Cockatoo Primary School No 3535. Website – www.cockatoops.vic.edu.au

Cockatoo Primary School Newsletter

A Great Place To Be!

NO. 1 Friday February 2nd 2018

Dates to Remember

February

Wednesday 7th No school for ALL Foundation Students
Monday 12th Whole School PHOTO Day 9am Sharp
Tuesday 13th Parent Information Exchange 2pm – 8pm
Wednesday 15th No school for ALL Foundation Students
Monday 19th Ramo Information Night 7:30pm
Wednesday 21st No school for ALL Foundation Students
Thursday 22nd China Information Night 7:30pm
Tuesday 27th PFA Hot Chip Day
Wednesday 28th No school for ALL Foundation Students

March

Wednesday 7th House Athletics Day – Whole School
Monday 12th Labour Day * NO SCHOOL TODAY *

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PRINCIPALS REPORT

Welcome back everybody!
WOW – apologies for the huge newsletter! Make a giant cuppa and sit back and enjoy the read!

We had a very smooth start to the school year with all classrooms displaying calm learning environments full of students with happy, smiling faces. I still can’t get over how much the students have grown!

Our Foundation students have settled in exceptionally well and our youngest students soon looked like very old hands at ‘school business. Looking at these little people in their brand new uniforms confidently negotiating the demands of school life confirms the strength of our transition program and the happy start to school it guarantees! We had a mixture of parent responses; there were a few tears from parents but also some ‘happy dances of freedom’ which preceded the coffee catch-ups down the street!

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 Alice Miliani to our school. Alice is teaching grade 1 /2 and has already impressed the staff and myself with her calm but enthusiastic approach within the classroom and the manner in which she relates to her students.

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.

On Monday, we scrutinised our Annual Implementation Plan which will provide direction for the school during the new school year. Our goals from our Strategic Plan are:

  To maximise the learning growth of every student in all learning domains with a strong F-6 focus on literacy, particularly writing and spelling and all strands of mathematics.

  To build a rich, relevant, challenging and stimulating learning environment that promotes consistently high levels of student engagement

Our key improvement strategies targeted for 2018 are to:

  Build teacher capacity in the rigorous use of student performance data and evidence to inform the planning, delivery and assessment of a differentiated curriculum that supports and adds value to the learning of every student.

  Create opportunities that encompass inquiry and student voice, which connects learning to the world

The goals and the key improvement strategies will frame the work that we do to build upon the excellent practices already in place in our school. We are on a journey of continuous improvement and a substantial focus in 2018 will be to build the quality of the teaching. Research supports that when there is an improvement in the quality of the teaching, the greatest impact on student learning outcomes is achieved.

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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 this year – Sarah Wintle, Ross Woolger, Ruth South, Bindi Ritchie, Cameron Angus, Chantelle Proudfoot and Matthew Bennett 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. All retiring School Councillors have been wonderful representatives of the school community.

School Council Election 2018 - 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.

- 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 1 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 2018:

Nominations for School Council will be called as of Thursday February 15\textsuperscript{th} 2018. The nomination form for both categories is available from the office. Nominations will close at 4PM on Thursday February 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2018. If a ballot is necessary, ballot papers will be available for distribution on Thursday March 1\textsuperscript{st} and the close of ballot will be Thursday March 8\textsuperscript{th} 2018 at 4.00PM. The outcome will be announced on March 9\textsuperscript{th} 2018 following the counting of the votes on Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} of March after close of ballot.

Parent/Teacher Information Exchange

Parent/Teacher Information Exchange will take place from 2.00PM until 8.00PM on Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} February 2018. 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 13\textsuperscript{th} please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative appointment. Notes regarding the process for booking an appointment will be sent today and are due to be returned on Wednesday 7\textsuperscript{th} February 2018. Confirmation of appointment times will be sent home on Monday 12\textsuperscript{th} February 2018.

\textit{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. \textbf{This policy is effective immediately.}
We ask all parents to check the forecast on Bureau of Meteorology website for the area of Cockatoo (NOT Melbourne) 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 BOM site for Cockatoo weather, 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.

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 for central district.

On days coded EXTREME for the local weather of Cockatoo, the Regional Director will advise that our school site will be closed and that the students will be relocated to Pakenham Hills Primary School, Army Road, Pakenham.

Signs will be placed at the main entrance gates and the main entry to the school building advising the school community of a pre-emptive school closure or a relocation to Pakenham Hills Primary School.

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 Education and Training and the School Council.

• Parents are encouraged to have personal family bushfire plans developed and act early.

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 circulated to 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.

Anaphylaxis
We have students enrolled at our school who have life threatening anaphylactic reactions to nuts or to egg or any product containing egg. As a consequence, I am asking that parents of all students prep – six, 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.

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.

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. Please discuss this with your child.

Car Parking
Car parking is always a problem around the school. There is no parking 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. We are fortunate to have a band of willing parent helpers, however, 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.

