Lyn’s Lines

We have reached the time in our school year when we turn some of our attention towards the election of school leaders for 2015. This week I have had the honour of listening to the speeches prepared by our senior students in their quest to become school leaders.

All of our grade 6 students are leaders in many ways, being fantastic role models for our younger students, ever reliable and responsible. So much thought and effort had been put into ‘What makes a great Leader’ from all the nominated students and it was interesting to note what they perceived the necessary characteristics of leaders are.

At Bittern Primary School we continually focus on qualities that are important to develop in ourselves, notably: respect, responsibility, resilience and strong relationships. As role models, our student leaders act with care, courtesy and reliability. They show empathy towards others and act as good friends would, they use manners and basic good grace when dealing with other students and adults. Others are treated fairly and honestly while keeping their dignity intact. They show self-discipline and control of their feelings and actions.

Students in the leadership team are given the opportunity to attend a leadership conference in the city on how to become a student leader and build the following attributes: responsibility, reliability and trustworthiness; friendliness and acting like a good friend should; they learn how to work well with others and get the job done; all the while being positive and enthusiastic. Guest speakers on the day include Bindi Irwin, Andy Griffiths & a well-known Paralympian.

PLEASE NOTE:
The Leadership team will be introduced to the students and parents at the whole school assembly this Friday, the formal badge ceremony will be held at a later date.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING SCHOOL COUNCIL?

We are currently accepting nominations for several parent representatives on the school council. At this stage we are aiming to fill 5 positions, 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.

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
- Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- Develop, review and update school policies
Develop, review and monitor the Student Engagement Policy and the School Dress Code

Raise funds for school-related purposes

Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure

Maintain the school’s grounds and facilities

Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)

Report annually to the school community and to DEECD

Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider 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!!!!

Twilight Swimming Sports

What a great night! The weather was kind to us unlike on Friday for our movie night!!!! It was fantastic to see so many parents and students joining in on all the excitement particularly in the ‘fun’ events. A special thanks to the McNamaras, Schneiders, Burfords, Scatchards & the Piotrowskis for their amazing efforts on the BBQ, it was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the winning house, Freeman, and to all the students who are progressing to the interschool swimming competition.

PERMISSION INFORMATION PACKAGES

Later this week you will receive a package containing several notes that require a signature for your child to participate in some school activities. Also included in the pack are commitments from the students, teachers and parents around our core school values and responsibilities. Please talk about this document with your children/child to reinforce the culture that we are establishing at Bittern Primary. If you could return these back to school ASAP that would be great.

CLUBS

Lunchtime CLUBS will start the first week in March where students will have the choice to participate in a variety of clubs. Clubs that will be available for this term include:

Miss Grant: Running club (Monday)
Brenda: Gardening (Monday) Cooking (Thursday)
Mr E: Bat tennis (Tuesday)
Miss Christie: Lego (Wednesday)
Mr R: Games (Thursday)
Miss Bacon: Computer (Friday)

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

A volunteer is needed to prepare fruit and yoghurt ready for our children who do the Walk to School on the last Friday of each month. Please let Sue or Wendy know if you are able to help.

Thank you.

ART ROOM DONATIONS

Any of the following items would be greatly appreciated:

• Small & medium cardboard boxes
• Ice-cream containers
• Egg cartons
• Paper towel and cling wrap tubes (not toilet paper tubes)
• Magazines and newspapers

FIRST AID TRAINING

Anyone interested in doing their First Aid Level 2 training? There is a full day course being offered at the school, dates to be confirmed, at a cost of $120.00 per person, which is at a subsidised rate. There are some pre-work requirements prior to the day. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents and people involved in local footy, cricket clubs etc. where travel to the course is not an issue. Please let the office know if you are interested in taking up this offer.

PLEASE NOTE

Attached to the newsletter are two important documents for you to read. There is a Department memo regarding accident and property insurance policies for government schools, and the second note is a letter from the local traffic ranger regarding school parking. Take the time to cast your eyes over these documents.
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SCHOOLS
ENVIRONMENT WEEK
16th -19th March 2015
Briars Historic Park Mount Martha
$10 full day $7 half day
Bookings now open. For more details go to – www.morningtoneweek.com.au
Thrust your hands in the dirt
Investigate Wetlands, birds and Minibeasts.
Discover Woodlands, flora and fauna.
Experience Green living, share indigenous culture and stories, explore the Expo Paddock.

