Welcome back to the 2017 School Year!

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and start to the New Year. After spending the last couple of weeks preparing for the new year it is terrific to see the smiling faces of the children again.

Visiting classrooms this week, it has been great to hear about everyone’s fantastic holidays and see how excited the students are to be back at school.

Welcome also to our new Preps who have made a confident start to their school career. We wish them many happy years with us. They certainly looked smart in their new uniforms and were extremely settled for students who have only just begun at school.

I would also like to welcome our other new families to Bittern Primary School. We have the Connell Family, the Cleaver Family and the Rosewood Family. I am certain the community joins me in welcoming you to our fabulous school. I trust your time with us will be positive and enjoyable.

STAFF NEWS

It is also a pleasure to introduce new staff members to Bittern PS. Siobhan Morris in Year 5/6 joins our dedicated team. Hayley Litchfield will be working part time in the office.

Welcome to team Bittern!

We are also welcoming back Lucas Durrington in Year 3 and Steve Espenschied in PE/ICT.

Mrs Fyfe has extended her Personal Leave for Term One, and Mrs McDonald will fill the position of Acting Principal for this period.

TIQBIZ

In 2017 Bittern Primary School will again be using TIQBIZ to send out the school newsletter, general updates, reminders, events and much, much more!

The app, called tiqbiz and is available on iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android Phone, Android Tablet and Windows phone devices. If you don’t have a mobile device, there is also an app available for computer, both Mac and PC.

We kindly ask that you download tiqbiz to one of these devices, register a free account then find and tick the school. When you are ticking the school boxes, please make sure you tick on “Whole School” and the specific grades that apply to your family.

You’ll receive all the information with a push notification – much like a text message directly to your device. This is a fantastic way for us to send you any last minute changes or reminders, and to keep you completely informed and up-to-date.

The app has some great features that will allow us to get information through easily and quickly. We hope you will enjoy using this great communication tool!

How fabulous is our Summer Weather?

Sunsmart Victoria recommends that students to wear their broad brim hats, whenever they are outside, until the end of April.

So that’s HATS ON until 1st May!

Well done to everyone who is remembering their hats!

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Department of Education and Training has approved the commencement of the electoral process for the election of School Councillors for 2017.

1. Membership

Our School Council consists of eight parents, four members of staff including the Principal and one community member.

2. Terms of Office

The term of office is for two years, with half of the members retiring each year, but eligible for re-election.

Four parents and two staff representatives end their term of office at the start of 2017.
3. Proposed Timetable for Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 February</td>
<td>Call for nominees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20 February</td>
<td>Nominations close 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22 February</td>
<td>Election held if required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27 February</td>
<td>Ballot papers distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6 March</td>
<td>Close of ballot 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 March</td>
<td>Votes counted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21 March</td>
<td>Declaration of poll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council AGM, followed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Voting
If the number of nominations exceeds the vacancies in the parent or staff electorates, an election will be necessary. All parents are entitled to vote for parent representatives and can vote for the staff representatives.

5. Methods of Voting
There are two ways in which you can record your vote on the official voting form, from Monday 27 February to Monday 6 March at 4.00pm.
(a) Post your vote to school to arrive by 4.00pm on Monday 6 March.
(b) Vote in person at school at the Office, between 8.40am and 4.00pm from Monday 27 February to Monday 6 March at 4.00pm.

6. Nominations of Candidates
There are two distinct categories of elected members of School Council: Parent and Staff/DET Employees.

7. Parent Member Category
DET employees, who are parents at the school, are now eligible for election to this category. However, there is a limit on the number of DET parent members for a given school council configuration. (The total number of DET employee members must be less than half of the total number on School Council.)

8. DET Employee Member Category
To be eligible for election to this category, a person must be a DET employee and either:
- a parent of a student at the school, and/or
- employed to work at or for the school.

9. Role of School Councillors
School Councillors play an important role in decision making and the management of our school. They donate many hours to the various sub-committees of council; Education, Finance, Facilities & Grounds, Fundraising. Councillors attend monthly council meetings and represent the school at many functions.

