Welcome to the start of 2016, whatever happened to 2015!!!! Everybody appears to have enjoyed the break, however the students are just as keen to meet up with their friends and teachers back at school. A special Bittern welcome to all our new, staff, Simone McDonald, Assistant Principal and an expert PE teacher, Julie Morgan who is taking Art and ICT for this term and Linda Owen who is re-joining us part time. Welcome to our new families and the new Foundation students (Prep) who have settled in exceptionally well. Following are a few hints for parents to reinforce positive school experiences with the Foundation stars.

**A word of advice for parents of children starting prep school**


The new school year is beginning and to celebrate, professor Christine Ure, head of school in the faculty of arts and education at Deakin University, has provided some timely advice for parents of children starting their first year of school.

“One of the best ways that you can help lessen your child’s first day jitters is by helping them to construct their own narrative about school,” Ure said. "If they know that on the first day of school, ‘Daddy will drive me in the car, I will go to this big building, I will walk through these gates with my friend’ and the like, that can really help. At home, perhaps suggest your child draw a picture of what they saw at the school and place themselves in the picture. That can be a powerful way of helping them clearly visualise themselves taking part in school life.”

Other activities that Ure suggested doing at home included getting children to eat out of their lunch boxes and wear their school uniform around the house for short periods to build a comforting sense of familiarity.

Ure explained the importance of parents providing emotional support for their children and of getting them to view school as an exciting next step in their lives, rather than something to worry about.

“Saying, ‘I’m looking forward to hearing about all the wonderful things you will do at school’ is so much more constructive than talking about how much you’ll miss them when they’re at school,” she said. “If you can see it as your child’s transition more so than your own, ‘I’m so excited for their next adventure’ as opposed to ‘I can’t believe my baby is so grown up’, your child will take the positive cues from you. School is their new world and they needn’t feel like they are leaving mum and dad behind.”

**SCHOOL LEADERS**

We are privileged at Bittern Primary School to have such amazing leaders. Historically all our leaders move onto leadership positions at their nominated secondary colleges which is positive acknowledgement of our leadership program. This year our Senior Leaders are Chelsea Thompson and Abbi Andrew who presented an informative speech to their peers and were voted for by both students and staff. Following are the speeches that the girls presented.

**Chelsea’s Speech**

Back in 1963 a man by the name of Martin Luther King delivered a speech that changed the world. Now I may not be Martin Luther King and my speech will more than likely not change the world, but like him “I have a dream”.

**SCHOOL PHONE NO: 5983 9590**

bittern.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.bitternps.vic.edu.au
My name is Chelsea Thompson and I have a dream that in 2016 I will be the Bittern Primary School, School Captain.

I am a passionate and responsible person who can be trusted to tackle anything that comes my way with 110% dedication. My behavior, both inside of school and outside speaks for itself and I have no doubt I would be a fantastic representative for our great school. I have always showed empathy and would like to see myself as somebody that is looked up to by my fellow students.

I have always put my hand up to participate in anything and everything that I can, including Cross Country, Triathlon, Athletics, Lightning Prem. and I cannot wait to compete in the Inter School Horse Show tomorrow on my pony.

One of the main reasons I want to be school captain is because my cousin Kody was school captain this year and he has told me it has been an enjoyable journey. I would be very thankful if I could go on that same journey.

Lastly, I really wanted to let everybody know that I love this school and if I am chosen as School Captain I will try my very best to make the school even better than it already is.

I’d just like to thank you for listening to my speech and I hope you consider me for school captain.

Thank you.

Abbi Andrew – Why I think I will be a good School Captain for 2016

Good afternoon, teachers, students and parents.

For all you guys that don’t know me, my name is Abbi Andrew and I’m running for school captain for 2016.

Firstly, I would just like to say thanks to this amazing school for this great opportunity where I can prove my leadership skills. I really like this school and what it stands for. I wear my school uniform with pride. I love the teachers and staff at this school.

I would love to take this role as school captain because I really liked being on junior school council, junior school council was a great time to talk about our school and how we could make it better.

This year I was lucky enough to get a loving prep buddy, I really enjoyed buddies because I liked helping my buddy Imogen settle into school, I liked being a good role model for all the preps. When I was in prep, I loved my prep buddy, Tenee, she was also the school captain, Tenee was a great role model. I hope I could be as good a role model as she was. She is someone I looked up to.

