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We have lots to look forward to this year and encourage parents to look for and take advantage of opportunities to get involved with the school and your child’s education. We have our concert later in the year (August 25 & 26), which will be a fantastic opportunity for parents to get involved, but of course there are many opportunities right throughout the year.

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**FINAL ASSEMBLY OF 2015**

The final assembly in any given year is a big event and presents a nice way of celebrating the year and thanking everyone for helping to make Buninyong PS a special place. This always includes a focus on our grade 6 students who are heading off to secondary school. The grade 6s had a formal graduation earlier in the week, but assembly closes with the opportunity for everyone to thank them for their efforts, to say farewell and to give them a chance to say goodbye.

This assembly was also a great opportunity to say thank you and wish all the best to staff who are moving on. On this occasion that included Wendy Hines, Sue Hayashi, Michelle Noyce and Nicole Healy who had given wonderful service to our school. Michelle is taking a sabbatical and will be back next year. Below are some photos which give a sense of the occasion.

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**CATHERINE KING AWARD**

Congratulations to the Tracey Coats who was awarded with the Catherine King Award at the final assembly of 2015. This award recognises community service that benefits the school.

Tracey has always provided terrific support for classroom teachers, whether that be as a PLP or helping out with excursions, concerts, fêtes, barbecues, morning teas….wherever the help is needed.

In 2015 Tracey took things to another level by working closely with Helen Humphries to run the canteen. This was a big effort, particularly given this was the first year of Ballarat Specialist School preparing our lunches. She was instrumental in devising how the new approach would work, which of course included some trial and error. She has also worked extremely well with office staff, Helen and all of the other parents who come in to help from week to week.

Tracey has been completely selfless, and the students at Buninyong PS and supporting the school community as a whole, has been an obvious priority of hers, which we are very thankful for….a most worthy winner of the Catherine King Award.
PARENT LIAISON PROGRAM

Any parent interested in becoming a PLP or continuing in their role as a PLP please contact Josh Ebbels (Ebbels.joshua.r@edumail.vic.gov.au) or your child’s classroom teacher direct. Regular meetings will be held, twice per term discussing many aspects of school life such as; volunteering, fundraising, general information, reporting, school data results and other important information. This year the meetings will be open to all parents interested so please keep an eye on the school newsletter.

Meetings for Term 1 – 18th February and 18th March both at 2.30 – 3.30pm in the staff room.

GRADE 6 CANTEEN TEAM

This term the grade 6 canteen team will be selling some frozen treats at the canteen on Tuesdays & Fridays from 1.10—1.30. The exact items for sale and prices are still being finalised, however it is expected we will have icy poles (eg quelch or zooper doopers), frozen yoghurt and some frozen fruit pieces, with prices ranging between 50c—$2. Exact items and prices will be in next week’s newsletter.

First day will be Tuesday 9th February. Students will need to bring coins up to the canteen window, ordering will NOT be through the QKR app.

Thank you.

USE OF EMAIL TO COMMUNICATE

From the beginning of 2014 we have sought to use email more effectively as a communication tool with parents. Each year level will be sending out a class newsletter very soon which will include email addresses for the teachers in your child’s year level and the specialist teachers. Teachers will also receive email addresses for parents, which will make it easy for parents and teachers to keep in touch. An Email Protocols Statement is attached to this mail out. Please have a read and in particular note:

- We’re not seeking to reduce face to face or over the phone communications…they remain Important to us, but we realise that’s not always possible.
- Email is terrific for some communication (eg, brief information sharing, organising things), but a poor option for others (eg, seeking to solve complex or emotive issues)…choosing the best form of communication will be important.

As always, if you have any concerns or suggestions about anything related to school, don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, Bernie, Josh or David.

PARENT HANDBOOK

Just a reminder to all parents that the Buninyong and Scotsburn Primary Handbooks are available on the school’s website. They are a great resource for parents.


HATS HOME FOR A WASH

We didn’t get around to sending hats home for a wash late last year, so will be doing that this weekend. In some cases you will notice your child’s hat is in a state of disrepair and is ready to be replaced….some of them have a hard life.
Dear Parents,

The Midlands District Amateur Swimming Association will be hosting two swimming events for Ballarat and district schools this term.

The Nine and Under 25 Metre events will be held at Ballarat Aquatic Centre 25m Pool on Wednesday 24th February 2016, starting at 7pm. Students can compete in freestyle and backstroke races.

The Primary Schools 50m Events and Relays will be held at Eureka Aquatic Centre in Stawell Street, Ballarat, on Sunday 21st February 2016, commencing at 10.15am, with a warm-up at 9.45am. Students can compete in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly races, as well as the chance to be in a relay race.

