Welcome back to you all. I trust that the school break and holiday season was full of good times and that whether you stayed home or holidayed elsewhere that you had a great time. Personally, it was just great to be able to reacquaint myself with the family, catch up on a few of those never ending jobs around the house, attempt to play some decent golf, head to Ararat for a few days camping on Greenhill Lake and generally just recharging the batteries. I hope you were all able to do the same.

What a wonderful start it has been to the 2017 school year.

Students and teachers arrived on Wednesday looking fresh and ready for another year of challenging learning. At Tecoma, we have high expectations of student learning and behaviour and achieve excellent results as a consequence. We look forward to this continuing. I issued the challenge at assembly on Wednesday of the children having their best year ever, whether that be our teaching, our learning, how we conduct ourselves and how we look after each other.

Welcome to all parents and a special welcome to our new families, trusting that your time at Tecoma is a rewarding one and that you will acquire many great memories and friendships over your time here. There are many opportunities for parent involvement within the school: classroom assistance with Reading (especially in the “Reading Room”), Maths or PMP; assisting at Working Bees, camps and excursions and of course, being a member of the Parent Network who do such an amazing job of raising funds for the school and giving the children some wonderful experiences.

I wish to especially welcome our 2017 Prep children to the Tecoma Primary School community. This year we have three Prep classes with 61 excited and eager children beginning their primary school years. I have no doubt that Tecoma’s extensive transition program played a significant role in our Prep children confidently walking through the door yesterday.
This year we are operating 17 class groups across the school, with a total enrolment of 381 students (last year we had 374 at this time). The school is continuing to grow steadily; a result of an enduring reputation as a ‘school of choice’ in the area, outstanding teaching and resources, supportive parents and well behaved and studious children.

Welcome to Cassandra Venten who has joined our grade 4 teaching team, to Laura Rawnsley who has joined the grade 1 team, Chelsey Robins who has joined us this year in a full time capacity in Grade 2 and to Stuart McLean who joined us in grade 5.

Across the holidays, aside from a lot of rubbish and debris from the big storm, there was no damage and only a little graffiti which is a welcome relief. We did have a break in and a television was stolen but the police were able to get a good set of handprints so with any luck, they will be known to the police.

Our Art room/Prep area is now complete with all the temporary fencing now gone which pleases us greatly. We have new furniture in the Art room which complements the new feel. Pop in and have a look when you are up at the school.

The whole external main building was also painted over the break by Shane Sawyer (new Prep dad) who used the paint that was donated by Dulux last year. We have almost removed all of the blue that was once through the school bringing the colours in line with the Administration Block which we painted 2 years ago.

We have another portable due to arrive in the second week of February which will mean another carpark closure. We will let you know the date once we know. This will house the grade 4 children who are currently using this years Science room. It should be a quick handover as all the services are there, ready to connect.

There have been many people hard at work over the holidays to ensure a smooth start to the school year for all. Thank you mums and dads, for ensuring your children were dressed in full Tecoma PS uniform for their return to school. I know this high standard will continue throughout the year. Many thanks to those who came to the Working Bee last Tuesday afternoon, readying the school for the children’s return.

Huge thanks to our teachers for all the preparations they have made to ensure a great start to the 2017 school year. Over the past few weeks they have met in teams to discuss and plan curriculum, spent hours getting rooms ready, made teaching materials and organised supplies and equipment. Already many hours have been expended on these and other tasks, both at home and school. We are really ready for another great year.

