Emergency Management

Like all schools Plenty Parklands is required to have a current Emergency Management Plan (EMP) in place that contains a risk assessment that addresses hazards and potential threats to the school and which covers the four components of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. If you are an experienced PPPS parent you will know that we update our plan after each practice to ensure it continues to meet all regulations and is known to students and staff.

The PURPOSE of Plenty Parklands Primary School is - to educate children as lifelong learners to shape a better Australia.

Principal’s Message

Thank you to the many parents who joined us for the Prep Welcome BBQ last week and/or the Year 1 information night this week. Organising these evening events is time consuming and requires extra time from staff away from their own families, however they are so worthwhile when we receive such great support and feedback.

Prep parents, new and experienced alike, enjoyed a lovingly cooked sausage; pork, halal, or chicken, or a vegetarian patty. (I am still waiting for the prawns to appear.) It was lovely to have the chance to meet you all again and to offer an informal tour of the school. The BBQ is a great support for the transition of your children to PPPS.

An enormous thank you also to the 100 or so year 1 parents who supported the year 1 information night this week. What a fabulous effort and believe me, it was really appreciated by the staff. Your interest in and enthusiasm for being involved in your child’s learning was evident and made the effort truly worthwhile.

In the same vein, we are looking forward to welcoming all our year 3 families to another ‘sizzling and satisfying BBQ’ next Tuesday. Come along and find out what year 3 has in store for you and your child. (Sadly I think I will still be waiting for those prawns.)

Speaking of support it was really nice to welcome some new parents to our first Coffee and Chat for the year. I had explained that you can ask any questions you like, or talk about school things/events/curriculum that interests you with other likeminded parents. We had a really good conversation about the issues related to traffic flow around the school. This gave me a chance to chat about an initiative we are introducing with Whittlesea council soon; Walking Paths. Stay tuned for more information and a launch of the program. We also discussed that the council try to be as supportive as possible so if you have concerns about parking, please ring the Council with the details.

We also got some feedback about the prep transition program and how it is going for our preps and their families. Of course we had lots of discussion, and laughter about our up and coming Family Fun Night on Thursday March 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Remember, everyone is welcome.

Emotional support for the transition of children to PPPS is vitally important. It is also very time consuming and requires extra time from staff away from their own families. However, we are so glad to hear that the library program is helping the transition of children to PPPS. We will continue to support the transition process and encourage all parents to get involved in their child's education.

Financial Assistance Now Available: CSEF

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund is 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 seekers and refugee families. The annual CSEF amount per primary student will be $125. Complete the CSEF application form elsewhere in this newsletter and return it to the school office. The form can also be collected from the school office or downloaded it from the school website or from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Closing Date: You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 29th February, 2015. Kristina Elvey, Business Manager
It is important that parents park legally to provide a safer environment for children. Respect the road rules and parking signs. Please do not be alarmed when your child tells you that we have had an emergency drill at school. It might be a good opportunity for you as a family to plan your own home evacuation drill and talk to your child about what you’re doing and why.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE CONTINUED

To ensure the safety of all staff, students and school visitors in the event of an emergency situation, we are required to test our planned emergency arrangements at regular intervals throughout the year. Normally we would hold our practices without notice to the community or students and staff however due to the spate of hoax calls to schools at the beginning of the year, we are advertising this practice so you don’t worry that it may have been prompted by a call.

Our emergency evacuation practice to Kelynak Reserve will be on Monday 15 February at 10:00. Please DO NOT come to school to check on your child during or after the practice, they will be with their teacher and will be fine. This training will give the children an opportunity to find out what they are required to do during an emergency evacuation off site and test our preparedness.

It is always a pleasure to hear from our students who have moved into secondary education, whether they were in year 6 last year or ten years ago. In fact I had a lovely chat with a past student just before Christmas as she was on a walk in the morning. It was delightful to hear about her work and plans for further study. In response to Mrs Mitrevski’s email to her 2015 year 6’s, she received the following message. Just wanted to share it with you.

“It’s ….. here. Just thought I would send you an email to touch base with you.

I have finally completed my first week of year 7

My first week has been interesting and challenging. I’m trying to get my head around my timetable. I have so many different subjects each day. It’s so crazy because some classes are so far away!! My locker is just outside my homeroom and I’m not even kidding its bursting at its seams! We received our computers yesterday and it makes our bags double the weight. I have made a lot of new friends and met a lot of people as lots of the kids know each other from other schools. My uniform is so annoying because we have to wear these massive shorts and shirts and we need to tuck our shirts in. We also need to wear these annoying ties and that’s a completely different story on how I learnt to tie a tie. Anyway here is a picture to show you how much I have changed.”