This year I also got the opportunity to go to the Bittern Kinder. I really enjoyed going to the Bittern Kinder because I liked meeting some of the new kids for 2016, I think I am a good role model for the new preps.

I take time and care with my work, I’m trustworthy, I’m kind to others and I’m responsible. My favourite part about school is that there are nice, kind and caring people around me. I also like school because of the way we learn, school has encouraged me to try new things.

School captain is something I have dreamed about for many years now, (geez I’m getting old) I’d like to be school captain for 2016, to put my leadership skills to good use. I think I could learn a lot from being school captain such as to practice public speaking and improving my leadership skills.

This concludes my speech for today. Thank you for listening.

Next week the senior students will be presenting their speeches for house leaders.

Please Note: Teachers are required at meetings on Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons at 3.30. If you would like to speak to a teacher organize a time that will suit you all.

BITTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL IS

TURNING

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 then and return them to you straight away. Thanks for your support.
Bookings for 2016 are now open!

**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.

**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

**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.

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**THE GREAT HOST FAMILY HUNT IS ON AGAIN!**
World Education Program (WEP) Australia, a registered, non-profit student exchange organisation is looking for volunteer families who would like to host a 15 to 18 year old girl or boy.
Our students come from countries such as Italy, France, Belgium, Finland and Chile and are arriving in July 2016. They are looking forward to living and learning about Australia and enjoying our famous Australian hospitality and lifestyle.
To request a free information pack for your family, contact us today!
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au

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**FALCONS MORNINGTON PEN. HOCKEY CLUB**
Hockey players wanted for the 2016 season.
Registration day is Sunday 7th February 10am-2.30pm
At Peninsula Hockey Centre, Monash University
Bloom Street, Frankston.
Hookin2Hockey/Come and Try Clinics for 2016 commence on Tuesday 1st March.
1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March from 5pm to 6pm
Suitable for participants aged 5yrs to 14yrs.
All welcome.
Junior training commences 8th March.
Further details:
Phone: 9766 7478
Email: junior.vice.president@mphc.org.au
**Pancake Day**

On Tuesday 9th February we will be celebrating Pancake Day. We will be making and selling pancakes for $2.00 each.

If your child would like to buy a pancake, please send in $2.00 per pancake together with the order form by Friday 5th February. To keep costs down, we also require donations of flour, milk, eggs, sugar, jam, lemons, honey etc. If you are able to help with any of these it would be greatly appreciated.

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**CRIB POINT JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Hi all,

Registration day for 2016 Football Season is coming up soon. Please don’t sit back and wait until last minute to register as it affects our sides put forward to the league in doing this!

Dates are as follows:
Sunday 7th Feb. 11am – 1pm
Wednesday 10th Feb. 5.30pm – 7pm
At the main ground rooms.

Fees this year are:
$180 for 1 player
$300 for 2 players
$400 for 3+ players

The Crib Point Junior Netball Club will be having their registration the same days and times.

Hope to see you all there.

Sarah Wilson – Secretary

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**DONATIONS REQUIRED**

If anyone has hessian sacks that they could donate for our Hastings Day Parade Theme could you please see Miss Bacon or Mrs. Owen.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATON 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

Just who is Mrs McDonald?

Kia ora! I’m very excited to have joined the staff at Bittern PS and am looking forward to getting to know all of the students and their families.

Having lived locally until recently and being involved with local school and sporting groups, there are some familiar faces amongst the students and parents. It has been wonderful to reconnect with those families.

I began my teaching career in New Zealand; however I have spent the previous 18 months at Somerville PS as the Assistant Principal and 17 years at Hastings PS where I had many different roles. I have taught students at every year level, been a member of the school council, and worked with the Parent Groups and a Coach to teachers to name just a few.

I now live in Mt Eliza with my husband and two children, Daisy and Henry. I really enjoy horse riding; obstacle racing and I absolutely love reading books and running with my dog, Max.

Everyone has made me feel very welcome and the students are introducing themselves when I am visiting classes or in the yard. I’m working hard to remember a lot of names! Please forgive me if I cannot remember yours straight away.

Come in to the office to say hello or have a chat when I’m out on yard duty.

Bittern PS PE News

Twilight Swimming Sports

This fantastic event is scheduled for Monday 22nd of February at the Crib Point pool. The first race will start at 4.30pm and the evening will conclude at 7.30pm. We will have the BBQ sizzling and sausages available so make it a fun family night, bring your deck chairs along and support our swimmers.

The Year 3 – 6 students have a detailed notice about events.

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.