We always print a copy of the first newsletter of each term for the youngest in each family. After that we do our bit for the environment and only print a small number of hard copies of the newsletter (approx. 20-25) which are placed on the front foyer each Thursday afternoon. Parents are also emailed an alert when our newsletter becomes ‘live’ electronically each Thursday through the “tiqbiz” app. Please ensure you sign up for this. Every effort will be made for our weekly newsletter to be posted by 3.30pm each Thursday.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation K Lauren Kennedy</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>61 Prep students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation M Shelley Mottin</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation W Hayley Ward</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 1V Paulina Van Elmpt</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>58 Grade 1 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 1R Laura Rawnsley</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56 Grade 2 students</td>
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<td>Gr 1P Kathy Perushyn/Gemma Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 2N Ivonne Nieuweboer</td>
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<td>Gr 2R Chelsey Robins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 2C Lauren Cassidy</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>51 Grade 3 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 3 GP Sylvia Graham/Gemma Porter</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47 Grade 4 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 3W Trevor Wilson</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 4V Cassie Venten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 4D Phillip Darbyshire</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>54 Grade 5 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>5M Stuart McLean</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>54 Grade 6 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>5G Monica Griffiths</td>
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<tr>
<td>6L Deborah Langford</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>6F Lisa Faul</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>381 students</td>
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<td>Reading Support (Reading Room)</td>
<td>Abbey Morgan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Di Double - Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane McManamon Grades 1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Nicole Cumming</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Masae Uekusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Sally Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Teaching Support</td>
<td>Sally Connell</td>
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<td>Office/Admin</td>
<td>Karin Hartnell, Heather Lynch, Anthea Cresswell</td>
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<td>Integration/Quicksmart</td>
<td>Kath Young, Megan Wilson</td>
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<td>Integration/Library</td>
<td>Jennie Tuvey</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of school hours care</td>
<td>Chris Dykes, Adelle Young, Brigid McDonnell</td>
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</table>
SUBJECT CONTRIBUTIONS: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
You may recall that Department of Education announced the new parent payment policy guidelines for 2017 school fees which we followed to the letter. This led to drastically reduced fees in what we could ask parents to pay. Our School Council President Fiona Green wrote our community a letter outlining how vital the voluntary contributions component of our fees are in maintaining the kind of facilities and programs that we have been able to provide here at our school. We are thrilled to say that our community have responded strongly and today, I provide a photo of what we have been able to purchase as a result.

Our School Council President Fiona Green wrote our community a letter outlining how vital the voluntary contributions component of our fees are in maintaining the kind of facilities and programs that we have been able to provide here at our school. We are thrilled to say that our community have responded strongly and today, I provide a photo of what we have been able to purchase as a result.

Our children are now proudly using a new set of laptops that we would have been unable to purchase without your voluntary financial support. We understand that it has been an especially difficult year with the removal of the Schoolkids Bonus for those who qualified. My thanks to the many parents who have paid their contributions and voluntary component. Your support enables us to continue to provide a quality of resources that greatly enhances children’s learning and is the envy of other schools.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION
Both my door and Assistant Principal Di Double’s door is always open should any parent need to chat. Our number one priority is the engagement, wellbeing and care of all students at Tecoma Primary School and we are always happy to hear feedback on the improvements we are making and what we can do to better assist our students.

Of course, your child’s class teacher is your first port-of-call. Should the need arise to speak directly to a staff member, you can contact us and we will organise an appointment at a mutually convenient time either before school or after school. Please allow us time during school hours as we concentrate our efforts on the children. It is very important that we devote our attentions and ‘duty of care’ to our school's students throughout each school day.

OUR 2017 SCHOOL CAPTAINS
Our 2017 School Captains are Sammie G, Jacob U, Maddy B and Finley R. On Monday week, we will have taken off their training wheels and they will host their first assembly.
ASSEMBLIES
While we won’t have an assembly this coming Monday, a reminder that we have assemblies, beginning at 9 am every Monday. You are certainly welcome to attend, to find out what is happening around the school and to give a hearty cheer to those student that receive the “Student of the Week award.” Please come along if you can, as your child gets a great thrill from having you there.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Interested in the directions of your child’s school? Would you like to understand why decisions are made or not made? Want to have a say, be involved in the school and feel like you’ve made a difference? Then you should seriously consider nominating for School Council. A dynamic School Council is a vital component of any school and we are looking for parents to join the 2017 Council. Parental support of the teachers and the school’s programs is also vital and includes displaying a positive attitude towards your child’s learning, so I encourage you all to be fully involved in your child’s education. Working and “learning together” we can achieve great results. Our first School Council meeting for 2017 will be held next Tuesday, 21st February. This meeting will be the final meeting for the existing School Council and therefore the final meeting for some of our hard working School Council members. We are now looking at forming our new School Council for 2017. At present we require 4 new parent members so please give some thought to this and feel free to call me to have a chat if you would like to know more about what it involves.

