Dear Parents,

**Parent /Teacher Interviews**
It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the Parent/Teacher ‘Information Sharing’ sessions conducted on Wednesday afternoon and evening. The interview provides an opportunity to share valuable information for both parents and teachers, often informing elements of students individualised education programs.

**WORKING BEE- Saturday March 5th**
On Saturday March 5th will be holding our first working bee for the year, from 9.00am -12.00. We are looking forward to as many people as possible attending. The parents committee will be providing one of their famous ‘sausage sizzle’ lunches to working bee helpers. Come along, even if only for an hour, and meet new families and perhaps make some new friends while helping the school improve the grounds for our students at the same time. Everyone is welcome and any assistance appreciated.

**TWILIGHT SPORTS**
We will be holding our Twilight Sports evening on Thursday, 10th March, commencing at approximately 6.00pm. This is a fabulous opportunity for parents to meet other families from the school and it is usually a great social occasion. Activities will take place on the oval. All parents and friends are welcome to attend. Our Parents Club will be holding a barbecue during the evening selling sausages and drinks to our families. I look forward to seeing you all there.

**PARENT HELPERS/VOLUNTEERS**
At Pinewood Primary School we highly value the volunteer help received from parents/guardians. This assists staff to run quality classroom and excursion programs. In 2016, all volunteer helpers will require a ‘Working with Children Check’ (a state-wide requirement in Victorian schools).
Visit http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/index.html to apply online for the free check. An application summary, proof of identification and a passport quality photo will then need to be lodged at an Australia Post outlet. You will be issued with a receipt which you can use as proof of having applied for a check until you receive your ‘Working with Children Check’ card in the mail. Please bring the receipt and then the card to the office so that copies can be made for our records. Please note that checks are valid for five years before requiring renewal.

REMINDER - School Council Nominations
School Council nomination forms must be lodged at the office by 4.00pm on Friday 26th February.

REMINDER - Student Accident and Private Property Insurance
The Department of Education and Training (DET) and government schools do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. The Department of Education and Training also does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Students are advised not to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Principal’s Corner
Every few weeks, I like to include an interesting article or information sheet about an aspect of child development and /or education. This week, I have attached a double page article to the newsletter titled ‘Coping Skills for Children’ by KidsMatter. This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter ‘Starting School’ information sheets for families. View them online at; www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool

As children grow and develop, all children encounter situations where they feel worried, nervous and sometimes even scared. Starting school involves a big change for your child as they settle into a new environment and begin forming relationships with peers and school staff.

Even if your child’s transition to school goes smoothly, it is likely that they will encounter some ups and downs throughout their primary school years. Helping your child to learn coping skills as they start school will allow them to develop and practise skills that will enable them to cope with future changes and challenges. This, in turn, will help to strengthen your child’s mental health and wellbeing now and into the future. The information sheets attached provide information for parents to help their children develop coping skills, manage strong emotions and promote helpful ways of thinking. I hope you find the attached information worthwhile.

Karen Jenkin
Principal

Uniform Opening Times are changing!

From this week, the uniform shop will be opening on THURSDAY and FRIDAY afternoons

Thursday, 3.15pm—3.45pm
Friday, 3.15pm—3.45pm
**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**Thomas J. 4C**
For actively participating in our YCDI discussion last week. Your ideas and comments were insightful. Well done!

**Anudi R. 1T**
For consistently completing every activity to a very high standard. Well done and keep up the great work.

**Tara M. 4M**
For working independently and remaining focused during Math’s. Keep up the great work!

**Yathvin Y. 5K**
For settling in so well at Pinewood by making a wonderful effort to get to know the other students and for your exemplary behaviour. Well done!

**Himmath M. 1A**
For consistently showing good listening skills and using his manners. Well done and keep it up!

**Belinda F. 1H**
For being a responsible class member who shows initiative. Well done Belinda!

**Zach M. 6H**
For being a strong contributor to class discussions. Your effort and enthusiasm supports the learning of others.

**Thomas S. 5D**
For demonstrating a positive attitude towards classroom learning. Keep up the wonderful effort.

**Nishitha K. 2G**
For being kind and respectful to others by always using her manners.

**Zain A. 3K**
For being a kind and caring friend to all of your 3K classmates. Well done Zain.

**Nathan D. 2R**
For settling in quickly to classroom activities and always working diligently. Keep up the excellent work!

**Aryan K. 2M**
For working hard to complete all tasks to a high level. Well done!

Shin Yi P. 4H
For consistently being a responsible learner and making good decisions throughout the day. Keep up the great work.

**James F. 3B**
For making an extraordinary effort to learn and abide by the rules and routines of Year Three.

**Rosie T. 6D**
For the great effort she puts into her roles as Library captain and Kid’s Club monitor. Fantastic work Rosie, Keep it up!

