From the Principal’s desk

WELCOME BACK

Welcome to the new school year. Thanks to everyone for being so friendly and helpful in my first few days in the school. It is a wonderful school community and I am very much looking forward to all that we can achieve together. It has been a pleasure getting to know the students, their families and the staff.

The students have settled in well and have been getting to know their teachers and new routines.

We welcome our new Foundation (Prep) students, and what a delight they are! We hope they will be very happy and have a learning filled year.

Welcome to our new teacher, Ms Erin Micallef. Erin originally comes from East Gippsland. She has a background in nutrition science and has been working in Early Years Education for 9 years. She is very excited about coming to Lardner & District Primary School to teach in the Junior Room and Science.

Welcome back to Kristy Rollinson who has been on Family Leave. Kristy is a very experienced and dedicated teacher and a wonderful asset to the school. Kristy is teaching Years 4.

BUDDY PROGRAM

We have introduced a Buddy program this year. All Prep/1 students have a Senior buddy. The students came together yesterday to meet their buddy and to do an activity together. They will get together for special activities during the year and buddies may meet up in the playground. Buddy programs are important for helping younger students feel safe and cared for at school and for older students to feel valued and respected. This program will also give our older students added responsibility and an opportunity to build their leadership skills.

Dates to Remember

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 18th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd March</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 13th March</td>
<td>Athletic Sports Day</td>
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PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We will be conducting a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00 p.m. in the Middle/Senior Classrooms.

We look forward to speaking with parents about our classroom programs. The format of the evening will be a general overview and then a 15 minute presentation by the P/1 teacher; followed by the 2/3 teacher and then the Year 4/5/6 teacher. If you are only wishing to hear one of these presentations for example, you may wish to have some tea or coffee in the staffroom while you are waiting.

CLASS TERM NEWSLETTERS

Today you will receive a Class Term Newsletter from your child’s Class Teacher. We are committed to strong parent-teacher-student partnerships and this is one way to inform our parents about their child’s learning program. This newsletter outlines key learning for the term. If you have any questions please be in touch with your child’s teacher.

BEING SUNSMART - SCHOOL HATS

Students are required to wear school hats up until the end of April and then from the start of September. This means hats are required for part of Term 2 and part of Term 3. This is due to frequent high levels of UV from September through to April. If children do not have a hat they will be required to play in the undercover area outside the P/1 Classroom.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are four Parent Member vacancies on School Council. Nominations are due by Monday 9th February at 4.00 p.m. Forms can be obtained from the School Office.
SCHOOL COUNCIL

There will be a School Council Meeting on Monday 2nd March at 7.30 p.m.

Office Bearers will be elected prior to the general School Council meeting.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the Principal for further information.

BULLY STOPPERS: Being Cool Online

Students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior. We put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students – one that promotes tolerance and is inclusive, harmonious and free from bullying.

We can work towards this goal through education in the classroom, intervention in the playground and a focus on promoting positive behavior.
However, with the rise of social media, bullying now occurs online, as well as in person. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences. Cyberbullying is an increasing issue in the wider community – and the best way to tackle it is for schools, students and parents to work in partnership.

Lardner and District Primary School is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice Netiquette. Available from 10 February, students in Years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school.

These resources, called Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers - visit the site to find out more.

BOOK CLUB
Order forms are attached to this Newsletter and should be returned to school along with payment no later than Monday, 16th February.

Please make sure you have your name on the sheets you return.

For our new parents,:
Book Club is a great way to purchase books at a reasonable price for gifts or to support your child with their reading. From the sales our school also benefits with points which allow us to select free books / games for school use.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS
If you owe the school money, please arrange to pay this off on a regular basis. This money is used for resources for the children so regular payments would be appreciated.

Also when paying accounts please note: We can only take cash or cheque, eftpos is not available.

Contact Details / Email / Photo Permission—please return this MONDAY
If any of your contact details eg. address, email, workplace have changed please complete this form and return it to school on Monday.

Name …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

New Address ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Home / Mobile Phone Numbers…………………..

Email address (for newsletters, accounts etc)…………………………………………………………………………………………………

Unemployed (required for school funding purposes)
(Please tick appropriate box)

Our funding depends on your employment / un employment status so please indicate your situation as it is now.

eg. If you are qualified as a plumber but presently unemployed tick the NO box and leave the details below.

Employer details ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Type of Work ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Work phone number /s ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

I give permission for my child’s / children’s photos to be published in the school newsletter, on the school website and to also be included in any school articles in the local newspaper.

Signed (parent/guardian) ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
Junior Room Newsletter

Welcome to the Junior Room

**Fruit Time**
This year we are introducing ‘fruit time’ after the fitness session at 10am each day; this is a quick break for the children in junior room to share a healthy snack and keep their focus during class time. Please pack a small, easy-to-eat, piece of fruit (cut apple/pear, grapes, banana etc) into your child’s lunchbox to enjoy at this time.

**Hat and drink bottles**
Please remember to pack your child’s hat everyday for school. They cannot go out and play on the equipment at recess and lunchtime if they’re not wearing a hat. Drink bottles are also a good idea especially in the hot weather. They can be refilled at the taps so a small bottle is fine.

**In the playground**
New mulch for the playground area was delivered in the first week of school and the junior room team have been helping distribute it around the playground.

This has been a lot of fun and helps develop strong team work and cooperation skills.

**Reader Bag**
Each student has a take-home reader bag with a reader book to sign after your child has read to you (if reading is not yet developed, try echo reading; parent reads a line and child repeats the words, following along with your finger). Each day the students need to bring their reader bags to school and exchange books. Please remember to bring your reader bag every morning for school. Reading should always be enjoyable, so choose a wide variety of books and make this a fun part of your day!

**Our Classroom**

**Family Portrait**
To make the junior room one big family, we are collecting a family photo from each of the students. We are asking each family to provide a photo of the important people in your child’s immediate family (with names on the back). They will be displayed in the classroom and will be used in our reading, writing and maths lessons.
**ELLINBANK JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Ellinbank Junior Football Club would like to invite all children interested in playing a great team sport, for the 2015 season.

Commencing this year we have entered a junior club in the Warragul and District Junior Football League. We are looking for players in the U10’s, U12’s and U14’s age groups, both boys and girls are welcome. FREE sponsored subscriptions in 2015 for ALL PLAYERS.

Registration day is Sunday February 15th at 11:30am at the Ellinbank Football Ground (Warragul Korumburra Road Ellinbank). Only 8 minutes from Warragul.

We will be having a BBQ and inflatable footy games for the big and small kids of all ages so come along and have some fun.

Numbers are to be capped at 22 for each team, to ensure each child maximum participation.

Please come along, have a sausage, some fun with games and sign up for the 2015 season, we look forward to seeing everyone there.

For all enquiries please contact Jess Hickin 0476079707 or Steve Pratt 0419562875.

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**CANTEEN HELPERS REQUIRED**

**FOR EVERY 2ND THURSDAY**

**COMMENCING 19TH FEBRUARY 2015**

If you can help at anytime on a Thursday, please add your name, phone number and the time available on the appropriate date you are available.

Canteen help is required between approximately 11 am and 2 pm every second Thursday.

Any time you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Any queries please contact Diane Sydenham on 0429 359 476 or Annita at school.

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Due to Health and Safety Guidelines we are unable to have toddlers in the Canteen.

Please return this form to school by Wednesday, 11th February