FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FRIDAY

Lyn’s Lines

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Towards the end of the month we will be calling for nominations for several parent representatives on the school council. At this stage we are aiming to fill 6 positions, 2 staff members and 4 parent representatives. This is a great opportunity to strengthen the relationship between school and home and provide an insight into the running and management of a school. This year the School Council will be involved in our school priority review in second term. The review looks at what is working well at Bittern Primary School and what can we improve on to further the learning outcomes for our students. The school is assisted in this process by an independent lead reviewer, Noelle Burdekin and a School Education Improvement Leader, Dennis Pratt. The findings of the review will form our strategic plan for the next 4 years moving forward. A very exciting time!!!

Objectives of school council

- Assist in the efficient governance of the school
- Ensure students’ best interests are primary
- Enhance the educational opportunities for students
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations

What is the function of school council?

- Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school’s community

Do I have what it takes to be on school council?

- You need to be keen, but you don’t need to be an expert
- To like people and be able to work in a team
- To be prepared to commit the time needed to ensure the work of council gets done
- School councils work best when they have people from a variety of backgrounds and who have had different experiences

If you would like to nominate yourself or others please collect a form from the office.

BITTERN PS NEEDS YOU!!!
REFLECTION/RETHINK

After breaching school rules students need time to reflect on their actions. To do this students will be given a proforma to fill in that requires the students to reflect on the incident and to think about other choices they could have made in a similar situation.

What did I do?
What rules did I break?
How did I feel when I did it?
How did it make other people feel?
What could I have done instead?

Students are required to take the proforma home and discuss their actions with parents upon returning the signed form back to school.

Our overarching school rules are:
- Everyone has the right to feel safe
- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect
- Everyone has the right to learn without being disrupted.

The National Young Leaders Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning that seek a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves & others.

Students selected by their schools or community groups as possessing leadership potential attend these events. Bittern PS sends the students that have recently been appointed to leadership positions for the year. Our 2016 leaders are:

Whole School leaders:
- Chelsea Thompson & Abbi Andrew

House Leaders:
- Amity Moncrieff
- Kannon Donnelly
- Jack Lillywhite
- Luke Dawes

The program is designed to benefit any student who shows an interest in developing their leadership potential. Over 23,000 students along with their teachers/principals attend The National Young Leaders Day around Australia annually.

PAST SPEAKERS OF THE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Bindi Irwin
Andy Griffiths
Coen Ashton
Jess Gallagher

Watch this space for the leader’s thoughts, feelings and aspirations following their Leadership Day experience.
BITTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TURNING 100

A year of celebration!!!

Bittern is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year with exciting events and happenings. We are currently hunting up old photos of the school to look at our humble beginnings and where we are at currently. Many existing parents have also been students of Bittern PS and could possibly have photos of interest. If you would like to bring in your old photos we can scan them and return them to you straight away. Thanks for your support.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Those parents who did not pay any Essential Items payments on book pick up day are advised that full payment is due by the end of February, however you can pay by instalment up until this date if this is an easier option for you. Without these much needed funds, our school cannot proceed with full school programs. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

16th February: Emily Hand, Riley Frewer
21st February: Harry Mirabella
22nd February: Hayden Perdikomatis
23rd February: Henry Graham
24th February: Natalie Hand
25th February – Riley Kraulis, Lenny Graham
27th February - Ashley Rigby
28th February - Steel Nash, Jazmyn Beasy-Shortis
29th February - Amelia Tapfer

Please do not park in the school car park.

It is dangerous. Children are not allowed to be in the car park at any time. Please do not walk your children through the car park either. Please park at the front or back of the school. If there is no space when you arrive please drive around the block and wait for a space. Our car park clears very quickly so please be patient. It is a good idea to organise a meeting place with your child so that they know where to wait for a few moments if you are held up getting a car park.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE STUDENTS?

Bookings for 2016 are now open!
CSEF APPLICATIONS
If you are the holder of a current pension card or health care card, then you are eligible to apply for this government payment for your child/ren. Information was sent home in the last edition of our newsletter (please look at our school website for the last copy of our newsletter, or call into the office). Most families who previously received the Education Maintenance Allowance will be eligible for this payment ($125 per child). If you haven’t already done so, please call into the school office for an application form.