I would especially like to thank the following parents whose 2 year tenure on School Council ends at this election: Angie Park, Simone Sultana, Steve Gale and Danielle O’Brien. Steve and Angie no longer have children at our school and have been long serving members of our community. Thank you both for your time over many years on school council, not just the current term. Please take the time to look at the election procedures and timeline below. If you require more information, please speak to one of our school councillors or pop in to see us for a chat.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:
- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.
How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

THE TIMELINE FOR 2017 ELECTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:
2. Close of nominations: Monday 20th February at 4 p.m.
4. Ballot paper distributed if more nominations than vacancies are received in either or both categories: Monday 27th February.
5. Close of ballot: Monday 6th March at 4.00 p.m.
6. Counting of votes (March 7th) and declaration of the poll and announcement to the community: Thursday 9th March.

Nomination forms are available from the office from February 13.

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHILD” INTERVIEWS
Getting to know your child Parent teacher meetings will be upon us shortly. There will be an extensive information sheet sent out the week before this meeting and parents can ask questions or seek clarification at the meeting themselves. These have been scheduled for Monday February 20.
The school again will set up a process where parents are required to book a time online to see a teacher. We would certainly like to see you all here.

Like last year, and with most other things these days, it is wise to get in early to book the most suitable time/s whilst they are available. I know the teachers are excited about sharing information regarding the successful transition of your child/ren into their new level of schooling, whilst hearing background information from you, who of course, know your own child/ren better than anyone.

PARENT PERMISSION FORMS FOR EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS
One of the many exciting parts of going to school is the different experiences children receive when going on camps and excursions/incursions. Students really become immersed in the topic as they receive information in a different setting and a different source. Staff spend a great deal of time organising excursions and all excursions require parent permission to participate. In previous years, staff have unfortunately spent time chasing up these permission forms on the morning of the excursion when first aid kits, communication lists, equipment and various other items have to be organised. On some occasions, excursion groups have left late because permission forms have not been returned and are being chased up by staff. This is unfair both on staff but also on those families and children that have sent the forms back. Quite often excursion venues also require final numbers days before and we get billed on this figure, even if some students do not attend. We have decided that this year the cut off for permission forms and therefore children being able to attend is the day before the incursion/excursion. If the permission form is not back by the day before, then the student will not be attending. We cannot continue to chase or accept permission forms on the morning for the above stated reasons. This is in fairness to all involved. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)
We encourage and value parental and community support at Tecoma Primary School. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children’s Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child’s education. These checks are free for volunteers and will allow you to be involved as many school events as you require. Once you have your WWC please come to the office so we can photocopy this and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWCC check.

NEW PARENTS/PREP/BUDDIES WELCOME BBQ
Next Tuesday, all Prep parents, Grade 5 Buddies parents and new families are invited to a “Welcome to Tecoma” BBQ beginning at 5.30pm. Staff and School Council members will be providing all the food and if you have not replied, can you please do so, especially if we have any special dietary requirements that we need to cater for.
If you one of our new families or a Prep Buddy family, we look forward to seeing you next Tuesday night.

