Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome to the 2017 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 2017 Prep students begin their education with us on Tuesday 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.

Our 2017 Prep Students:
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 7 and 8, continue our Buddy Program, see our Grade 5 and 6 students off to camp at Melbourne 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.

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:
Karisa Walker (Room 1)
Matt Messinger (Room 2)
Abbey Watt (Room 3)
Kate Chudoschnik (Room 8)
Linda Briffa (Library)
Melinda Williams (Student Wellbeing)
Jim Templar (Garden & Maintenance)
Ethan Schroder (Trainee)
Emma Storer (Trainee)
Parent Payments:
Students have been supplied their class materials and have been busily getting their stationary and books organised. I have outlined the breakdown of parent payments below:
School book & stationary costs: $115 per student.
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program
$10 per student.
Payments are due at the office.

Classroom Helpers & Volunteers: If you wish to help out as a classroom helper please see Miss Falla or Miss Watt. Alternatively think about volunteering for the kitchen/garden program and contact Jane McGuane for cooking and garden times. Please note that all volunteers in a school setting require a current working with children check.

Colac Custom Car & Bike Show: Our school fundraiser was held in January in the Memorial Square with volunteers cooking and serving a barbecue. Many thanks to Carol Balcombe, Sharyn Anderton, Matt Lucas, Eldon Beevers, Brooke Gillen, Richelle Warton, Danni Veitch, Raelene O’Donoghue, Tanya Bath, Jane Russell, Kellie Hennigan, Tash Thompson, Natasha & Darren Williamson, Karyn McGlade, Bryan Kilfoyle, Tristan Akehurst and Susan Spence.

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. If you applied last year you do not need to reapply. If you do not have a current Health Care Card can you please let Julie know as soon as possible.

New families 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. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes. We have 16 places available for our State Schools Spectacular Squad and will also select one emergency who will perform if required. Regional rehearsals will take place here. Participation cost is approximately $150 all up which covers 3 trips to Melbourne for rehearsals and the performances and the 2017 Spectacular t-shirt. Jackets may also offered for purchase closer to the event and will cost approximately $50.00. 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.

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.

Bus Travel: Families who have indicated that students are regular bus travellers must notify the school of any transport changes prior to 1pm so bus rolls can be managed to reflect who should be on a bus on any given day. Students will not be granted permission to change buses without consent from the bus co-ordinating school, Colac Secondary College. We also request that parents remind students travelling on buses that they must immediately line up at the bus shelter when the bell goes at the end of the day as buses cannot wait for students. For all school contract bus (country runs) information please contact Kerrie O’Connor at Colac Secondary College, the bus co-ordinating school on 52315844. For all town bus enquiries please contact Christians Buslines on 52312203.
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.

Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school:
Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs. Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students, parents, volunteers and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Student property: Students and parents are reminded that any personal property bought 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 2016 the school saved almost $500 through your donation of a box of tissues each!

Kind Regards,
Shelby Papadopoulos, Principal

CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>Canteen resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7th</td>
<td>School banking resumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7-8th</td>
<td>State Schools Spectacular Auditions Yrs 5/6</td>
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<td>Feb 22-24th</td>
<td>Yr 5/6 Melbourne Camp</td>
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<td>Mar 1st</td>
<td>Curriculum Day-Pupil Free day</td>
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<td>Mar 8th</td>
<td>School Photos Day</td>
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<td>May 1st</td>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
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CANTEEN DUTY TOMORROW
Friday 9th December 2016

11AM-12.30PM    12.15PM-2PM
Janelle Oates   Carol Hernandez
Gary Wright     Jane Russell

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Tomorrow: Our school canteen will commence tomorrow. Price lists have been sent home with today’s newsletter and prices have not risen for this year. Preps will have their lunch/canteen order at 1pm tomorrow before they go home at 1.30pm. Students to hand in lunch orders in classrooms by 9am.

Volunteers Required: Forms accompany today’s newsletter requesting parents/grandparents help throughout the year to do canteen duty. Please consider helping out, there is no handling of money required and it’s a great way to meet other members of the school community. Please return forms by next Friday 10th February to enable a roster to be sent home as soon as possible.
PHONING THE SCHOOL
It may not always be possible to transfer you directly to the person you are wishing to speak with. Staff will endeavour to do their best to get back to you as soon as practicable. It is important that we have current contact numbers for all of our families, so if you have changed your number recently please let us know to help facilitate this communication. Please also note that the school mobile is to be called in emergency situations only. For all general enquiries, absences or concerns please call the office on 52312560.

2017 PREPS
Preps will not attend on Wednesdays during February. Wednesdays during February are used for individual Prep testing.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP
The payment of $230 for the 5/6 camp is due now.

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.

SCHOOL HATS
All students need to wear their hat until April 28th. Hats are available in slouch ($10) or bucket style ($8) and come in small, medium, large and extra large.

LIBRARY NEWS
Welcome to everyone. All children should have a cloth bag or supermarket bag to put their books in. These help to keep books clean and undamaged. Preps will receive their library bags shortly. Please help your child to find a safe place to keep their library books at home and remind them to return them each week. Can we also have donations of clean supermarket bags, please bring to the library.

SCHOOL BANKING
Preps will receive a school banking pack today to take home. Current school banking students will receive their pack next week. Students in any year level are welcome to come to the office and collect a school banking pack if they wish to start an account or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or alternatively visit a Commonwealth Bank branch. Student banking day is Tuesdays and commences next Tuesday 7th February.

2017 YEAR 6 MEMENTO TOPS
Information about the year 6 memento tops will be sent home shortly. Please be aware that only one order will be placed for the year.

MEDICAL CONSENT FORMS
Medical consent forms accompany today’s newsletter. Please complete forms as soon as possible and return to classroom teachers.

VALUE OF THE WEEK
RESPECT

When we show respect we are fair. We learn to take turns and we stick up for the rights of others.

OUTSIDE NEWS

HOMEWORK CLUB
Diversitat in Colac has been granted funding to run a homework club in Colac for primary school aged children who have difficulties with reading and writing. Children can bring homework (such as readers or spelling words) with them or there will be other literacy activities on offer. The homework club will run on Tuesday afternoons at the Colac Library from 4pm till 5pm. This will start term one 2017 on Tuesday 14th Feb and run during term times. A parent or guardian will need to accompany the child to and from the library to sign them in and out of the session. Volunteers are also required to help the children during the sessions. If you would like further information or to enrol your child please contact Kristen Gee at Diversitat on 5232 5320 or Kristen.gee@diversitat.org.au