From The Principal’s Desk

As we hurl towards the end of the year, there is much to watch out for in the next eight days – Gymnastics, Grade 6 Graduation, and the hectic last week. Keep an eye on Tiqbiz and calendar updates to make sure you don’t miss out on anything.

The Grade 3 camp was a terrific experience with the weather (generally) being kind to us. The students (with Miss Hobbs, Miss Carter and I) shared some terrific experiences – the Melbourne Zoo, MSAC, The Crown fire towers, Myer Windows, Luna Park, Chinatown (including a meal), the Town Hall Christmas projections, Federation Square, Eureka Observation Deck, Etihad Stadium (including behind the scenes) and the Melbourne Star, along with the delights of public transport, and a busy city. We were exceptionally pleased with their general behaviour and interest in the activities. A great learning experience for all!

Last Friday, Ms Lisa Branch, who has been appointed to the school as Acting Principal for 2016, visited, touring the school and visiting classrooms, followed by a long discussion with me as to where things are at. Lisa, who is currently Principal of Toongabbie Primary School, in Gippsland, was appointed following a selection process whilst I was away on the 4/5/6 camp. She is very well credentialed and has some innovative ideas to move the school forward. Whilst it is unlikely that Lisa will be able to visit again before the end of the year, we will meet over the holidays for handover, before my leave officially begins on 21 January. In the meantime I have provided Lisa with an outline of what our expected enrolment, and therefore staffing budget, is likely to be in 2016 and she will make an assessment of the options for next year before we finalise these and release them to the community.

A small prep enrolment has meant we need to be very careful with our decision making to ensure we have all bases covered as well as we can. We are still working on having five smallish classes, although this does not leave much else to play with in terms of specialist and other roles, so creativity in organisation and budget will be required to be able to continue to provide the myriad of opportunities we currently do for our students. I hope to be able to update parents (and staff) on this by the end of the week.

For some time staff have known that the funding situation next year would be tight. Miss McLaren, in particular, being on a 12 month contract knew that, given how employment in state schools works, it was unlikely that there would be a position for her at Coldstream next year, and as such has gained a 12 month position at Anderson’s Creek Primary School for 2016. Miss Carter, too, since becoming qualified as a teacher was seeking a suitable full –time classroom role, which could not be guaranteed here and as such has successfully applied for a 12 month contract position, taking a grade 2 class at Billanook Primary School next year.

Coldstream Primary School’s
Value of the Week
INTEGRITY
Always act in an honest way and keep your word
### Uniform Shop
Uniform shop closes **TOMORROW** for stocktake. It will reopen on the 27th January 2016 from 9.00 until 12.00 noon. *Laura & Emily*

### Attendance Champions

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### School Books
Book Packs are now available to pick up between 9.00 and 3.30 each day until the 17th December.
No books can be handed over without the payment of fees for 2016.
If you wish to pick up and pay in the new year, it is possible on the 27th January between 9.00 and 12.00.

### LOST PROPERTY
**Look in the tub before it’s too late**

**Christmas Colours**

You may come to your class parties on Monday 14th of December dressed in Christmas colours to help celebrate.
Instead of a gold coin, please bring a non-perishable food donation to put under our tree in the office for a worthy charity as part of our “Care & Compassion” value.
We Love Harold and Life Ed

In the Life Ed Van I learned all new things and it was fun! Shaila
In the Life Ed Van I learnt about the human body including the heart. Kordell
In the Life Ed Van I learnt how the body works. Katie
In the Life Ed Van I learnt about body parts. Skye
I liked the videos in the Life Ed Van. Jeremy
I learnt about the human body in the Life Ed Van. Jace
I learnt that you should not SMOKE! Taj
In the Life Ed Van I learned that you should not pick up syringes. Cohen
In the Life Ed Van I learnt that you should not smoke. Courtney
In the Life Ed van I learned more stuff about the human body. Cindy
I liked it when Harold hit his head on the wall in the Life Ed van. Tyler
We learned about the human body. Mia
In the Life Ed van I learned that pee is urine. Nathan
I learned about my body in the Life Ed van. Shane
In the Life Ed van I learned about the human body and how the heart works. Michael
The Life Ed van was fantastic because of Harold. Kayla

Ambulance In Schools

Today the Ambulance lady showed me how to bandage a snakebite. Dakota
When the Ambulance In Schools came to our school I learnt all about the dangers that are everywhere around the house. Jordan
During the Ambulance in Schools I had fun bandaging up Skyla. Taylah Mae
From The Principal’s Desk (cont.)

Whilst the school will miss both of these wonderful people, it is fortunate to still have a very experienced and capable staff to carry on this school’s great work. Meanwhile, at this stage Bec Orchard will not be able to work at least until the start of Term 2. Advertising for a replacement for Denise McNamara as OOSH co-ordinator (Denise would tell you she is irreplaceable) has thus far been fruitless although we met with an interested party last evening and hope this leads to a resolution soon.

You may have noticed that Mr Rietmeyer has been absent recently – because he became a father to Bella who arrived on 26th November. Our congratulations go to Jimmy and his wife Sarah on this great news.

The Grade 6 Graduation evening will be held this Friday, but before then the grade 6’s will be taking over responsibility for the school this Wednesday morning, as staff members for the day. In the meantime grade 4 and 5 students have been considering what leadership roles they will apply to fill next year.

At this stage we are on track, if all goes well technologically, to distribute student reports next Monday. Fingers crossed!!!!!!

There seems to still be some confusion regarding costs of booklists. Since the previous State Government removed the Education Maintenance Allowance there are no concessions available for booklists. Rather, the new State Government provides subsidies for camps and excursions through the CSEF. The following sections of the letter accompanying the booklists are the most relevant here:

“To assist families we have ensured that all booklists charges have been kept at 2015 prices. Further, a $15 discount per booklist remains available to all of those who pay prior to & including 17 December 2015”. And…..“With the introduction of the Camps, Swimming, Excursion Fund (CSEF) in 2015 the School Council will no longer provide the subsidy which was designed to support families formerly in receipt of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)”.

The School Council subsidy was introduced before the CSEF became a reality, so in 2015 former EMA recipients actually received two subsidies, totalling more than the former EMA. At this stage we are awaiting advice from the Government on the provision and level of the CSEF for 2016.

Congratulations to all of those who completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge. We are planning a special celebration for these students next week, in between all else that is planned.

Have a gorgeous week.

Peter Donaldson
PRINCIPAL