



Mac News

Friday 2nd February

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 6th February	Fundraising Meeting 9:10am . All welcome
Thursday 8th February	Canteen starts
Tuesday 13th February	School Council meeting 4pm
Friday 16th March	School sports day
Thursday 29th March	School photos



BREAKFAST CLUB
Each Friday morning in
the Art Room
8.15am—8.45am

Dear Parents and School Community,

A warm welcome back to school for 2018. We have had a very positive start to the year with high levels of excitement and enthusiasm on our first day back from students, teachers and parents. Classes have settled well and are getting into their routines with apparent ease. This is a testament to the organisation and preparation by our staff and the positive attitude of our students. We have four teaching groups again this year with an enrolment of 103 students. Importantly we welcome 10 Prep students and their families to our school. It was an exciting morning on Thursday when the school gathered to welcome them. Congratulations for starting your school journeys to Aiden, Zachary, Dimitrii, Lachlan, Taya, Jaxxon, Theo, Sebastian, Toby and Aleah.

Aligned with the school's strategic intent, 2018 will have two major areas of focus. The first is the implementation of the School Wide Positive Behaviours Program. This involves a review of the school's values and expectations. From these, matrices which are created to reflect the behaviours we expect to see that demonstrate adherence to the values and expectations. Staff have had the opportunity to have input into the development and identification of the values and the students are in the process of having their say. As the third key stake holder, you as the parents are invited to have your say. There is a brief questionnaire attached to this newsletter and we request that you complete it and return it to school by next Friday, February 9.

The second major focus for the school this year is Writing. After a lot of professional learning and trialling last year, we are poised to fully implement a school wide Program known as VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) and the Big Write. Attached to today's newsletter is some information about the Big Write. We ask that you read it carefully to support your child's writing development. The basic premise is that by participating in the Talk Homework, you are helping your child's oral language development and the generation of ideas that can be written about in the Big Write session. It supports the simple notion that "if they can't say it, they can't write it."

Have a great term everyone.

Andy Backwell ~ Principal



Stationery Packs, Computer Resources & 2018 Excursion Levy

Just a reminder to return forms and make payment for stationery packs, computer resources and the excursion levy by next Friday, 9th February. Payments can be made by Qkr!, BPay or cash/cheque. If you would like to set up a payment plan or start using Centrepay please come in and see Fiona.

CSEF - Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund

On the back of the newsletter is information about applying for the CSEF. CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. The CSEF is paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards excursion costs for your child.

If you are eligible please pick up a form from the office or you can download one from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef Please return completed forms to the office by Friday 16th February. If you applied for CSEF here in 2017 you **do not** need to complete another application.

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 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 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

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

NEW FOR 2018!

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2017, you do not need to complete an application form in 2018 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2018 or you did not apply in 2017.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2018.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

