Welcome back.

I hope everyone had a great holiday. On our first day back it was great to look around and see all of our students looking smart in their new school uniforms and terrific to see our four new preppies getting in to their stride by the end of the day.

Join me in welcoming back our smiling staff for another great year in 2017. We are especially pleased to see the return of Paul Maddern who returns to us after a stint in the Northern Territory.

Over the next weeks your children can expect to have a number of Maths and English assessments. Because of this rigorous testing regime, we expect that parent support group meetings will start a little later this term.

We hope that every, especially our new prep families, will find the time to join us for a family fun day at Rokewood Lagoon. A letter has gone home with the details. It will be a fun day with ball games, swimming and similar activities. It will be a great opportunity to have informal chat with old friends and new teachers. When you drive to the lagoon please don’t forget to bring your own food. Unless we have inclement weather we expect the day to begin at about 10.00am. Let us know if you wish to attend but have difficulties getting to the venue.

In term one we expect all children to wear a broad brimmed or bucket sun hat at break and lunch time or they will have to play in the shade. We encourage children to wear sun screen and it is available each day so that children can apply it when they are here.

I am also reminding parents and informing parents new to the school that children have the opportunity to buy a meal from our local milk bar every Friday. Whilst an order form will be made available each week, parents should not feel under any obligation to be involved with this service.

Term one is always a busy term: there will be sport, swimming, the Grade 5 and 6 Melbourne Camp, a Science excursion and more, to keep everyone busy. Despite that, if you would like to pop in and say hello or if you have any concerns about your children I hope you will take the time to come in and visit us.

Parenting: making the school home partnership work.

We are a small school and much like every Australian family our children have to learn how to get along with each other. As with most families, individuals can fall out with each other from time to time. Parents will be aware that we use a variety of strategies to guide students through these times, including using the resources of counsellors and psychologists. At the end of the process we want our students to have the skills to be able to stand on their own two feet.

Our processes rely one hundred percent on our students knowing that there are always consequencen for their actions, and that if they do the wrong thing they know that there will be a consequence.

Whilst our processes work at school, once students leave and go home, they can often be subject to a different set of expectations and consequences. Parents love their children and do what they can to help their child, but conflicting rules and consequences between home and school can make it difficult for a child to negotiate their way successfully through their school life.

To this end we are introducing some parenting ideas from Michael Grose. Michael is an author of nine parenting books, parenting educator to over 1500 Australian schools and the first person to conduct a parent seminar in Parliament House Canberra. This week the article is about resilience. The articles are designed to give parents food for thought.

Free breakfasts.

Parents will be aware that our school provides a full breakfast every day of the week. Last year the following options were available: Vita Brits and milk, tinned fruit, porridge, baked beans, margarine, toast, and scrambled egg. Over time we can see that toast and scrambled eggs are firm favourites, but porridge and Vita Brits are not. We intend removing these last two items from the menu in the future. Please let us know if you have other suggestions for how we can ensure students get a daily healthy breakfast at school..
Brought to school at Owner’s Risk.
I am reminding parents, guardians and staff that the Education Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
An email from the Department this year states, “Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage”.
This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. I am reminding parents and students to think twice before bringing valuable items or items of personal value to school. As you can see, they will not be covered by insurance at our school.

Student accident insurance arrangements.
I am reminding parents, guardians and staff that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.
An email from the Department makes this point, “It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to look into their preferred options in this regard. The Department cannot provide advice to parents or guardians on the purchase of individual student accident policy or ambulance cover”.

Responsible use of computers agreement.
Our School Council has approved a process by which our senior students in Mr Maddern’s classroom will sign an agreement where they undertake to use their computers responsibly.
Whilst this is a formality, and last year all of our children behaved excellently, this does create an important opportunity for parents to talk to their children about how to be safe on the internet and what to do if unwanted incidents such as cyber bullying do occur.