PREP FOR PARENTS
Parents of Prep/ Foundation students may be interested in subscribing to the Department’s on line site Prep for Parents. This free subscription has been specifically designed for parents with children in their first year of school. Articles posted cover a wide range of topics and links to resources. Articles include: The First Weeks of School; What Prep’s Learn; Making Friends and Every Little Bit Helps. The articles might also be of interest to parents with children in other levels, particularly P-2.
Website: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/primary/Pages/p4p.aspx

CAR PARKING
Just a reminder about the car parking in and around the surrounding areas of the school. Our school carpark is open in the morning and has a drop off bay outside the hall. If the carpark is full there are spaces available for parents to park on Burwood Hwy, in behind the Salvation Army and Bon–Ton and the church next door. There is a small amount of spaces available on McNicol Rd however please be aware parking inspectors were out and about last year booking cars for being parked in the wrong areas.

Our carpark works extremely well in the afternoon when the pick up bay is not used for parking; please only stop in the drop off bay when you see your child waiting there. If you do not see you child there, please do another loop.

It worked really well last year when we all did the right thing.

It ensures the traffic keeps flowing and leads to much less frustration for all road users.

The pre school carpark is for kinder parents only. This is also the case at the Eastern Health Carpark on the corner of Burwood Hwy and McNicol Rd due to the Emergency Vehicles ( eg Ambulances) that might need access to the premises. Please be respectful that these carparks are not ours and should be not be used by our community as such. Thanks for your assistance.

40 ZONES
School speed limits apply outside every school in Victoria to increase the safety for our most vulnerable road users - children.
All Victorian drivers are reminded that school speed limits will apply across Victoria from Monday 30 January 2017.
Speed limits will be reduced to either 40km/h or 60km/h outside schools in the morning from 8am to 9.30am and in the afternoon from 2.30pm to 4pm.

For information on school speed zones visit the VicRoads website. While you're there, check out their fun and informative road safety apps.

**ACCIDENT INSURANCE**
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development states that reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. For those parents who seek personal cover, details of an insurer who offers individual accident insurance for $29 for the year is:


**PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER’S RISK**
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools. Principals are requested to remind students and parents/guardians of this at the beginning of each academic year and to discourage parents/students from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. Please, try and avoid bringing these items as it can be most upsetting for all concerned when items do go missing.

As per our mobile phone, ipod and all other personal electronic devices policy, students are to leave any of these either with their class teachers or at the office, prior to classes commencing and collect them at the end of the day.

**STUDENT SAFETY – BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES @ TECOMA PS**
Despite the real mixture of weather we have had this summer, the Australian Summer has again seen the threat and realisation of bushfire across Victoria, and being in the Dandenong Ranges classifies our school on the ‘Bushfire At Risk Register’. It is vital you are aware of the following information:

- **SCHOOL CLOSURES ON CODE RED DAYS**
  Should there be a predicted “**CODE RED**” day school community members will be notified three days prior to the predicted closure to inform them. One day prior to the closure day(s) another letter/phone call will confirm the closure. **If the school is closed, nobody will be on site.** This includes all staff and students. As the Out of School Hours Care Program will also be closed families will be required to make alternate arrangements for such days. It is recommended that you enact your fire plans on these days.

- **Active Fire Procedures**
  In the event of an active fire occurring in the area all students will be evacuated to our ‘Safer Place’ which is our school hall. Parents will be notified should we ever evacuate to the hall. We ask that you do not come to the school to collect your children, at this time, as the potential for traffic closures and hazards in such conditions could result in tragic consequences as was the case in the Black Saturday fires. Please note that the school’s ‘Safer Place’ is not a community refuge so please do not use it as a plan of action in your family’s Emergency Management Plan.

Many parents will choose to enact their family fire plans well before a real threat is faced. This may mean leaving the local area the day before a day of extreme heat and/ or wind. Of course this decision lies with each family and should mean that your route down the Highway is not blocked or impeded as may be the case if a fire was in the area.
VISITING THE SCHOOL
A reminder to everyone that we have a policy which requires all visitors to report to the office first when entering the school. Should you need to visit the classroom, see your child at recess or are a helper at school, please report to the office first to sign in using our new iPad app and pick up your visitor’s tag or early/late pass. This ensures that in an emergency we are able to account for all people at school.

SUN SMART
During term one, please remember that hats are compulsory at all times when outside at school (including PE sessions). As a SunSmart school we strictly enforce the use of hats.

