**Principal’s Notes**

It’s great to be back and working with all our students again. From the laughs and smiles in the playground it looks as though most of our kids are happy to be back too.

We have nine new preps who started with us yesterday. Although it is early days they have settled in well and seem confident about being at school.

Thank you to everyone who helped with painting tables, spreading mulch, weeding and general cleaning over the holidays. It was so spick and span and bright to come back to. We’d also like to thank the George Gray Centre and Madden Glass for helping with a broken window over the holidays.

This year we have four classrooms:

- Prep/1 – Nikki Bradley
- 2/3 – Emma Wragge
- 4/5 – Joan Keil
- 5/6 – Lauren Meredith (M, T, W) & Jenny Nowak (Th, Fr)

Sam Robinson, Adele Rees and Michelle White are working to support students in the classrooms and Julie Goepel and Dave Hooper will continue their roles in the cooking and gardening programs. Cooking will be on Tuesday this term for 5/6 (9.00-10.30), 2/3 (11.30-1.00) and 4/5 (2.00-3.30). As always we value and welcome your support in the kitchen and garden during these sessions. A form is coming home today for you to let us know if you are available. Debbie Hooper will continue as our business manager and will be working Tuesday to Friday each week.

At the end of last year we moved the library to the new building. This was to allow us to have more room and greater access to our resources. If you are able to help in the library we would also like to hear from you. Classroom teachers have many ideas that you may wish to help with so please feel free to chat to your child’s teacher to make an arrangement.

This year our office will be unattended on Mondays. For safety and security reasons we need to lock the front door when we head off to class at 9.00am. To help with those times when you might be running late the gate to the right side of the entrance will be left open until around 9.15am. If you arrive after that time it will simply be a matter of calling 0417 161 332 and someone will come to let you in. If this plan doesn’t work we will put our heads together to come up with a new one.

Thanks to Jess and her staff at Indulgence on Avon (formerly Chatter’s Café) we are able to offer students the opportunity to have a lunch order on Wednesdays. The menu and pricelist is coming home today. Orders need to be in to the office by Monday afternoon and will be delivered to the school on Wednesdays. Instructions for placing and order are written on the lunch menu.
In an effort to try to keep as many people up to date we have started a closed Facebook group called Stratford Primary School Families. If you have a Facebook account you can search for the group and request to join. Once we have all the permission forms back it will be a place for photos and messages about upcoming events. [https://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/groups/1021208537930068/](https://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/groups/1021208537930068/)

Swimming for our senior students begins next week! We’re diving right in!

Have a great week.

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**Family & Friends News**

Our annual AGM will be held in the dining room after assembly on Friday 12 February. All welcome.

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**Bingo night - Monday March 14th**

Our first fundraiser for the year will be held at the Sale Greyhounds. 20 raffle prizes for the night are needed (these need to be new items). If you have any item for a prize to donate they would be most appreciated. Please drop them off at the school office.

If you would like to attend please contact Emma Brooks. A table of 10 has been booked but another can be booked if needed.

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**Sent home today with Stratchat:**

~School Lunch Order list
~P/1B newsletter
~Permission to Publish Family update form

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**Stratchat will be published on:**

- Friday 12th February
- Friday 26th February
- Friday 11th March
- Thursday 24th March (Last Day of term 1)

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First Day Photos

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**Don’t forget your school hat.**

We need to wear hats from the beginning of September to the end of April for all outside activities.

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**Our Whole School Swimming Carnival** will be held at the Stratford Pool on Friday 19th February 2016.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

on the first day of Term one, or;

on the first day of Term two;

a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR

b) Be a temporary foster parent, and

c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Eligibility date

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term one or term two.

Payment Amounts—$125 for Primary school students

Application forms should be completed and lodged with schools by 29th February 2016, as payments are made from March. However schools will be able to accept and process applications up until the end of term two each year.

Please call in to the school office for further information and application form.

Our Senior Aquatics Program for grades 4-6 will commence on Wednesday 3rd February. Information and permission notes have been sent home today. If you can assist with the program please return along with the student’s permission note by Tuesday 2nd February.

SENIOR AQUATICS EDUCATION TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 8th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</th>
<th>Tues 9th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</th>
<th>Wed 3rd Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</th>
<th>Thur 4th Feb 1.30pm -2.30pm</th>
<th>Fri 5th Feb No swimming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Tues 16th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Wed 10th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Thur 11th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Fri 12th Feb No swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 18th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Tues 19th Feb 1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Wed 17th Feb No swimming</td>
<td>Thurs 18th Feb No swimming</td>
<td>Friday 19th February Swimming Carnival 1.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
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MAFFRA CARERS’ GROUP

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from February to November - providing information & support for people in various caring roles

If you know someone who could benefit from the support friendship & information our group provides - please feel free to extend a welcome to come along to our meeting

As always, the nature of caring allows for the fact that we can’t always be in a certain place at a certain time but we hope to see you there!

Meets at the Maffra Hospital 48 Kent Street in the Community Meeting Room

Meetings provide information and support for people in various caring roles

Contact people – Pam S  51455417 & Thelma C  51451387

1pm – 3pm on 15 Feb


First Day Photos