**From the Principal’s Desk**

Tomorrow, your school council president, Debra Robinson and I will be interviewing architects to develop a master plan for the school. This is a very exciting step towards achieving a new school on the western end of the Portland Primary School oval. I expect the selection to be completed in the next week and the master plan to be completed by the end of term. At that stage the costs of the project will be clear and the government will consider if and when it funds the project.

Welcome Lunch and BBQ – Friday 5th Feb at 12.30pm
The welcome BBQ is tomorrow. 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.

Reminder Labour Day Holiday – Monday 14th March

**Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools**
I am writing to reassure the school community in the light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days.

Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.
If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Cruise Ships** - Thank you to the staff who have given their time in helping with the visiting cruise ships in January and this weekend.
Enjoy your weekend…… Steve Crossley, Principal

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**COMING EVENTS**

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<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>5th February</td>
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<td>Welcome Lunch / BBQ 12.30PM</td>
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**Next Week**

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>8th February</th>
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<tr>
<td>Go Surf at Cape Bridgewater</td>
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<td>Finance Meeting 1pm</td>
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<table>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>9th February</th>
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<td>School Council Meeting 7pm</td>
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<table>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>10th February</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Swimming</td>
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<th>Friday</th>
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**Important Dates to Remember.**

**Friday** 26th February
- Student Support Day

<table>
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<th>Monday</th>
<th>14th March</th>
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<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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**Blackwood Camps 2016**
The dates for Blackwood camps are included below:

**Term 1**
7th to 11th March
Group 4 Blackwood School
21st to 24th March
Alpine Ride based in Myrtleford

**Term 2**
30th May to 3rd June
Group 2 Blackwood Residence

**Term 3**
8th to 12th August
Group 3 Blackwood School

**Term 4**
7th to 11th November
Group 5 Blackwood tents
Happy Birthday
& best wishes to the following staff member
Ramona Anderson - 11th Feb
Best wishes
and we hope you have a great day.

Stars of the Week
“Caught Being Good”
Raffle winners drawn at each week’s Friday assembly.

This week’s focus is:
“Learning to be a learner”

Presentation Day 2015

Students, staff, families and friends enjoyed performances from each group. Awards for the year’s achievements were presented. Brady Howard was our 2015 Michael Ward Memorial Award recipient. Brady Howard and Jennifer Elliot were named as Portland Bay School’s School Captains for 2016.

Well done to everyone for such a wonderful, successful day.

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.

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

On Tuesday Group one and Group five got together for their first buddy session. The students explored the large rollers, played with the co-ordination board and read stories together. Both groups had a great time and they hope to get together once a week for buddy time.

Jmaru with Jenny and Jamie.

Cameron with Isaac and Andrew.

Patrick with Lachlan.

Logan with Ashley.

Damon with Daniel.

Harvey with Brady and Alisha.
Words on Wellbeing

You never know what you miss until it is gone!

When you lose the ability to walk freely, drive a car and simply go to work, you discover a world where you are dependent on others. So I am back! Without crutches but still some sessions of physiotherapy, I have a better empathy for others who struggle in supermarkets, at school and just simply getting around. I have missed everyone at the Bay especially the smiling faces of the students.

So I am excited to again be part of your educational journey. I often speak about holistic care and this year, I will be continuing to offer programs to enhance engagement and wellbeing: students are welcome to share some breakfast with me on a Wednesday or Thursday morning. I will continue to give pastoral care to both students and parents.

Also I will be continuing the Active Boys Group (some great knitting was created & beautiful gardening projects) and the Girls Get To Together Group (grooming, peer mentoring, brain gym). There was always lots of talk and laughter. But there are plenty more ideas and the Coffee/Chat mornings with parents will continue.

This has been a great way to network, make new friends and share.

Many of the programs offered make our students active participants in learning simply by doing. They learn how to learn! Many of the programs will reach out and make your children recognize their unique capacity and ability.

Our practice as adults, as teachers, as parents then has a significant effect on children’s involvement and success in learning. I certainly value how families work together in a partnership with teachers. This supports holistic learning and builds a strong sense of connection to the school and the community. We all contribute to enabling children to develop positive attitudes to life and learning. And none of us stop learning! It is a life-long journey… just look at what I know now, having the use of two legs!

Sue Cowie – Wellbeing.