COCKATOO PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Cockatoo

A Great Place To Be!

NO. 1 Friday February 5th 2016

Dates to Remember

February

Wednesday 10th  No school for ALL Foundation Students
Monday 15th    Whole School PHOTO Day 9am Sharp
Wednesday 17th  No school for ALL Foundation Students
Thursday 18th   F- 2 Zoo Excursion 8:15am
Friday 19th     EDEC Swimming Trials Grade 3-6
Wednesday 24th  No school for ALL Foundation Students
Thursday 25th   Grade 6 Transition Day Emerald Secondary College
                Ramingining Information Night 7:30pm
Friday 26th     Whole School Incursion – Stanley Gaykamangu
                Indigenous Singer from Arnhem Land-Gold Coin Donation

March

Tuesday 1st     Whole School Athletics Day

Wednesday 2nd   No school for ALL Foundation Students

Thursday 3rd    F-2 Incursion - Responsible Pet Ownership

Cockatoo Primary School No 3535. Website – www.cockatoops.vic.edu.au
Friday 4th    Clean Up School Day

Wednesday 9th  No school for ALL Foundation Students

Wednesday 16th  No school for ALL Foundation Students

Wednesday 23rd  Foundation Students Attend Full Day

Thursday 24th  Last Day Term 1 – 2:30pm Dismissal

Friday 25th  Good Friday

Sunday 27th  Easter Sunday

April

Monday 11th  First Day of Term 2. School commences 9.00am
PRINCIPALS REPORT

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to every student and their parents as the new school year begins. A very special welcome is sent to our new students in preps and other grades across the school. As you begin your school journey at Cockatoo Primary School it won’t be long before you realise that our school is a great school and I am very confident that you will enjoy all that our school has to offer!

We had a very smooth start to the school year with our Foundation students settling in exceptionally well. As they began their very first school activity, our youngest students looked like very old hands at ‘school business.’ It is the sight of these little people in their brand new uniforms confidently negotiating the demands of school life that confirms the strength of our transition program and the happy start to school it ensures!

At all times we endeavour to provide a happy, safe and secure environment for your children. Anybody who works at the school including cleaners, the handyman and classroom staff all have police checks, we are vigilant with yard duty, we will follow through with all issues that are of concern. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your child’s needs. My door is always open so just pop in or call. The more that parents and teachers work in partnership, the greater the educational outcomes attained and the happier the children will be.

I would like to warmly welcome Jutta Burgstahler to our school. Jutta will be the Literacy Intervention teacher working full time to support small groups of students with needs in the language areas.

Meredith Smith has settled in very well as the grade ½ teacher and it is an honour to have somebody such as Meredith join our staff.

Sam Ladner has settled in to her new role in Ramingining – we miss her greatly but know that she is in her dream role, surrounded by babies, helping young mothers cope with the trials and tribulations of motherhood. It is times such as this that Facebook helps us all stay in touch and keep up with the latest news.

A special thank you to the teachers and the education support staff for the dedicated, focussed work prior to the students beginning school to ensure that everything was ready for optimum learning from day one – they are a very dedicated team and I appreciate all that they do very much!

School Council Election Process
It is very fast approaching the time of the year when we must conduct school council elections. The information below details the role of school council and the election process. I would encourage parents to consider standing for council as it is a very rewarding experience. School Council meets for a minimum of eight meetings being held each year.

I would like to thank the following School Council members whose term of office expires at this year – Yvonne White, Matt Bennett, Amanda Flint, Cam Angus, Sam Ladner, Sarah Wintle and Ruth South are due to retire this year as their term of office expires. The School Council has been totally supportive of the school and has always had the students’ best interest foremost in their minds when all decision making takes place.

School Council Election 2016 - Information for Parents

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 state wide 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.

Cockatoo Primary School No 3535. Website – www.cockatoops.vic.edu.au
• 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 coopted 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 i 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 or 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 i 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.