ICY POLES
Icy poles are back for Term 1! PLEASE NOTE: Every newsletter day is icy pole day at lunchtime. Icy poles will sell for $1.00

WESTERNPORT SOCCER CLUB
Registration day - Hastings Day
Saturday 20th February 2016
9am – 2pm
Hastings Foreshore
Contact: Tony Brown
Mob. 0477215280
Email: westernportsc@outlook.com

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED LOVELY HOME GROWN VEGIES AND OTHER ITEMS TO OUR KITCHEN. WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

DON’T FORGET HOT DOGS THIS FRIDAY
HOT DOGS!!
Hot dogs will be available this Friday, at a cost of $2.50.
If you would like your child/ren to purchase a hot dog, please complete the order form and return it to school this Friday, together with the correct money.
PLEASE NOTE – THE CANTEEN IS NOT OPEN ON HOT DOG DAY

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: _________________  GRADE: ____
Please find enclosed $_________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: _________________  GRADE: ____
Please find enclosed $_________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: _________________  GRADE: ____
Please find enclosed $_________________
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
McDonald’s Moments

Talking to your child about their school day

As a parent of a Year 4 boy and a Year 9 girl I often find myself asking brightly, “How was your school day?” If I’m lucky I get a “Good!” However, a lot of the time I’m left with an “I don’t remember.”

After chatting with other parents I’m sure that this is a scenario that is commonly played out in households around Australia, if not the world. As parents we’re keen to talk to our children when they get home and they are similarly keen to get outside and play, so the conversation doesn’t amount to much.

A vague question like “how was school today?” just becomes part of the getting-home-from-school ritual. A glass of milk, a quick “dunno” and they’re out the door. If you really want to reconnect with them and get to know them through their day, we’ve got to be clever with our questioning.

Here are some conversation starters that will hopefully spark your child’s interest.

1. What was the funniest thing you heard today?
2. What was your favourite thing that happened today?
3. What subject was the most interesting today?
4. Was anyone away today? Did that make the day different?
5. What was something new you read today?
6. What did you enjoy most for lunch today?
7. Did anyone do something nice for you today? Did you do something nice back?

And a bonus question that is always absolutely lovely to ask:

• What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Keep the conversation going and maybe, just maybe, you’ll get to know the answer to “how was school today?”

Next newsletter keep an eye out for my special student yard poll results ...

Active Parents = Active Role Models

Last weekend I had the pleasure of bumping into a few of our parents. Now it was rather early on Sunday morning and nowhere near Bittern so I was certainly not expecting to have someone come up and say hello.

I won’t name names but I would like to say, thank you to the Mums who recognised me and came up to say hello and chat about the sporting event we had both completed. It certainly made me feel part of the Bittern community.

And lastly, but by no means least, Go YOU! For achieving your goals and setting a great example to your children!

PE NEWS

District Tennis

Last week both Oli Scatchard and Harvey Logue represented Bittern PS at the District Tennis competition. Although neither boys progressed to the finals they both were proud representatives who enjoyed their day. Congratulations on playing your best!

House Swimming Sports

The House Swimming Sports are happening next Monday 22nd Feb at the Crib Point Pool. The first race will ‘dive’ in at 4:30pm.

Thank you to all of the parents who have put their names forward to assist with running the event. I’ll be in touch shortly.
Remember there will be a BBQ sausage sizzle running as well!

Selected swimmers will move forward from this event to the District Swimming Sports later in the week.

Premiers Active April

The Premiers Active April challenge will be here soon. Keep an eye out for further information.

Tu Toa, Kia Kaha – Stand Tall, Stay Strong

Regards,
Simone McDonald
Assistant Principal

Bittern PS PE News

Walk to School

The successful ‘Walk to School’ program will once again occur on the last Friday of every month. We meet at the Bittern station at 8.30 on the last Friday of the month and walk to school together. This is a great way for parents, students and teachers to participate in a whole school event and have a ‘get to know you ‘chat along the way.

OUR ONLY ‘WALK TO SCHOOL’ THIS TERM WILL BE THURSDAY 24TH MARCH WHICH IS THE LAST DAY OF TERM.