

COCKATOO PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Cockatoo

A Great Place To Be!

NO. 1

Friday February 7th 2020

Dates to Remember

February

Wednesday 12th ***No school for ALL Foundation Students***

Monday 17th ***EDEC Swimming Carnival
Ramo Information Night 7:30pm***

Wednesday 19th ***Parent Teacher Information Exchange
No school for ALL Foundation Students***

Wednesday 27th ***No school for ALL Foundation Students***

March

Monday 9th ***Labour Day * NO SCHOOL TODAY ****

Wednesday 11th ***House Athletics Day – Whole School***

Monday 16th ***School Dental Van visits begin***

Tuesday 17th ***Whole School PHOTO Day 9am Sharp***

Friday 27th ***Last Day Term 1 Dismissal 2:30pm***

April

Tuesday 14th ***Term 2 Begins 9am***

Monday 20th ***EDEC Athletics Grade 3-6***

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Thank goodness our newsletter is now only available on line. If we had printed a hard copy we would have easily destroyed a forest with this one!! So, make a GIANT cuppa and sit back, put the feet up and enjoy the read!

A massively warm welcome to everybody!! I am thrilled to be back at school after what has felt like forever. I would like to thank the team at school, who under the leadership of Sarah.B, kept the ship afloat and sailing in a positive direction during my absence.

We had a wonderful start to the school year. All classrooms were very calm and, during my walk around, I saw many happy beaming, smiling faces of students who are pleased to be back at school. 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 our youngest students in their brand new uniforms confidently negotiating the demands of school life brings a huge smile to my face. It also confirms the strength of our transition program and the happy start to school that was had by all! We had a mixture of parent responses; there were some tears from parents but also a few 'happy dances of freedom'!

Every day our aim is 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 extend a very warm welcome to Jess Rogger who has joined our school family. I feel like the cat who swallowed the cream because we have managed to secure a wonderful teaching practitioner who continues to impress me every day! Jess shows enthusiasm, dedication and an obvious love of teaching. Jess will be teaching grade 1/2 in the JLC.

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. Once again, your work has gone above and beyond!

..... and, by the way, that rumour mill is still out of control I HAVE **NO** PLANS TO RETIRE!!!!!!!!!! I am looking forward to a wonderful 2020!!!

School Council Election Process

During term 1, we are required to 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 – Matt Bennett, Marcus Harris, Dalys Mithen, Sophie Duff, Ruth South, Meredith Smith and Sarah Barnes. The School Council has been 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. I would like to make special mention of our retiring School Council President, Matt Bennett, who has been unswerving in his support of our school community.

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 1 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 2020:

Nominations for School Council will be called as of Thursday February 13th 2020. The nomination form for both categories is available from the office. Nominations will close at 4.00PM on Thursday February 20th 2020. If a ballot is necessary, ballot papers will be available for distribution on Thursday February 27th and the close of ballot will be Thursday March 5th 2020 at 4.00PM. The outcome will be announced on March 6th 2020 following the counting of the votes on Thursday 5th of March after close of ballot.

UeducateUs

Massive shout out to all parents who have already accessed and are using our new communication portal uEducateUs. This will streamline processes within the school community and will be a one stop shop. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office staff. They are more than ready, willing and able to support you.

Parent/Teacher Information Exchange

Parent/Teacher Information Exchange will take place from 2.00PM until 8.00PM on Wednesday 19th February 2020. 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 19th please contact your child's teacher to make an alternative appointment.

All bookings and confirmation advice will be through the school's new communication portal uEducateUs. Please use your log on details to access this booking forum which will be live from Tuesday 11th February 2020.

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 on Buereau of Meteorology website for the area of Pakenham (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 on the BOM site for Pakenham 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.

The children who catch the school bus will leave at the earlier time.

NB Cockatoo weather is derived from the weather station at Pakenham.

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. Once emergency services take control of the situation, 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 inform us that your children are with you by logging the absence in the uEducateUs portal. Please find our detailed procedures for bushfire outbreaks outlined below.

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 may advise that our school site will be closed and that the students could 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.

A warning notification will be provided to parents via SMS mobile message as soon as we have been advised of a pending school closure or relocation. Please ensure that the school has 2 up-to-date mobile phone numbers for this purpose. Your mobile details can be checked in the uEducateUs portal. If the details are incorrect, please advise us so that the changes can be made by the office staff.

- On days of Total Fire Ban parents are required to notify the school through the uEducateUs portal 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 weekly).*

- 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 signed out 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.
- 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 – Nut Products

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 foundation – six, refrain from sending peanut butter, nutella, any 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. 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 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 turn around safely.

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.

