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 our 2016 Prep students begin their education with us today 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 Primary School and staff and students have been busy getting to know the new faces and learning more about each of these new people. We look forward to getting to know the families of our new students as the year continues.

New students:
- Grade 1: Kaiarahi
- Grade 2: Te Araratai, Kayden
- Grade 3: Kiera, Te Amo Haere, Darcy
- Grade 4: Raukura
- Grade 5: William, Eloise
- Grade 6: Noah, Matariki

First Term: It will be an action packed start to the term for all of students as we will hold our school athletics, participate in the Colac Kana Festival, begin our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for Rooms 1, 2 and 6, continue our Buddy Program, see our Grade 5 & 6 students off to camp at Anglesea and assist all students to 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.

Classroom Helpers & Volunteers: If you wish to help out as a classroom helper please see Mrs Jill Newcombe our Assistant Principal. Alternatively think about volunteering for the kitchen/garden program and contact Louise Vaughan for cooking and garden times. Please note that all volunteers in a school setting require a current working with children check.

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 Heath Hackett (PE), Jane McGuane (Art), Haley Murphy (Intervention Support Officer), Monique McCarthy (Speech Pathologist), Katrina Mackay (Trainee), Jorja Parker (Trainee) and Casey Parsons (Trainee).

**Parent Payments:** Students have been supplied their class materials today and have been busily getting their stationary and books organised. I have outlined the breakdown of parent payments below:

**School books & stationary costs:** $115 per student.

**Activities levy:** $30 per student (For those who have CSEF this will cover the $30 activity levy).

**Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program:** $10 per student (each student will participate for one term throughout the year).

In summary – cost for those with camps and excursions funding will be $125 per student and for those without this subsidy $155 per student.

**Application For Camps Sports And Excursions Funding:** The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Parents with Health Care cards are requested to bring the card to school and fill out an application form at the office. Julie Menzies will assist in this process. Parents can commence applying from tomorrow. Further information has been included with today’s newsletter.

**State Schools Spectacular:** We are pleased to announce that Colac Primary School has again been selected to participate in the mass dance section of the Victorian State Schools Spectacular. Students in Grade 5 & 6 will have the opportunity to audition next Thursday February 4th at 1.45pm. We have 16 places available for our State Schools Spectacular Squad and will also select one emergency who will perform if required. Participation cost is approximately $180 all up which covers travel to all regional rehearsals, 3 trips to Melbourne for rehearsals and the show and the 2016 Spectacular t-shirt. Jackets may also be offered for purchase closer to the event and will cost approximately $40.00. The State Schools Spectacular Squad will be required to rehearse regularly during lunchtimes and at home. It is a big commitment but one that is very rewarding for students.

**Somers Camp:** We have an opportunity for students in Grades 5 or 6 to attend the Somers Camp, situated on Westernport Bay along with other students from schools in the Barwon South West Region. The camp will run from May 17th to 25th. Cost is $250.00 per student. Families requiring further information or wishing to express an interest please contact Jill Newcombe. Final numbers will need to be submitted to Somers Camp by Wednesday February 10th.

**After School Pickup:** With our increased numbers again 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 today 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. Excursions consent forms will still be required to be signed by parents for **ALL** excursions.

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 DET 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 be ridden on school grounds.

**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 2015 the school saved almost $500 through your donation of a box of tissues each!

Kind Regards,
Shelby Papadopoulos
Principal

**2016 PREPS**
Preps will not attend on Wednesdays during February. Wednesdays during February are used for testing.

**CANTEEN NEWS**
Our school canteen will commence **next Friday 5th February**. Price lists will be sent home with next week’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 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 Tuesday 9th February or earlier if possible to enable a roster to be sent home as soon as possible.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO CANTEEN TOMORROW**

**SCHOOL HATS**
All students need to wear their hat during the warmer months. Hats are available in slouch ($10) or bucket style ($8) and come in small, medium, large and extra large.

**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.

**2016 YEAR 6 MEMENTO TOPS**
If you have ordered a year 6 memento top, $35 payment is due on Friday 5th February. 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 books 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 will receive a school banking pack to take home next week. Current or new students in any year level are welcome to come to the office and collect a school banking pack.

**CALENDAR**
- **Feb 4th** State Schools Spectacular auditions (yr 5/6)
- **Feb 4th** Yr 5/6 camp $160 due if paying in full
- **Feb 5th** Canteen commences
- **Feb 5th** Yr 6 memento hoodie payment due $35
- **Feb 8/9th** Yr 5/6 Anglesea camp
- **Feb 9th** Canteen volunteers form due
- **Mar 4th** Curriculum Day (student free day)
- **Mar 7th** School Athletics day
- **Mar 9th** School Photo day
- **Mar 19th** Kana Parade
- **Mar 24th** End of term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)