FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

**Every day counts – school attendance**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Wednesday 5th March**
  - **March**
  - Olympian Jacqui Cooper visit to Cardinia – 2.00 pm

- **Thursday 6th March**
  - **March**
  - Meal Deal – Cardi Burger and Jelly - $3.00

- **Friday 7th March**
  - **March**
  - Free Dress Day – Gold Coin Donation – Supporting Rotary Club’s Ride To Conference

- **Monday 10th March**
  - **March**
  - Labour Day - No SCHOOL – Public Holiday

- **Wednesday 12th March**
  - **March**
  - Inter-School Swimming – Zone Event
  - Noble Park Aquatic Centre
  - 12.45pm Start of Events.

- **Friday 14th March**
  - **March**
  - Grade 6 Excursion to Sovereign Hill

- **Saturday 15th March**
  - **March**
  - Pakenham Show – School entering Art competition.
  - Theme this year – Space

- **Wednesday 19th March**
  - **March**
  - Footy Clinic with Richmond – Grades 3 / 4
  - Pakenham Football Ground
  - School Council Meeting – 8.00pm in Staffroom

- **Friday 21st March**
  - **March**
  - Whole School Photographs
  - 9.00 am onwards

- **Sunday 30th March**
  - **March**
  - Yakkerboo Parade – Theme Space
**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- **PLEASE** take care at all times in the Car Park areas. Caution and alertness needs to be uppermost in everyone’s minds when in these areas.
- **It is very important that if any parent or friend of the school has any concerns, queries or problems regarding any aspect of the school to bring it to the attention of your child’s teacher or Allan straight away. Under no circumstance should parents/guardians approach other students in the school grounds.**

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**THUMBS UP**

- To Ashlee Curry (School Captain) for spending a number of hours last weekend cleaning up and tidying up the entire Animal Farm. Just a fantastic effort and a very positive example from one of our school leaders. Well done Ashlee.
- To Chris for mowing the lawns last week and cleaning up the edges and pathways – very much appreciated.
- To Jacqui Cooper for attending our school today and talking about her experiences and setting a positive role model for students. Very much appreciated.
- To Jess Thalas and Elouise Johnson for taking on the role of co-ordinators of the Yakkerboo Float for 2014. Well done girls.
- To Eric and Jodie Stokkel for allowing us to use their truck for the Yakkerboo Parade once again- great job guys.
- To Carmel who continues an outstanding job in providing Reading Recovery for our Grade 1 classes. Carmel’s work in assisting children with their reading is invaluable.
- To Kaye Armstrong for all the unseen work she does in preparing funding applications for children with disabilities and the ongoing support she gives these children and their teachers throughout the year. Just a mammoth job but greatly appreciated.
- To Phillip Jones for teaching the School Leaders the correct way to fold the flag at the conclusion of Assembly. Thank you.

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**School Council Elections**

Each year, half of the existing School Council Members are up for re-election. At Cardinia Primary School the following councillors are up for re-election in 2014. They are: Parent Members - Lana Van Berlo, Keryn Eades and Scott Sheppard (retired). DEECD Employees – Trudie Esler and Jess Dart. In addition to the above we will also have one further vacancy for 12 months due to Brenda Cox retiring from Council due to other commitments.

School Council is an integral component of the school and is responsible for the continued growth and development of the School’s physical environment, facilities and programs offered and implemented by the school – in line with government regulations, guidelines and policies. Being part of School Council gives you a deeper understanding of the School’s Finances and its decision-making process and work.

On behalf of the School Council I invite any interested Parents/Guardians, who would like to contribute to the school’s on-going development and be a part of this very important governing body to nominate for the vacant positions on Council by completing the attached nominations forms and returning them by the close of business today.

**Timeline for School Council nominations and elections – 2014**

- 26th February – Wednesday: Nominations called for vacancies on School Council
- 5th March – Wednesday: Close of Nominations
- 12th March- Wednesday: Ballot Papers sent out if required
- 19th March – Wednesday: Ballot Closes (Election and Vote Counting at 4.00pm)
Friendly Reminders:

When parking on Cardinia Road – school side please leave space between the fence and your car to allow for a clear walkway for parents and children to walk in safety to the school entrance. Walking along Cardinia Road needs to be avoided at all times.

It is important that children arrive punctually at school, 5 – 10 minutes before bell time in the mornings so that their day can commence on time and in a casual manner.

Cardinia Road and the front of the Hall car park are available for parents to park and pick up students, or there are limited spaces in the Church Car park located off Dalmore Road, but please don’t park on the Nature Strip or block the driveways in this area.