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 in the mail 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

Remember
• Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• Consider standing for election to council this year
• Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

School Council Timeline
Elections will be held shortly and the following time line for elections is in place for 2015:

Nominations for School Council will be called as of Thursday February 11th 2015. The nomination form for both categories is available from the office. Nominations close at 4PM on Thursday February 18th 2016. If a ballot is necessary, ballot papers will be available on Thursday February 25th and the close of ballot will be Thursday March 4th 2015 at 4.00PM. The outcome will be announced on March 5th 2016 after votes have been counted on Thursday 5th of March after close of ballot.
Parent/Teacher Information Exchange

Parent/Teacher Information Exchange will take place from 2.00PM until 8.00PM on Monday 15th February 2016. This exchange will provide teachers with the opportunity to learn about your child therefore ensuring that the best educational goals for your child can be set. If you are unavailable to attend on the 15th please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative appointment. Notes regarding the process for booking an appointment will be sent home shortly.

Please note that this is not a student free day and all children attend school as usual for the entire school day.

Days of Extreme Heat

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the procedure developed by the Department of Education and Training regarding early dismissal on days of excessive heat. This procedure is implemented to ensure the children's well being on days where the temperature is very high. Under this policy, the children's lunch time in the hot afternoon sun can be reduced by 30 minutes. This policy is effective immediately.

We ask all parents to check the forecast before school on the morning of a day where the temperature is expected to reach 38 degrees or above. Irrespective of whether the expected temperature reaches that forecast for the day, if the prediction before school on the 8.00AM news, is for temperatures of 38 degrees or above, the children will be dismissed at 3.00PM.

The children will have a shortened lunch break to ensure that there is no disruption to learning time.

All teachers are on duty until the normal time, so if the amendment to the dismissal time causes any hardship please write a note to explain that your children are to remain at school until 3.30PM. If supervision of your children is required on a permanent basis, one note will be sufficient. Please indicate in your letter that this is a permanent arrangement.

If no note is received it will be assumed that your child will be dismissed at the earlier time of 3.00PM.

The children who will be going to After School Care will be supervised by teaching staff until the After School Care program commences at 3.30PM.

Lunch and Snack Eating Time

During allocated times, all students will be eating their food inside and will not be able to go outside to play until all of their food has been eaten. The main reason for this procedure is due to the fact that we have several students in danger of an anaphylactic reaction to specific foods eg nuts, egg. This has created a need to avoid cross contamination within the playground.

Emergency Management Plan

I would like to remind all parents that the school has a very detailed Emergency Management Plan that ensures the safety of the children in the event of any disaster. Should there be a bushfire threat the children will be housed in the multi purpose room. Once we implement our Plan please note that under no circumstances will any children be dismissed from our care until I receive a directive informing me that it is safe to do so. Emergency services take control of the situation and I act under their instruction.

I understand that many families have developed their own bush fire plans and if these necessitate leaving Cockatoo on days of Total Fire Ban, we ask that you telephone the school to inform us that your children are with you. Please find our detailed procedures for bushfire outbreaks.

Pre-emptive school closures will occur on Code Red Alert Days or other days as specified by the Department of Education and Training. The Regional Director, on application from me, will consider school closures on days listed as EXTREME for our school. This will be on an individual basis as a separate application needs to be made for each day designated EXTREME.

Where possible, warning notification will be provided to parents by letter 3 days prior to the closure, and then via SMS mobile message, but no later than 3PM on the day prior to the closure.

Please ensure that the school has 2 up-to-date mobile phone numbers for this purpose.

- On days of Total Fire Ban parents are required to notify the school by phone if children are going to be absent.
- On days of Total Fire Ban, fire shutters will be lowered at the start of the day (Operation of fire shutters will be checked each Friday morning).
- The school has a documented Emergency Management Plan that has been approved by the Department of Early Childhood Development and the School Council.
- Parents are encouraged to have personal family bushfire plans developed and act early.

Cockatoo Primary School No 3535. Website – www.cockatoops.vic.edu.au
IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT

- The school will put into effect the Emergency Management Plan.

EVACUATION

- Parents are not to come to the school to collect students if an evacuation to our ‘Shelter In Place’ (multi-purpose room) has occurred. Students will be safer at the school. Once evacuation has occurred parents may be putting the child’s safety at risk if they are removed from the facility.

- When we have been informed that the situation is safe, students may be collected from either of the entry doors to the facility.

  **In our ‘Shelter In Place’ – we have NO SPACE FOR EXTRA PEOPLE. The school’s ‘Shelter In Place’ is for students, staff and on-site volunteers ONLY.**

- Students will move in an orderly fashion, in roll order, to the facility – the multi-purpose room.

- Class rolls will be marked, students will be given their lanyards to wear and all areas of the school checked to ensure all people are evacuated.

