**From the Principal’s Desk**

Good luck to Graydon, Sarah, Andrew and Brady as they take on the Alpine Ride in the mountains around Myrtleford next week. It is a very exciting opportunity and a real adventure. Hopefully the staff will be able to keep up!

**Annual General Meeting**

Portland Bay School held its AGM on Tuesday night. The following office bearers were elected:
- President – Deb Robinson
- Vice-President – Karen Rowley
- Treasurer – Craig Howard
- Minute Secretary – Gillian Caithness (non-school council member)

The school also welcomes Melissa Woods and Charlotte Peverett as new members of school council.

The school council is very grateful to the contribution Fiona Rieger has made to school council and the finance committee over many years. Fiona has worked very hard for the school and we all appreciate her efforts. Fiona did not seek re-election for 2016.

**School Council**

The AGM was followed by a regular meeting of school council.

The council discussed improvement priorities for the coming year and agreed to focus on:
- Developing a master plan for a new school on the Portland PS site that will meet the needs of the region for the next 50-years
- Implementing the new Victorian Curriculum by building the capacity of staff to operate the new curriculum for the best outcomes for students
- Setting high expectations through focusing on a positive school culture, pastoral and citizenship care and transition initiatives

**New Building**

The new portable building is on track to be available for school use by the start of term 2 and we are looking forward to be able to use the new facility.

**Caught Being Good**

Shandarra, Brady and Andrew were caught being respectful last week, well done. Alisha and James were caught being respectful on the bus. This week we have been catching kids who have been responsible.

Everyone is looking forward to the school holidays in a week’s time, ……..Steve Crossley, Principal.

**Reminder**—School finishes at 2.30pm next Thursday and the school buses will leave at this time, so please make the necessary adjustments to drop-off times. School resumes for students on Monday 11th April. Bus pick-up times as per this year.

**Easter Egg Raffle will be drawn at tomorrow morning’s assembly - Please ensure all tickets and money is in by 9.30am.**

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**COMING EVENTS**

**TERM 1  2016**

**Friday 18th March**
- Sailing

**Next Week**

**Monday 21st March**
- Alpine Bike Ride - School Group Departs

**Tuesday 22nd March**
- Last Day of School
- Early finfish 2.30pm
- Alpine Bike Ride - School group returns.

**Friday 18th March**
- Good Friday - No School

**Important Dates to Remember**

**Monday 11th April**
- 1st Day of School Term 2

**Tuesday 12th April**
- School Finance Meeting 1pm

**Wednesday 13th April**
- School Council 1pm

**Monday 18th April**
- Surfing

**Thursday 28th April**
- Surfing

**Blackwood Camps 2016**

The dates for Blackwood camps are included below:

**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
**STARS OF THE WEEK**

“Caught Being Good”

Well Done to Andrew Whiting, Shandarra Sherrard, James Klotz, Alisha Pumpa and Brady Howard.

Great Effort for “Bus Conduct” and “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”

**GROUP 1 YOGA**

Group 1 have been doing yoga every week, we are becoming regular yoga experts :) staff and students!

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 promote behaviours that contribute to the wellbeing of every member of the school community.
Tony Freeling has done a great job with his train drawing. The one point perspective painting with the brown cross fence is proudly completed by Bart Rowley and the road art by Michael Roosa. Well done guys, excellent work. Love seeing our art work Especially with so Much colour.

Other photos are of art work displayed around our school. Very bright, cheery with messages attached to our hand cut outs.

Art is awesome and Fun - Jennifer
I like that I can do lots of colours and express my creativity - Andrew
I like the drawing and painting - Ashley
This Friday, many students will wear a wristband to symbolise taking a stand against bullying. As I write this, there has been an avalanche of bad news stories, reflecting disharmony and hate. Bullies promote violence; whether this is within a school yard or outside a fence; whether it is in an office or out in the streets; whether it is on-line or off; whether it is physical, social or emotional, it is all the same. Bullying is aggressive, repeated behaviour that is directed towards a person or others to cause distress, harm and fear. Sometimes one person can damage the self-esteem of another irrevocably. It always helps to reflect on a saying prominently hung in the Wellbeing office…*There are 8 Billion people in this world – do not let one person ruin your day.*

And it also pays to reflect on the simple values that counter bullying: compassion, kindness and empathy. We know that our students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments; where tolerance is promoted through positive behaviours; where diversity is part of the norm, not some special add-on program.

To achieve such harmony requires a fair amount of give and take and some hard work. In fact, we will also celebrate **Harmony Day** next week within our schools. Take a moment and listen to the poets and songwriters (who always get it): *All I am Saying is Give Peace a Chance & John Lennon’s Imagine.*

We need to accept some home truths.

Not everyone will think the same as you. To be inclusive actually means practising this.

That is you walk the talk; you, as Covey once said, seek to understand.

By modelling respectful behaviours and being kind to each other, children learn by example. Learning friendship skills is the basis of developing emotional intelligence; the foundation of wellbeing; the beginnings of peace and harmony. Imagine…

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**Community Announcements:**

Brochures were sent home with students Wednesday 16th - extra copies are in the school office if need.

**Casual Day**

*Wear casual clothes to raise money*

When: Thursday 24th March
Where: Portland Bay School
Why: we are fundraising money for the children’s hospital

Gold Coin Donation