From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome back to everyone in the school community to the 2016 year.

Harvey McQualter is starting school today for the first time and is in group 1. We hope you have a good day and we welcome you and your family to the school community. Also it is great to welcome Leilani (Lani) Butler to Portland Bay School who will be teaching group 1. Lani is familiar to most of our students as she did quite a bit of work here last year and it is great to have her on board for 2016.

Welcome Lunch and BBQ – Friday 5th Feb at 12.30pm

The welcome BBQ will be next Friday. I look forward to seeing the school community and welcoming our new families and staff.

Student Support Group Meeting Day – Friday 26th Feb

The school will hold a dedicated day for student support group meetings. The purpose of this day is to finalise students’ 12-month learning goals and learning and behaviour plans.

It is expected and appropriate that some students will attend the meetings with their parents and carers.

Teachers will organise times with parents and carers in the coming weeks.

There is no school for students on this day.

Camp Group 4 – Phil’s Class

Phil’s class will be going on camp to Blackwood from the 7/3 to the 11/3. Group 3, Charlotte’s class, will now be going on camp in term 3. We apologise for this change but we thank Phil and his class for stepping up.

Expression of Interest: Alpine Ride

The school has secured 6-places in the 2016 Blackwood Alpine Ride from the 21 to 24th of March next year. The ride is approximately 100km along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail beginning in Myrtleford. The ride will cost students $350ea and is available to students in Groups 3, 4 and 5 only.

A separate information note is attached to this newsletter for Groups 3, 4, and 5. Please catch up with Steve if you would like more information. Expressions of Interest and deposit is due by 12/2 please.

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COMING EVENTS

TERM 1 2016

Friday 29th January
- Swimming

Next Week

Monday 1st February
- Welcome Lunch and BBQ

Tuesday 2nd February
- Student Support Day

Wednesday 3rd February
- Swimming

Thursday 4th February
- Welcome Lunch and BBQ

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Riding for the Disabled Association

Please get your forms in as soon as possible if you want your children to participate in horse riding this year. Gillian will coordinate the program this year. Contact the office if you need a form. RDA will run in terms 1, 2 and 4.

Specialist Classes 2016

PE – Monday and Thursday          Art – Wednesday

Swimming

Swimming will commence next Thursday and will be every Thursday in term 1.

Reminder Labour Day Holiday – Monday 14th March

New building

The Department have been working closely with the school to provide another new purpose built relocatable classroom and extend the adjoining decking next to the classroom that was provided last year. This classroom should be delivered in the next few weeks and be ready to use before the start of term 2. There will also be new boundary school fencing installed around the new building.

We appreciate the generosity of Bundarra Primary School providing additional space to accommodate the relocatable building for Portland Bay and would like to extend our thanks to the Principal, Alistair Stannard for his support.

Welcome back to school ……………Steve Crossley, Principal

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**Community Announcements:**

**Thankyou to Bakers Delight—Portland**

For your kind and generous ongoing donations.

It is very much appreciated.

Please support our local businesses.

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**Stars of the Week**

“Caught Being Good”

Will start this week and raffle winners drawn at next week’s assembly.

**This week’s focus is:**

“Learning to be a learner”

The students are encouraged to have-a-go at a wide range of experiences, to learn from their mistakes and be persistent.

At our whole school assembly, we draw the “Caught Being Good” raffle. Throughout the week, staff give students a raffle ticket for displaying positive behaviour either in their classroom, on the playground or in any school events such as excursions, outings or community access.