

Respect

Courage



Resilience

Compassion

A Strong Beginning for a Great Future

Steven Lynch

Principal

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Term 1, Monday 18th February 2019

School Review

This has been a lot of work over the past few months. The review examines how the school has performed against previous goals set four years ago in the 4-year School Strategic Plan. I have been preparing a lot of school documentation and policies to show how the school is going. Prior to the review the reviewer, Joan Sibley, will examine the data and information. Then she will come with two other school principals to observe the school, classrooms, teaching and make some observations. Our Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL), Jody Grimmond (my boss) and School Council President (Hayden Drummond) will also be involved. That day will be March 12th. On March 21st final recommendations are handed down and make up a 4 year document of goals for the future and a plan for this year in the school as well.

This is one of the biggest undertakings I have ever been involved in in a school and I look forward to seeing the findings and future goals we need to work towards in the future. Thanks to everyone who has had input into the process.

Contact and Emergency Details Update

We often need to use emergency contact details and family contact details. If any of these have changed could you please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Health/Asthma Plans

Being a new school year, could you please provide the school with any new or updated plans as soon as possible. Thank you.

School Swimming

Thank you to everyone who made the carnival a great day. We are very lucky to work with Sacred Heart Primary School who do a lot of the organising of the events, running sheets and scoring before the day.

Thank you to all of the parents who helped on the day as well. It made the day all the more possible and it was great to see you there.

Well done again to our children who participated and cheered well. Particular congratulations to:

Lilly Jeffs – 11 year old girls champion

Mac Drummond – Iron Man Champion

Lincoln Jeffs – effort/encouragement award.

School Maintenance

We have been having some school maintenance done recently. All of our 11 air conditioners were serviced (one will be replaced), gutters cleaned and the wood under the original school building will be replaced soon. All of this is at the school's expense.

Phone and Technology Problems

Our phone is back to normal. Tyrone has been working hard on and off site to get our computer system up and running. It isn't quite back to normal – this is making everything a bit more difficult. Thanks to Tyrone for all of his hard work on this.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the various fundraising events at the end of last year. We will be presenting the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre with a cheque for \$435 at our next School Council Meeting. There will be no more fundraising until at least Term 2 now.

Advertising

We will be accepting business card sized ads in our newsletter. If you would like to advertise a business in our school newsletter each fortnight it will cost \$25 per term or \$100 for the year.

Child Safe

I want to remind everyone that Walwa Primary School is a child safe school. This means that we comply with strict government guidelines about ensuring our school is an extremely safe place for children, after the family home.

Please visit the school website soon to view some updated documents there. Thank you to Erin and Tyrone who have created these menus.

Please visit PROTECT website for further information about Childsafe requirements.

Grade 4-6 Canberra Camp 2019

This year we are going in late May to Canberra with the other small schools in the cluster.

The itinerary includes fantastic venues such as The War memorial, Questacon and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) just to name a few.

You can use your CSEF of \$125 to assist with the costs involved here if you are eligible. Also we are happy to set up a payment plan over the first two terms (or longer if needed). Please return your intention to attend ASAP for cluster numbers. Remember the first \$50 deposit is due on March 1st.

Homework

I would like to see our students have an excellent commitment to their homework from the beginning of the year. Homework requirements are as follows:

Grade F/1 – home readers each night, sound and sight-word practise each night

Grades 3-6 – spelling practise, times tables, reading each night

Attendance

Our attendance rates last year were 92.9% which is around state average but a little low for us. If we consider 11 of our 12 students from last year we are at 94.6% which is excellent. Everyday has something new or the next stage of learning so do your best to have students at school every day. Remember, it is not ok to be away!

First Aid and Swimming

Thanks to Hayley Jeffs who recently assisted us with our swimming practise at Corryong Pool. Hayley also helped us update our First Aid Kit, which is now fairly well stocked. Thanks for your time and help, Hayley.

Thanks also to the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre who donated most of the missing first aid supplies from our kit. This is much appreciated.

Cluster Bus

It has been brought to my attention that we may have access to a Cluster Bus service that is to be shared amongst our small schools network. We will get the bus once each term. It is an 11/12 seater which we would be able to drive for excursions, library visits for a small fee each term to cover expenses. Petrol would be at our own expense. I hope this works out as it would be a great asset to our school.

Homework Club

Meredith and I will be offering a homework club each Thursday after school for 1 hour from 3.15 – 4.15 beginning on Thursday February 14th. This is an opportunity for children who need assistance with a specific area to receive some support with a teacher if they are needing some extra support in an area such as maths or reading and so on.

Meredith and I will be taking turns this term trialling the project. We would also invite any secondary students who may like some assistance with work. We will do our very best to support you but may not exactly know the exact way the secondary school wants you to work but we are happy to support and give it a try.

Homework club cannot run if there is only one student as there are strict guidelines about students being in a one-to-one situation with students. Please contact the school if you would like to know more.

Professional Development

I will be attending a Principal's Meeting on Tuesday February 19th in Tallangatta.

Over the next two terms I will be completing another Literacy Course to assist us with our Writing goals for 2019.

O H and S

We have been reviewing our O H and S Policies and practices recently and still have a few changes to make. I will receive some support from the Department in the coming weeks with this. After a very successful first day with a Department Consultant, Kira, she will be returning again in late February to help make sure our school is compliant in this area.

Family Counselling

Free family counselling is available to us through info@gatewayhealth.org.au . Please contact them on that email address for further information or to make an appointment or ring 0260228888. I am not sure if appointments are in Albury/Wodonga or Corryong so please call them to find out. If anyone in your family needs counselling please contact them for this free service.

Curriculum

This term the whole school will be studying a Science Unit about Weather. This unit is about weather in our area and how it occurs.

In Maths we are currently studying length.

We will also be working on Respectful Relationships this term and Mrs Haugen will be doing a Canberra unit and a Me unit.

In Writing we are working on Narrative Texts and are writing animal fables and narrative stories and personal choice plus we are using an oral editing process to help make our written pieces better in terms of language structures.

Maths-a-thon

We are aiming to hold a Maths-A-Thon in Term 2. This will encourage the students to learn some really useful number facts and help raise some money for the school. There will be no fundraising in Term 1 as there was a lot for families in Term 4 last year and this term there are fees and savings needed for the Canberra excursion for grades 4-6.

School Charges

A letter about 2019 school charges has been sent home. Thank you to the families who have paid their fees and voluntary contributions. We do appreciate this very much. We do appreciate your support with this and payment plans are very welcome. Every little bit helps the school do a better job.

Child Care

Meredith, Erin and I attended a meeting with Towong Shire and the Walwa Community last week. Hopefully at least someone with a Certificate III in Child Care can be found so the childcare, at least, can continue in town.

Indonesian Lessons

We will be having online Indonesian lessons via our school Cisco unit on Fridays beginning very soon with an Indonesian teacher in Melbourne.

Dates to Remember

- Tuesday Feb 19th – School Council Meeting @ 6pm
- Thursday February 28th – O H and S department visit
- Friday 1st March - \$50 initial deposit payment for Canberra Excursion due.
- Tuesday March 12 – School Review Validation Day
- Thursday March 21st – School Review Final Day

WALWA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A CHILDSAFE SCHOOL





Thanks for visiting, 'Pickles'!



Congratulations swimming champions 2019.