It is wonderful to see so many parents and students who enter the school through the pedestrian gates. It is a very dangerous practice to walk students through the double car park gates, particularly the 'top' carpark. The bus reverses in this car park and we do not want to have 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. If you available to do so and would like to find out more information please send me a text, write a note, send an email or telephone the school.

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.

2020 NAPLAN Dates

For parents of grade 3 and grade 5 students the 2020 NAPLAN dates are May 12th – 22nd. The date parameters encompass ten days this year due to the fact that we will be conducting NAPLAN online.

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.

Policies

Our website includes details of school policies which have been developed and approved as part of our compliance requirements. The Department of Education and Training has requested that a copy of the Privacy Policy is provided in the first newsletter for all schools. Consequently, our Privacy Policy is attached for your reference.

Warm Regards
Darrelyn



Birthdays of the Month



JANUARY

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

Nico Bradley

Alex Devenish

Jordyn Priest

Nate Plunkett

Charlotte Nicholls

Riley Hodges

Billy Raukola

Ruby Emmott

Chloe Hone

Ella Black

India Smith

Emma Archibald

Indie Watson

Riley Hamilton

Samuel Crawford

Aiden Lynch

Matilda Dewar

Rose Kenwick



Birthdays of the Month

February

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

Levi Askew

Ryan Kelly

Declan Hamilton

Ollie Comrie

Darcy Langhorne

Ivy Martini

Brianna Wallis

Ty Lutz

Mia Leitch

Zac Glasson

Ricky Clogg

Jayda Blacha

Owen Harris

Samantha Fowler

Reece Hodges

Aodhan James-Bige

Noah Jozsa

Franklin Stack

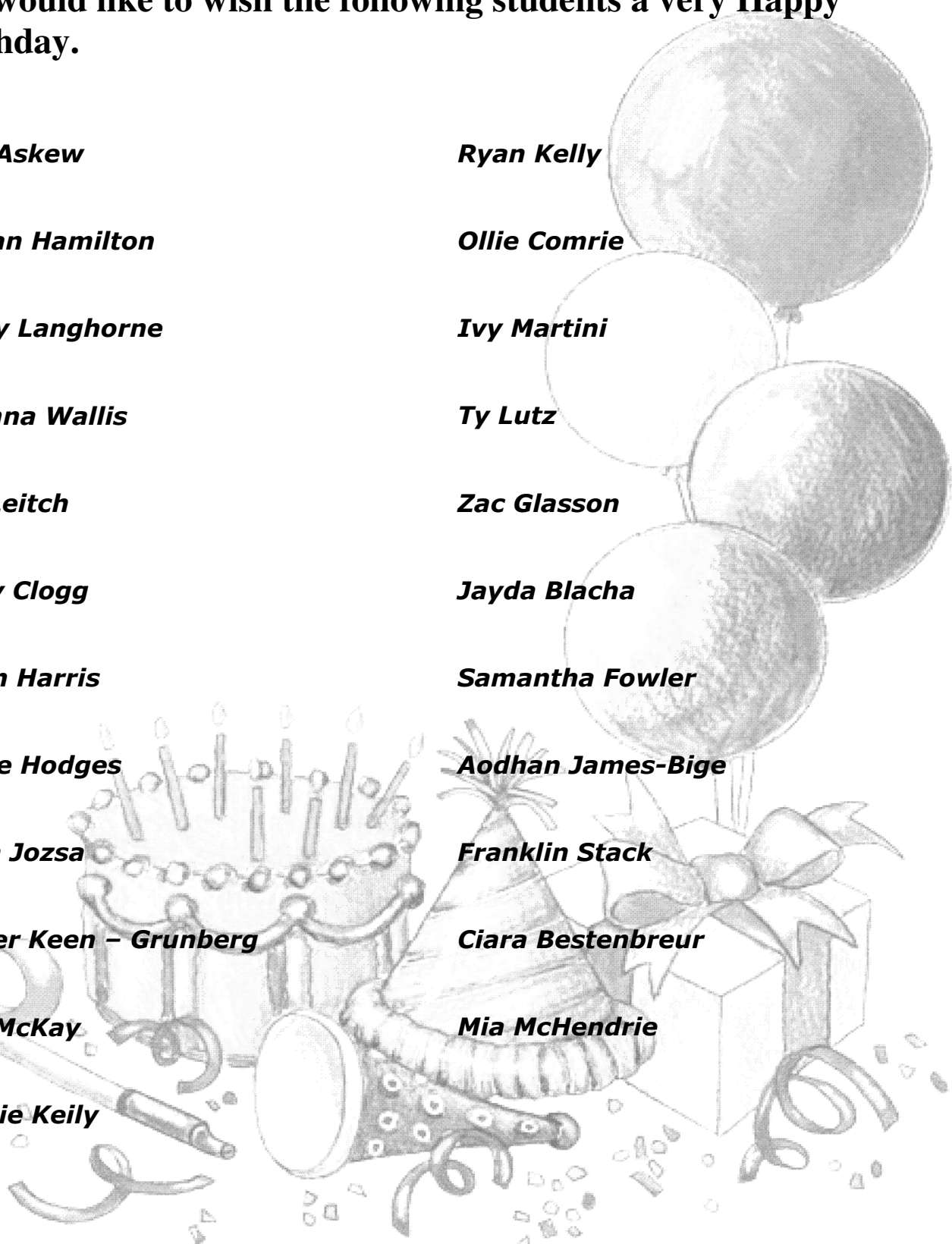
Jasper Keen – Grunberg

Ciara Bestenbreur

Tori McKay

Mia McHendrie

Sophie Keily



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS

**To Contact O.S.H.C. call the School Office
on 5968 8017 between 8.30am and 4.30pm
or ring 0408 566 957 or 5968 0256
at all other times.**

**Enrolment Forms
For 2020 are available at the office
or Out of School Hours Ca**

SICK BAY DUTY

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 or contact the office so that we can make up a roster for the year.

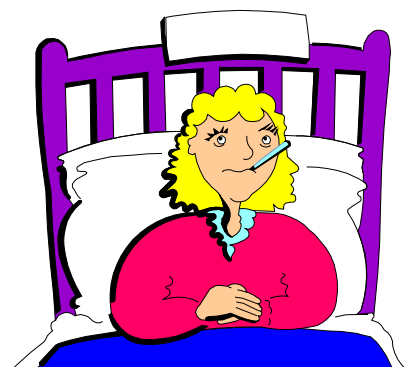
I am willing to be on the Sick Bay Roster.

Name:

Phone:

Eldest Child:

Grade:





Breaky Club News

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***



CANTEEN

CANTEEN HELPERS NEEDED

Dear Parents,

If you would like to help in the Canteen between 10.30am and 2.00pm please fill in this form and return it to the office or contact the office staff on 59688 017.

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

Name:

Eldest Child:

Grade:

Days which suit me are: *please circle below*

Wednesday Thursday Friday

I am willing to be rostered: *please circle below*

Once a week

Once a month

Will discuss it with Hannah

**DID YOU KNOW WE MAKE FRESH
Sandwiches, rolls, wraps and jaffles
Here in the canteen!**



Mail Order Eftpos Credit Payment



Cardholder's Name:

Card Type: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date: / CCV

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Fire Plan Activation

Illness

Head Lice

Holiday

Other - Please list

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Medical Appointment

Dental Appointment

Parent Choice (Family Reasons)

Hospital Admission

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).

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.

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.

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

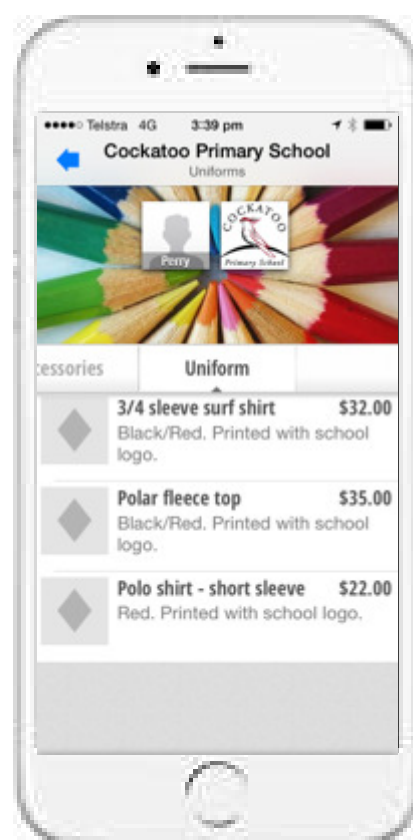
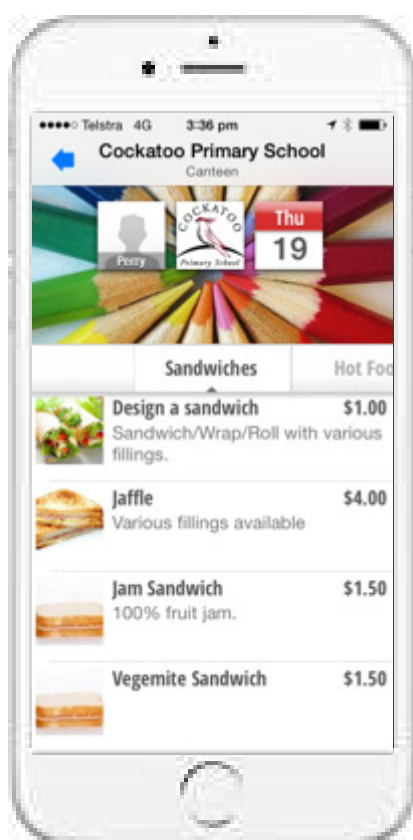
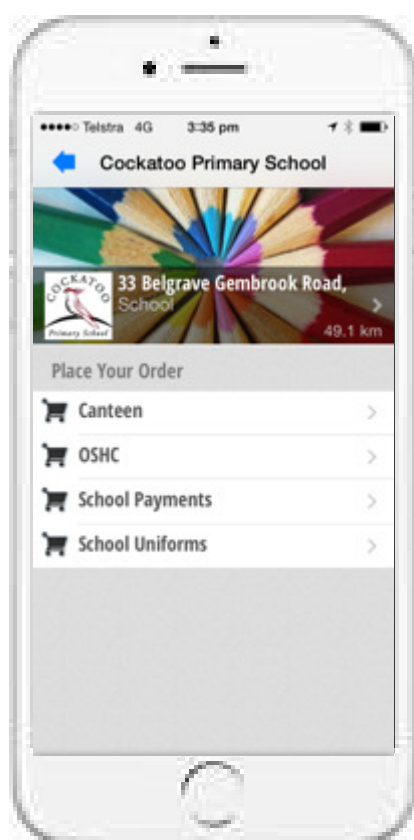
**THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE
FOR CSEF
DON'T FORGET TO COME TO
THE OFFICE TO COLLECT
YOUR FORM**





