

Be Safe

Be A Learner

Be Respectful

September 2024

Dear families,

Term Three has been a busy one as each term seems to be!

We are now heading into Term Four, with sporting events, excursions, transition to secondary and primary school for some students, hockey sessions, preparing for the end of year art show and presentation evening, student reporting, preparing for 2025 and so much more.

Unfortunately, our bus will be parked for a while as there is an issue with its accreditation for passenger use. I am beginning to complete this process to ensure our bus is registered correctly and follows all the guidelines by Bus Safety Victoria.

#### Staffing

I will be continuing on as Acting Principal until the process for the substantive principal is finalized as requested by the Department of Education.

#### Ballarat WildLife Park Excursion

Our day trip to Ballarat to the Wildlife Park was a great success. Thank you to Miss Bailey for organising this experience, unfortunately she was unwell and missed our trip. We hired a bus from Guthrie's in Casterton and Damien (Rylan and Lincoln's Dad) was our expert driver. Brittany (Indi's Mum) was on hand to help me with student supervision. A big thank you to Damien and Brittany for their terrific help on the day. All the students loved their experience and we had lots of favorites and in particular the blue penguins, tigers, the alpine dingo, snakes and feeding the kangaroos.

#### Indigenous Literacy Day

We travelled down to the Heywood Library on September 4th to listen to Brandon Saunders and Aunty Eileen tell oral Indigenous traditional stories and celebrate Indigenous Literacy Day. After the storytelling session, we enjoyed some special craft activities. We also received a free copy of 'Come Together—Things Every Aussie Kid Should Know about the First People' by Isaiah Firebrace.



#### Transition

We welcomed Casterton Kindergarten to our school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September for a visit. The children were delightful with beautiful manners and lots of attentive listening. We completed activities based around the book 'Elmer the Elephant' by David McKee, who teaches us that everyone is unique and has something that sets them apart from everyone else, and that there's no point in trying to hide or disguise this. We should embrace our differences and always be true to who we are.

#### BIOLAB excursion

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of September Judd, Steph and I headed off to Geelong for a BioLab day. We had a very early start leaving Hamilton at 6am! We went with other Year 5/6s from Branholme, Macarthur, Peshurst, Cavendish, Coleraine and Dunkeld. We learned about our brain, reflexes, balance and completed lab experiments.

#### School Council –September meeting

In the last week of term, the School Council held our sixth meeting for the year. Items discussed were—the bus accreditation issue, the schools bushfire prevention maintenance, hall update to remove the mould from the ceiling plus the usual governance issues. We are very grateful to our school Council members—Shaun, Damien and Tanya as they give up their time to support our school.

#### Footy Dress Up Day

Our students looked fantastic in their footy jumpers and colours today. We had a very mixed bag of supporters but I think Geelong Cats might have snuck home or perhaps that was Miss Bailey and I! We shared a traditional footy lunch of hotdogs, sausage rolls and some fairy bread made by Stephanie. Thank you to all families for their generous support of United Way Portland with their gold coin donation.

Have a wonderful break and see you next term.

Kind regards,

Lisa Ferrier  
Acting Principal



## SCHOOL CALENDAR for the rest of the year

October

7th Term 4 Begins

HOCKEY—Each Wednesday afternoon for the first 5 weeks of term

23rd Year 3-6 Excursion to Dartmoor PS for 'Robotics on the Road'

29th Parent Teacher Interviews

31st Halloween Disco for students 2-3.30pm

November

11th Remembrance Day—Students read poems at the Cenotaph

13th World Kindness Day & school community breakfast

18th Kinder Transition Morning 9am—11am

25th Kinder Transition Morning 9am— 11am

December

2nd Kinder Transition Morning 9am—11am

10th State Wide Transition Day for 2025 Year 7 and Foundations students

13th Last Kitchen Class & Reports go home

13th Thank you Morning Tea for our Knitting Ladies

16th December Last Day of School For Merino CS students

16th Art Show and Presentation Evening 6pm

17th Pupil Free Day 2025 Staff Planning Day

18th Pupil Free Day 2025 Staff Planning Day

19th Pupil Free Day 2025 Staff Planning day

20th Pupil Free Day—2024 Archiving