- If evacuation to the school’s ‘Shelter In Place’ occurs close to dismissal times, students will be held at the school and dismissed only when it is safe to do so.

- We will be directed by the authorities if evacuation beyond the school is found to be necessary. If an off-site evacuation is necessary the students will be walked to our designated assembly area – the Alma Treloar Reserve.

- A notice will be placed on the front door of the school informing parents of the location of the students. Contact mobile numbers will also be detailed on the notice.

- Teachers will remain with students at the evacuation area.

Note:
Evacuation from the school is a **VERY unlikely option** and will only occur well in advance of fire threat and only when it is safe to evacuate.

DISCHARGE OF STUDENTS

*When considered safe, and only after advice from the relevant authorities, students will be discharged into the care of parent or guardian ONLY.*

*If parents wish to nominate another person to collect their child, written permission must be provided to the school, giving full details of that person. This will be kept on record at the school.*

WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL IS AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE

- Have developed a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which has been approved by the appropriate authorities

- Have practised our drills and evacuation routes

- Have a perimeter sprinkler system with an independent water supply for the roof of the school’s ‘Shelter In Place’, and fire shutters for the windows and a hose reel within the ‘Shelter In Place’.

- Have provided drinking water in the event that water supplies are cut off

- Have purchased a special hose that attaches to the sprinkler pump, which can be used inside or outside if the mains water is off

- Have provided emergency lighting for the ‘Shelter In Place’
• Have ensured medications are available for those students who normally receive them, should we need to use the ‘Shelter In Place’

• Have ensured that the school bus driver has a procedure to follow should a situation arise after he has left the school

**Hats**
Children are required to wear a broad brimmed school hat during terms one and terms four. Student in the playground without a hat will be required to spend the recess or lunch break under the under covered area.

Whilst waiting for the school bus, second bus travellers will now be required to wear a hat. It will be useful if children can bring a suitable hat from home that they are able to leave in their school bag for this purpose. If there is no hat, then the student will be required to remain under the under covered area whilst waiting for the second bus.

**Bus Travellers**
All students who travel on the **FIRST** bus (Woori Yallock Road loop) to school are required to play in the under covered area between breakfast club and the breezeway until 8.45AM when a staff member is on yard duty. Playing in this designated area will ensure student safety for the 15 minutes prior to the designated yard duty time.

**Anaphylaxis**
Currently enrolled at our school are four students who have life threatening anaphylactic reactions to nuts and one who has a life threatening anaphylactic reaction to egg or any product containing egg. Two students are in the Junior Learning Common (JLC) and the remaining three students are in the middle area of the school in grade ¾. As a consequence, I am asking that parents of students in prep, grade one, grade two, grade three and grade four, refrain from sending peanut butter, nutella, whole nuts or nut products to school.

To further minimise risks, all students will be discouraged from sharing food and will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating. Students will be encouraged to remain seated during eating times and not wander around the classroom. All food will be consumed in the classroom before students go outside to play. Peanuts, nuts, peanut butter or nutella will not be available at breakfast club or from the canteen.

**Car Parking**
Car parking is always a problem around the school. There is no parking at all along Gembrook Road, **Caroline Avenue is one way at pick up and drop off times, exiting from Bell Street**. The teacher's car park is not a drop off or pick up area for obvious safety reasons and the top car park is not a parking area because the school bus needs to safely turn around.

So just where do you park? Many people arrive at school a little bit early in order to find a parking spot legally along Bell Street and Caroline Avenue, or use the car park down at the shops. The children can safely walk down to the area along the footpath at the front of the school or along Caroline Avenue. It has been requested that parking is on the school side of Caroline Avenue only as the road is too narrow for parking on both sides of the road.

Please cooperate with the parking - with a bit of patience we will avoid a serious accident.

**Breaky Club**
Every school day morning ANY student at the school is able to access a yummy breakfast should they for whatever reason, arrive at school with a little bit more space in their tummy for a cup of milo or a piece of toast. This is a free service to all our students but it relies on donations of spreads and milo, and the generosity of a few parents who give their time to run it. Gayle Morison, an integration aide coordinates the band of willing parent helpers. It would be lovely if we could have a few more parents offer their time to assist for a morning or two.

Also if you could donate a can of milo, or a jar of jam or vegemite or margarine for the program, our hungry students would be most appreciative.

