Dear Parents & Friends,

School Council Elections
Notification of school council elections went up around the school on Monday February 16th. The closing date for nominations is Monday February 23rd. Nomination forms are available from the school office.

Attendance
There was an interesting article in the Herald Sun on February 2nd written by Senator Scott Ryan. I have included this article on Page 2 of the Newsletter for you to look at in depth. The article talks about student attendance and that a student who has a 90% attendance rate at school from Prep to Year 10 will have missed a whole year of schooling in total by Year 10. As a school we can’t emphasise enough that Every Day Counts. Every day missed or every late arrival at school is a missed learning opportunity for our students.

Homework Policy
Early in each school year we publish some policies in our newsletter for our parents to read. In our February 4th Newsletter, we published our Uniform Policy for your information. This week we are publishing our Homework Policy. School Council will be reviewing this policy later in the school year and we will inform the community of any changes to our policy at that time. The Homework Policy can be found on Page 3 of the Newsletter.

Beach Day
Our annual visit to Canadian Bay Beach is fast approaching. We will be heading off on Friday the 20th of February as a whole school to explore the rock pools. This year, the school will be fully subsidising the cost of this excursion and therefore, there will be no cost to families. It is a great day and we all have a great time. This day is a free dress and students can bring along some sort of container if they would like to collect items while at the beach. Of course, all students will have to wear a hat, wear an appropriate shirt (ie no singlet tops) and should have sun screen applied before coming to school. The countdown has begun.

Visiting teachers
On Monday, we had two staff visiting from Moorside Primary School in Manchester, UK. They spent some time in classrooms talking with students and teachers exploring how we run our classrooms here in Victoria. It has been a great opportunity for the sharing of ideas and making connections in a global sense. We wish them well with the rest of their study tour in Melbourne.

Getting to know you interviews
Our annual Getting To Know You Interviews start next week. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with 2015 class teachers and share any information that they feel is necessary. Please remember this is not a discussion of student progress as the school year has only just commenced. It is an information sharing session. We hope you are able to meet with your child’s class teacher.

End of Summer Celebration
On February 27th to celebrate the end of summer we will be providing a Choc Top ice cream for each student in the school. There is no cost to families for this. If you do not want your child to receive a Choc Top, could you please contact your child’s class teacher and let them know.

Until next time,

Brian McFall
Principal
Every day counts in learning

SCOTT RYAN

IF a parent was told their child has a 90 per cent school attendance rate, they probably wouldn’t be too worried.

A few days off school with a tummy ache, a few days off school to catch up on sleep, a few days off school to visit relatives — what’s the big deal?

But what if they were told that if their child stays home one in every 10 school days?

By the start of Year 10 that means they will have missed a full year of school.

Most parents would react with horror at the idea of missing a whole year of school.

And rightly so.

While school attendance is primarily the responsibility of state governments and our schools, as students head back to the classroom, the Australian Government is keen to impress on parents the importance of sending their children to school each and every day.

In Victoria, 178 schools had average school attendance rates below 90 per cent in 2013. Around Australia, almost one in five Australian schools has an average attendance rate of 90 per cent or less.

Too many students are missing too many classes.

This creates problems for teachers, who are forced to spend time playing “catch up” to bring absent students up-to-date.

It creates issues for other students who sit down to finish a group project only to find one or two members of their group are constantly missing.

But most of all, it creates serious difficulties for the student who is missing.

A student’s level of school ...
HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale:
- Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Aims:
- To support and extend classroom learning.
- To develop positive study habits.
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning.

Implementation:
- The school’s homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- Year 3-6 students will be allocated homework diaries.
- Classroom teachers will set homework appropriate to each child’s skill level and age.
- Homework activities should be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum.
- All homework activities must be assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers.

Year Prep – 2
- Homework will consist mainly of:
  - reading activities to, with and by parents.
  - simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
  - gathering of additional information or materials.
- Homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during holiday periods.

Year 3 – 6
- Homework will consist mainly of:
  - independent reading on a daily basis.
  - tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
  - Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day.
- It is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as additional homework tasks.

Evaluation:
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... February 2012

PARENT CORNER

It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

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When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time. It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well established.

The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment. When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned. It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event. This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

... It’s not okay to be away ...nor to be late to school...

As a Parent:
✓ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
✓ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
Happy Birthday

Feb. 21st
Ryan H. P/1M
Martha M. P/1S

Feb. 24th
Sorren H.-K. P/1S

Student of the Week
Monday 23rd February

P/1M—Diesel M.—For his great work during our spelling and writing activities.

P/1S—Miranda K.—For being a great helper in the classroom.

1/2W—Emma L.—For working extremely hard every day.

2/3H—Erin M.—For great diary writing in class.

3/4B—Ky R.—For his fantastic writing in class.

3/4S—Jamie M.—For completing his homework to a high standard.

5/6O—Hannah M.—For excellent work on her PLT.

5/6S—Kayla D.—For some excellent work on her PLT.

✔ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.

✔ Consider catching-up on missed work.

✔ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day. Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm. It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day and of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

Please remember my door is always open if you have any queries or concerns.

Barb Heeney – Student Wellbeing Manager
Hello everyone,

1/2W and 2/3H have made a great start to 2015. When we returned to school we were very excited to see how much the garden had grown. We were lucky to have Mrs Stanszus take us there to have a look at all the plants. We even got to pick the corn, cook it and eat it! Here are some pictures and some of our writing we did about it.

Our Vegie Garden

We went to the vegie garden today. We saw pumpkins, corn, and tomatoes. Then we picked the tomatoes and corn. We also got to eat the corn. At the staff room it was yummy.
Student Attendance last week

Percentage of students at school 94.3%
Percentage of students on time 92.2%

Uniform Shop Operating Hours

The operating hours are:

TUESDAY – 8:45 – 9:15am
FRIDAY - 8:45 – 9:15am and 3:15 – 3:45pm

Cherry Tomatoes

Cherry Tomatoes from the garden will be for sale Monday afternoons for the next 2 or 3 weeks for a gold coin donation. They money goes to the International Anti Poaching Foundation to stop the slaughter of African animals.

Jill Stanszus
Frankston East Primary School
Mission Statement

To provide outstanding learning and welfare programs that meet the current and future needs and aspirations of our students.

Outcomes

To foster responsible citizenship and create a love for lifelong learning.
To foster the development of self-esteem and resilience.

Values

Caring  Fairness  Sharing
Enjoyment  Enthusiasm  Passion
Tolerance  Respect  Honesty  Integrity
Innovation  Flexibility  Vision
Harmony

Honour and Truth

Behaviours

At Frankston East Primary School:

❖ everyone has the right to enjoy learning in a safe and caring environment.

❖ everyone has the right to be treated with tolerance, sensitivity, respect and honesty.

❖ we accept individual differences in every way and celebrate these.

❖ we are committed to teaching, learning and working together as a community.

❖ we have the ability to respond and adapt to a changing society

❖ we believe that fun is part of learning