

Marong Primary School Newsletter



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Diary Dates 2019

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY

Welcome to the 2019 School Year!

Staffing Update

I write to advise parents that Miss Thorn will not return to duty this term as previously advised. Alice has taken leave following a very sad tragic family event that occurred recently. Out of respect for Miss Thorn and her family I have no intention of publishing any specific details of this particular matter. Suffice to say our thoughts are with the Thorn family and we are committed to offering any support that we can at this time.

Welcome Back Mrs. Brown

Sally Brown has returned to teaching duties in order to take up the Prep/One class position whilst Miss Thorn is on leave. We are delighted to welcome her back! Parents and or carers of Foundation students in Mrs. Brown's grade are advised that the English online interviews will take place at a time to be advised. Miss Haddow is working through her interviews this week.

Student Resources

The first day at school is always exciting for a range of reasons for our students. One factor that they all enjoy is the distribution of new resources eg; pencil cases, books, textas, diaries, erasers, sharpeners etc. These items are essential for all students to have in order for them to fully engage in their learning programs. Parents are advised that there is a cost associated with these resources, that parents are expected to meet. The cost for our resources is **\$150** per student in grade P-2 and **\$175** per student in Gr 3-6. This is not a voluntary levy and consequently we would appreciate it if all parents made arrangements to pay in full by the end of February or made a part payment if they wish to pay in instalments. It is worth noting that our fees have not changed for the last five years and we continue to try and keep our resources levy at an affordable rate for parents. In addition, any families who may need assistance with payment or require support are welcome to contact Mr. Jeffrey to discuss their individual situation.

School Bus Management System

The School Bus Management System is a new On-Line program that has been introduced by the Department of Infrastructure. As of this year any new applications to travel on a School Bus or public transport system must be made on the SBMS. The SBMS has now been launched and is LIVE in the Bendigo network.

Parents are advised that an enrolment acceptance at a school does not automatically result in free country bus travel on the School Bus Program. Families whose student is bypassing their closest school of the same denomination (determined by shortest driveable route), will be

required to pay a term fare of \$120 prior to commencement of travel each term BEFORE travel is approved. Unauthorised travellers who attempt country bus travel will be referred back to their respective school in the afternoon whereby the school will be required to contact the family to collect their child/ren. If you have any questions about the SBMS or bus travel please contact Mr Jeffrey.



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Reading the Pathway to Success

Reading is a critical skill and it is widely acknowledged that the development of reading skills in individual children is more likely to occur when a strong home/school partnership exists. A Home/School partnership occurs when parents consolidate the work of the classroom teacher by listening to their child read at home or at the very least ensuring the child reads at home daily either to someone or to themselves. The need for this partnership is important for a range of reasons. There are 25 teaching hours in a week. If a teacher in a class of 24 students hears every child read for 10 minutes, this will take 240 minutes (4 hours). If they did this every day it would leave just one hour per day to address all the other areas of our curriculum. Clearly this isn't possible and hence our teaching staff endeavor to hear all children read approximately once a week and more often for some students depending on their level of reading ability. In a class where a teacher's aide is present the "Listen to Students" process can be shared. Given the importance of Reading as a life skill we are reminding parents of the important role they can play in helping their child develop their reading skills. Making time to hear your child read daily will have undeniable benefits for the child. The time you devote to hearing them read, allows the child to consolidate their fluency, comprehension and appreciation of reading.



To ensure the home reading program is successful there are a few things for parents to remember, particularly if their child is a reluctant reader.

The book they are reading should be a "Just Right" text. Not too hard that fluency is disrupted or comprehension impeded.

Try and establish a routine: eg. Listen to them read straight after tea or just before bed.

Model good reading habits yourself. Consider doing some reading at the same time as your child.

If you have favorite books from your childhood share them with your children.

And remember the home reading program is not designed to do the work for the teachers, rather it is about a partnership designed to enable all children to reach their potential.

For more information about how you can help your child with reading please contact your child's teacher.

House Competition

At Marong Primary School we have four School Houses. Throughout the course of the year we have activities and events whereby house points can be accrued. At the end of the year a winning house is announced and a shield presented to the winning captains.



Brennan	Blue House
Barling	Green House
Phillips	Gold house
Jeffrey	Red House

All students will know which house they are in by the end of next week.

Russell Jeffrey
Principal