I can tell you that messages like this one from great kids like this one are ‘perks’ of the job. I trust your occupation gives you similar satisfaction.

Curriculum news

To complement the Information evenings and Term overviews we provide, you can also find out more about what your child is learning at school this year using a great app, SchoolMate. School Mate provides you with an overview of what your child is learning at school, and suggests ways that you can get involved in your child’s education.

Benefits of SchoolMate:

- Provides practical tips about what you can do at home to help support your child’s education.
- Shows you what your children are learning in school in each subject in every year from Prep to Year 10 according to the Victorian AusVELS curriculum.
- Provides ideas for books and apps which you can download, borrow or buy which are related to their child’s school work.
- School Mate has been developed by the Department for Education and Training, and works on iPhone, iPad and Android phones and tablets and is available for free download in the App Store and Google Play.

Kids’ safety is paramount.

School drop off and pick up times are very dangerous time for children. Be aware the signs around our school and be ready to show it with you.

All school speed limits across the State are clearly signposted. Look out for the speed signs near schools and it is important that you don’t park in any area where this sign is displayed.

We trust that you will experience a fair go for all this week by the why not join me next time I am dancing to the music in the mornings, it is a great way to start the day.

Claire McInerney
Principal
PLENTY PARKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2016 are here. 
We have three parent positions and one staff position to advertise. Ever thought about joining School Council? Now is your opportunity.

Our school council has an important role to play in our community and we welcome interested parents to join us on council each year.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.
Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.
DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election.
Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Continued next page
PLENTY PARKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2016 (continued)

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions at PPPS are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>7 members. Each member holds the position for a 2 year term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>4 members. Three of these are for a 2 year term and 1 ongoing position is held by the principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community or co-opted member</td>
<td>To be determined by the council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>Call for nominations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18th February</td>
<td>Nominations close at 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19th February</td>
<td>List of candidates to be displayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Distribution of ballot papers if necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
<td>Close of ballot at 4.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th March</td>
<td>Counting of votes and declaration of the poll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd March</td>
<td>First School Council meeting to elect office bearers and co-opted community members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year we have THREE Parent member vacancies due to the end of term for Tennille Smith, Lisa Champlin and Kathy Filev. I would like to thank Tennille, Lisa and Kathy for their time and commitment to the council and our school. All parents are eligible to stand for election again. On behalf of the community I would also like to thank Kim Crawford for her time as a co-opted member of our council. We have appreciated her commitment and input. Thank you also to Cindy Nightingale (1-15) for her interest and expertise over her two year term on council as a DET member.

As a school we are incredibly lucky to have members of the community who so willingly give their time to ensure we have a dedicated and enthusiastic school council.

This means that for 2016 Bobbi Nikolovski, Bianca O’Connor, Roger Baker and Dani Krstevski will continue for the second year of their term while we thank and farewell Lisa Champlin, Kathy Filev and Tennille Smith.

We have THREE parent vacancies for March 2016 through to March 2018.

Are you interested? Contact the office.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else for one of the four parent vacancies on school council please come to the office and collect a Nomination form. Nomination forms must be lodged by 4.00pm on Thursday 19th February, 2015. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school and on our website. If you would like any additional information please contact the Principal, Claire McInerney.
Once again it is time to call on the generosity of our community for donations for our 2016 Family Fun Night. We’ve had a fantastic response in the past and we are trusting that you will support the Family Fun Night with some great donations again this year.

We are hoping to once again organise a range of hampers to raffle containing items such as:

- new toys, games, art and craft materials, books, hobby activities etc.
- party items
- pampering services and goods
- chocoholic items (anything chocolate) and other treats within the ‘use by date’.
- vouchers for donated goods and services

Plus, we are seeking donations for our stalls such as:

- coloured hair spray

Plus, we have a pre loved toy and book stall again this year so we are seeking:

- good quality and in good condition pre loved toys and books

We would be happy to help off load any items of good quality.

**All donations will be acknowledged with a special principal’s award.**

Please bring all donations directly to the office.

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**Family Fun Night Sponsorship**

We are seeking sponsorship for the Family Fun Night 2016 RIDES. If you would like to sponsor our school or know of a company that may be interested in sponsoring us, please contact Antonella in the school office with details.