Grade 5 and 6 Urban Camp at Royal Park.
The combined Colac P.S./ Beeac P.S. camp to Melbourne will run from Wednesday the 22nd to Friday 24th February, which is week four of Term one 2017. The camp will run over three days.
Students will be staying at the Urban Camp at Royal Park, Parkville and a number of exciting events have already been booked.
Mr Maddern and a parent will be in charge of the excursion. Final costs have still not been completed.
Families with access to the Camps and Excursion Fund (CSEF) will be able to use this towards the cost of the camp. If cost is a concern please contact me at school so other arrangements can be made. We are most keen for all of our students to attend.
Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a full page calendar describing the various events that the students will participate in, and a CSEF application form.

Preps and Wednesdays.
This is just a quick reminder to prep families that we expect their child to stay at home on Wednesdays until the end of February whilst they get used to the pace of being at school full time. Of course we hope to see you next Wednesday at Rokewood Lagoon.

Updating student information.
Accompanying this newsletter is a record of your child’s personal details. Could I ask you please to carefully review the information, update it where relevant, and return it as soon as possible. Even if there have been no changes in the details, please return the form so that we can confirm that our details are accurate.
Welcome to our new students.

When visiting Miss Wishart’s class you might see a number of new students in the room. Please say hello to Lachlan Beani, Ricki Burnett, Jack Clarke and Phoenix Carol. All the students, including the Grades one and two students, are beginning work on a theme about locations around Australia.

Work day changes for this year.

Mrs Blake (business manager) will be at school each Tuesday 9.00am to 4.30pm and Thursday 9.00am to 4.30pm

Mr Maddern (3-6 teacher): full time.

Mrs Cherry (integration aide): full time.

Mr Soalla-Bell (computer technician) every Wednesday afternoon

Miss Wishart (P-2 teacher) full time.

Madison Plier (integration aide): every day until 2.00pm

Council elections: three vacancies.

Beeac Primary School depends strongly on its parent volunteers. Our School Council, especially, fulfil a most important role in many areas including establishing the broad direction and vision of the school, monitoring expenditure, raising funds and creating interest in the school in the wider community.

In 2016 our Council parent members were: Wendy Aisbett, Kim Barwise, Mark Bayne, Paul Kerr Caroline MCEwan and Glenn Searle who replaced Philip Hebblethwaite. Each councillor holds their position for two years. Three of these councillors have reached their two year limit and so these positions have now become vacant. If you are interested in becoming more closely involved with our school please consider nominating yourself for our school council. Talk with myself, Andrew Rogers, or one of last year’s Council members, about how you can begin the process.

Code Red Alert and school closure.

Unlike other local schools such as Birregurra PS or Alvie Consolidated School, our school is on the Bushfire at risk register. (see http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/bushfirerisk.aspx?Redirect=1 or Google code red alert schools Victoria). This means that our school will be shut if a code red alert for our Region is announced. If a code red alert is announced for our Region it will be widely publicised in the media. It is probable, but not certain, that there will be two or three days notice of this intention. Once declared, even if the weather cools, the code red alert will not be reversed. On a code red alert day, both our school and the school bus will not operate.

In addition to media announcements we will inform parents as soon as we are informed.

Financial assistance: camps, sports and excursions fund (CSEF).

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students and $225 for eligible secondary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

Parents or guardians should complete a CSEF application form enclosed with this newsletter, and lodge it with our Business Manager for processing. Printed copies of the form are also available at school.

We would like the application forms completed and lodged with us by 28th February 2017, as payments are made from March.

If you would like more information about eligibility or assistance with filling in the form, there is additional information at our school and more information on the website www.education.vic.gov.au/csef..
Term 1 Swimming Program.
Our school will be running a weekly program at the Bluewater Swimming Centre starting-Monday the sixth of February from 1.15pm to 2.15pm, and running for five weeks. The program is subsidised by the Parents and Friends Association. The balance of the cost will be again be $25 and I remind parents that each child will need to bring swimming gear and a towel.