It is School policy that all students need to be collected by an adult, at the end of the day, to avoid an accident from occurring in these congested areas, which can get very hectic at the end of the day for 15-20 minutes. Your assistance, patience and understanding in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Parents and Friends of students are reminded that smoking and the consumption of alcohol is not permitted on school grounds or when participating in school activities when students are present.

How do I raise an issue or make a complaint?

It is very important for any school to know if any families or individuals have any concerns about the school their child/ren are attending so that the issue can be addressed, misconceptions corrected or issues followed up. Cardinia Primary School is no different and it’s important that such concerns are taken to the school directly and that the school should always be the first point of contact. We need to know if you have any concerns about your child’s education or well-being. Teaching and learning works best when parents and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve any problems.

When contacting the school:

- Plan what you want to say, so you can clearly explain what the problem is. (You might want to take notes.)
- Have some ideas as to how the problem could be solved.
- Talk about the problem with your child’s teacher/s or principal by telephone or organise a face to face meeting. Most problems can be solved this way.
- If you still have a concern after talking to your child’s teacher/s you need to speak to the principal.
- Remember you can be supported at any meeting by a friend, colleague or representative from a support organisation if you wish.

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**MEAL DEAL**

This week’s Meal Deal is the famous Cardi Burger and Jelly Cup. for just $3.00.
STUDENT LUNCHES

If your child brings noodles or left overs to school for lunch please ensure that their name is on the container or packaging with a note to say how long to warm it up for. They will also need their own a fork or spoon bought from home.

I'm moving house in 6 weeks and I'm desperate for moving boxes big, medium and small. They can be dropped off in the library or the Foundation M office.

Thanks
Kasey Edwards

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on Friday 21st March. Every child will receive today, an envelope for their order. Please return this envelope by the morning of Thursday 20th March.

There is a new way of ordering and paying for your photos this year. You can place your order online. Full details are on the envelope and information sheet. Any parent wishing to have a family group photo can pick up a “Family Envelope” from the office.

Thank you,
Virginia & Sue

MEAL DEAL

Please understand that no credit can be given on Meal Deal days. They must be paid for on the day. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
SWIMMING - ZONE EVENT: Wednesday 12th of March

Next Wednesday children who were selected for the Lang Lang and District Swimming Team will compete at the Zone finals at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre. Please note that the date is in fact Wednesday the 12th of March and the first race begins at 12.45 pm.

All children who qualified for this event have received a permission form and this needs to be returned to the office as soon as possible. The teacher in-charge of this activity is Mrs Trudie Esler. If you are able to assist with transport, to and from this venue it would be greatly appreciated.

We wish all members of the swim team the best of luck in their endeavours. Participating and giving their personal best is what really counts.

School Banking Day Reminder:

☑ Remember School Banking is every Friday
☑ Remember to fill in your deposit slip and place money in the Velcro pocket. No minimum amount.
☑ Every time a student makes a deposit at school they receive a silver Dollarmite token. Once they have individually collected 10 tokens they can be redeemed for an exclusive Dollarmite reward item shown below

Tip….Place a reminder in your calendar, diary or phone for the night before to remember banking day

2014 Rewards

YAKKERBOO FESTIVAL

Once again this year the School will be having an entry in the Yakkerboo Parade. Our float will be based on the theme of Space.

The date of the Parade is Sunday the 30th of March and will commence at 10.00 am in the Henry Street Car Park Pakenham. (Please note the change of meeting place. Not the Racecourse.)
**2015 Prep Enrolments**

If you have a Pre-School child who will begin Prep at Cardinia Primary School in 2015, could you please visit the office as soon as possible to ensure we have your child's details.

For those who have already handed your enrolment forms in, thank you. To complete the enrolment process we need a copy of your child's Birth Certificate and Immunisation Certificate. If you have not already done so, please ensure that both of these are returned to the office as soon as possible.

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**Family Portraits**

Top Shots Photography will be conducting a family photo session at Cardinia Primary School Saturday 29th March. All you pay is $20 for the sitting fee. Our school receives a commission for every session booked. Get in early and book a time at the office. This would make great Christmas presents. For more details see attached flyer.

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**PARENTS’ AND FRIENDS’ MEETING TOMORROW**

Parents’ Club meeting will be held this Thursday the 6th of March @ 2:30pm in the Tech Room.

The meeting will be based on our proposed fundraising ideas for the 1st term & (time permitting) the brainstorming of ideas for the rest of the school year.

We had a great turn out at the last meeting & I look forward to hearing new ideas & suggestions. For those who can’t make it, please feel free to come see me in person or contact me via the Parents’ Club Facebook page.