Any amount small or large will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in anticipation – The Coffee and Chat Group

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**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR’S FAMILY FUN NIGHT WILL GO TOWARDS PURCHASING NEW SHADE SAILS TO GO ABOVE THE PLAYGROUNDS**
INTRODUCING THE PREP TEAM

Hello, my name is Belinda Woodhouse and I am very fortunate to be the teacher of Prep 13 and the leader of the prep team. As this is my sixth year at PPPS, I love returning to school to see all of the beautiful smiling faces of my previous students, seeing how they have grown over the holidays and hearing of their holiday adventures. Most of all I love seeing the new little shining faces of our new prep students. A sparkle in their eyes and big smile, ready for the new and exciting year ahead. Our days will be full of learning and laughter. In my spare time I enjoy reading, swimming and learning to play tennis, especially with my two children, Emma and Henry. It is my pleasure to be part of such a special time in your child’s lives.

Hi! My name is Phillip Van Dorp and I am very excited to be working in the prep team again this year. The students in Prep 9 have made a great start to the year and I can’t wait to witness their growing confidence in their learning. This is my fourth year at Plenty Parklands and my third year teaching prep. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, spending time with family and friends, travelling overseas and following the mighty Hawks! I am looking forward to working with all the fantastic children in Prep 9.

Hi everyone, I'm Lauren Heath and I have the privilege of working with the enthusiastic students of Prep 10 this year. This is my sixth year at PPPS and I thoroughly enjoy coming to school each day and being greeted by smiling faces. I consider myself extremely lucky to be part of your child’s growth and development and look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the years ahead. A little bit about me… I am the extremely proud aunty of my gorgeous nephews Kai and Jett and my beautiful niece Mia; I spend time with them as often as I can! I follow the football and barrack for the mighty Pies! And last but not least, my husband Patrick and I love to spend weekends away at Yarrawonga with friends and family where we enjoy our time by getting out behind the boat, wakeboarding or skiing. I am very enthusiastic about the rest of the year and the exciting learning that will take place in Prep 10. Please don’t hesitate to pop in and say hello when you are nearby!

Hello, my name is Kate Fitzmaurice and I am very lucky to be the teacher of the awesome Prep 12. This is my first year teaching at PPPS, I am so excited and happy for the new journey with this amazing school. The support, smiles and friendliness from the staff are so welcoming. I am very excited to have lots of fun with learning with Prep 12 this year, the smiles on the students faces makes me smile and I love to smile. If you want to have a chat I will be in the Prep building. In my spare time I love spending time with my family and friends having a feed or down at the beach. I have a dog called Happy and he really does take after his name.

Hello, my name is Mariel Sibio and I am delighted to be teaching Prep 11 this year. This is my second year at PPPS and I am very excited to begin a wonderful school year again. I am looking forward to all the exciting adventures we will have and all the learning we will do together. In my spare time I enjoy dancing ballet, samba and salsa styles. I also love to travel and make scrapbooks about my experiences. I am thrilled to be a part of this important time in your child's life.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

The following students were presented on Monday February 8th, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Jose</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>Julia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>Chanel</td>
<td>5-4</td>
<td>Stefan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-32</td>
<td>Leah</td>
<td>4-31</td>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>4-30</td>
<td>Alexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-20</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>3-19</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>3-18</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-28</td>
<td>Estelle</td>
<td>2-27</td>
<td>Sebastian</td>
<td>2-26</td>
<td>David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-24</td>
<td>Dyon</td>
<td>1-23</td>
<td>Ayla</td>
<td>1-22</td>
<td>Madeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>Anthony</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Donation

Thank you to Cohen (5-4) for his donation of books to our library.

ANTI LITTER AWARDS:

Congratulations to the following students for receiving an anti litter award.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-18</td>
<td>Esra</td>
<td>2-24</td>
<td>Claire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-23</td>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>2-27</td>
<td>Julian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-23</td>
<td>Amylia</td>
<td>4-29</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Music Notes 2016.

Already there are amazing sounds coming from the Music Room! Just a note about the CBD….our performing arts group including Choir, Band and Dancers. The Choir meets on Tuesdays at lunchtime in the Music Room. So students from Years 3-6 who love to sing can join in then.

The Band have begun a fun piece using marimbas and other percussion instruments. You don’t have to have a lot of skills, we will find an instrument that suits you. If you can play guitar or keyboard etc, please come along and you never know how you may be extended. The Band is for Years 4-6 and meets on Wednesdays at lunchtime.

Ms Yates is going to have a recorder ensemble on Mondays at lunchtime this term. Perhaps you would like to improve your recorder playing and maybe even play the National Anthem at assembly sometime. Come and find out what might be in store!

The Dance group will begin next term.

Don’t forget that in Term 2, we hope to run a Plenty Parklands Has Talent show again. More on that at the end of Term 1.