Remember these 5 SunSmart steps during the sun protection times, even if it’s cool or cloudy
1. **Slip on covering clothing**. If you can see skin, UV can reach it.
2. **Slop on SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen**. Apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
3. **Slap on a sun protective hat**. The best hat shades the head, face, eyes, ears and neck. Our school hats comply with SunSmart regulations.
4. **Seek shade**. Shady spaces help block some of the sun’s UV but not all so you still need to wear hats, clothing and sunscreen even in the shade.
5. **Slide on sunglasses**. If practical, help protect your child’s eyes with sunglasses.

For further information go to: [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)

*Students who don’t have a Sun Smart hat will be directed to play in a designated shade area.*

HOT WEATHER
On days of extreme heat students will remain in their classrooms with all staff sharing the supervision of grades. This will only apply to days of extreme and excessive heat and will operate similarly to the wet day timetable.

AND FINALLY………………

- Canteen orders commence next week and are available on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The menu was sent out today.

- The playground is supervised from 8.45am and children should not be at school before this time unless prearranged by a teacher due to a school event. Each day teachers will be in their classroom at 8.50am should you have any questions to ask. Parents should note that lessons will begin at 9am sharp. For more complex issues an alternative meeting time, at a mutually agreeable time, can be arranged after school.

- If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. **Please make sure you notify the office of any changes to your or your Emergency Contact details as well as mobile phone numbers for our SMS system.** Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare. Your up to date contact information is especially important for our SMS system in case we need to contact you in case of an emergency eg, bushfire.

- Thanks to the Martin family, the Brown family and Chris “the chook lady” Dykes who looked after our chooks through the break. The girls in the coop are in good laying form and the office will announce when eggs are for sale. The money raised for the egg sales goes back into our gardening program.
Thankyou everyone for a sensational start to the school year. Have a wonderful 2017!

Rohan Thompson  
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td><strong>Term One commences</strong> – Grade 1-6 students begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>Prep Students begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Assembly (Term 1 concludes - early dismissal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 April</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td><strong>Term Two commences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>Queen's Birthday Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>Assembly (Term 2 concludes - early dismissal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 July</td>
<td><strong>Term Three commences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>Assembly (Term 3 concludes - early dismissal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 October</td>
<td><strong>Term Four commences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 December</td>
<td>Assembly (last day of 2017 - early dismissal)</td>
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CHARITY MOVIE NIGHT

Cameo Cinemas  
Belgrave Saturday  
18th February  
Red Dog: True Blue

Activities incl photo booth from 7pm  
Movie from 9pm  
Dogs - gold coin donation  
H umans $20  
Incl an alcoholic beverage or popcorn & soft drink

For more details and to book:  
www.trybooking.com/OBIT
Are you Eligible to Claim the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund?
Applications forms are available at the office. Please present your Concession Card with your form before February 29th, 2016.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION 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.

CAMPS, 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:

- $125 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 www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
WELCOME BACK!
I hope you had a relaxing and refreshing holiday and spent quality time with your loved ones. My family and I have had a lovely time together over the last month. After a flying trip to the Western District to celebrate Christmas with our family, we went backwards and forwards to Paynesville, where we spent a great deal of time during the break, getting used to our new boat. It is great to be back and to see how much the kids have grown during the holidays and to find out about what they did during the break. They have all settled in extremely well, which is a credit to you all.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS:
As part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust report, there is now a regulatory landscape surrounding child safety, underpinned by new Child Safe Standards.

