From The Principal’s Desk

We had a terrific night at the Grade 6 Graduation on Friday which followed a slightly different format to previous years with each student delivering a speech about their school years and their families. Miss McLaren had told them that “it isn’t a good speech unless you make someone cry”. Consequently there were many tears shed from students and others on the night, whilst also being a celebration of their achievements. A huge congratulations goes to Miss McLaren and her parent helpers who put together a Graduation evening that all of the Grade 6’s will remember, particularly some of the heartfelt speeches that were delivered, and the Hummer ride afterwards.

Congratulations too, to Summer and Caite on their citizenship awards, presented by Tony Knox from Wandin Rotary – both extremely well deserved.

Well done to the Grade 6’s too, on their efforts on Leadership Day. Whilst we had to squeeze it in between lots of other things I think they learned much about what it is to be a teacher, or in Tyler’s case, a Principal (indeed he was so good he could have replaced me next year!).

The Grade Structure for 2016 went home yesterday with reports. Unfortunately given the number of people needing to have input, and the change from my original expectations, it has been much delayed. As promised, now you have the structure, I can advise that the following teachers will be taking the classes below in 2016 (rooms to be negotiated):

5/6 - Mrs Morrow (full time)
4/5 - Mrs Bailey
2/3 - Miss Hobbs
1/2 - Mrs Scattergood/Mrs Butler
Prep - Mrs Monks

Specialist programs for next year are yet to be finalised, and are in Ms Branch’s hands at this moment.

Unfortunately the delays have meant teachers have not had much time to prepare to move classrooms, so we will have to do our best over the next few days. If you can spare an hour or two (on Thursday mostly) please let us know. I am also prepared to suitably reward any teenage siblings who may be able to give us the day on Thursday. Class lists will now be finalised and displayed on Friday.

Our search for an OOSH co-ordinator to date has been fruitless, despite speaking with someone who looked likely to take on the role, but has since declined. Denise has offered to stay on for the first four weeks of term 1, until she moves to her new lodgings, whilst we continue to search for appropriate candidates.

The end of the year is always a time for goodbyes. So here goes…… The grade 6’s – I meant what I said on Friday evening; they have led the school particularly well and have grown into their leadership roles wonderfully, especially our School Captains and Vice Captains. I wish them every success in the future. Those who are moving away from Coldstream, and on to new schools – may the transition be a smooth one. To Miss McLaren – what a wonderful addition to our school you have been, Your remarkable ability to not only create a rapport with your class that has been exciting to see, but your willingness to take on every challenge and the tremendous workload that having the grade 5/6 at Coldstream presents has been appreciated by many but probably most of all, by me. To Miss Carter – nine years ago we gave you the chance through the Youth Employment Scheme, to work in a school. You left, you came back and now you are proudly a qualified teacher. The amount of responsibility you have taken on since your return has meant you have been virtually an Assistant Principal, yet being paid much less. Your commitment to, passion for, and effect on, our school is undeniable. Your support for parents and students and staff in your roles has been nothing short of magnificent and many of us owe you a great debt of gratitude. You will be a wonderful teacher, and Billanook Primary School will soon find out how lucky they are. Emelie Copp- really only known to Before School Care attendees, Emelie is a quiet achiever.
who has been a lovely addition to our staff. A lack of a good childcare option for next year means she has handed in her resignation, and we sincerely wish her well for next year and beyond. Lastly, I just want to thank Denise McNamara. Denise has taken our OOSH program and turned it into a varied, interesting and engaging one, in a time of increasing and ever-changing regulation. Each week she works far more hours than she is paid for, and is committed to, and is a wonderful advocate for, our school and this community. Even though she will be staying on for a few extra weeks, I want to wish her a wonderful retirement whilst I can. I will miss our nightly catch-ups.

In the last couple of weeks I have started to realise how much I will miss this place next year. I will miss these kids – some of them may keep us busier than others but the achievements of all over time have been joy to see. I will miss the staff. They have been a wonderfully supportive team – and we have had lots of fun (and supported each other in some difficult situations) over time. I will miss this community – it has much to offer but to achieve its full potential it will need to be supportive of itself, of all of those within it and its institutions (such as sporting clubs, the kinder and the school). It will also need to lobby further for such things as childcare facilities, better public transport and greater community engagement. I guess there are some things I won’t miss, but this is not the time or place for that.

I have been truly privileged to be the Principal of Coldstream Primary School and I am proud of what has been achieved in my 14 years here. In that time, despite declining enrolments, we have, for example, introduced Chaplaincy, OOSH, school productions, additional camps, Booklists, Excursion Levy and added a range of programs designed to improve leadership skills. We have celebrated anniversaries, supported the community and countless families with grief and loss issues, and provided financial assistance and grants to support individual students with additional needs. I have made many friends in that time (and a few enemies!), and I have continued to learn much about myself and this community.

There are many people to thank before I ride off into the sunset (for 2016 at least). The Parent Club – a small band of people, under the leadership of Sue Rogers, who work incredibly hard to raise funds for our school every year. Their contribution always helps us to provide much more than we would be able to from Government funding. The School Council, and especially those who have worked hard on sub-committees over time – who have supported everything I have wanted to do in my tenure. The staff – I don’t think anyone will ever know how fortunate we have been to have such a terrific group of staff, year in and year out, who are absolutely committed to doing everything in their power to assist our students to achieve success. Indeed in the last two years we have had a number of people work with us on a casual basis, who had worked in other schools. They leave with the utmost admiration for our school and the staff within it for exactly that reason, and are often our most vocal advocates. It is hard to single out individuals as we have always worked as a team, despite the inherent challenges all schools present, particularly in the principal/teacher relationship, so I won’t do that here, much and all as I would like to. Indeed one of my mantras has been that our students are the sum total of all of our efforts over the length of their school careers. We know there are many things that can affect a child’s progress – other than they all have peaks and troughs in their development - rarely is it a straight line – but some take much longer than others to develop understandings and internalise values, some have medical reasons or disabilities (many of which are not easily seen-ASD for example) but virtually all get there in the end. The general feedback we get from Secondary schools is that our students come well prepared for that stage of their educational career –that is the result of, and the reward for, the work we put in to the seven year Primary School journey.

So as I sign off on my last newsletter for a long while, I wish every family and every community member the best for a wonderful 2016. I will think of you as I adapt to my new role as “house husband”.

Have a gorgeous Christmas.

Miss me!
Peter Donaldson
PRINCIPAL
School Captain’s Report
Hello everyone,
This is Megan and Sam; we are disappointed to say that this is our last School Captains’ report. On Friday we had our grade 6 graduation. It was a great way to say goodbye to our lovely classmates, we are going to miss all the wonderful staff and all students at CPS. We would never have this great way to talk to you if it wasn’t for the lovely Mrs Orchard. As Mr. D is taking a 1 year long service leave we are so grateful to have you as a principal on our journey through primary school. As school and vice-captains we are so grateful to have this opportunity to run assemblies and go to events we wouldn’t be able to attend if we didn’t achieve this role. We would highly recommend to all students to do your best at all times and maybe one day you will be given the same opportunities we have achieved. We will miss everyone hope you have a great Christmas holidays and remember to put your best foot forward and give it your best next year.

Megan and Sam

Parent Club News
Hi everyone and thank you in making 2015 as Parent Club President a wonderful and successful year. We raised about $13,000 for a wonderful school.
I would like to take the time to thank some wonderful friends/helpers for all their effort and hard work this year.
To Kelly Borg (Vice President) for her help and being there to help and encourage me.
To Tess Smith (Treasurer) thank you also for your help and encouragement.
To Tina Garlick (Secretary) for keeping everything up to date and producing our notices throughout the year. Great first year back.
To Kylie Gottsche (Donations) without Kylie asking for all the great gifts we received we wouldn’t have raffles etc., so great job.
To all the other committee members thank you for all your hard work and commitment to parent club. Without you guys there wouldn’t be a parent club.
A special thanks to Deb (a great friend of Tina’s and me) for giving up her time for the CFA BBQ.
Next I would like to thank Mr D; he comes to all our meetings and has been a great support to me this year. Thanks for being patient with me. Best of luck to Mr D for next year, we hope you have a great year off.
To Janet thank you for your support and help throughout the year.
To the teachers and Support Staff of Coldstream Primary School, we would like to thank you for doing a wonderful job with our kids. We are so lucky to have you guys.
To all the parents/grandparents that give up their time to come and help at our sausage sizzles and many other activities we have throughout the year. We couldn’t do this if it was for your help.
So thank you so much to everyone. Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year. See you all in 2016.
Sue Rogers
Parent Club President
Story Time at C.P.S.
Our recent visitors to Story Time enjoyed a photo under the Christmas tree.
Thank you Miss Sarah & Miss Von

OOSH Happenings
Wow how fast can a year go! ..... 
As we have been unsuccessful in finding my replacement, I will be returning to OOSH for the beginning of Term 1 2016.
Firstly I would like to thank all our wonderful families for their kind donations and continued support of our OOSH program throughout this year.
Sadly, Emilie will be leaving us this week; we wish her and her family all the best for the future. She has been wonderful to work with and we will all miss her.
This term the OOSH program went through accreditation and rating process, we are eagerly awaiting our results. There will be some changes in the OOSH program in 2016, but all will be well and together we will move forward.

Please ensure your account is paid in full this week to enable us to hold your placement for 2016. So on that note we wish you a very Merry Christmas and an awesome New Year, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 1.

Denise, Leanne, Barb, Emilie and Scott.

Last Day for Book Pick up this year is Thursday 17/12/15
You may choose to pick up next year on the 27/1/16 Between 9.00-12.00
Thanks Buddies

The relationship between the Prep child and their Buddy is a very special one. The buddy helps the prep child to settle into the school & the friendship that develops between them is one that is never forgotten. I thank the buddies for making my job that little bit easier & I appreciate all that they have done this year.

Mrs Monks
Hello everyone this is Caite, Summer and Rachel from 5/6M and we are here to tell you why you shouldn’t smoke. There are heaps of different reasons why you shouldn’t smoke. The first reason that we are talking about is because you can kill yourself. The second reason is because you can harm other creatures and the last reason is because you can get really sick. Let’s start with one.

Smoking is disgusting, grotty and a waste of your money. I once had a friend and she started smoking when she was 10. She died when she was 16 because her body couldn’t handle all of the drugs at such a young age. Why would you ever take up smoking if you know that you can die?! It is horrible and I can’t believe that she only had 16 years of her life and 6 of them were horrible.

Cigarettes are filled with chemicals; at least 40,000 chemicals are in them. I was walking down the beach and I could see heaps of rubbish. I didn’t know what to do. Then I saw a little sea turtle. It looked like it had just hatched. I was scared because I thought that it might eat the cigarette butts. I didn’t know what to do so I quickly started picking them up. Luckily the turtle didn’t eat the cigarettes and it got to the water safely. See what could happen if you smoke and leave cigarette butts everywhere. That turtle could have only had a few minutes of life.

If you smoke it will leave you with bad breath and your teeth will discolor. If you smoke you will also get sick a lot easier. The reason why you get sick easier is because a cigarette is made up of different chemicals. One of the chemicals is tar. When you inhale the tar it goes down your throat. Inside your throat are tiny hairs. The hairs are there so that when you breathe in dust that is filled with germs the hairs stop it so that only clean air will go in your lungs. But when you breathe in tar it burns the hairs inside your throat which means when you breathe in air full of germs you have more of a chance of getting sick. There are also other chemicals that kill your white blood cell. Your white blood cells are there for germs that do get into your body. Sometimes there are germs that are really bad and your body can’t fight them off so you get cancer. Because your body can’t help at all, the only thing that can help is medicine and unfortunately sometimes the medicine isn’t enough and you pass away.

These are all the reasons why you shouldn’t smoke. You’re not just killing yourself but you’re killing other people too. Remember the three reasons why you shouldn’t smoke. You’re making yourself sick, you’re killing other people and creatures and you’re also killing yourself. I hope you don’t start smoking and if you do smoke be careful where you smoke.

Yours sincerely, Caite, Summer and Rachel.
4/5SB 2015 Highlights

I liked going to camp Coolamatong. I met Boss the giant bull. **Blake**
I really enjoyed gymnastics, camp and coming to this new school. **Jai**
I liked going to camp Coolamatong. I met Sam, Cam and Ryan who showed us how to go canoeing and rock climbing. **Jake**
This year I was excited about the shrine seeing all the poppy’s on the wall and seeing the internal flame that lights up day and night. **Jorja**

My 2015 highlight was when we started science because I got to have a lot of fun and I did a project. **Bethany**
I really liked camp Coolamatong because I loved breakfast and dinner. **Teagan**
I really liked when we were doing the science fair and I was shocked when I looked at my algae and won the fair. **Brad**
I really liked camp Coolamatong when we went on the biscuit. **Ryan K**
I really enjoyed science because we got to do very cool experiments like slime, bubbles, popcorn and balloons. Also I really liked camp very much because we got to go on the biscuit just in time before the strong wind. **Jessica**
I really enjoyed Camp Coolamatong because we got to go tubing and we got to do a bit of farming! **Callum**
The most awesome thing this year was at Camp Coolamatong doing tubing. **Tyler**
The most fun thing this year was going to camp Coolamatong doing raft building. **Shane**
This year I really liked camp Coolamatong. It was fun when we went tubing and other stuff. **Tanesha**

This year I really enjoyed doing science. We did slime and lots of other things like static electricity that were fun. **Taryn**
My favourite things this year were when we did gymnastics. **Jaime**
My favourite activity or excursion is when we went to Camp Coolamatong because I really liked tubing. **Ryan D**
I really enjoyed making new friends this year. **Shayla**
The best thing that I enjoyed this year was a sport that was rounders. **Nate**
The best thing that Happened is when we went to the shrine. **Noah**
This year I really loved the new science classes and extra science. **Shelby**
This year I really liked the race around Melbourne. My favourite things this year were the activities at Camp Coolamatong. **Callum**
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Merry Christmas from The Beach House