ART ROOM DONATIONS

The art room is looking for old/unwanted CD, records and tin cans. If you are able to help. Please drop them in to the art room with Ms Keating. We will be using these to create some amazing garden art.
ATTENTION: Due to Epping Leisure City being temporarily closed down due to fire and damages caused by a severe storm recently, the program has been temporarily moved to the Mill Park Basketball Stadium. The program will still be run by qualified Epping Leisure City staff. At this stage it is closed until further notice. Parent helpers will still be required to travel on the bus to and from the venue. Please e-mail Mr Scanu on scanu.sebastian.s@edumail.vic.gov.au if you are able to attend.

Interschool Sport Program - Round 1 Friday February 12th
All games to commence by 9.30am. First named school is the home team and PPPS home grounds are - Bat Tennis, Volleyball, Tee-Ball all played at PPPS, Cricket at Kelynack Reserve (across the road)

PPPS Bushrangers Vs Mill Park P.S.  Findon P.S. Vs Redbacks (away).

For away games this week: Volleyball, Bat Tennis and Teeball are at Findon P.S.
Cricket is at Meadowglen Reserve (next to skate park– McDonald’s Road, Epping).

A reminder there is Training every Friday 8.00am-8.45am for all interschool sports teams. The dates are: Friday February 12 19 and 26. March 4 and 11. District Grand Finals will be held on March 18th. Teams involved in finals will ONLY train the morning of the finals.

INTRASCHOOL SPORT PROGRAM:
Students to board the bus by 9.10am.

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES FOR CHILDREN (Kids go for life message)

Important lunch box tips

Best choices
• Vegetables
• Fresh fruit
• Dairy food – cheese or yoghurt
• Protein food – slice of lean meat, hard-boiled egg
• Starchy foods – bread, rice or pasta
• Water.

Foods best left out
• Muesli and chocolate bars
• Potato crisps and oven baked savoury biscuits
• Sweet drinks
• Donuts and cakes
• Lollies, honey and jams
• Fatty meats such as salami and Strasbourg.

PREMIERS ACTIVE FAMILIES CHALLENGE 2016
The Premier’s Active Families Challenge provides a great opportunity for all Victorians to get active and enjoy the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. It is a fun and free initiative encouraging your students and their families to get more active, more often throughout the month of April.
Registrations are now open! Families are encouraged to register and complete 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days. To sign up visit www.activeapril.vic.gov.au.

Just by registering you will receive:*:
• 10 free YMCA passes or access to a local government facility
• 15% off at Sportsmart in store and online
• one free hour tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
• one free Get into Cardio Tennis session
• a 2 for 1 ticket offer to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium
• regular tips and ideas on ways to keep active
• a personalised calendar to see events near you.

Physical Education & Sports Coordinator - Sebastian Scanu
Plenty Parklands Primary School invites you to a night with

CHRIS DAICOS

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN

PARENT FORUM
Monday 15 February 2016 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Today’s parents can be overly concerned for their children. We hear terms like ‘helicopter parents’ in the press, referring to those overly anxious parents who probably are the ones who still carry their children’s school bags. Then there are the ‘too good’ parents who don’t want their children to miss out or experience disappointment and just do too much for their children.

This interactive workshop will encourage parents to build their children’s resilience and help their children develop skills in social competence, problem solving, independence and optimism.

The research informs us that a resilient child is one that is socially competent, can problem solve, and has the ability to see a difficulty as a problem that can be worked on, overcome, changed, endured, or resolved in some way; has good self-esteem and autonomy which allows the child to cope successfully with challenges; and is hopeful and optimistic about what tomorrow has in store for them.

Chris’ workshop on Building Resilience in Children is a two hour interactive workshop for parents/carers will leave you reflecting on your parenting practices. It will encourage you not ‘to do’ for your child what they can do for themselves.

As a trained social worker and teacher, Chris has extensive experience in working directly with children and adolescents and supporting staff. Chris has facilitated many successful professional development sessions for teachers and parents within the private and public sectors on a range of topics from staff and student welfare to organisational health issues. Chris is also actively involved in the tertiary sector, teaching students in Master of Social Work, Master of Teaching and the Master of Education (Student Wellbeing) courses. To see what people have said about Chris’ workshops; visit www.chrisdaicos.com.au

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN – RETURN SLIP

Yes, I will be attending the ‘Building Resilience in Children’ information forum.
Please note: this session is not suitable for children to attend. Adults only.

Child’s name: ........................................................................................................... 2016 Home group .........................

