we hope you enjoy them, Michaela.

My name is Kierra I played goalkeeper in the girls’ soccer team we won 4-0 it was fun. Hi my name is Orchard and I played T-Ball, our coach was Solange and we had a lot of fun but we lost to St. Kevin’s.

Hi my name is Eman and I am in the boys’ soccer team and we won 7-0 and all the boys had fun playing including me.

Hi my name is Mustafa’ I played netball in the mixed team we won. The best player was Ty. I was in the centre. I really enjoyed playing netball.

Hi my name is Natalia, in the interschool sport I participated in Netball. We had fun and we won. The score for the girls’ team was 19-2 and the mixed team was 6-2.

Hi my name is Teariki I played basketball. I enjoyed it and had fun I also scored some goals our team won 34-16 and the girls’ team won 22-8.

School Sport Victoria Team Online Registration Process,
12 Years and Under
Registration to trial for AFL, Netball, Soccer and Basketball for state teams has traditionally started with nominations through a child’s school to attend district trials.
School Sport Victoria (SSV) have advised that this process has now changed to an online registration process. District trials will no longer be held.
The SSV website www.ssv.vic.edu.au provides important information and a video on the process as well as application forms and must be visited.
Key points include:
* Parents must consult with their Sport Teacher at the school to ensure their child has the skill level to trial and represent their school.
* It is imperative that teachers will decide on your child’s capability of representing their school at a state level before registering online.
* This discussion with the school Sport Teacher is necessary as all students MUST get the Sport Teacher/Coordinator and the Principal signature on their registration form prior to attending a trial.
* The Eventbrite ticket, application form signed by the Principal and Sport Teacher/Coordinator and proof of payment must be handed to the Division Trial Coordinator on the day of the trial.
* Applicants will be notified of arrangements for the Division trial once registrations have closed.
* There is a non-refundable fee of $25.00 to apply for the trial. Note: Registration for Division trials close on Wednesday March 16, 2016.
For further information contact Bill Hains on 9702 8398.

Senior sport changes for this week
Due to a change in the sport fixture, Coral Park are now playing River Gum PS this week for interschool sport. All games will be played at River Gum.
Parents and visitors are welcome to attend to cheer on the players.

Reminder - Student Accident and Private Property Insurance
The Department of Education and Training (DET) and government schools do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.
The Department of Education and Training also does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors.
Students and staff are advised not to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school and are not allowed to bring any electronic toys and games to school.
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.

Prep Physical Education.

It has been fantastic to see the prep students settle in so well to school and participate effectively in all physical education lessons. Our focus for the next three weeks is balance. The students are learning about static balance and moving balance. The activities they are practicing each week are designed to ensure success and build physical confidence.

I hope you are all using the extra day light and wonderful weather to go for an evening walk and talk with your children, it’s a great way to find out about their day at school while improving your fitness.

Regards Bill Hains
Physical Education Specialist.

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.

We thank you for your help and support.

CORAL PARK PARENT GROUP
Do you have a spare half hour on Wednesdays?

A few of our parents led by Liz, Ljiljana, Dilini, Fiona and Liz would love to re-form a Parent Group. The aim of this group is to work together to help improve our school. Through meetings and discussions topics can be raised and opinions voiced to help us improve our school for your children.

Recently they came to see me to share what we can do to stop the vandalism around the school. This prompted them to want to meet regularly. Yesterday their first meeting was held to gain interest. The first formal meeting is on Wednesday 16th March in the staffroom at 9am. All families are invited to come along. Morning tea is provided.

Every other Wednesday morning they work away like busy bees helping to laminate and prepare school resources for use in classrooms and simply chat about school and home life, relaxing and sharing each others company. Feel free to come along and join them.

In the staffroom at 9am each Wednesday or just for meetings.
Birthday Books

Thank you to Danijela, Taysha and Stefan for donating birthday books to our library. We wish you all a very happy birthday.

Easter School Holidays

Moonlit Sanctuary Junior Ranger Program
Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care.
Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities, fun and games for ages 7-14 years.

Easter school holiday dates:
Week 1: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 1st April 10am – 4pm
Week 2: Monday 4th to Friday 8th April 10am – 4pm
Cost: $65.00 per day, or $175 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).
Maximum 16 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited
Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary
550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale Phone 5978 7935
Open daily between 10am and 5pm.

If you are interested in going into the draw to win a free family pass to the Moonlit Sanctuary, complete a raffle ticket with your child’s name and class at the office. The raffle will be drawn in the last week of term.

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.

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Be in class by 8.55am
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!