2018 NAPLAN Dates
For parents of grade 3 and grade 5 students the 2018 NAPLAN dates are May 15th – 17th.

2017 Swimming and Camp Dates
Grade 3/4 camp – Adaac, Yarra Junction October 22nd – 24th
Grade 5/6 Camp – Forest Lodge, Yarram – May 1st – 4th

Swimming commences on the 24th July and will be twice weekly finishing on 16th August 2018.

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.

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

**Students:**

Declan Hamilton
Darcy Langhorne
Brianna Wallis
Mia Leitch
Ava Thompson-Town
Ricky Clogg
Zakk Urquiola
Lexi Darlow
Jasper Keen – Grunberg
Sophie Keily
Ryan Kelly
Ty Lutz
Jayda Blacha
Samantha Fowler
Heath Appleby
Dermot Flint
Ciara Bestenbreur
Mia McHendrie
Cut off date for orders will be the 14th February, 2017

As of Issue 1 - 2018, all book club orders and payments will need to be done online via the Book Club LOOP for parents - please do not send book club orders or money to school. The books you have ordered will be distributed to school, and then I will distribute books to the students.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ENTER AN ORDER AFTER THE CLOSE OFF DATE YOU WILL INCUR A CHARGE OF $4.99, FOR POSTAGE, YOUR ORDER WILL BE POSTED TO YOUR HOME ADDRESS. THIS IS A SCHOLASTIC FEE NOT THE SCHOOL’S FEE.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support of Book Club…..

Chris Rounds - Book Club Co-ordinator


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SICK BAY DUTY

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: ..............
Hello everyone and welcome to all our new foundation students and parents.
Firstly I’d like to explain what our Breaky Club is.
Every morning we open up our Breaky Club to all students as a “top up” to their breakfast they eat at home. We offer assorted cereals, toast with spreads, warm milos and on some warmer days, fruit salad and a juice cordial. We are very mindful of allergies and avoid all products which may contain nuts. Cockatoo Bakery donates bread every morning and Cockatoo IGA donates other breakfast products. We also get generous donations, both money and food, from local church groups. To run this fantastic program we rely on parent helpers to volunteer their time one morning a week/fortnight. We are in DESPERATE need for many new faces to join our team so breakfast can be served every morning. Our senior students are always willing to help you and your own children get a huge buzz having their parents serving. Our volunteers arrive any time after 8.00am and serve until 8.55am. Full training is provided and you can choose what day/s suit you. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office and leave your name and number and we will be in touch.
Look forward to hearing from you. Breaky Club Team

We would like to thank our continued support from: Cockatoo IGA and Cockatoo Bakery
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
Welcome back to school to all our students and their families for 2018, 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 Hot Chip, Donut or Popcorn / Drink Days each term, Mother’s Day Stall, Father’s Day Stall, Cadbury Chocolates Fundraiser …… 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 all 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 our school. 2017 saw the introduction our amazing Cooking Program, in which every single student in the school participated. 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, a new storage shed for the oval, colourful educational mats for the Foundation, 1, 2 grades, Grade 6 Graduation items, new backboards for the basketball court, portable netball rings & netballs, the Changeable Sign on Belgrave – Gembrook Road, the massive Roplay Ball, portable Soccer Goals, class sets of ipads for the grade 3 & 4’s and the Junior Level, Bean Bags for every grade in the School, Bean Bags for the Library …. 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 during the year, 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 will be having a PFA Meeting for all Parents, Friends and Grandparents on Friday 9th 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.
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).
THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CSEF DON’T FORGET TO COME TO THE OFFICE TO COLLECT YOUR FORM
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 COCKATOOP 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!
2XL
Mentoring Program

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD

2XL is a mentoring program for children in grades 2-6 to enhance developmental abilities, social skills, self confidence and resilience.

We are looking for caring individuals to mentor selected students on a weekly basis at St Luke's Cockatoo.

Mentor Information Evening
7pm, Thursday 15th February, 2018
@ St Luke's Cockatoo
McBride Street, Cockatoo
light supper provided

Make a difference in a child's life.

This evening is obligation free.
Come and see if you are interested in participating in this great opportunity.

For more information:
5968 8459
lynda.prout@echo.org.au
Our Newsletter

The newsletter is distributed to all families on Friday of each week. Parents are able to access the newsletter as an electronic copy sent to a personal email address or via the school’s website (cockatoopsvic.edu.au). If your preference is to receive the newsletter to a designated email address and we do not have this, please supply that on the attached form.

However, if you do not have access to a computer or other electronic device and would like a hard copy of the newsletter please complete the form below.

The deadline for this information is Tuesday 27\textsuperscript{th} February 2018. If no correspondence is received by the due date then it will be presumed that your preference will be to access the newsletter on the school’s website.

I (name)……………………………………………. would like the newsletter emailed to me each week, my preferred email address is:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

OR

I (name)………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… would like the newsletter sent home with my eldest child in grade ……..

Thank you.