From the principal

Well there is never a dull moment in primary schools!

Last week we had an emergency bushfire warning issued for Guildford (which was later downgraded to advice only, thankfully!). This event, combined with the power outage at Campbells Creek on Monday night helped us to reflect on how we could better deal with similar issues in the future. We now will have a school mobile phone for each school to ensure we are always contactable (through flood, fire and power outages)! These mobiles will hopefully be organised this week and the numbers will be published in the next newsletter.

After the bushfire scare I spoke to Carolyn Tavener from Malmsbury Primary School about their bushfire lockdown last week. She was able to provide me with some advice and suggestions about dealing with similar situations in the future. One of the issues their school had was all the phone lines being taken up with people ringing the school to get information, they also found it difficult to get the information out to all the parents in a timely manner. One way we will communicate important messages more effectively with parents and community members in the future is through our new Facebook group: “Campbells Creek and Guildford Primary Schools.”

I understand that not everyone uses Facebook and I don’t expect everyone to sign up after reading this, I would just like to have the option of sending out a quick bit of official information to a larger audience when needed. We are currently reviewing other ways we can communicate information to parents (including investigating phone apps) and would appreciate any ideas you may have on this topic.

There are 3 ways you can join this new group:

- Follow the link on our campbellscreeps.vic.edu.au website under ‘Parent Links’ or
- Search on Facebook for “Campbells Creek and Guildford Primary Schools” or

Thank you to Wendy and Ange at Guildford for the calm and professional manner in which they dealt with the issue last week. Thanks also to Glynis and Val for contacting parents.

Over the next few weeks I will continue to update our emergency planning and procedures and will be sure to keep you informed along the way. Let’s hope for a quieter week this week!

Regards,
Narissa Leung (Acting Principal)
Hats

Just a reminder that it is currently hat season. Can parents please ensure their child has a named hat to wear. Despite what some students may think, wearing hats is NOT a punishment from teachers ☺ it is about helping to keep our kids safe from nasty conditions such as sunburn and skin cancers.

Success of previous students

Well all know Campbells Creek and Guildford Primary produces great kids and it is nice for our student to receive recognition for their talents. At the end of year awards ceremonies for our local high schools these ex-students were recognized for their excellence:

Castlemaine Secondary Awards
Tonks Bros. Prize (VET Building and Construction) - Andrew Grant
Junior Sports Star Award- Mackenzie Cooper
Yr 7 Highest Achiever Class Award- Sunny Syme

Honour Certificates
Year 7- Heath Lawrence, Jasmine Smith, Sunny Syme.
Year 8- Jack Barry, Isabella McGuire
Year 12- Brodie Rogers

Highview College Awards
Year 7 Area of Study Dux in LOTE, as well as Personal Development- Keely Franklin
Studentship award (for outstanding effort, contribution, and/or improvement across a range of Curriculum areas- Lewis Guest, Lillie Spragg, Maddisson Rungen

Year 11 Subject Dux award in Information Technology, as well as receiving a Year 12 subject study score over 40 (out of a possible 50) in Further Mathematics- Joshua Walker

Congratulations to all these students and we look forward to seeing many more of our students receiving awards in the future.

Community Thanks

It was always going to happen…I missed a name off the Holiday thanks section of the last newsletter!

Thanks (and apologies) to Jai Baker of Baker Earthmoving for helping to spread the rocks around the front of the school over the holidays.

A huge thank you also to Wendy and Andrew Frencham who saw the ad in last week’s newsletter and came in to take on the position of softfill spreaders and table fixers. Together they spent several hours here fixing the wobbly table at the front of the school as well as helping to spread the softfill under the ‘Spider.’ The help was much appreciated!

Here and Happy Award

Last week we started our new ‘Here and Happy’ award. As I explained to the students at assembly, it is simple to win- you just need to turn up to school!

Congratulations to 3/4 Fry for winning the award for the first week! They are on their way to winning the amazing end of term award. Who will it be this week?

Please speak to your child’s teacher about any absences you know are coming up. Please call the office on 54722180 to notify the school your child will be absent for the day.

Alternatively, you can visit http://goo.gl/vNQaUV to fill in an online form.