**Grace J. 6U**
For putting extra effort into her homework and for being organised. Keep it up, Grace!

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**School Banking day is TUESDAY**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE 40kph SPEED LIMIT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL**
CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

CLOSING DATE
26th February, 2016

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

OSHC

Parents, please be advised that if you didn’t return the attendance form last year for 2016 you will be on our waiting list.
April Vacation forms will be available this week from the office and hall. Forms are due back by Friday, 18th March.

PARENTS COMMITTEE 2016
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, 14th MARCH 2016- 7pm

The Parents Club Parents Committee Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 15th February 2016 at 7pm at Pinewood School.

Any Parent and/or Carer with a student currently at Pinewood is welcome to attend and we would like to invite new Parents to come onto the Committee either to hold a position or as a general member and help us continue to raise funds for the school.

If you would like to come along to the AGM please email:-

President – Mick Daly mickd0868@yahoo.com.au (Grade 6)
Committee Secretary – Jules Berry julesmberry@hotmail.com (Grade 3)

1. APPOINTMENT & CONFIRMATION OF POSTS FOR 2016 COMMITTEE
2. 2015 ANNUAL & FINANCIAL REPORTS – President (MD) & Treasurer (KN)
3. GENERAL BUSINESS

Followed by:-

1st MEETING OF THE 2016 PINEWOOD PARENTS COMMITTEE - 7:45pm

EAL

WANTED for our EAL program

Men’s old trousers with braces or overalls, straw hat & men’s gumboots for our life sized scarecrow.
If you have any of these items (old and grubby is perfect!) could you please see Mel Pryce.

Thank you
Hot off the Press from the Parents Committee AGM and meeting held on Monday night, here is our exciting Calendar of Events for Pinewood School students in 2016 - Save the Dates!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 1
Twilight Sports Barbeque – Thursday 10th March
Harmony Day Parents Cooking Demonstrations – Tuesday 19th April
Easter Chocolate Hamper Raffle

TERM 2
Mother’s Day Stall – Friday 6th May
School Disco – May (TBA)
Pop Corn Day – Wednesday 15th June
Cookie Dough Fundraiser

TERM 3
Pizza Day – Tuesday 19th July
Trivia Night – Term 2/3 (TBA)
Footy Hotdog Day – Thursday 15th September
Father’s Day Stall – Friday 2nd September

TERM 4
Fancy Dress Disco – Friday 14th October
World Teachers Day Lunch – Oct/Nov (TBA)
Bunnings Barbeque – Sun 5th November
State Election Barbeque – Date TBA
Zooper Dooper Day – Wednesday 9th December
End of Year Concert Barbeque – December TBC
Christmas Luxury Hamper Raffle

A separate notice will be sent home soon asking for Parent’s help at our fundraising events – we really can’t do it without you!

2016 COMMITTEE
President: Mick Daly (Yr.6 parent) Vice President: Lisa Strong (4)
Secretary: Jules Berry (3) Treasurer: Lucy Adams (2)
Assistant Treasurer & Secretary: Koula Giannakis (1)
Members: Sue Bleeker (5), Kellie Ellis (3), Kathryn Nichols (6) and Scott Williams (3)

New members are always welcome and our next meeting is on Monday 7th March at 7.30pm so please feel free to come along if you are interested in finding out more.

Parents Club Contact Details:
Mick Daly 0431 130 131 mickd0868@yahoo.com.au
Lisa Strong 0413 015 143 sunnymountain1@yahoo.com.au
Top Hit Tennis (Glen Waverley Tennis Club)
Over the past 2 weeks, students in Grades Prep – 4 have enjoyed participating in tennis lessons, run by coaches from the Glen Waverley Tennis Club. A huge thank you goes out to Chris Logan, the head coach of the club, as well as his assistant coaches Jayme, Samantha and Kasun, for their excellent coaching. The feedback from students has been very positive and has led to many joining the club for more intensive lessons. If your child is interested in playing tennis competitively or partaking in lessons then please contact Chris for more information.

District Swimming Trials
Yesterday a small group of students competed at the District Swimming Trials. The standard of competition was very high and all students swam to the best of their abilities. Congratulations to Shin Yi, Patrick and Jarrah, who were all successful in making it through to the Division finals. Thank you very much to Pene Johnston for volunteering to time keep. Thank you also to the parents who came along to support the students.

School Sport Victoria State Team Trials
The registration process for state trials for AFL, netball, basketball and soccer is open for this year. If your child is turning 11 or 12 this year and excels in one of these sports then please come and speak to me for more details about the registration process.

Keep track of everything sport related happening within our district, including fixtures and dates of upcoming events: http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=1-4186-0-0-0&assoc=4186

CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2016
We are looking for parents who would be interested in being a class representative for their child’s class this year.

Prep D -
Prep H -
Prep L -
Prep M - Charmaine Wickremasinghe
Prep P -
Prep R -
1A -
1H -
1JK -
1T -
2G -
2M -
2R -
3B -
3K -
4C - Lisa Strong
4H - Charmaine Wickremasinghe
4M -
4R -
5D -
5K -
6D - Cindy Lowe
6H -
6U -