SCHEDULE 4
NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
An election is to be conducted for members of School Council of Bittern Primary School.
The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Monday 6 March 2017.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on 20 February 2017.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories, and number of positions in each membership category open for election, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
<th>Number of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Member</td>
<td>21 March 2017 - 21 March 2019</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET Employee Member</td>
<td>21 March 2017 - 21 March 2019</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Tu Toa, Kia Kaha – Stand Tall, Stay Strong
Regards,
Simone McDonald
Acting Principal

See you all at Assembly this Friday ☝️

Crib Point Junior Football Club 2017 Registrations
Player registration sessions for all new players will be held at the Club Rooms Wednesday 8th & Friday 10th February from 5.30 - 7.00 pm. The Club welcomes all age groups from U9 (players born in 2008 & 2009).

Players from 2016 who are re-registering can do so online (see Club's Facebook page for login details) or come to registration day and ask any questions.

Fees will be as follows (per household family):
- $180 for a single player
- $300 for two players
- $400 for three or more players (Capped at $400 per family)

At least $50 deposit is required prior to the commencement of round 1 (Expected to be 30th April). Unless prior arrangements have been made, all fees are expected to be paid in full by round 6.

Auskick is being run on a Friday night in 2017 with the starting date and time to be confirmed, generally Terms 2 and 3.

For any enquiries please contact
President – Mark Wilson
0407001781/email mark@waterproofman.com.au
OR
Secretary – Sarah Wilson
0468588147/email cpjfcsec@gmail.com
Please do not park in the school car park.

It is dangerous. Children are not allowed to be in the car park at any time. Please do not walk your children through the car park either. Please park at the front or back of the school. If there is no space when you arrive please drive around the block and wait for a space. Our car park clears very quickly so please be patient. It is a good idea to organise a meeting place with your child so that they know where to wait for a few moments if you are held up getting a car park.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL TRAINING**

With all of the up and coming School Carnivals Crib Point Pool have organised some training times for any student that would like to take part. The days and times are as follows:

- **Monday 13th Feb - 4pm till 5pm**
- **Wednesday 15th Feb - 4pm till 5pm**
- **Monday 20th Feb - 4pm till 5pm**
- **Wednesday 22nd Feb - 4pm till 5pm**

There will be a Pelican Park Swim Instructor running these training sessions. This will be a great way for children to practice before their carnivals 😊

There is a $3.10 entry fee for each training session per Child. No bookings required.

**PAYMENT OF SCHOOL CHARGES**

This year many parents have chosen to order their books from a different supplier to that recommended by the school. Please note that the school charges (not stationery) are to be paid at the school office as soon as possible, and by the end of February at the latest.

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

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A program for women who have experienced family violence

**Letting go of fear and developing confidence and self esteem for a new way of being**

**Term 1 – 2017**

**Commence February**

**Register now!!**

8 week group - NO COST - Sumptuous Afternoon Teas

Facilitator: Gaye Hart

To register your interest

For further information contact: 5971 9444 or mobile 0439 576 690

Email: g.hart@goodshepvic.org.au

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**Changing Tides**

**Journey forward**

A life without family violence

Create a new story for you and your children

**Parenting Today**

**A 4 week program**

To explore building Connections between parents and children aged 7 to 14 years.

**When:** 4 weeks, Mondays

27th February, 6th, 20th, 27th March 2017

**Where:** Good Shepherd group room

G1, 346 Main Street

Mornington

**Time:**

10.00 to 12.00

**Free – No cost**

Morning tea provided

Understanding Children

Emotions

Making choices

Naming the behaviours

Behaviour guidance

Needs of the Children

**Phone now and book:** Gaye Hart (Group Coordinator)

Good Shepherd

59719444 or 0439 576 690

Email: gaye.hart@goodshep.org.au
IRON ON LOGOS AND HATS
Iron on Bittern PS logos are available for purchase at the school office $2.00 each (light blue and dark blue).
School hats are also available - $15 each, sizes ranging from Small to Extra Large.

CSEF APPLICATIONS
All parents should have received an application form for the CSEF. If you have a current concession card (valid as at 30th January 2017) you are eligible to apply for this payment. If you are eligible and haven’t already done so, please complete the form and return it to the office, together with your current card. If you have any queries regarding your eligibility, or to get another form, please call into the office or telephone (59 83 9590).

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!
We are asking for volunteers to help preparing the children’s hot dogs on a Friday. You only need to give an hour of your time from about 12.30pm. The more volunteers we get, the less days you will need to help. Please contact Sue or Hayley in the office to leave your details. Thanks in anticipation.