Got a QR reader on your phone? Use this to go straight to the online form:
Crossing Safety
Today the Prep/1 class had a visitor come and talk to them about safety when using the school crossing. The students learnt to stand behind the white line while they are waiting to cross and to only cross when they hear Betty blow the whistle 2 times (I wonder if our older students know this?) The students then had a practise at crossing the very busy road to see if they could do it correctly. The first group (made up of mainly prep students) went across with Rachael (Jacob’s mum) and they did it perfectly! The second group (made up of mainly year 1 students and helped across by Nicole) started to cross when there had only been 1 blow of the whistle!! There is some discussion about whether the group’s ‘helper’ took the first step out and led the group astray, but I guess we will have to ask the second group what really happened…

Newsletter Emailing
Would you prefer to have a colour copy of the newsletter emailed to you? Please email campbells.creek.ps@edumail.vic.edu.au, or let the office ladies know and we will send it out to you via cyberspace from now on.

Friday Assembly
Last week we had a very exciting assembly with all of our school captain candidates giving their speeches. This week the students will place their votes and the school captains will be announced at assembly this Friday. It was great to see so many parents and family members attending to support our students. Thankyou to Zoe and Dylan from grade 5/6 for running the assembly. This was the first time we have had students run our assembly- what a way to start with all those extra visitors in the room! This week’s assembly will be run by Tarni and Rachael.

School Captain Elections
This week the students will be voting to elect our school captains for 2014. Ten students from year 6 have nominated themselves for the positions and all of these people gave their election speeches to the large crowd gathered at assembly on Friday. It was lovely to see the thought these students had put in to their speeches. Thankfully, they were free of unrealistic election promises and annoying pre-election advertising! This week all students in the school will take to the booths (minus the mandatory polling booth sausage sizzle) and vote for the people they think will best represent our school in the positions. It certainly is a tough field this year- goodluck to all of the candidates, congratulations on standing up for the nominations and we look forward to another large audience at this Friday’s assembly where the new captains will be announced.

Bookclub News
Bookclub was handed out last week and orders are due back this Thursday 13th February. Please place orders and money in the office box. Commission from book orders enable the school to receive free books to add to our library. Thankyou – Kathy

Headlice
Just a little reminder to parents to please check your child’s hair for headlice. We’ve had a couple of reports of their unwelcome return this week.

Student Illness and Accidents
At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind everyone about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and out of date information can delay this process. Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to your details or your Emergency Contact details. Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that you are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Staff Member of the Week
After thanking Glynis for all her help with
cleaning everything in sight in the last newsletter it appears that the fame and thanks went to Glynis’ head this week! She started taking the roll of ‘Cleaning Lady’ a little too seriously last Wednesday when she took it upon herself to clean out the staff fridge. Poor (starving) Josie came in at lunch time to eat her tub of watermelon only to find it had been thrown out! Needless to say Glynis was very apologetic and has since slowed down her cleansing ways. Josie was presented with a mighty big watermelon at assembly on Monday-one that will keep all the staff eating for the rest of the term.

Now that one staff member has won ‘staff member of the week’ it seems that they all want to win it. We have already had two nominations for this week: One involving a staff member locking themselves out of the school and one involving a staff member having difficulty using the old tape measures to get a handyman job completed.

Who will win the prestigious title next week?

Newsletter Survey
Have you done the newsletter survey? We would love to hear from more of our community to see what you think.

School Council Nominations
We are currently looking for some new parent members for our school councils. Please see the attached information about nominating. Nominations notices are available at the office. All welcome to apply!

EMA
Please note that the school does not automatically receive any payments of EMA. Parents who are eligible for EMA are able to NOMINATE on the EMA form for all of the EMA payment to be paid directly to the school. The money can then be used towards their Stationery & Materials & other educational expenses.

This allowance is paid to Parents/Guardians of students under 16years of age and the student is enrolled in a Government/Non-Government school in Victoria on census day, 28th February, 2014 for instalment 1 and 1st August, 2014 for the second instalment. **You must hold a current centrelink** (Health Care, Pension, Vet Affairs or Foster Parent) **card that is valid as at 29th January, 2014**. All forms must be handed into the office by this Friday (14th February).

