Dear Families,

This Friday (the 28th of Feb) we will have our last swimming session from 12.30pm to 1.10pm – this will make up for the one that we had to cancel last week. The whole school will go over together. Our plan is to then stay at the pool, eat our lunch and spend the afternoon playing games and having our fun session at which time we are hoping that Pomonal PS students will join us. Parents are welcome for either/both sessions – bring your bathers! Please note that students will need to bring their lunch on Friday.

It is school council election time! We currently have two parent vacancies, so if you are interested in joining council or would like more information about it, please read the attached information letter or call in and ask us at the school. Nomination forms are available at the office and are due back at the school by 4pm next Wednesday the 5th of March.

School council has approved two pupil free days
- Monday the 24th of March
- Friday the 8th of August
There are still two pupil free days yet to be allocated.

There has been lots on for our senior students in the last couple of days with Leadership Camp and the Division swimming competition. Photos and information about the swimming event will be included in next week’s newsletter but congratulations Dylan, Eugene, Tobie, Kaylee and Keira for making it to Division level. A big well done to Kaylee and Keira who are going to the Regional level with their relay teams. Once again, we thank Blanche and Angela Leithhead for volunteering their time to train the swimmers from both Halls Gap and Pomonal primary schools. Their commitment to developing the young swimmers is quite extraordinary. Thanks also goes to Frau Stoffel for her assistance with the training and organisation of the team.

Dylan, Spencer, Eugene, Kaylee, Keira and Max also had a wonderful time at Norval’s Leadership Camp. It was a fantastic effort in coordination to get all of the Stawell and District government schools involved and I think it was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students alike. The activities, the staff and the food at Camp Norval were all of the highest quality. Our students experienced teamwork situations and were also forced to step outside their comfort zones on several occasions. It was inspiring to watch them work together to solve problems and interact with the excellent student leaders from all around the area, including from Stawell Secondary College.

Here’s what our students thought of the camp.

Keira – Leadership camp was lots of fun because we met lots of new people. We did lots of activities where we had to use our leadership skills. I really enjoyed the high ropes because we had to challenge ourselves. It was really scary with a touch of excitement.

Kaylee – This year I went to a leadership camp at Norval. I enjoyed meeting new people and doing all the challenges. I slept in a room with a high school student named Meg and two grade six students, Georgia and Bridget. I also slept with Keira. I had heaps of fun at the camp.

Spencer – On Sunday 24th of February all the year fives went to leadership camp at Norval in Halls Gap. Everyone in the Grampians area went for one night. At the camp we did a lot of activities involving working together and using teamwork and a heap of leadership. My favourite part was the disco where we all danced to awesome songs. I didn’t like the look of the high ropes so I didn’t go. I think the camp was good, fun and exciting.
Eugene – When I first arrived at camp I had to place my bag at the entrance. We discussed the rules then we did some activities. The next day we did some rope courses and some initiative missions. My favourite activity was the rope course and the archery.

Max – I know I missed out on the first part of the camp but I still really enjoyed it. Everyone was really nice to me when I first found my room, even the teenager, Josh. I learnt that being a leader wasn’t about being fun, it’s about setting the example and even if someone is being mean then you still need to do the right thing and be kind to them.

Dylan – At leadership camp we did four hard puzzles and then we went back and had lunch. We stayed at the main building where we were showed our rooms. I was with Max, Eugene, Spencer and a teenager. I woke up 10 minutes earlier than the teenager’s alarm. He was supposed to go for a run but he forgot to set his alarm. We woke him up for breakfast. My favourite part was the high ropes which was a tiresome and challenging thing.

Ja-San Trimble
Principal

SCHOOL VALUES

Honesty
Being true to yourself, family, friends and teachers

Persistence
Being confident, resilient and optimistic when striving to meet challenges

Humour
• To enjoy and celebrate with others

Initiative
• To contribute ideas, be flexible and demonstrate leadership

Commitment
• Being dedicated to do your very best

Teamwork
Working with and sharing with others to enhance learning for everyone

Respect
• Treating self, others and your environment with care and respect

REMINDER – School fees are due, deduct swimming program if you have a season pass.
If you are a recipient for EMA, please complete an application and have your health care card photocopied.

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<th>MORE DATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th March</td>
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<td>CRE – Grade 5/6 students only</td>
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<td>Thursday 6th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARC van</td>
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<td>Friday 7th March</td>
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<td>Headlice checks</td>
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<td>Monday 10th March</td>
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<td>Labour Day public holiday</td>
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<td>Friday 14th March</td>
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<td>Regional Swimming - Warmambool</td>
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Special Request: Do you have any old clothing, hats, hessian bags, straw/bale of hay or old timber that you would like to donate to the school for the children to make scarecrows. Miss Laura would greatly appreciate any donations available.
Headshave @ The Gap

Sunday March 16th 2014; 11am-3pm
Halls Gap Cricket Oval
Support Megs as she gets her head shaved to raise money for the Cancer Council

Come and enjoy a family day full of activities, including: Jumping Castle, Motorbike rides, Massage, Face Painting, Sausage Sizzle, Auctions/Raffles and lots more!

Drinks at Bar Prices (No BYO)

For more information, contact Megs on 0448489793

Proudly Supporting Headshave @ the Gap
School Council Elections 2014 – Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed 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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD 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. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils 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.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Contact the principal for further information.