Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome to the 2015 school year:

It has been a busy start to the school year with Colac Primary School welcoming back returning students and meeting students new to the school this week. We had 45 Prep students begin their education with us on Monday and it was a very exciting time for them and their families as they attended their first day of school. We also welcomed several other students to Colac PS and staff and students have been busy getting to know the new faces and learning more about each of these new people. A ‘Welcome Cuppa’ morning will be held in the stadium tomorrow at 9am. All parents are welcome to come along. We look forward to getting to know the families of our new students as the year continues.

New students:
Grade 1: Morgan, Darcy
Grade 3: Jarra, Hunter, Bailey
Grade 4: Sienna, Dakota
Grade 5: Paige, Connor
Grade 6: Remi, Jake

It will be an action packed start to the term for all students as we will hold our school athletics (March 4th), participate in the Colac Kana Festival, begin our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for Grade 1 & 2, continue our Buddy Program, see our Grade 5 & 6 students off to camp in Melbourne and all students will make a solid start to their learning for the year. We look forward to seeing our students embrace the opportunities presented to them this term and encourage parents to become involved in any of our extra events if available and as classroom helpers.

Our 2015 Prep Students:
Classroom Helpers & Volunteers: If you wish to help out as a classroom helper please see Salome Falla for Grades Prep to 2 and Jill Newcombe for Grades 3 to 6. Alternatively think about volunteering for the kitchen/garden program. A flyer is being sent home with this newsletter containing all the information. If you are interested please phone Louise Vaughan. Also note that all volunteers in a school setting require a working with children check.

New buildings:
Our new classrooms arrived over the holidays and with the hard work of all staff were ready for students to commence on Monday this week. The classrooms look great and the finishing touches are being applied before the fencing is removed next week. Grade 5 & 6’s are all very positive about the rooms. Thank you to all on the 2014 School Council who assisted in helping Colac PS gain these essential resources.

Staffing update: Our new staff have joined us for the beginning of the school year and have been widely welcomed already by the community. Staff joining us are Jennifer Colbron (Rm 8), Nicole Ryan (Art/PE), Gill Launer (Learning assistance), Louise Vaughan (ES), Sharyn Newton (ES) and Maddison Brook (Trainee). Glenyce Reed has also returned to Rm 7. Mrs Lamanna is currently on leave for the term.

Tissues: We are again requesting that families supply one box of tissues per child to their classroom teacher for use by the class this year. If each child supplied a box of tissues this would ensure that collectively our budgets can put towards other educational supplies. In 2014 the school saved almost $200 through your donation of a box of tissues each!

After School Pickup: With our increased numbers this year, some of our communal spaces can get very congested at the end of the school day. To allow students enough room to access their locker areas and bags, parents are requested not to wait for students in corridor areas. Please organise for your child to meet you outside of the school building. Teachers will assist younger students to collect bags and personal items as they leave. Your assistance in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Medical consent forms: Each child will this week receive a medical consent form which will cover all excursions for Semester One. This form is not an excursion consent form, but is consent for staff to obtain medical assistance for your child whilst out of the school. These forms will be stored in the office (confidentially) and taken by the staff member of the class to each excursion the child is involved in, along with the excursion consent form which will come out prior to the excursion as usual and need to be returned to give permission for your child to attend. It is imperative that if your child’s medical circumstances change during the semester a new form is filled out promptly. Please return Semester One Medical Consent forms ASAP. Thank you.

Student property: Students and parents are reminded that any personal property brought to school is done so at your own personal risk. Whilst we try our best to ensure that all property remains safe, the school is not responsible for lost or damaged property as a DEECD Government school carries no insurance for personal items. Ipods, mobile phones and the like should not be brought to school by students. Students who ride bikes to school are advised that they should be locked up with a secure lock in the bike rack. Students riding bikes and scooters are also reminded that helmets must be worn when riding to and from school and bikes and scooters are not to be ridden on school grounds.

Shelby Papadopoulos
Principal
Upcoming dates: Please mark in your diary

Feb 6th – Yr 6 memento tops payment due
Feb 6th – Welcome cuppa-9am in stadium
Feb 12th – Canteen volunteers forms due
Feb 13th – Canteen commences
Feb 13th – Yr 5/6 camp payment due
Mar 4th – School Athletics Day
Mar 11th – School Photos

2015 PREPS
Preps will not attend on Wednesdays during February. Wednesdays during February are used for testing.

ICY POLES
Junior School Council will be selling icy poles on a Wednesday for $1.00 at the canteen window.

EMA CHANGES
Families are advised that EMA ceased at the end of last year. Setting up Centrepay is a quick and easy option to help with costs throughout the year and we welcome families to come into the office to discuss this process with Julie.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP INSTALMENTS
$27.50 payments are due on the following dates for families paying camp via instalments: 4th Feb, 11th Feb and 16th Feb. If paying amount in full $220 is due by Friday 13th February.

CANTEEN NEWS
Our school canteen will commence next Friday 13th February. Price lists are included with today’s newsletter. Order and money are to be handed into classrooms on Friday mornings at the beginning of school if your child is having a lunch order.

Volunteers are required for the canteen each week. A form accompanies today’s newsletter requesting parents’ help throughout the year.

Duties: There are 2 timeslots, 11am – 12.30pm or 12.30pm – 2pm. Louise Vaughan is our new canteen supervisor who can help out with any questions you may have. Please consider helping out even if it’s just once a term (dads and grandparents are most welcome!!) Forms are due back by Thursday 12th February or earlier if possible to enable a roster to be sent home.

SCHOOL HATS
All students need to wear their hat during the warmer months. Hats are available in slouch ($9) or bucket style ($8) and come in small, medium, large and extra large.

LIBRARY NEWS
Please ensure children have a library bag to transport their books to and from school.

ART
Please ensure children have an art smock for their art classes. Art smocks are available at the office for $13.50 and come in sizes small, medium and large. Alternatively any old shirt from home will do.

MONEY TO THE OFFICE
All money sent to the office or classroom must be accompanied with a note with child’s name and reason for payment. School payment envelopes are available from the office or class teacher.

2015 YEAR 6 MEMENTO TOPS
If you have ordered a year 6 memento top, $32 payment is due tomorrow. This is the only order that will be placed for the year.

VISITORS SIGN IN/OUT BOOK
All parents and visitors who are working in the school should sign the visitors book at the office. This will allow us to account for you in the event of an emergency and is necessary as part of our Emergency Management Procedure.

We also have a sign in/out book for parents to use if they are picking up their child during school hours or arriving late. This will ensure that absences are parent approved and not unexplained.

SCHOOL BANKING
Preps have received a school banking pack to take home today. Current or new students in any year level are welcome to come to the office and collect a school banking pack.

REBELS BASKETBALL NEWS
Tonight: Thursday 5th February
U/11 Boys
Rebel Crocs – 4.00pm at Colac Primary
Rebel Geckos 5.20pm at Trinity

Friday 6th February
U/11 Girls
Rebels Emeralds – 4.00pm at Colac Primary
Rebel Garnets - 4.00pm at Trinity