Campbells Creek & Guildford PS Stationery & Materials 2014
Stationery and Materials cover materials for student use, this supplements the grant provided by the Department of Education and Training. The fee pays for:-

- Class Consumables (eg pens, pencils)
- Photocopying/Printing
- Library materials
- LOTE materials
- Visual Art materials

We bulk buy these stationery and materials at a substantial saving that we pass on to you. All children have the same items to use at school and are not disadvantaged in any way. The Stationery and Material for 2014 is $90 per student for the whole year. **Payment (CASH or CHEQUE- Also Eftpos is now available) would be appreciated before the end of term 1 as the school has purchased these materials for your children.**

*If the payment of the Stationery and Materials presents any problems, please contact Narissa.*
Mr Mac has been interviewed for this week’s “Know Your Community” section. He took the job very seriously and has produced this novel for us all to enjoy:

Know your community

Dean ‘Mr Mac’ McLaren- Yr 5/6 teacher

What is your fondest childhood memory?
“Growing up on the South West Coast of Victoria and riding down to the beach after school to go swimming and snorkeling during the summer. On really hot nights we would regularly stay down there and have dinner together as a family as the sun went down. I also used to tow my kayak behind my bike to go paddling.”

What do you remember about your teenage years?
“When I was 15 I went to the 5th Australian Venture in Adelaide. The first thing we did was drive to the Murray River, where we built a raft out of logs and drums and then spent the next 4 days rafting about 100kms back down the Murray. It was a great trip.
When I was about 16 I rode my bike all the way to Sydney with a mate. A good friend had moved to Gippsland, so we rode along the coast to see her and when we got to Bairnsdale I looked at the map and realised we were halfway to Sydney, so we just decided to keep going! It took us another two weeks and then we caught the train home.”

Do you have any favourite places that you like?
“Having travelled to 32 countries around the world and been to some truly amazing places, I am quite proud to say that two of my favourite spots are both in Australia. The first would be Kakadu. Whilst many of the campgrounds and roads have changed since I first visited, the actual waterfalls and gorges have pretty much stayed the same for thousands of years and are just spectacular. The second would be Fraser Island. As the largest sand island in the world, it offers some amazing sites and fabulous landscapes.

What do you do to relax?
As a teacher that doesn’t happen all that often, as you are constantly thinking about how to improve your teaching or include things in your lessons to make them more engaging. I still love to get out on the water and go paddling when I can and it has been great to combine this with my photography and get closer to the birdlife around Cairn Curran and Joyces Creek.

Tell us something about you that we probably don’t know
When I travelled through Africa the first time in 1995, I saved two people’s lives. The first was a man on a bicycle in Tanzania, who was struck by the bus I was travelling in. I administered first-aid to him and kept him alive until we reached the nearest hospital. The second was a fellow traveller in Uganda, who succumbed to Cerebral Malaria whilst staying in the same hostel I was in. I had to convince the doctor to treat her with Quinine and not Chloriquine as she had contracted the Malaria from a mosquito in Malawi and I knew that the Malaria would be resistant to Chloriquine. I then had to carry her around the hospital to find a bed and spent the next two weeks looking after her.

Why did you become a teacher?
To inspire children and ensure that they value their education and also help them appreciate the opportunities that it can offer them later in life. Having travelled through many developing countries, I have seen the detriment to society that a lack of education can cause.
**New Building Name**
We are still looking for a new name for this building. Can you help us to come up with one?

**Camps/Excursion Costs**
A list of expected costs for camps and excursions throughout the year is attached to this newsletter. This list is only a guide and has been collated to help families to budget for the expected expenses throughout the year.

**Castlemaine YMCA After School Care**
The Castlemaine YMCA After School Care program is held at Winters Flat Primary School. The program is run every night from 3:30-6pm.
Students are picked up by the YMCA mini bus from the front of Campbells Creek PS between 3:30pm and 4pm. To enrol your child in the YMCA After School Care Program you need to call 0499 983 828 before they day you would like your child to attend the program.

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**
At Campbells Creek PS we offer an after school fun and games program that is free to our students. (We receive Federal funding to cover the costs.)

The program runs from 3:45-4:45pm Tuesday and Thursday.

Students go to the new building at 3:30pm for a fruit snack and then participate in a variety of games. The children will be learning new skills, having a go at new sports and having a lot of fun.

If you would like your child involved, please collect an enrolment form from the information table near the office. Completed forms need to be returned to the office. There are limited places so don’t miss out!!

