Annual School Picnic
A huge thank you to everyone involved in our Annual School Picnic – with over 700 people in attendance it is a huge event but one that really sets the school apart. It is an enormous undertaking and without the good will and support of all of our families and friends it wouldn’t be possible.
The amount of support in preparing the food and serving it was just overwhelming and shows that the traditional spirit of the school continues to shine.

School Council Meeting and Elections
The final Meeting for our current School Council takes place tonight Wednesday 17th of February, commencing at 7.30pm in the Staffroom. Minutes for the meeting were distributed on Monday to all current members of School Council.

Our retiring/up for re-election members from our current Council are: Gerard Kennedy, Dean Alderson, Keryn Eades, Ivy Tucker, Trudie Esler, Jess Dart, Lisa Riddington (retiring from Council) and Lana Van Berlo.

Attached to this newsletter are the nomination forms for the various categories of our school membership; parents, DET staff and community members. If you are interested in becoming a School Councillor for the 2016 – 2017 School years please use the Self-nomination or nomination forms.

Following our February Meeting, nominations for our new Council for 2017 will be open seeking representatives from staff, parents and community.

The Timeline and Declaration of Council are as follows:
Wednesday 17th February: Call for Nominations for Council
Wednesday 24th February: Nominations Close (Ballot taken if necessary)
Wednesday 2nd March: Close of Ballot (If required)
Wednesday 9th March: Declaration of Ballot (If required)
Wednesday 16th March: Annual Meeting – First Meeting of newly elected Council.

At our Annual School Council Meeting on March 16th our new team for 2016 will be confirmed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February:

Wednesday 17th February:
• School Council Meeting – 7.30pm in the Staffroom. All parents and friends of the school are more than welcome to attend.
• Zooper Dooper Wednesday – icy treat for $1.00

Thursday 18th February:
• Meal Deal – Salad Roll and Donut for just $4.00

Friday 19th February:
• Inter-School Swimming Sports – KooWeeRup Pool (Selected Squad).

Friday 26th February:
• School Curriculum Day – Students do not attend school on this day.

Monday 29th February:
• Footy clinic for Grades 3-6 – 2.15 to 3.15 pm (Richmond Footy Club).

March:

Friday 4th of March
• Grade 6 Excursion to Sovereign Hill.

Monday 14th March:
• Labour Day – Public Holiday.

Reminders:
Parent Information evening tonight: Grades 1, Grade 5 and Grade 6.

Don’t forget Zooper Dooper Wednesdays - each and every Wednesday this Term.

Parents and Friends are reminded that Smoking is prohibited in the School Grounds and within four metres of school entrances and exit points.

Wednesday 17th February, 2016

From the Principal....
**2017 Foundation Enrolments**

With the 2016 Preps settling in, it is time to start planning our 2017 intake!
If you have a pre-school child who will begin Foundation at Cardinia Primary School in 2017, could you please visit the office as soon as possible to ensure we have your child’s details.

Please do not assume we know your child will be attending our school. With so many new families it is a huge job to keep track of all possible future preps. You will need to provide the office with your current email address as well as your preschool, child’s full name, date of birth and the name of the kindergarten she/he currently attends.

A 2017 enrolment form will then be given to you and these are due back fully completed by the end of term 1. Rest assured that all siblings of current students will be given a place for Foundation 2017. However, we do need your details to confirm your child’s place.

Please see Allan or Jodie if you have any questions regarding the 2017 prep Enrolment procedure.

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**Meal Deal this week is a Salad Roll and Donut for just $4.00 !!!**

Please make sure your lunch bag is clearly named with your Grade and the items you would like included in your roll.

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**Tennis Lessons**

Anyone interested in their children having tennis lessons – we have them on Wednesday after school at 3.45pm at the local tennis courts. If interested, please ring Joy on 5998 8220.

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**Zooper Dooper Wednesday**

Once again this term the student body has organised Zooper Dooper Wednesday to raise funds for their initiatives and purchases for the school. Each Wednesday at lunchtime they will sell Zooper Doopers for $1.00 (Limit of one Zooper Dooper per student).
THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all our helpers (too many to mention individually) that assisted at our picnic last Friday. It was great to see lots of new faces and even grandparents were helping out. The day was a success largely due to your efforts so thank you!

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Families are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

The department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy/ambulance cover, or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that they seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable insurance company that offers the cover needed.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys and sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students, staff and visitors should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking will start this week. Information packs have been given to all our Foundation Students. If you would like to start a savings account for your child you can collect an Information Pack from the office. Banking will be done every Thursday afternoon, please ensure bank books are at the office by Thursday morning.
THUMBS UP

- To Mrs Cruse who has returned after her recent operation – great to have you back!
- To everyone who assisted with the School Picnic on Friday. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by the School community.
- To the Vizzarri Family for their support in securing the Corn and Fruit for the picnic. Your on-going support is greatly appreciated.
- To Raelene Stokkel and Donna Eager for all their efforts in organising the catering for the Picnic on Friday. Great job, ladies!
- To our cooks for doing such a fantastic job in cooking over 750 sausages and to Merv for taking and returning the BBQ Trailer.
- To all the Students who did such a great job at the swimming trials last week and we wish the selected squad all the best for Friday’s carnival.
- To all our winners of the Sand Castle competition and to our judges Mrs Parnall, Ms Carneli and Ms Joosten for deciding our eventual winners.