Piano lessons in 2017: Monday school visit
David Stewart has been teaching piano in the Colac Otway Shire for in excess of 20 years. He presently teaches the piano at Alvie, Sacred Heart and St Marys Primary School. On Monday he came in to talk to our five interested students about what will be happening this year. The Council have agreed to subsidise the tuition fees so that the cost will be just $14 per lesson for the year. We would love to hear from other students who might be considering taking up the opportunity, it’s an opportunity not to be missed. But the lessons will be starting now, so please tell us now if you are interested.

Portsea Camp: with a little help from Beeac PS
With a little bit of help from the RSL Club and our school, Brigette Fergus and Leylah Scott spent a very pleasant time at Portsea Camp this summer. The camp which was held in January for seven days saw Brigette and Leylah involved in a variety of different activities. These included a giant swing, a disco, a concert, time on the beach, ice cream, and table games. The girls both say that they had a great time and met some really nice kids. Would they do it all again? Definitely.

The Corangamite School Medal.
Late last year Sarah Henderson paid our school a visit and presented the Corangamite medal to Zac Barwise for his outstanding efforts in our school and the local community. The medal is for a number of reasons including a high standard both in attitude and achievement. Belated congratulations to Zac for being successful. This was the second year that our school has nominated students: Hayden Beswicke was the previous year’s winner. We look forward to seeing who our 2017 winner might be.

Sporting Schools.
This term two Sporting Schools activities will run through the school day again. The organisation has not asked for any formal permission for their coaches, so they will be run like normal P.E. Lessons. At least one qualified teacher will be present during class instruction. Jen Bush will again be preparing our students for Polwarth Sports day. The date for that has not been set yet, but it is expected to be in early March. The other sporting Schools activity will be tennis, and this will be coached by Jason Murnane.
How parents can teach their children the four basic skill sets of resilience: independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection

Some kids are resilient by nature – their temperament helps them to be mentally and psychologically tough. You know those kids. They get straight back up after a setback or disappointment. Rejection in the playground doesn’t faze them. Unfortunately, not every child has such natural resilience.

The good news is that most of the research shows that resilience can be nurtured and developed, particularly when parents themselves are resilient and they actively foster it in their kids.

Resilient kids share four basic skill sets: independence, problem-solving, optimism and social connection.

Building resilience – tips for parents

From a resilience perspective parents need to coach kids through some of their more challenging moments and reviewing what they may have learned for next time. Avoid solving all their problems for them.

You can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your kids by:

Having a positive attitude yourself. Your attitude as a parent impacts on their ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a ‘you can do it’ attitude for your child when he meets some of life’s curve balls.

Look for teachable moments. Many kids’ learning opportunities are disguised as problems. Make the most of these opportunities so that kids can grow and learn from some of the challenges they face. Make kids active participants in the family. Active participation in a family develops the self-help, problem-solving and independence skills of kids that are necessary for resilience.

Build kids coping skills. There are plenty of strategies you can pass on to kids to help them cope when life doesn’t go their way, including acceptance, getting away for awhile, and normalisation.

Promoting resilience in kids is not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic when things don’t go their way. It also requires you as a parent to have an understanding of resilience, so you have faith in your own self and your child’s ability to cope.

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CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb_ State Postcode_

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

Foster parent* OR Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant ___________________________ Date ___________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Camp</th>
<th>BREAKFAST</th>
<th>LUNCH</th>
<th>DINNER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY ONE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duty Group 7:15 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Melbourne Zoo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parliament Tour 2 groups</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast 7:30 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff to meet you with lunches at:</strong></td>
<td><strong>3:00 pm (44 students)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22nd February</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4:00 pm (22 students)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAY TWO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Chinese Meal Out</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mao Please Restaurant 5:30 pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23rd February</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Melbourne Star 7:30 pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DAY THREE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast 7:00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group One Melbourne Aquarium 10:00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deport Melbourne by bus 3:00 pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Queen Victoria Market time permitting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Group Two Immigration Museum Passport Program 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24th February</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Melbourne Museum Passport Program 10:00 am</strong></td>
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</table>
Carol singing at Safeways Colac, Beeac Community Centre and the play park in Beeac