If your child is a competitive swimmer and is interested in competing, please see Mr Bannister in the gym for more information. Entries must be in no later than Friday 12th February for your child to be able to participate.

As these events are outside school hours, you will need to transport your child to and from the venue, as well as supervise them at the pool. Lifeguards will be present to make sure everyone is kept safe in the water!

The cost is $4 per swimmer, per event. There is also a gate entry fee of $2 for spectators only.

Kind regards,
Zane Bannister

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**FRIENDS OF BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS**

We have been asked by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens if we can add a survey into our newsletter to reach the broader community of Buninyong and surrounds. We have however added this survey as an extra attachment on the email that is sent our with this newsletter. If you don’t receive this email there will be copies of this survey available at the school office.

Please return the questionnaire to:
Bendigo Community Bank
401B Warrenheip Street, Buninyong 3357
or Email to: wk.hulston@bigpond.com
or Secretary
Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens
PO Box 28
Buninyong 3357
IT’S GREAT TO BE BACK
The staff at Scotsburn would like to welcome back all of our families and hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break. We would also like to thank the many families who watered our garden and oval over the break. It is greatly appreciated.

SCOTSBURN FIRES
Unfortunately at the end of last year, a terrible fire occurred which affected many of our Scotsburn and Buninyong families. We hope that you have been able to start getting back on track. Thank you to our wonderful families who bonded together to help support each other in such difficult times. The school has access to a range of resources and support for families. See Shaun if you are looking for help.

PARENT HELPER PROGRAM
On Thursday 9th February at 9am, our Parent Helper Program will be on in Shaun’s room for anyone wishing to assist at Scotsburn this year. This includes helping in the classroom, attending excursions or camps, assisting with our Monday rotations, etc. Important issues such as confidentiality and how best to support teachers in and outside of the classroom will be covered. A morning tea will follow in the old building. This will be a great chance to catch up and also welcome our new parents. Please bring along a small plate of food to share.

WELCOME PICNIC
We would like to invite all of our families on Thursday 11th February from 6pm-7.30pm for our first get together of the year. Our new specialist teacher Deb Hunter will be organising some fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. We invite you to bring along a picnic tea for your family to enjoy.

WELCOME PREPS OF 2016
You will have noticed quite a number of preps running around the school yard this week. We are extremely excited to have 9 new preps joining us in 2016. They are all settling in well under the guidance of Mrs Murphy and can look forward to many fun times ahead.

2016 POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY
As you may be aware, our Grade 6 students will be taking on extra responsibilities this year. We are excited to announce that their roles will be: Amelia Plier (Environment), Dylan Lyons (Media), Campbell Palmer (Specialist) and Nathan Hicks (VOTS/Events). We know that these students will lead the campus in a very positive and respectful way and look forward to the many exciting opportunities that they will provide the students at Scotsburn.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY AT BUNINYONG
This Friday we have our first whole school assembly at the Buninyong campus. Students will meet in the courtyard and walk down to the gym together at 9am (parents are most welcome to attend). The students will then spend time in both the library, school gym and mobile computer lab before returning to Scotsburn following recess.

SCOTSBURN ASSEMBLIES
This year, our Gr 6 students will be leading us in a weekly Monday morning assembly from 9am. Families are welcome to come along. The first student led assembly will be on Monday 8th February.

WELCOME MS HUNTER
We would like to welcome Ms Hunter into the Scotsburn community. Deb is looking forward to teaching the specialist subjects at Scotsburn and comes to us with a wealth of experience in these areas. She has already participated in our whole staff PD days last week and can’t wait to get into her new role. We are sure our wonderful community will welcome Deb and enjoy getting to know her in the coming weeks.

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM MURAL
Over the Christmas break, Louisa West who is an artist/illustrator (Facebook Page can be found at ‘Bluebell Illustration’) volunteered her time to paint a fantastic mural in our new multi-purpose room. We are also extremely grateful to Masters for their kind and generous donation of the paint. I’m sure you will all agree, it looks amazing!

SPELLING MASTERY
Spelling Mastery will commence on Tuesday 16th February. We require daily parent support (Tuesday-Friday @ 9am) to ensure all of our students can work at their correct level. Please contact Shaun this week if you are able to help.

MONDAY ROTATIONS
Our first rotation for Term 1 will be on the (8th February). Our groups will be doing the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cooking (Mrs Murphy)</th>
<th>Team Building Activities (Ms Morris)</th>
<th>Landcare / Gardening (Mr O’Loughlin)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Feb</td>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>Group 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sarah Palmer</td>
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<td>Jo Klein</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 6)
LUNCH ORDER PICK UP ROSTER
Lunch orders will be commencing on a Thursday very soon. If you can assist by collecting them from the Buninyong campus on a Thursday at 12.45pm, please see Shaun ASAP.

