THE WEEK AHEAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY</th>
<th>School lunches from Metung Bakery and Nautica Restaurant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Playgroup commences 9.30 a.m at school</td>
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<td>Homework club 3.20 p.m. at school.</td>
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<td>TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Homework club 3.20 p.m. at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY</td>
<td>No Prep grade students required at school today</td>
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<td>Regional Library bus at 9.00 a.m.</td>
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Welcome back to all our students, parents and staff for 2017.
Welcome to our new students, Dakota Bradshaw, Gea May Burburan, Fletcher Brownlie, Khale Schulz, Gabriella Federici-Whelan, Jasmine Coles and their families.
We will be holding a welcome back barbeque on the Village Green on Thursday 23rd February 2017. Everyone is welcome to attend. More details will follow.
Other major events for this term will include swimming trials for the grade 4/5/6 students next Tuesday (7th February) at 4.30 p.m at the Bairnsdale outdoor swimming pool. The TUBBS swimming carnival will then be held at Orbost on Wednesday 15th February if students get through to this level.
A pet care day in early March and at the end of term 1 the Doxa camp will be held for the grade 5/6 students in Melbourne. Just one early notification is that Parent Teacher interviews will be held during week 9 (20th – 24th March).
Library bus commences next week and will be at school on 8th February and then fortnightly after that and MARC van library will be on the alterative Thursday starting on 16th February. Library bags will be required for all library sessions.
Hats are required for all students during term 1. No hat no play policy is in place. Our school hats can be purchased from Nicks Clothing in Bairnsdale. We also have school bags for sale at the school for $45.00 each.
The beginning of the term is an extremely busy time for staff and students. At the beginning of each school day, staff are focused on lesson delivery and I am asking parents to minimise disruption to staff at this time. I still encourage parents to inform us of issues regarding students but would appreciate if you could keep the information short and endeavour to meet the staff at the end of the day when they have more time.
Please remember to name all students’ items bought from home. This includes all clothing, lunch boxes and small containers and drink bottles. It is great to see parents using plastic containers for snacks which minimises rubbish at school but could they please be named.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2017
Our first meeting for the School Council will be held on TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY.
There will be a 4 vacancies in the School Council for 2017. We are inviting all parents to nominate to be a member of the School Council. New School Council members take their positions from the first meeting in term 2. For more information please see Rick or have a chat with our School Council president, Chris Seymour.

ATTENDANCE
Over the school holidays we have been working on constructing a new school website which in the coming weeks will have an option for parents to go online and notify us of children's absences with the associated reason.
I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that it is extremely important that all students have regular attendance at school as there is a level of high correlation between of level of absenteeism and student under performance. I ask parents to please make sure that they endeavour to make appointments outside school hours where possible. It is NOT ok for students to be away for birthdays, sibling birthdays and/or family activities.
This year we will be putting in place appropriate work for all students who will be away from school for extended periods such as illness. We will be supplying appropriate work for students to undertake after school hours. I understand that at time parents need to take vacations other than school holidays and we will provide other educational material to support students at this time. Please try and make arrangement for school holidays only so as not to interfere with the child’s educational program.
**BUSH FIRES**
Metung Primary school has for many years been on the Bush fire At Risk Register with the Department (BARR)
Essentially this means that when a Code Red Day is declared, the school will be closed automatically on that day.
Yesterday the Regional Director included Metung Primary School on the upper range on the most vulnerable schools in the State. This means therefore that we can now automatically close the school on an extreme bush fire danger days.
All parents will be notified the previous day if this is to occur. Parents at this time of year should have prepared their own bush fire action plans and should in act these on these school closure days.

**PICK UP AND DROP OFF**
After discussion at the last meeting of School Council in 2016 it was decided to change our procedure for picking up students at the end of the school day.
Commencing on Monday (6\(^{th}\) February) all students will need to be picked up from the undercover area in the school grounds each night.
This means parents will have to park their car and walk in to collect their children.
I realize due to our limited parking that this will cause some issues, but this is being done to make sure all our students are kept safe and out of danger at the end of the school day.
This also brings us into line with the new child’s safety standard which all schools have to adhere to.
May I suggest to parents that one of the easy ways to get around the parking issue is to stage the picking up of children. i.e. pick up 5 minutes later at the end of the day as the car park is normally cleared after a maximum of 5 – 10 minutes. Once again I apologize for the inconvenience but there is really no other practical solution to this problem.
Parents can park in Park Road, Leighton Park Drive and Stirling Road.

**FEES**
Last year the school fees were $240.00 and School Council will review this at the next meeting in February.
It is important at this time of the year that parents promptly pay these fees. I have attached information regarding Parent Payments. Our fees cover items including text books, homework books, stationary, MARC van, Art classes and transportation. Prompt payment of the fees is necessary at this time of the year to cover the large expense incurred in purchases of student requirements at the beginning of the school year. Please help us out by paying the fees promptly.

**COMPUTERS**
Last year the school offered parents and students the option of purchasing a computer to aid with their studies at school and home. This is known as a BYOD (bring your own device) program.
Last year 6 families took up the offer of purchasing a computer through the school and in my opinion it has worked extremely well. I would like to again extend this offer to our parent community particularly our grade 4 students but not excluding the grade 5 and 6 students. We would have the same arrangements as last year with an initial payment in Term 3 and further payment in December 2017. The package includes insurance for when the computer is at home. If you would like further information to take up this offer please see Rick ASAP to enable us to process an order.

**CESF**
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) is available to eligible parents. The eligibility criteria is listed below. If parents are eligible, forms are available from the school office. Please collect a form ASAP.

**Eligibility**
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

**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 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.

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.

**PREP GRADE**
Prep children will not be required to attend school on the following dates during February - Wednesday 8\(^{th}\), 15\(^{th}\) and 22\(^{nd}\) February
STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION
We will be sending home with each student today Student Enrolment Information forms. Could parents please return the completed forms to the school office.
Also we would like to remind parents to use the mail box in the school office for returning paper work. Please do not leave returning notices and or money on Lois’s desk. The mail box is secure and a safe way to drop off all the returns.

SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY.
An early notice that we will hold the Special Friends/Grandparents day on Friday 10th March. This has been a very successful day in the past and we look forward to seeing everyone at school on this day.

DOXA CAMP
All grade 5 and 6 students will be attending the Doxa Youth Camp with Leonie and myself from Monday 27th to Friday 31st March. Our students will be attending with Bruthen and Buchan Primary school students. The approximate cost of the camp is around $200.00 which includes all travel with V Line, accommodation and all meals and activities except extra activity of ice skating. Payment for the camp is required within the next couple of weeks. Please call Lois if you will be receiving the CSEF fund. If parents would like to meet with Rick regarding payment of camp please see Lois to make an appointment.

PLAYGROUP
Playgroup will commence on Monday 6th February from 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. at the school. All pre-school children and toddlers are welcome.

SCHOOL LUNCHES
Metung Bakery and Nautica Restaurant are offering take away school lunches every Friday. Lunch orders will start this Friday 3rd February. Parents need to place an order directly with the two outlets and the lunches will be delivered to the school at 1.00 p.m.
LAKES ENTRANCE TENNIS CLUB

KIDS HOT SHOTS

LESSONS

Register now for junior tennis coaching for Term 1, 2017

- Mondays or Wednesdays after school for all standards of players
- Emphasis on skills, fair play, fun and fitness

Contact Tennis Australia Qualified Club Professional Coach

NIGEL CARR – Mobile 0400 003 270

Free ‘WILSON’ Junior Tennis Racquet for each new enrolment