I am pleased to say that although it was a very busy last week- it was free of any of the unwanted events of the previous week (thank goodness!)

The breaky program has really taken off- we have between 30 and 40 regular customers now and have a few lovely parent helpers as well.

So far the program seems to be having a positive impact on our student attendance on the days it runs and Leanne has commented that students are very quickly learning to remember their table manners.

Last Friday we announced our new school captains and vice captains and I am sure these students will do us proud when they are representing our school over the next 10 months. It was unfortunate that there were only 4 positions for the 10 very capable candidates. Luckily, there will be plenty more opportunities for these students to take on leadership roles in the future.

As part of the training for school captains I will take the new captains to a Student Leadership Development day in Melbourne next Monday. I must say, I was incredibly excited to find out that John Marsden (Author of the ‘Tomorrow when the war began’ series of books and movies) will be the guest presenter of the day. I am sure the students who get to listen to him will learn a lot from the day and will apply their new skills in their new roles.

Last week I went into a few of the senior classes to help set up our new online assessments for Maths. Students still use paper and pencils to do their working out but they select their answer on the screen instead of writing it on paper now. Doing these tests online will help the teachers to get a much quicker idea of the things they need to cover as a whole class over the next semester. If this method of testing proves useful we will look at moving out Literacy testing online as well.

Last night we held a Digital Learning meeting at our school all the Digital Learning leaders from local schools to come and share ideas. The other teachers were very interested in our online testing program (and our use of Google Apps for Education) and are keen to come and learn more about what we are doing here at our school.

Being a school that other schools look to for ideas and best practice can only be a very positive thing for our students!

Regards,

Narissa Leung (Acting Principal)
Parent teacher Catchup Sessions

Next Wednesday we will be having our start-of-year parent/teacher catch-up sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for parents to meet this year’s teachers and discuss the educational needs of your child(ren). Due to the fact that teachers are still conducting the initial Literacy and Numeracy testing for the year, the sessions won’t be a time for teachers to report on your child’s progress, rather they will be a time for you to let the classroom teacher know any important information relevant to your child and their learning needs etc.

These catchup sessions will take place between 2:20pm and 6pm next Wednesday evening. Please complete the attached note to suggest your preferred times for the evening.

Community Harvest

Today we received a surprise delivery of some beautiful plums and apples from the Growing Abundance program.

“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….”

Learning about Teaching Writing

Last week all of the teachers continued their journey of improving their teaching of writing with another visit from Literacy consultant Anne Smith. Anne discussed the teaching of persuasive writing and gave some tips and tricks for helping to teach this style of writing to students of all ages. Anne taught us about the two parts to focus on when teaching any style of writing- the structure of the text (paragraphs, introductions and conclusions etc) and the language features used (vocabulary, pronouns, technical terms, facts etc).

One of the reasons students need to know how to write persuasive texts as well as narratives (creative stories) is because they will be tested on one of these text types in the term 2 NAPLAN testing each year.

What is an example of a persuasive text?

A letter to the editor, a complaint letter, a statement of support for an issue, an argument for or against an idea.

What can you do to help your child improve their ability to write persuasive texts?

Help your child to take a side on a current topic (eg. should kids get pocket money? Should we stay home from school when we are tired? Should sharks be culled in Western Australia?)

Help your child to develop reasons to support their opinion. (Encourage your child to come up with at least three different reasons).

Point out examples of where someone is trying to persuade someone else to do something or believe something- TV advertisements are a good example of this.

Ask for three supporting reasons before you answer yes to a request (eg. Can Sally come over to play tonight?)

Talk to your child(ren) about the writing they have been doing in class.

New mobile phone

As part of the update of our emergency management plans the school has purchased a new mobile phone to ensure we are contactable at all times. Two new phones have been purchased, one for Campbells Creek and one for Guildford. Please add these new mobile numbers to your contact lists:

Campbells Creek 0437 658 617
Guildford: 0437 631 776

Facebook Group

Our Facebook group has been created as another avenue for sharing important information with the wider school community in a more timely manner.

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
• Visit http://goo.gl/IGyIrw

Bushfire Support

The Department of Education has released a series of support documents for anyone affected in the recent spate of bushfires. These documents can be found on this website:

Here and Happy Award

Congratulations to 1/2 Eastwood/Usher for being the second class in the entire history of Campbells Creek and Guildford Primary Schools to win the ‘Here and Happy’ award.

There were only 3 absences recorded for their class last week- we are yet to see a class have 100% attendance for a week. Can we do it this week?

Please remember to the office on 54722180 to notify the school your child will be absent for the day.

You can also now text in to 0437 658 617

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 the cyber-postman from now on.