Parent’s name: ........................................................................................................... Number of adults attending: ..............

Phone number: ...........................................................................................................

Please return this to the Plenty Parklands Primary School office

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS: The school and the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT accept no responsibility for the goods or services offered in advertisements in this newsletter.
Volunteer Helpers at PPPS

Please note that if you attended a training session in the past, you do NOT need to attend another one.

‘Once trained, we have you for life!’

For new volunteers we are offering two briefings this term

So that we can strengthen our interdependent partnership between Plenty Parklands school and the community we offer training sessions for parent and community members. Over the years our students have benefited from the work and dedication of hundreds of helpers. We are always ready and willing to welcome even more. You may be a new member of our community and keen to offer your help while also getting to know other community members.

The sessions will outline your role and responsibilities with regard to Privacy, Work Cover, Harassment and Occupational Health and Safety legislation. In line with our values, particularly those of Care, Trust and Respect, you will understand that the safety and care of your children are the most important considerations when implementing a program such as volunteer helpers. Also with legislation related to a range of issues it is imperative that ALL volunteers are briefed before they are able to help in any way at school. You need only attend one of the briefings.

This training includes everyone who would like to start to help in any or all of the following areas; canteen, Parents Social and Fundraising sub committee (PSF), interschool sport, uniform shop, classroom helpers (in any area of the curriculum), excursions, special event days, fun day at the end of the year, fruit distribution, gardening, sports coaching, P.E. programs such as the Prep Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) and any transportation of students. In fact, anyone who helps at the school in any way. Please note that helpers on school camps have a special briefing prior to camp. The remaining date for term 1 is:

Wednesday 17 February from 9:15 to 9:45

Remember that you need to participate in a training session in order to help in any capacity at the school. The briefing takes about 30 minutes and will be held in the conference room (library) or staff lounge (staff room).

After completion of this short briefing, you will be welcome to help at PPPS at any time in the future in a ‘one off’ or ongoing situation.

Please see this invitation as an opportunity to get to know other members of our school community while also providing the students of PPPS with invaluable support and assistance.

Don’t worry; there are no hard questions to answer or problems to solve. You just need a willingness to help and we’ll do the rest!! We look forward to seeing you at one of these sessions. Please complete and return the slip below by Monday 15 February.

Volunteer Training

I will be attending the training session on:

Wednesday 17 February from 9:15 to 9:45

Your name: .......................................................... Phone number: ..........................................................

Youngest child’s name: .......................................................... Child’s home group: .................................
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION 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
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

Foster parent* OR Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant ____________________________ Date ____________

Plenty Parklands Press
Date: February 11 2016 Issue 2

Victoria State Government
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – 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 a holder of 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.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veteran Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
FIRST AID ROOM LINEN ROSTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for caring parents to volunteer to launder the First Aid Room linen. This is done on a fortnightly basis, so the more volunteers we get, the fewer turns you will have throughout the school year. If you are able to assist, please fill in the slip below and send it back with your child. Thankyou

☐ Yes I will launder the linen

Name:____________________________________________ Child’s name:____________________________________________
Child’s home group:____________________________________________

LOST PROPERTY ROSTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking your support to volunteer for our Lost Property Roster.

This would entail coming to the school to sort through the “lost” uniforms that are stored in a cupboard in our administration block. Any named uniforms would be placed in the relevant child’s home group, unnamed uniforms remain in the cupboard in the hope that their owner will one day come to claim it.

If ten parents volunteer, this means you would be required to come to the school once a term.

Please consider offering your services as we have an abundance of lost uniforms weekly. Just contact the office staff to add your name to the roster or fill in the slip below and send it back with your child.

Many thanks,

☐ Yes I would like my name put on the lost property roster

Name:____________________________________________ Child’s name:____________________________________________
Child’s home group:____________________________________________

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Opening Hours: 7.00-8.45am and 3.30-6.00pm
For bookings/cancellations call Kristine on 9904 4536

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you have all enjoyed the holiday break. We had a busy week at OSHC last week with our ‘what we did on the holidays’ theme. It was great to hear the children’s holiday stories with the beach being a popular destination.

The children have been enjoying keeping active outside when the weather permits. They have been participating in a variety of activities and games including soccer, basketball and skipping.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Preps this week and our theme will focus on ‘all about me!’ The children will be working on our OSHC child profile map, where they can include their favourite food, hobbies and activities that they enjoy doing. This will help us to get to know the children’s likes, dislikes and hobbies which will assist us in tailoring a program to suit them and their interests.

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Save on Care
Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. For more information call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 543.

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaustalia.com.au/ holidayclubs

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.