Swimming – Inter School Carnival.

The District Swimming Carnival is this Friday 19th February, and last week at the KooWeeRup Pool we conducted our trials for the various events. A selected squad will then go on and represent our school. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for their efforts and congratulate the students who are moving on to represent our school.

Thank you to all our parents and friends for providing transport and supporting the students in their endeavours. Your involvement is always greatly appreciated.

Let’s go Cardi!

Michael Wallace has returned to Cardinia Primary School to continue his music lessons every Thursday. We have limited spaces for students who are interested in electric guitar and drums. If you would like your child to attend please see Virginia or Sue at the office. The cost is $8 per session payable upfront at the beginning of each term. Students participating are expected to catch up on the work they miss during class time.
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Volunteering at school can be rewarding and a great way to contribute to your child’s class and our school. Parents who do volunteer at school on a regular basis or transport children to excursions must now hold a current Working with Children Check.

Applications must be completed online using the link below. If you have any problems with the online application, please see Mrs Smith in the office. There is no cost involved for volunteers however you will need to have a photo taken. Please see Mrs Smith or Mr Armstrong if you require further details.


MODEL AIRFIELD CATERING HELPERS NEEDED

Parents’ Club has been asked to run the canteen at the Model Airfield in Wenn Road, Cardinia on the Sunday 28th February, as this is one of the many ways we raise funds for the school. We are asking for some helpers to assist in the canteen.

If you can spare 2-3 hours in the morning or afternoon on the 28th February, please call Sharon (0416 245 924) or speak to Virginia or Sue in the office.

We also need people to make cakes and slices to sell on the day. Please see Sharon if you can help.

GRADE 4, 5, and 6 ART

Lots of the students have art smocks, however, they have grown and the students are beginning to get a little too big for them! Please have a chat to your child and see if this is them. For those who don’t have an art smock, and for those who have out-grown theirs, it would be great if you could send a new art smock along with them to their next Art lesson.

Art smocks can be an old t-shirt or an old shirt, anything that helps to protect their school uniform. Please make sure it is labelled with your child's name.

Thank you

Mrs Fleming
School Picnic Photo’s
School Council Elections – Information for Parents
School Council Elections 2016

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 statewide 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 co-opted 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
- 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.
School Council Elections Schedule 5 A: 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 Training 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 Training 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 03 5998 8323.
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 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 Training 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 Training 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 03 5998 8323.

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.
Parent and Guardian Code of Conduct

Rationale

At Cardinia Primary School we believe that parents and guardians have a responsibility to ensure they actively engage in their child’s education and form partnerships with both the school and their child’s classroom teacher to maximise the learning opportunities and educational experiences of their child.

We strongly encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in the school community and express freely any concerns or queries they may have about any activity or event.

We know a child learns behaviours and values from the example their parents/guardians, teachers, peers and people around them display.

While displaying inappropriate behaviour is often the result of many factors, parents and guardians can reduce incidents by being good role models and helping to create a positive school environment in which their child can be valued.

Code of Conduct

The parents and guardians at Cardinia Primary School will:

- Ensure their child arrives at school on time each day;
- Inform the school as soon as possible about any absences their child may have;
- Ensure contact details for the child, parents/guardians and emergency contacts are correct and up to date;
- Take an active interest in their child’s educational progress;
- Support their child to assist them to be organised and develop independence;
- Encourage children to accept responsibility for their own mistakes and encourage them to be learning risk-takers;
- Understand and support decisions made by the school;
- Treat all staff and members of the school community with dignity, respect and courtesy;
- Respect student and teacher work spaces, classrooms and the staff room, especially during class time;
- Keep themselves informed by regularly reading the school Newsletter, their child’s Communication Book and any e-mails received from the school;
- Recognise that others may have different views, opinions and values to their own;
- Value and recognise the efforts of everyone;
- Actively communicate in an appropriate manner with the school any issues that may arise by following the process outlined in the ‘Concerns and Complaints Procedure’. At no time should a student or a parent of a student be approached about an issue;
- Show respect and courtesy at all times when assisting with School Council, Parents’ & Friends’ Club and other parental and guardian activities;
- Respect individual student’s right to privacy by not sharing with other members of the school community any information obtained while assisting with classroom programs (i.e. reading);
- Model positive behaviours and set an appropriate example in matters of language and behaviour when at school.
- Do not discuss students or parents in a negative manner with other members of our School Community.
When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever, it begged the question: “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion, for many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include; dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills; getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.