Friday Assembly

Thankyou to Tarni and Rachael for running the assembly last Friday. This week’s assembly will be run by Shereen and Josh.

New School Captains

After hearing all the prospective school captains give their election speeches at assembly, all students in the school cast their votes last week. It was an interesting exercise where many junior students cast their first ever donkey vote (hopefully their first and only of this kind). At the end of all the vote counting (which was quite close in the end) the new school captains were announced as:

Captains - Chloe Langley & Ben Stubbings
Vice Captains - Phoebe Spragg & Dylan Stevens

Congratulations to all of the candidates- we are in good hands with the leadership capabilities of all of our candidates this year.

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Gabriel O’Sullivan (from prep) and his parents Kate and Mekaal on the arrival of his baby brother on Saturday. We have all been watching with keen interest to see when Gabriel’s brother was going to arrive and were happy to have the announcement made at assembly yesterday morning.

Seeking Volunteers

Due to the fact that our previous lawn mower’s daughter has now moved on to secondary college, we are in need of replacement volunteers to take on the job of keeping our oval looking lovely. Although this isn’t a problem at the moment (as we don’t need to mow the dust that currently makes up our oval), we would like to know if anyone has a ride on mower and would be willing to volunteer their services when things do start looking a little greener. Please let Narissa know if you are able to help us out in this area.

Thankyou to Dot Hardman for offering to give the school a regular going over with the blower vac. We will certainly appreciate this generous offer even more once the leaves start falling.

Other jobs still available for takers:
Garden Waterers- our gardens are looking a little tired and more benefit from some regular watering. Are there any greenish thumbs out there?
The wooden tables and seats at the front of the school are in need of another paint and some sanding. Eddie Dunn is replacing some of the timber that has been broken. If you can lend a hand please let Narissa know.

With all this community help, our school will be looking a million dollars in no time!

Staff Member of the Week

After announcing our special ‘staff member of the week’ award last week it seems that everyone wants to win the award now! At the end of the week, there were four very worthy nominations all competing for the prestigious award. The final winner was Lachlan Coulthard (our ICT guy) who left the school early on Thursday to head to a lunch meeting with his boss in Bendigo. He was seen out at Guildford not too long afterwards and it was later discovered that he had driven all of the way to Bendigo only to realise the meeting was actually the next day! With his tail between his legs he quickly returned to school and was very embarrassed about his little date mix-up. The good news was that he was able to drive to the meeting quickly on Friday as he knew exactly where he was going!

School Council Nominations

We are currently looking for some new parent members for our school councils. The school council meets once a month and discusses decisions relating to policies, curriculum, budgets etc related to our school’s vision and values. The role of parent members on the committee is very important as these positions speak on behalf of the wider parent community on issues that affect everyone’s children in the school. You do not need any special knowledge or experience to be on the school council. This year is a particularly important year for school council as we will be undergoing a school review later in the year and assessing our current vision and values and deciding on our goals for the next 5 years.
There are currently 7 parent positions open for nomination at Campbells Creek and 5 parent positions available at Guildford. Nomination forms are available at the office and need to be returned to the office by **9am on Monday, March 3rd**. Please note: Late nominations will be unable to be accepted.

**Parents Club News**

The parents club held their first meeting on Monday. They have their first fundraiser for the year organized- a Saturday morning bbq to be held out the front of the old Chicken Feed store in Castlemaine on **March 15th**. Parents club require volunteers to help with the bbq on the day and also some volunteer bakers to whip up some cakes and slices to sell on the day. Cake donations can be dropped off on Friday March 14th or taken to the bbq on the day. (Please note: all homemade food requires an ingredient list, your name and the date made.) Please let Georgina Clapton or the office know if you are able to help out in any way.

**Sad News**

The school was saddened to hear of the passing of local identity Mr. Herb Rasmussen on Sunday night. We would like to express our sincere condolences to Herb’s family. Herb was well known in Campbells Creek and had many involvements in organisations, especially the local football club. His late wife “Girlie” was a keen sportswoman and we have a sports shield in her memory given out to two year six students each year.

**Creek Stars**

P/1- Danni Penrose- for always being well organized and ready to learn.
1/2- Jayden Eagle- for always making good choices in and out of the classroom.
3/4- Kohen Williams- for being a positive energy in the classroom.
4/5- Gemma Papadimos- for a fantastic approach to classwork.
5/6- Harry McKendry- for making good choices and focusing more in class.
Indonesian- Alex Guest- for using thinking power to understand Indonesian language.

This week’s focus is Effort

**Stationery and 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, LOTE and 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.*

**STATIONERY AND MATERIALS 2014**

**Family Name**
-------------------------------

**Child’s**

Name............................GRADE............

**Child’s**

Name............................GRADE............