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

In order to ensure our school meets these requirements we are asking all new parents, and any parents who have not yet done so, to complete the following for us:

1. Become familiar with our Child Safety Policy (on the School Website)
2. Read, sign and return the Child Safety Code of Conduct (available at the office)
3. Make sure you hold a current Working with Children's Card (WWCC) and ensure we have a copy of it here at the school. For school volunteers the form can be accessed at: http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/

Please pop in and see us if you need any assistance.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:
Can you please ensure your child has their wide brimmed school hat to wear to school. No hat means they have to sit in the breezeway, which is not the way anyone would like to spend recess and lunchtime while their friends are outside playing. School hats in a variety of sizes are available at the uniform shop.
We want our children to have pride in their school, and their school uniform, so please ensure your child/children are wearing the correct clothing at all times.
Please note bright hair bands, bright coloured leggings and tights, jewellery and nail-polish are NOT part of our school uniform and are not to be worn. School shoes are either black or white runners or leather school shoes. Coloured VANS, etc. are not suitable for school, do not give the correct support to young, growing feet and are not correct school uniform.

A copy of the full Uniform Policy is available on the school website.

PARENTS IN CLASSROOMS:
Once again, this year one of our whole school focuses is to get more of our parents/grandparents back into our classrooms on a regular basis assisting teachers and students during the literacy and numeracy blocks and during other curriculum activities.

Once the routines (and you will hear this word a great deal this year) are in place in your child's classroom their teacher will be contacting you to invite you into the classroom to assist them by working with the children.
PARENT HELPERS COURSE:
In the near future I will be running an Early Years Classroom Helpers course for parents of children in the Junior School. This course is designed to support the work of parents who would like to assist their child’s teacher in the classroom. It consists of four interactive sessions and is linked to the classroom literacy program.

The course will:

- provide participants with an increased understanding of the development of literacy skills in children
- demonstrate various learning situations to participants so they can act as role models for students in classrooms
- train participants in how to provide assistance in their child’s classroom, working with small groups of children.

Keep a eye out for a note which will come out soon regarding Classroom Helper training sessions.

Regards

Di Double

Quotes of the week:
“Happiness depends upon ourselves”.
Aristotle

MUSIC LESSONS AT TECOMA P.S.
PRIVATE TUTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drums</td>
<td>Jordan Scotney</td>
<td>0408 881 395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>Lore Burns</td>
<td>0431 224 262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>Juan Aravena</td>
<td>0402 688 836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing</td>
<td>Name and Number will be provided next week.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Amanda Collins</td>
<td>0478 166 709</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the Uniform Shop is open on the following days:

- **Tuesday Morning** 8:45am to 9:15am
- **Wednesday Afternoon** 3:15pm to 3:45pm
OFFICE NEWS

WELCOME BACK!
Just a few items for your attention:

- New Lunch Order Menu for 2017 was sent home with your child today. Please note that lunch orders are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays.
- We will be launching our new payment app called Qkr! (please see next page) next week. This app will allow you to pay fees, levies, uniform, sport & OSHC.
- Thank you to all of our parents that have paid their Essential Items. Unfortunately, we are still missing a few. Please pop into the office next week to make payment. If you are having financial difficulty please see Karin, Heather or Anthea in the office to set up a payment plan.

Looking forward to the new year!
Karin, Heather & Anthea
The Office Gals

ATTENTION STUDENTS - IF YOU LEAVE YOUR LUNCHBOX OUTSIDE DURING PLAYTIME OR LUNCH, THIS IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN......
For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced ‘quicker’) by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:
- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

**Step 1** Download Qkr!
on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app.

**Step 2** Register
Select your Country of Residence as ‘Australia’ and follow the steps to register.

**Step 3** Find our school
Our school will appear in ‘Nearby Locations’ if you’re within 10km’s of the school, or search for our school by name.

**Step 4** Register your children
When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.
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*Conditions Apply, Bookings Required

BELGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
REGISTRATION DAY
SUNDAY 5th February - 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

Coaches are Tecoma PS parents. Come down to meet them and new friends at the ONLY local club with an ALL-GIRLS team.

2017 Boys - Under 9’s, 10’s and 12’s
2017 Girls – Under 9’s, 10’s, 12’s and 14’s
Plus Friday night Auskick
Enquiries to Maxine 0417 391 283 or see Mr. Wilson at school.
www.belgravejfc.vcfl.com.au