Thank you
Lana Van Berlo - President

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**School Accounts**

School Accounts have been sent home today. For those who do not receive an account this means that you do not owe the School any money. For those who do receive an account we would appreciate prompt payment. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please speak to Virginia or Allan.
Autism Professional Development

Last Thursday and Friday 4 staff members attended the first part of a 4 day Professional Development program on Autism run by Positive Partnerships. It was a very informative workshop where many useful strategies for managing students with Autism were put forward. It confirmed that we are on the right track with many of the strategies we currently use as well as further developing our understanding of Autism.

Positive Partnerships are a Government funded organisation that offers very worthwhile sessions. They are currently offering a FREE parent 2 day workshops in Dandenong on 20th and 21st March and Pakenham on 18th and 19th March. If you are interested please collect a flyer available at the office. Alternatively, you can go to the website which is www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Keeping our kids safe

As parents and Teachers we all want to keep our kids safe when travelling in a motor vehicle. The ‘National Guidelines for the Safe Restraint of Children’ has been developed by Kidsafe and Neuroscience Research of Australia. They understand that children of different sizes and ages need different type of restraints. The guidelines include a 5 step test to access whether a child is ready to use an adult seatbelt. These are:

- Can the child sit with their back against the vehicle seat back?
- Do the child’s knees bend in front of the edge of the seat?
- Does the seat belt sit across the middle of the shoulder?
- Is the lap belt sitting low across the hips touching the thighs?
- Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

The guidelines recommend that children use a booster seat until they are too tall for the booster seat or can achieve a good seat belt fit. A good adult seat belt is generally not achieved before children are approximately 145-150cm tall or 10-12 years of age. Further information can be obtained from www.kidsafe.com.au/crguidelines
What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?
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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD 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. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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
- 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 and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

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.

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 Elections
Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the

.................................................................................................................................................. school council.

Name:

..................................................................................................................................................

Residential address:

..................................................................................................................................................

..................................................................................................................................................

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

..................................................................................................................................................

Email:

..................................................................................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of ......................................................, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development but not engaged in work at and for the school

Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

• an undischarged bankrupt

• of unsound mind

• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or

• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate .................................................................................................................. Date ................../............../.............

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on ..........................................................................................................

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
School Council Elections
Schedule 5B: Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate ................................................................. for an elected position as a parent member on the
........................................................................................................... school council.

CANDIDATE’S DETAILS

Name

Residential address ......................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................................................
Contact phone (mobile or landline)

Email ..............................................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................................................
I am the parent/guardian of ........................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ........................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development but not engaged in
work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle)

Name of Nominator .....................................................................................................................
...................................................................................................................................................

Signature of Nominator .............................................................................................................. Date, ........ / ........ / ........

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

• an undischarged bankrupt
• of unsound mind
• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence
• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ............................................................................................................. Date, ........ / ........ / ........

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used
to determine your eligibility as a candidate and to nominate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the
commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the
school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether
the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by the
principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on ..................................................................................................................

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the
school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
Guides leader to lose locks

By DANIELLE GALVIN

PAKENHAM Girl Guides leader Belinda Cook will be surrounded by a few intrigued little girls when she shaves off her hair on 16 March.

The mum of three from Pakenham is taking part in the World’s Greatest Shave next month and has been doing some fund-raising at her children’s school, Cardinia Primary.

The Girl Guides were somewhat confused when she told them.

“I just sort of thought I would do it - around about the time when the advertisements started,” Belinda said.

“I thought what a good opportunity.

“I’ve just become a leader in Girl Guides in Pakenham, and I thought this would be a great thing to teach the children.”

Just eight days before her 30th birthday, Belinda will say goodbye to her long locks which are half-way down her back.

“The other leaders are really proud and amazed that I am doing it,” she said.

“We told the guides last week and I caught a couple of them staring at my head after - I don’t think they quite understand.

“When I do shave it off, I’m sure all of the pieces of the puzzle will come together.”

To donate to her cause, visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com and search under the team name as Brave Babes.

Belinda Cook will be shaving off her long locks next month. Picture: DONNA OATES
Raise $$$ for your organisation and receive a beautiful 8x10 inch family portrait valued at $75.00 when you pay your sitting fee of only $20.00.

Where: Cardinia Primary School, 2405 Ballarto Road Cardinia
When: 10am to 4:30pm Saturday 29th March

Here’s how it works:
Book a convenient 20 minute time slot by visiting or calling your pre-school/school and paying your $20.00 sitting fee.

On the photography day, the photographer will take as many poses as you wish within your timeslot.

After your photography session, your proofs will be e-mailed to you together with easily affordable price options.

From there you may select your favourite 8x10 inch family photo and packages which can be made up of other photos taken.

Your photos will be sent to your organisation’s coordinator for collection.

Book by visiting the school office or calling 5998 8323

*Please note: Your complimentary photo must feature at least one adult. The same person cannot feature in two offers.