DON’T FORGET HOT DOGS THIS FRIDAY!
Hot dogs will be available this Friday, at a cost of $2.50.
If you would like your child/ren to purchase a hot dog, please complete the order form and return it to school this Friday, together with the correct money.

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: ___________________ GRADE: _____
Please find enclosed $_________________
X----------------------------------------------------------
Extend After School Care at Bittern Primary School

RECAP:
Hello everyone and welcome to another exciting year at Extend Bittern Primary. I hope you all had a fantastic holidays as well as an amazing Christmas.

Term 1 is quite short, and we have a lot of fun to fit into 8 weeks, and I look forward to discussing all of these ideas with the children over the upcoming weeks.

Last week was a short one, and I was so impressed with how easily everyone settled back into the routine and how amazing everyone’s manners and language was to both staff and students.

What’s on this week:
Monday 6th of February: Rainbow Fish
Tuesday 7th of February: Outdoor Athletics
Wednesday 8th of February: Basketball competitions
Thursday 9th of February: Jewellery making and paper planes
Friday 10th of February: hangman, celebrity heads, riddles and more.

NEW FAMILIES – ENROL TODAY

Enrolling is simple and can be done online via our Parent Portal. The annual enrolment fee will not be charged until you use the service, so it’s a great way to ensure you can have emergency access if the need arises. See information on operating hours, fees, and how to enrol & book at extend.com.au.

HAVE YOU SECURED YOUR 2017 BOOKINGS?
If you have used our services before, we look forward to seeing you again throughout Term 1. Please ensure you have made your 2017 bookings on the Parent Portal in advance.

QUESTIONS?
Check out the FAQs on our website which contains useful information for new parents.

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

COACH SUPPORT NIGHT

Join St Kilda FC for an Exclusive Coach The Coach Night With Adam Kingsley – Senior Assistant Coach Danny Sexton – Director of Coaching and Development Topic of the Evening: Adam Kingsley – Senior Assistant Coach

Free for all AFCA Members

All Senior and Junior Coaches Welcome

Please RSVP your attendance to Cam.roberts@AFL.com.au

https://membership.sportstg.com/regoform.cgi

CRIB POINT
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB
Our Community, Your Club. We Are One.

Crib Point Football Netball Club is looking to field a Senior Women’s team in season 2017.

The club is looking for any females 17+ who would like to attend training sessions in order to:
- Have some fun
- Learn some new skills
- Increase their fitness levels

Sessions are non-threatening and require no commitment to play. All sessions to date have been conducted by qualified teachers coming from a learning perspective.

If you think you may be interested, training sessions currently are at Cyril Fox Reserve. Crib Point from 6pm to 7pm. If you are a mum, daughter or sister – get on down!

If you require further information, contact Steve Enzerschied steve@cribpointfnc.com or check Facebook for updated details www.facebook.com/CribPointFootballandNetballClub.
ART ROOM NEWS

Welcome to the 2017 Art Program,
There are a few requirements needed –
Firstly all children require an artsmock as
we will be using paint, glue, textas etc, they
make mark there clothing.
Next we are in need of newspapers, cd’s,
dvds, cardboard, wire coat hangers and
items for decorations eg. buttons, lace,
ribbons.
Also if there are any knitters or crocheters
out there your help is needed! If you are
available to teach knitting to children on our
lunch break please see Linda (Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday).
Look out for Art Club every Tuesday
Lunchtime.
Thanks for your support in these matters; I
am looking forward to working in the art
room with all the children from every grade.

Linda

Parents, now that the children have
returned to school, please make
sure that you look out for them
all, either walking or cycling

A big thankyou
I would like to thank the
school community for the
wonderful support I
received last year, after
Jacob’s accident.

Charlotte Batty

Can Saver Plus assist you
with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500
for education costs including:
• school uniforms and text books
• computers, laptops and tablets
• excursions and camps
• sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
• music tuition and instrument hire.
You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card,
are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your
partner), such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work, and have a
child at school or study yourself.

Contact Angie O'Toole or Terri Fallows, your local
Saver Plus Coordinators:
(03) 8781 5937
angie.otool@bsl.org.au / terri.fallow@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across
Victoria by the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The program is funded by AKL and the Australian Government.