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

>|---------------------------------|
| I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50 |
| NAME: ___________________ GRADE: _____ |
| Please find enclosed $__________________ |

2015 FEES
Please be advised that all school contribution payments are now due, and payment as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated, but must be finalised by the end of term one. If you are unsure of the amount owing, please contact the school office.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM
If anybody has any girls’ size 10/12 uniform items not needed, it would be much appreciated if you could donate them to the school. If you can help, please bring the items to the school office.
Thank you.

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Thank you.
Help your kids manage their asthma

Checklist for Parents

Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?
The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated & signed by the doctor on an annual basis.

Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?
Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home).

Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?
Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?

Do you listen to what your child says?
They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.

Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?
Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.

Asthma and Thunderstorms

Summer storms are becoming more frequent throughout Australia. Thunderstorms can combine heavy rain, high humidity and strong winds. A European study found there are observations in favour of the possibility that thunderstorms disturb ground-level pollen grains, urging the pollen grains and making the allergens small enough to be inhaled into the lungs. There is also evidence that after rain and during wet conditions there are a larger amount of fungal spores in the air. These can act as a trigger for asthma symptoms.

What can you do?
- Ensure preventer medication is taken as prescribed.
- Have an up to date Asthma Care Plan.
- If your asthma gets worse during thunderstorms try to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Always carry your reliever medication with you.

For more information on Thunderstorms and asthma please see www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
Department of Education and Training – Victoria

2015 Student Accident Insurance/Ambulance Cover Arrangements and Private Property Brought to Schools

Main Points

- Schools 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.
- Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers, and can be obtained by school councils on a whole-of-school basis, or by parents/guardians for individual students.
- Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

Actions Required

- Principals should remind parents/guardians that:
  - parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs; and
  - parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers
- Principals should remind parents/guardians and staff that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Critical Dates

- Parents/guardians and staff should be reminded about the accident/ambulance policy and personal property situation in your school as soon as possible.

Additional Information

- 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 personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.
- Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students, staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.
0 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Parking Awareness Program

This year our Shire Ranger Team will again be involved in a Parking Awareness Program. The program aims to address illegal parking around schools during pick up and drop off times.

The main areas of concern as noted in the past are:

- Parking overtime in the 'drop off bays', these bays have been designed to allow parents to quickly drop off or collect their child and then move on, thereby allowing as many parents as possible a chance to use these desirable parking spots.
- Parking on nature strips, is prohibited as parking in this manner can impact on the 'line of sight' of vehicles or pedestrians, which is especially important in the vicinity of schools.
- 'No stopping anytime' areas are areas where it is not appropriate to leave a vehicle stopped, even for a short time. These areas are not considered a safe or appropriate place to stop, or for a child to enter or exit a vehicle.
- Double parking, can lead to traffic disruption and places the child who may be entering or exiting a double parked vehicle in a very dangerous position. Double parking even for a short time is not appropriate.
- Stopped in a disabled parking bay, these bays are for use of people who hold a disabled parking permit only and should not be used as 'a drop off or pick up bay'.
- Stopping in a bus zone, bus zones are designated for buses only, using these bays even for a short time, can cause disruption to a bus, which in turn causes traffic congestion.
- Stopping on a road with a yellow edge line, these lines are placed where it is not appropriate to leave a vehicle stopped, even for a short time. These areas are not considered a safe or appropriate place to stop, or for a child to enter or exit a vehicle.

The Rangers will be attending schools over the next few weeks and will be speaking to drivers that commit any of these offences, the purpose of this is to raise awareness and educate the school community. Once this awareness program has ceased the Rangers will then begin issuing infringements to offending drivers and the aim is to maintain a visible presence throughout the school year.

In order to achieve success it is important for the Shire to work with the school and hence it would be beneficial if an article could be included in any school newsletter, informing drivers of the risk they pose to children through failing to obey the road rules.

If there are particular traffic management or safety issues that need to be addressed you can contact the Traffic & Road Safety Team on 5650 1030 to discuss these concerns.

If you require further advice you may contact me at any time on 1300 850 600.

Yours faithfully

Paul Bonnici
Team Leader Shire Rangers
Environment Protection and Community Safety