**Dear Parents,**

**YEAR 3 & 4 CAMP**
Next Monday morning, our Year Three and Four students will be setting off on their three day, two night adventure camp to ‘Forest Edge’, Neerim South. The student’s will be participating in a range of activities such as the Flying Fox and Low Ropes course which are designed to build their self-confidence. Other activities, such as the Initiative Games and Team Challenge build a sense of comradery. Camp is a great way to reinforce “You Can Do It”, especially the Getting Along, Resilience, Confidence and Persistence components of the program. On the Monday night, the students will be able to dress up and let their hair down at a Disco. A tired group of students will return on Wednesday afternoon looking forward to an early night and maybe a bit of a sleep-in on Thursday.

**PARENTS CLUB EVENTS - STUDENT DISCO and TRIVIA NIGHT**
The Parents Club will be hosting the first of two events tomorrow - a student disco evening. The second event is the ‘Trivia Night’ to be held in the school hall next Saturday, 22nd October. The ‘Trivia Night’ is a great opportunity for the parent community to get together and have some fun. All money raised will go towards our ‘shade sail’ project.

**2017 STAFF and CLASS PLANNING**
Over the next few weeks we will be working on the 2017 class structure and student placement. The process is a complex one. Firstly we identify our estimated enrolment and then look at the numbers in each year level to develop a class structure; thus the importance of timely information from parents.

We are planning for 5 Prep classes, 6 Year 1s, 4 Year 2s, 3 Year 3s, 3 Year 4s, 3 Year 5s and 2 Year 6s in 2017. This means that we will have a total of 26 classes which is three more than we have this year.

We are enforcing our school neighbourhood restriction zone to manage our enrolment numbers, level of staffing and our quality curriculum programs.

Teachers work in their teams to develop preliminary class lists. Teachers consider a number of factors when developing these lists; including academic ability, special skills and talents, social competencies, gender, students who work well together and those who may not work well together. Skills needed for ‘building new relationships’ is an important part of our educative process, so please note that friendship groupings are considered only for unique needs.

Parent input, based on student learning needs, is also considered. Parents who have specific concerns about their child’s unique learning needs for 2017 are invited to provide written information to me (not the class teacher) by 4.00pm Friday, 28th October.

Please note that we are not able to consider information received after this date as once class lists are made up it is really difficult, if not impossible, to change.

Parents often place requests for teachers. Please be aware that this facility is not available for a number of reasons. For instance, teachers may leave the
Teach kids to problem solve
By Michael Grose

When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach them to be afraid of making mistakes. That’s fertile ground for anxiousness and perfectionism, which often go hand in hand. Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve.

Of course, if you keep solving them, they’ll keep bringing them. “Mum, my sister is annoying me?” “Dad, can you ask my teacher to pick me for the team?” “Hey, I can’t find my socks!”

It’s tempting if you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out. Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cuing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns. “What can you do to make her stop annoying you?” “What’s the best approach to take with your teacher?” “Socks, smocks! Where might they be?”

Here are 5 questions you can ask kids to encourage them to resolve their own problems:

1. **“Can you solve this yourself?”**
   Get kids thinking they can do it.

2. **“What do you think needs to happen?”**
   Start kids thinking about solving problems.

3. **“What’s the first step?”**
   Sometimes just getting kids started is enough to get them working out issues themselves.

4. **“How would you like me to help?”**
   Get kids considering the type of assistance they need.

5. **“What’s the best way to do this?”**
   Get kids assessing and prioritising.

Problem-solving is one of the four major skills (optimism, social skills & independence being the others) that resilient kids share, yet it’s the one that many of us aren’t equipped to develop. Start by stepping back and asking good questions when kids bring you their problems to solve.

Karen Jenkin
Principal
OHSC

The Out of Hours Program will not open on Curriculum Day, Monday, 31st October.

TERM DATES 2016

**Term 4**
Monday, 3rd October – **Tuesday, 20th December 2016**

TERM DATES 2017

**Term 1**
Years 1-6  Tuesday, 31st January—Friday, 31st March 2017
**Preps**  Thursday, 2nd February—Friday, 31st March 2017

**Term 2**
Monday, 18th April – Friday, 30th June 2017

**Term 3**
Monday, 17th July – Friday, 22nd September 2017

**Term 4**
Monday, 9th October – Friday, 22nd December 2017

LOST PROPERTY

At the moment there seems to be a huge amount of unlabelled clothing in the lost property tub. Please ensure you write your child's name on their clothing.

If your child is missing any item of clothing, could you please have a look in the Lost property tub ASAP.

Thank you

RESPECT     SELF CONFIDENCE     INTEGRITY     RESPONSIBILITY    OPTIMISM

UNIFORM SHOP REMINDER

A reminder that uniform can no longer be purchased from the school. Pinewood uniforms are now available from

PSW
288-290 Stephensons Rd
Mount Waverley
Phone: 9768 0335
Welcome back to our final term of the year!

Next Friday we have our Whole School FANCY DRESS Disco which the students love! Entry tickets are $5 per student and notices went home earlier this week with ticket requests/money DUE IN NEXT MONDAY. Spare forms are available from the School Office. Tickets can also be purchased at the disco but will be $8 per child. Don’t forget only Registered Parent Helpers can remain at the disco. Please email Lisa Strong at sunnymountain1@yahoo.com.au if you would like to help.

Our bi-annual Trivia Night is being held on Saturday 22 October (7pm for a 7:30pm start). This event is a great opportunity for the parent community to get together socially and also raise funds that will contribute to our ‘Shade Sail’ fund.

A notice went home earlier this week asking those who are able, to support this event by donating their time, goods or services for prizes and silent auction items to help make the night a success. You may also know a family member, friend or corporation/company that may be willing to help.

Examples of support could include –
- Haircuts, manicures, massages or vouchers
- Services such as electrical services, plumbing or mechanical work
- Electrical goods and appliances

All donations will be gratefully received and it is a good opportunity to promote your business in the local community. All businesses that support our event will be advertised through the school newsletter and displayed on the night. Donations can be left at the office or you can contact Mr. Mallett on 8847 3200. Tickets for the Trivia Night will be on sale shortly.

We can’t wait to see the students in their fancy dress costumes or best creations at the Disco next Friday, and look forward to seeing you at the Trivia Night in a couple of weeks!

Pinewood Parents Club Committee

Save the Date – Term 4 Events!

FANCY DRESS - NEXT FRIDAY
- 14 Oct
FOR $5 TICKETS – ORDER BY 4PM MONDAY

TRIVIA NIGHT
Saturday 22 October

ZOOPER DOOPER DAY
Wednesday 9 November

BUNNINGS SIZZLE - Saturday 3rd December
A fantastic opportunity for us to raise vital funds for the School. If you can help out for a couple of hours please email Lisa Strong at sunnymountain1@yahoo.com.au – Thank You!

END OF YEAR BARBEQUE & HAMPER RAFFLE
Parents Club will be running a Raffle with Christmas Hampers for each Grade to be won at the End of Year Concert. Details next month!