TERM 1 - IMPORTANT DATES & EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS
- 9th February  Parent Helper Program
- 11th February Welcome Picnic
- 12th February  Seed Collecting @ 11.30am – 1pm
- 16th February Western Bulldogs Clinic @ 2pm
- 22nd February  Meet & Greet – (1pm Finish)
- 28th February Buninyong Village Market
- 1st March National Ride to School Day
- 4th March St John’s First Aid Course
- 11th March Gr 3-6 Sports Day
- 14th March Labour Day Holiday
- 15th March Gr 3-6 District School Sports / Pupil Free Day
- 19th March Buninyong Village Market
- 24th March Term 1 Finishes
- 11th April Term 2 Starts
12 and Under Cricket Teams – Boys and Girls

ELIGIBILITY – BOYS AND GIRLS BORN IN 2004, 2005 AND 2006 ONLY

Nominations for the School Sport Victoria 12 and Under Cricket Teams are now open. Schools are invited to nominate suitably skilled students to participate in the trial process. Nominations shall only include children born in 2004, 2005 or 2006.

The online nomination form can be found on: www.ssv.vic.edu.au (TeamVic > Cricket)

Teachers will be expected to provide details such as the student's name, address, contact phone numbers, date of birth, email address and parents/guardians names as well as the contact details for the school and teacher. At the completion of the nomination, students will be required to print out their confirmation form (as instructed as a part of the nomination process) and have it signed by the school principal or head of sport to acknowledge the participation in these trials to bring to their local trial.

Each school is permitted to nominate NO MORE THAN 3 BOYS for this team. There is no limit placed on the number of girls that schools are permitted to nominate.

Nominations Close: 5pm on Friday 19th February

Post the nomination period, the local Regional Cricket Manager will send a letter to each student and their school to notify them of their trial date and venue.

Trial Period: 1-24 March

The first round of trials will be conducted by Cricket Victoria’s Regional Cricket Managers in the 16 Cricket Victoria regions (typically within a maximum of a 1 ½ hours drive).

Up to 3 students from each region will be recommended to form part of the training squad and attend the first training session in the July school holidays. This session will be conducted by the School Sport Victoria team coaches, manager and support staff. Through the four official squad sessions, a team of 13 players will be selected.

The carnival will take place in Canberra (ACT) from the 6-14 January 2017. Students selected in this team will be expected to cover the cost of their involvement in this team and carnival (approximately $1000.00 – which includes transport and uniform).

For further details: contact School Sport Victoria on 9935 3200 or Cricket Victoria on 9653 1155.

** YOUR REGION DETAILS **
Cricket Victoria Regional Cricket Manager
Campbell Waring – Central Highlands Region
Email: cwaringsport.victoria.com.au | Mob: 04278 395 48

CRICKET VICTORIA

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA™
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<td><strong>Preps Start</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Whole School Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Scotsburn Parent Helper Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scotsburn Cyber Safety Talk</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scotsburn Welcome picnic</strong></td>
<td><strong>P-2 Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Whole School Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Scotsburn Parent Helper Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scotsburn Cyber Safety Talk</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>PLP Meeting #1 (2.30-3.30pm)</strong></td>
<td><strong>3-6 Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grade 6 leaders - Melb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grade 6 leaders - Melb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compulsory BYOD meeting: Registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teams Announced - Badges given out.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compulsory BYOD meeting: Registration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Girls Tennis</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Earth Ed - Scotsburn</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Girls Tennis</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PTI’s: Meet and Greet</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep - Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep- Rest Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Whole School Assembly Family Groups Start</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Whole School Assembly Family Groups Start</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Preps full time</strong></td>
<td><strong>Preps full time</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep- Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Preps get to know you day</strong></td>
<td><strong>P-2 Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Earth Ed - 4JT &amp; 4AC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>School Sports 3-6</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Earth Ed - 4JT &amp; 4AC</strong></td>
<td><strong>Basketball-Miner Dome</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance &amp; School Council</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Donegan’s Farm - Grade 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Labour Day Holiday</strong></td>
<td><strong>District Sports 3-6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grade 4 Camp 1 (Anglesea 16 - 17th)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grade 4 Camp 1 (Anglesea 16 - 17th)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Earth Ed - Grade 6 x 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Earth Ed - Grade 6 x 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prep- Rest Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.30pm dismissal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Earth Ed - Grade 6 x 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Earth Ed - Grade 6 x 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last Day of Term 1.</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.30pm dismissal</strong></td>
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