**From the Principal’s Desk**

It has been a busy week at Portland Bay so only a quick newsletter today. I am very pleased that we completed our school review yesterday and I expect the report to be delivered before the end of the year. Thanks to Karen Rowley who represented school council and contributed throughout the 2-day review.

**Swimming Fun Day**
The annual swimming fun day will be held next Thursday between 10am - 1pm and parents are welcome to come down to the pool for our final session for the year.

**Milo Cricket Fri Dec 9**
Portland Bay will be hosting Hamilton SDS in cricket next week and the students have been practising for the competition. Please see the photos page 2.

**Preliminary Notice – The Alpine Ride March 27 – 31**
The Alpine Ride will take place again next year in the last week of term 1. This 100km ride is through the beautiful mountains around Myrtleford and Bright and was a terrific event this year. Groups 3, 4 and 5 will have the opportunity to attend – see the flyer with this newsletter for more information.

**Orientation Day—Tuesday 6th December**
The school will hold orientation day on Tuesday Dec 6 in line with other schools in the district. Students will find out their classes for 2017 and work in these groups for the day. Wherever possible the teachers for 2017 will also work with the students on this day. However, I will not have finalised all education support staff before this day so there could be some changes next year. Some of our new students will also attend for the day. It will be good to work in our new groupings to prepare for 2017.

**RDA - Riding Develops Ability**
Reminder that next Tuesday is our last riding day for those student who attend RDA. Our sessions are great fun and very successful. We would like to extend our thanks to all of the RDA supporters, helpers, workers and volunteers, with out your help this program would not exists and our students would miss out on the opportunity to engage with the horses in a fantastic bush environment.

Thank you again and we look forward to the 2017 program.

Enjoy your weekend,
Steve Crossley, Principal

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**COMING EVENTS**

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<th>TERM 4</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2nd December</td>
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**Next Week**

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>5th December</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8th December</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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**Important Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>12th December</th>
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<tr>
<td>Surfing at Cape Bridgewater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>15th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surfing at Cape Bridgewater</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>16th December</td>
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<td>Graduation/End of Year Ceremony 10am at Portland Civic Hall</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>19th December</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 4 for Students 2.30pm Finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>20th December</td>
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<td>No Students - Last day Term 4 for staff</td>
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**2017 - Tuesday 31st January**

Students 1st Day of Term 1

**Reminder**
Our community is cordially invited to our school’s Graduation Ceremony Friday 16th December. 10am, Portland Civic Hall. Please RSVP to the office ASAP.
Milo Cricket on Tuesday the 29th November was fun and helped develop good skills. Batting seemed to be the favourite position. Well played everyone. Competition looks fierce.

Thank you to all of the RDA supporters, helpers, workers and volunteers, without your help this program would not exist and our students would miss out on the opportunity to engage with the horses in a fantastic bush environment.

Thank you again and look forward to the 2017 program.
Expression of Interest

Alpine Bike Ride and Camp
Monday 27/3 to Friday 31/3

Blackwood Camp runs the Alpine Ride for selected students from member schools.

The ride follows the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail next to the beautiful Ovens River from Millawa to Bright (approx. 40km per day). [http://www.victoriashighcountry.com.au/murray-to-mountains-rail-trail]

Portland Bay School has reserved 6-places on the ride and is calling for Expressions of Interest to participate in the ride. Students from groups 3, 4, and 5 are eligible to participate in the ride (2017 groupings).

Let Steve know if you are interested and pay your deposit as soon as possible. Part payments are welcome as people can afford it

Staff: Steve and Reece plus extras as needed

Travel: One of the school buses

Bikes: All bikes must pass a road-worthy; students can use their own bike or borrow a school bike

Accommodation: Tents at Arden’s Caravan Park in Myrtleford

Meals: A combination of self-catering and Alpine Ride catering

Cost: $350 approx - final price confirmed in 2017
[Students will have the opportunity to fundraise]

Deposit: $50 deposit is due by Feb 10, 2017

Full Payment: Due by March 14, 2017
Thunderstorm asthma: Supporting students

Thunderstorms have been linked to epidemics of asthma, especially at the end of Spring when grasses are flowering.

An asthma attack can be life threatening. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing should call 000.

Anyone with a known history of asthma is at risk of experiencing an exacerbation of their usual symptoms at this time.

In addition, people who do not usually experience symptoms of asthma but have a history of allergies may be at increased risk.

The common signs of asthma are difficulty in breathing (gasping for air), chest tightness and wheezing.

If a child's condition is deteriorating, parents or guardians should seek urgent care. Signs of rapid deterioration include little or no relief from a reliever inhaler, inability to speak comfortably, or lips turning blue.

People with asthma should continue to use their usual medications. Where possible, stay inside when the weather is windy with high pollen counts or dust.

Actions required

If a child is experiencing symptoms, notify their parents immediately (if you require advice,