**Food Recall**
As you may be aware, links have been found between pre-packaged products and salmonella. The lettuce is sold through both Coles and Woolworths supermarkets and includes brands such as; Coles 4 Leaf Mix, Woolworths salad mix, SupaSalad Supamix and Wash N Toss salad mix.

Consumers are advised to discard any of these products and to be aware of the symptoms of salmonella.
The Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the risk of exposure is very low but cannot be excluded. As for all people who have consumed the affected products, the CHO has advised parents and carers to look for symptoms 6 to 72 hours after consumption.

The most common symptoms include: diarrhoea, which may contain blood or mucous; fever; headache; stomach cramps; nausea; vomiting, and dehydration, especially among infants and the elderly.

Please consult the Health Department’s Better Health Channel for more information.

If your child develops any of these symptoms, please seek medical advice from your local GP or Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24 and advise the school on 59 688 017

Our student wellbeing team will ensure support is always available for any student who may need it. Staff will call parents of students who may have consumed the product in the next 48 hours.

If you have any immediate questions, please call 59 688 017 or come in and see me in person - my door is always open.

2016 NAPLAN Dates
For parents of grade 3 and grade 5 students the 2016 NAPLAN dates are May 10th – 12th.

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund
CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sports activities and excursions. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or you are a temporary foster parent you may be eligible to apply for CSEF. The amount of $125 per student is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, sporting activities for the benefit of your child.
More detailed information can be found on the flyer attached to the newsletter.

WOW – a huge newsletter that will require a very big and bottomless cuppa to read!

Warm Regards
Darrelyn
We would like to wish the following students and staff a very Happy Birthday.

**Students:**
- Darcy Langhorne
- Brianna Wallis
- Mitchell Blackwell
- Ava Thompson-Town
- Samual Camm
- Zakk Urquiola

**Staff:**
- Ash Bourke
- Lee Smith

**BOOK CLUB**

Issue 1 of Book Club is due back on the 19th of February
RETURN SLIP
CANTEEN HELPERS NEEDED

Dear Parents,
If would like to help in the Canteen between 10.30am and 2.00pm please fill in this form and return it to the office.

I am able to help in the Canteen on a roster basis.

Name: ..................................................

Eldest Child: ...........................................

Grade: ........

Days which suit me are: please circle below

Monday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday

I am willing to be rostered: please circle below

Once a week  Once a month  Will discuss it with Judy
RETURN SLIP
SICK BAY HELPERS WANTED

Dear Parents,
If you are willing to help the school by stripping the beds, making them and washing the linen from the Sick Bay on a Friday and returning the linen the next week, please complete this slip so that we can make up a roster for the year.

I am willing to be on the Sick Bay Roster.

Name: ................................................
Phone: ...........................................
Eldest Child: .................................
Grade: ...............
Welcome back to school to all our students and their families for 2016, and a very warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year.
PFA has lots of fun and exciting things planned for this year including Choc or Popcorn / Drink Recess Breaks each term, Mothers Day Stall, Fathers Day Stall, our Annual Carnival…… just to mention a few things.

Who are the PFA and what do we do????
We are a group of parents, friends and grandparents who volunteer our time to help raise money for the students at our school. We provide educational, artistic and sporting equipment for the students. **All funds we raise directly benefits the children in the school.** In the past we have been able to purchase “goalposts” for the school oval, books for the library, interactive whiteboards for the classrooms, gates for fences to stop balls rolling onto the road, a fitness track, an upgrade for our two playground areas, a new BBQ trailer, contribute to a new trailer for the RACV Energy Challenge, and a new storage shed for the oval, new backboards for the basketball court, portable netball rings & netballs, the changeable sign at the front Office entrance to the School, mats for the Junior School, equipment for the Artroom, the Roplay Ball, class sets of ipads for the Senior and Junior Grades, amongst other things.

This year our aim is to raise funds towards several ideas which have been put forward by our Student Representative Council. Further ideas will be put forward by the SRC, investigated by the School, costed and prioritized. Any ideas put forward by the SRC are presented to the Principal by the students at a monthly SRC meeting.

