From Principal’s Desk

Yesterday the Minister of Education James Merlino visited the school for the second time in 6-months and met with students, staff, School Council President Deb Robinson and myself.

It was a very valuable and positive meeting with the minister hearing about the progress towards developing a master plan for the school’s co-location with Portland Primary School on Henty St. The minister encouraged the school to visit other recently built special schools to build up some ideas of what will work best for Portland Bay School. The minister assured us that Portland Bay School was the highest priority for the minister and the government and that funding for capital works projects will be announced in the state budget in May.

School Council Elections – Parent Members

At the close of nominations today I had received one nomination from Karen Rowley so I announce that she is elected to serve a 2-year term on school council.

There remains two vacancies on school council so please consider nominating to serve your school community.

Art Award

Congratulations to Jmara on coming second in the recent school’s art competition during the cruise ship visits to Portland. He did a fantastic job of his cruise ship.

Caught being good

Well done to Jenny, Brady and Logan who were all caught being responsible last week. Next week we are looking for students being good learners.

Reminder: Student Support Group Meeting Day – Friday 26th Feb

No classes on this day.

Alpine Ride

Graydon, Andrew, Sarah and Brady will be taking part in the Alpine Ride from March 21 to 24 in the last week of term. There is still a couple of spots available. If any other students would like to be involved please contact Steve.

The ride follows the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail next to the beautiful Ovens River from Millawa to Bright (approx. 40km per day).


Steve, Charlotte and Brady’s dad Craig Howard will be riding and supervising the trip.

A reminder that full payment is due by March 14.

Enjoy your weekend ……Steve Crossley
Happy Birthday
& best wishes to the following Students who celebrated their Birthdays earlier in the month.
James Klotz - 11th Feb
Patrick Stinson - 17th Feb
and in the up coming week
our Principal - Steve Crossley - 24th Feb
Best wishes to you all.

Stars of the Week
“Caught Being Good”
Well done to Jennifer Elliott, Brady Howard and Logan Clark,
Great Effort for
“Learning to be Respectful”

Switch to Save.
Thank you for taking part in the Switch to Save program. Your contribution has been a great benefit to your school, the community and the environment.
School: PORTLAND BAY SCHOOL
Amount given: $900.00
Branch: PORTLAND
Thank you for being an important part of our community.

Thank you Bendigo Bank for the presentation of funds towards a sustainable program.

Jennifer and Brady are pleased to accept the cheque from Terry and Nola Portland Bendigo Bank.

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.

Stars of the Week
“Caught Being Good”
Well done to Jennifer Elliott, Brady Howard and Logan Clark,
Great Effort for
“Learning to be Respectful”

Raffle winners drawn at this week’s Friday assembly is for
“Learning to be Responsible”

The next week’s focus is:
“Learning to be safe”

Thank you to Di & Graham, Members of the public, for their kind donation of our new bird avery. Students will be setting up and caring for the birds on a rostered system.

Learning to be safe
The students are encouraged to promote behaviours that contribute to the wellbeing of every member of the school community.
James Merlino - School visit Wednesday 17th February, very positive updates. Minister Merlino also met with students and staff

Group 4 had a chance to try “Barefoot Bowling” with thanks from Portland RSL. Happy to report no injuries but lots of laughs and smiles.

Other groups will have the opportunity to participate in bowling over the next few weeks.
Words on Wellbeing

From Little Things Big Things Grow... How lovely to meet our new students throughout the last weeks. Could some be so little? When I hear the ballad Paul Kelly wrote From little things big things, how easy it is to reminisce that time goes by so quickly, with all those little milestones and the major achievements. Admittedly Paul Kelly was not writing of life as we know it, but of another journey; the 1966 Wave Hill strike, the Gurindji actions and the democratic resolution of the people against injustice.

An educational journey may seem distant from this ballad, however we all recognise that to reach a goal, there needs to be hard work and resilience. You cannot escape the analogy that for some, it can be a hard road; there will be a need to adjust to a new environment; to new people. So how important it is that Portland Bay creates a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere for everyone. A sense of belonging only comes from the partnerships we make and Paul Kelly identified the power of being connected; whether to a cause, our school or even a strike.

Recently in The Age Education section, an article featured some tips for parents whose children were commencing school for the first time, so I have summarised some useful tips:

- **Stay Involved** – Best outcomes are achieved with parents and schools working together.
- **Talk about school** – talk about new experiences, different experiences – support them.
- **Talk about the future** – never too early to talk about aspirations. Encourage exploration.
- **Keep Informed** – know school's expectations on attendance, behaviour and values.
- **Be flexible** – life experiences differ from previous generations. Keep an open mind.
- **Explore and Discover** – encourage your child to expand interests and talents. New things.
- **Be practical** – help your child develop independence by modelling organisation skills.

Remember, *From Little Things Big Things Grow*. It will go too quickly, believe me. Enjoy the journey!

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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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**Easter Raffle**

Portland Bay School is organising an Easter Raffle to raise money for the Michael Ward Memorial Award.

Please send in Easter Eggs for Hampers as soon as possible.

Please sell Raffle Tickets and send the money and tickets back to the school.

Please return all tickets and money by Thursday 17th of March.

The Raffle will be drawn on Friday 18th of March at assembly.

Don’t forget to buy your tickets, $1-00 each. Donation of Easter eggs are appreciated, as you can see the prizes are looking yummo!