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 **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.

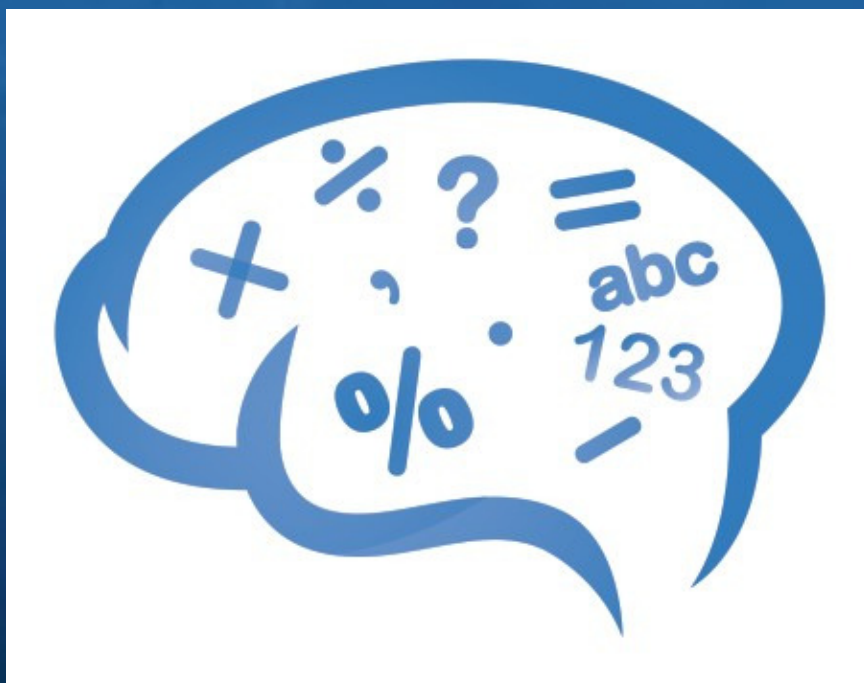
SCAN THIS CODE ON Qkr!





Student Information

- **Attendance**
- **Absent Notes**
- **And More**





**GEMBROOK COCKATOO
FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**SEASON 2020 JUNIOR
FOOTBALL & NETBALL
REGISTRATION DAY**

**Sunday 9th February 10 - 12pm
Gembrook Football grounds**

Gembrook Cockatoo Football Netball Club invites all boys & girls to come along & register this season for Junior football & Netball in 2020

COME & MEET THE COACHES



FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

juniors@gcfnc.com.au



**BOYS AND GIRLS RECREATIONAL
NINJA ZONE
ADULT GYMNASTICS**

REACH GYMNASTICS, EMERALD

**Want your child to love
fitness, make new
friends and learn a new
sport?**

FREE TRIAL CLASSES AVAILABLE

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WWW.REACHGYMNASTICS.COM, FOR MORE INFO,
CONTACT INFO@REACHGYMNASTICS.COM OR 5943 0368