We have regular PFA Meetings for all Parents, Friends and Grandparents, usually on a **Friday afternoon** at 2.30pm. So come along to school an hour earlier for the next Friday afternoon meeting and come up to the Breaky Club and join us for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone is welcome. **Keep your eyes on the newsletter** where the date of the next PFA meeting is announced on the PFA page. Toddlers or kinder kids are welcome to come with you, as we always have pencils, coloring pages, toys etc to keep them busy too. **We need lots of help planning for our fundraising year and organizing our school Carnival.**

**This year the PFA Team consists of:**

- **President** - Roz Eldridge
- **Vice President** - Karen Browne
- **Treasurer** - Karen Camm
- **Secretary** - Leighta Bennett

- General Members - Jo Revell, Bindi Ritchie, Mel Owen, Amanda Flint, Meaghan Nelson, Amber Parraga, Nicole Nichols, and Jenna Perry.

_We would love to have more general members….. so if you think you can help out with PFA Activities at School, please come along to our very casual meetings, join in, and share your ideas….._

We will be having a **PFA Meeting** for all Parents, Friends and Grandparents on **Friday 12th February** (that’s next Friday) at 2.30pm in the Breaky Club room. **Everyone is welcome.** Toddlers or kinder kids are welcome to come with you, as we always have pencils, coloring pages, toys etc to keep them busy too. **We need lots of help planning and organizing our fundraising year. We are a very friendly informal group who all have our kids and this fantastic Schools best interests at heart.**
School Carnival - Spinning Wheel - Out of Uniform Day

There will be a “School Carnival - Spinning Wheel - Out Of Uniform Day” on Friday 12th February (that’s next Friday). Students can wear free dress to School in exchange for a grocery / pantry item or items to the value of $2.00

... items could include canned goods, packets of pasta or biscuits, jars of food, sauce, jams and spreads, packet cakes, dried fruit, breakfast cereals, tea, coffee, milo, sugar, flour etc. All items must have use by dates until at least 30.06.2016. No fresh ingredients such as bread or milk please.

Please send grocery item or enclose $2.00 payment and return to the Office by Friday 12th February.

Cockatoo Primary School PFA have been busy planning lots of exciting things for this year’s Carnival on Saturday the 19th March. Lots of fantastic Rides (including a Rock Climbing Wall, the Biggest Slide in the Southern Hemisphere and lots of other new rides), Games for the Whole Family, Face Painting, Spinning Wheel, Hot Donuts, Lucky Dips, Show Bags, Yummy Food, Raffle prizes drawn every ½ hour, Cockatoo Idol, Market Stalls plus lots more............ This year the Carnival will run from 12pm ‘til 6pm. Our Carnival Signs have been sponsored by Stockdale and Leggo in Emerald. We have a Monster Raffle once again this year with donations from many local & distant businesses. We have lots of items & vouchers to give away every ½ hour in the raffle this year. Tickets sell for $1.00 each or 3 for $2.00. Sheets of Raffle Tickets have been sent home. Additional tickets are available from the Office.

All Families will be sent a Donation Request Letter. If your business, or the business you work for is able to make a donation to our Carnival, please give them this letter. All donations will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

You can purchase Ride Bands for the Carnival from the Office at a discounted price. If you buy your ride bands from the Office BEFORE the Carnival they will be at a greatly reduced price. This will give you Unlimited rides all day long. If you purchase your ride bands on the day they cost more..... What great value, free rides all day long from 12 midday ‘til 5.30pm.

If you buy individual ride tickets on the day they are far more expensive.

To all our Home Chefs out there..... if you’re into making preserves, jams, chutneys, sauces, pickles etc please set aside a few bottles / jars of your produce for our Carnival this year. We plan to have a “homemade” stall and we would really appreciate your donation. We’re already off to a good start with a few home-made preserves, but we need lots, lots more. We also need cakes, slices, cookies, and anything else yummy you or your friends and family can make for our “homemade treats” stall.
Do you want to enter Cockatoo Idol at the Carnival? Have you started practicing your act? You need to fill out the Booking Form available at the Office and sent home with the Carnival Rosters. Each participant in Idol will need to pay a $3.00 application fee with their Booking Form.

Do you have any old crockery at home????? We need old plates both large and small, bowls, cups, saucers and mugs for a stall at the Carnival this year. We don’t want your good crockery..... we want the old chipped or cracked stuff (not broken please). Send it into School, or drop it in to the Office.

Does anyone have any cricket balls they can donate to School? They don’t need to be new, just as long as they are still intact. Cricket balls are required for an exciting game / stall at this years Carnival, and we need approximately 20. Please send them along to the Office.