**Term 1 program:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday - Dance</th>
<th>Thursday - AFL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11th, 18th, 25th</td>
<td>February 13th, 20th, 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th</td>
<td>March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th</td>
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A word from Wendy

Grüezi mitenand,

This week I am writing Treetalk from the confines of my bed. Unfortunately I have hurt my back quite badly and will be off work for one week. Thank you to Ange and Kerry for making sure that things run smoothly in my absence. Thank you also to everyone who wished me a speedy recovery and particularly the Guildford school community for the lovely flowers. They certainly brightened my day and reminded me of the kindness and caring nature of Guildford. Thank you everyone. Please remember that if you have any concerns about any issue at all, please see Ange, who is more than happy to help.

In case of emergency ...................

Unfortunately, last Wednesday our emergency management plan was tested and put into action during the bushfires in Taradale/ Fryerstown. We always have a plan in place for every emergency, but it’s not until it actually happens that we get to review it. Last Wednesday highlighted for us the need to review our phone system. We completely understand the need for parents to contact us however it did take over the phone lines for 30-40 mins. Narissa is acquiring a mobile phone for our school which will give us two phone lines in emergencies. We will use one of them to contact parents to explain the situation while the other will be free for outside agencies (eg. Education Department) to call us. In all circumstances, please understand we will always keep in touch with parents and the community in an effort to maintain calm and keep everyone safe.

All helpers welcome!!!!

Each year we give the call out to all families, requesting help. Whether it is reading to children, covering books, working in the garden, helping with cooking or baking goods for various sausage sizzles, we would love you to be involved. The students really enjoy seeing their Mum, Dad or even Grandparent joining in at school and involved in their school journey.

Last week a note was sent home outlining some areas that families can be involved in. Please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

Cooking

The kitchen program is up and running and we would love to have parent helpers for this. The children learn about safe food handling practices, healthy food choices and get to eat some yummy food too. As you can imagine we are on a tight budget so any contributions of excess produce will be most gratefully received and utilised. We will be trying to use produce from the school garden, however, at the moment there is not much to harvest. Please let Ange know if you can assist in any way.

Growing Abundance Program

Each year we are fortunate to utilize the services of the Growing Abundance Program, co-ordinated by Sas Allardice from Community House.

“Growing Abundance is an initiative of the Castlemaine Community House that aims to minimise waste, reduce food miles, support local farmers and strengthen our local community and economy. The Harvest Group harvests and shares excess backyard produce, sharing gardening skills through workshops and classes and more….”

In order for us to take part in this...
program, we are looking for a parent helper who could pick up a box of fruit for us each Tuesday, from 9-12pm at The Castlemaine Old Gaol. If you can help, please see Ange or Wendy.

Value of the week: Optimism
Star of the Week: Chloe Grace Rodgers
Artist of the week: Tanisha Murray

Welcome BBQ
The BBQ scheduled for Tuesday 11th February has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date when Mrs Walsh returns.

Music
Music this term will be on Wednesdays between 2:30 and 3:30.
Ange is inviting parents or grandparents and preschoolers to join us for music this term. The group will play some musical games to warm up, develop a repertoire of songs and add some instruments.
The children love family members being involved with their learning and music is a wonderful opportunity to have some fun together.

Parents Club meeting and Buildings & Grounds meeting
Times for the first meetings are:
• Parents Club: Monday 17th February at 3.30-4.00pm.
• Buildings & Grounds: Wednesday 19th February at 3.30-4.00pm

Everyone is welcome to attend!!!!
Widerluege,
Mrs Walsh.

School Council Nominations
We are currently looking for some new parent members for our school councils. Please see the attached information about nominating. Nominations notices are available at the office. All welcome to apply!

Breakfast Program
Are there any parent helpers out there who would be happy to run a before-school breakfast program at Guildford? Please let Wendy, Ange or Narissa know.

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**Newsletter Survey**

Name:........................................

Which parts of the newsletter do you value the most? (Please circle)

Dates          Principal’s News          Student work

Community notices          Photos

Interviews          Other:........................................

What would you like to see more of?

Funny Stories          Photos          Student work

Classroom news          Other:..........................

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What would you prefer 2 separate newsletters for Guildford and Campbells Creek, or 2 sections, 1 newsletter?
Let us know your thoughts here:

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Any other thoughts?

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