**Child’s**

Name............................GRADE............

**Child’s**

Name............................GRADE............

Indonesian- Alex Guest- for using thinking power to understand Indonesian language.

**This week’s focus is Effort**

Campbells Creek & Guildford PS
Stationery & Materials 2014
**Friday “Feed and Read”**
Please return slip to the office:

My child will be participating in this Friday’s “Feed and Read” special breakfast. They will be bringing along …….. special friend(s).

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11th, 18th, 25th</td>
<td>February 13th, 20th, 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th</td>
<td>March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Know your community**

Angela ‘Ange’ Mitten
Guildford P-6 teacher

What is one of your most favourite memories?
My daughter Alex and I hired canoes and paddled up Nitmiluk Gorge (Katherine Gorge) in the Northern Territory. We had to take our food, tents and bedding in the canoe because we were going to camp overnight further up the gorge. When we had to drag the canoes up over the rocks, it was really hard work. Water got into the canoes and everything got wet. Luckily the weather was warm and we dried everything out. Waking up in the morning and being the only people around for miles was spectacular and a sight I will never forget.

What is your most embarrassing hairstyle?
My friends and I used to perm our hair in the eighties.

What song do you like to dance to?
Funky Town

What vegetable do you hate?
Brussel Sprouts – my Mum used to boil them to death! They would be so mushy that they would slip off the fork.

What do you miss from childhood?
My Dad had a boat called La Strega (the witch) and we used to go waterskiing. There was a stereo in the boat and Dad always listened to Leo Sayer full bore out on the water of Lake Eildon. It was a happy time.

Do you collect anything?
Musical instruments! My current collection includes 3 guitars, 3 clarinets, 1 saxophone, a djembe, a mini djembe (that’s cracked but I can’t throw it away), bongo drums, a number of tin whistles and a couple of recorders and lots of other things that you can shake or hit.

Do you have any hobbies?
I play clarinet in a group called the KGB. Yes! The KGB! and no we are not secret agents or Russian spies. We are folk musicians who play Klezmer, Gypsy and Balkan music along with some Scandinavian tunes and only very occasionally some Russian tunes. I’ve been playing with the KGB for about five years. We sometimes play at the Guildford Banjo Jamboree and the Maldon Folk Festival.
A word from Wendy

Uniforms
It certainly is wonderful to see so many of the students wearing their red school top to school each day. The tops look quite smart and the students appear to enjoy wearing them. I understand though that some families may be wishing to purchase another top, as a spare.

I currently have a very small selection of tops, both new and secondhand. The new tops are in sizes 6, 8, 10 and the secondhand ones are in sizes 12 and 14. Unfortunately there is an increase in the price of the new shirts. These are now $26 each. We are currently investigating purchasing our uniforms through another company in an effort to reduce costs. More information later!! Please see Mrs Walsh if you wish to purchase any of the uniform tops.

School Nurse
Each year the School Nurse comes around to all school to check the new Prep’s general health. This is a free service provided by the Department of Education. The School Nurse will be visiting us this Friday. A questionnaire has already been sent home for the Prep students. Please return this envelope to school by this Friday 21st February.

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.

Welcome BBQ
The welcome BBQ has been re-scheduled for Tuesday 4th March. The school will be providing sausages and hamburgers (vegetarian as well). If you can attend, please bring a small salad to share. If you could also indicate on the attached form whether or not you can make it, this will assist us with the catering.

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
On Monday we had our first Parents Club meeting for the year. Although our numbers were small at the meeting, there were some great fundraising ideas for the school as well as ways to highlight the great programs we have to offer at school. Some of these include sausage sizzle outside the old Chickenfeed store in July, cake stall at the Banjo Jamboree and a special launch to open our new kitchen! We will keep you posted on these ideas in future newsletters.

Buildings & Grounds meeting
Our first Buildings & Grounds meeting for the year will be this 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. The school council meets once a month and discusses decisions relating to policies, curriculum, budgets etc related to our school’s vision and values. The role of parent members on the committee is very important as these positions speak on behalf of the wider parent community on issues that affect everyone’s children in the school. You do not need any special knowledge or experience to be on the school council. This year is a particularly important year for school council as we will be undergoing a school review later in the year and assessing our current vision and values and deciding on our goals for the next 5 years.

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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.

New mobile phone
As part of the update of our emergency management plans the school has purchased a new mobile phone to ensure we are contactable at all times. Two new phones have been purchased, one for Campbells Creek and one for Guildford. Please add these new mobile numbers to your contact lists:

Guildford: 0437 631 776
Campbells Creek 0437 658 617

Value of the week: Effort
Star of the Week: India Davenport
Artist of the week: Alex Rogers