A roster information letter has been sent home. Each family is rostered on a stall to help out at the Carnival for a couple of hours. There is a set up shift, running the stalls shifts & a pack up shift. Please have a think about when you will be able to help out at the Carnival on Saturday 19th March, and return your roster notice by the due date. If you don’t return your roster notice you will be rostered on to any one of the required timeslots.

You must return your notice if you have a time preference.

Thanks!

Cockatoo
Country Market
First Saturday of every month
9.00am - 2.00pm
Pakenham Road, Cockatoo
Mail Order Eftpos Credit Payment

Cardholder’s Name: ..............................................................
Card Type: □ Bankcard □ Mastercard □ Visa
Card Number: □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□
Expiry Date: □□/□□
Amount to be Debited: $□□□.□□
Payment for: .................................................................
Cardholder’s Signature: .............................................. Date: …../……/……

Please Note: $10.00 minimum

Cockatoo Primary School

ABSENCE NOTE

Name of Student: .................................................................
Date of Absence:......./....... to ......../......../........
Name of Grade Teacher: ...........................................................
Reason for Absence:

[ ] Fire Plan Activation [ ] Medical Appointment
[ ] Illness [ ] Dental Appointment
[ ] Head Lice [ ] Parent Choice (Family Reasons)
[ ] Holiday [ ] Hospital Admission
[ ] Other - Please list .................................................................

Signature of Parent or Guardian: ..............................................
Date: ......../......../........

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of the reason for a student's absence. A satisfactory reason must be given; otherwise it will become a matter for the School Attendance Officer to deal with. Relevant legislation: The Education Act 1958 section 53(3), Community Services Act 1970 section 74(b), 74(c), 74(g).
Qkr! is coming to Cockatoo Primary School

The new Qkr! app is now up and running here at Cockatoo Primary School. Qkr! by MasterCard can be downloaded for free from Apple’s app store for iPhones (iPads should download the iPhone app) or from Google Play for Android phones and tablets. After downloading the app and registering, simply scan the QR code on the left using the Qkr! Code scanner or type COCKATOO after tapping the magnifying glass in the top right of the home screen of Qkr!, and then the app will always recognise you as part of Cockatoo Primary School in future to make payments even easier. You can purchase ADD WHAT YOU WANT HERE from the commencement of Term 1 2016 using Qkr! to make payments immediately, so why not download it today and take a look at our school on Qkr! - all feedback to the school office is very welcome. More information will follow – both this year and next.

SCAN THIS CODE ON Qkr!
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.
# Summer Music Series 2016

**Free concerts**

The Hills are alive with the sounds of music this February. With groups catering for a range of musical tastes, lazing on a Sunday afternoon has never been so enticing.

**Dates**  
Each Sunday throughout February

**Venue**  
The bandstand at Emerald Lake Park

**Time**  
12.30–3pm

Make your own summer music!  
*Positive Music* will run drumming circles every week. No experience necessary – just bring your enthusiasm!

Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council, the Summer Music Series concerts are family-friendly events held at Emerald Lake Park.

**New to 2016**, a bonus evening show will be held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre on 7 February. Entertainment starts at 4pm.  
cardinia.vic.gov.au/summernmusic

## 2016 Concert dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Concert Details</th>
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| 7 Feb | Cardinia Civic Concert Band  
Arrived with acoustic guitars, outstanding voices and remarkable songs, these two local songsters will have you captivated with their sound. |
| 14 Feb |  
30-piece ensemble of local artists performing a variety of music, from the roaring 20s through to the contemporary popular music of today. |
| 21 Feb | Wangarrie & Vahakana Dance Troupe  
Showcasing traditional Sri Lankan dancing and drumming, Indian classical and contemporary dancing.  
This show will feature a LIVE broadcast from 3MDR. |
| 28 Feb |  
Creating movingly catchy music that sets somewhere between a captivating 40s nightclub routine and the raw, rambunctious spirit of New Orleans street busking. |

In the event of adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen weather conditions, Emerald Lake Park will be closed and the concert will be cancelled.
The Lion’s Club

Grow It, Bake It, Make It

Community Market

First Sunday of Every Month
10am till 3pm
(Except January and Code Red Days)
Emerald Hall
Cnr Beaconsfield Emerald Rd and Main St Emerald
For all enquiries, please contact us on
Ph: 0467 957 549 or
Email: growit_bakeit_makeit@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook