Welcome back to staff and students and a particular welcome to new families. Congratulations to our 2015 VCE/VCAL students who are now beginning the process of starting tertiary education or entering the work force. We have students beginning apprenticeships and courses in a diverse range of areas. Well done to all our past students and all the best in your new vocation. Congratulations to all P-12 students on their excellent start! It is important that all students begin the year organised and demonstrate commitment from the start. I encourage all students to set their personal goals for 2016 and put in place habits that will enable them to achieve success. I would like to welcome returning staff in 2016: Kylie Orr who will be teaching Year 2. There are a number of important events coming up in the next few weeks. Some of these include the Year 12 Study Camp which is a valuable exercise to enable Year 12 students to focus on the rigorous year ahead. Our P-6 Swimming program begins next Monday. Our first Sporting event for the year for our 7-12 students kicks off with the Swimming Sports next Wednesday 3rd February (We would like to see lots of family and friends there supporting their children. The theme for the day is “T.V. Characters”.

- Our new Senior School Captains are Darcy Tribe & Rebecca Vogels (Halladale), James Stevens & Kate Jones (Callaway) and Will McKenzie & Ahliya Harris (Narragoort). Congratulations to all our elected School Captains. Our new Year 6 Captains will be elected this week. We look forward to our School Captains leading us through another successful year.
- To find out more information about the Bring Your Own Device program, visit the school web page. The take-up of this initiative has been surprisingly high, however it is not compulsory. Each year we charge a $20 connection fee which is excellent value for money as it provides continuous, ongoing technical support to ensure devices can access our school network. A reminder that laptops or netbooks are preferred in Years 9-12. Students can begin submitting their devices for network connection to the general office as of Monday 1st February.
- Parents are advised that if students bring valuables to school, they do so at their own risk, as the Department of Education has no insurance for the loss or damage of student-owned goods. Nor does the Department of Education have accident insurance in the event that a student is injured at school or while on camps or excursions.
- We are still waiting on the State School Relief Package vouchers for those eligible year 7s who applied.
- Any healthcare card /pension card holders please collect an application form for the Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) from the office. Applications must be in by Feb 19th.
- Student accounts: payment plans are available, please see Nicki – however, if you could see your way clear to send in $54 to cover the Swimming program (not pool entry), Cultural levy and Mathletics as soon as possible as these programs all take place from week one, then teachers can issue students with passwords etc. which enhances a smooth transition into the new year.

Next Sunday the 31st January our school will feature on ABC Landline at 12:00pm
- **Sun Smart**: Over-exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer. UV levels are higher during the summer than during winter months. UV levels do vary from day to day, and a high UV day in April or October may be more damaging than a day of heavy cloud in January. Students are encouraged to wear broad brimmed hats or seek shaded areas during recess, lunchtime and outdoor activities during terms 1 and 4. Students are not allowed to play on the ovals unless they have a broad brimmed hat.
- **Lockers**: All secondary students are provided with an individual locker. It is your responsibility to ensure that you keep your locker neat and tidy. Students are expected to use a school lock to ensure the safety of their belongings.
- **Uniform**: School uniform is compulsory and is to be worn on all occasions, including excursions and sporting occasions, unless approved by the Principal and noted on the parent information sheet (Correct school uniform is explained in detail on page 8 in the school diary). If a student is out of uniform, they must bring a note, signed by their parent/guardians which indicates what item of uniform is not being worn, reasons for this and the dates to which the student will be out of uniform.

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**School procedures for the bushfire season**

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- After School activities will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website [http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/](http://www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au/) and school Facebook page.
Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Please refer to the school web page for all emergency management information http://www.timboong12.vic.edu.au/.

If you have any concerns or issues that you wish to discuss with me please feel free to give me a call at school (55983381) or on (0407345324)

Congratulations to: All students and staff on a very smooth start to 2016

And Remember: “Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it.”  Anon.

SEAN FITZPATRICK
ACTING PRINCIPAL

February
1st  P-6 Swimming program begins
3rd  7-12 Swimming Sports
4th-5th  Yr 12 Orientation Camp
11th  School Council
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATON FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. 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. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMP, 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:
- $200 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

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit

Timboon Library's

Hours are changing

Now

11.30am – 3.30pm
during school term