PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE 31.1.2014

I am pleased to report a very enthusiastic yet settled start to the 2014 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday period and coped with the really hot conditions recently. Of course the hot weather is upon us as the children return to school but we do have air conditioned comfort!

A huge welcome back to current families and just as big a welcome to our new families. It is great to see our Prep children Ella C, Robbie F-R, Brock H, Sam H, Jasper K & Hermione M in their uniforms and working in P/1C. They are adjusting to their new and exciting school life under the watchful eye of Mrs Christofis.

15 Darling Avenue, Upwey 3158 Vic Ph: (03) 9754 2369 Fax: (03) 9754 8148 Email: upwey.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Website: www.upweyps.vic.edu.au
It is also great to see our new children Liam C (Year 3) & Aaliyah U (Year 1). Next week we will welcome Annika B (Year 1), who will be moving into the area, and in the near future Rhianna C (Year 2), who is currently on a holiday overseas.

Please make any new children and parents welcome if you see them before or after school.

STAFF INTRODUCTION
Welcome back to our enthusiastic staff. To our “regular” staff members I say welcome back and I am sure they are looking forward to the 2014 school year. I also welcome new staff members and returning staff members.

Miss Gallagher is taking over Mrs Rowles position with the Year 5/6S and the grade will be known as Grade 5/6S. (Not 5/6G as we would have too much confusion with 3/4G!)

(Note: You will notice that I refer to children in Year levels such as Year 5 and Year 6 children but when I refer to a grade it will be mentioned as Grade 5/6S.)

Mrs Hickey is returning in the part time position of Performing Arts/Music & Welfare Officer on Tuesdays.

Mrs Kittredge is returning in the part time position of Art on Thursdays. (Due to the sudden departure of Mrs Mitchell she has agreed to take over the position which will be advertised this term to be filled for the year.)

Miss Croft is now Mrs Christofis, (Her grade stays as P/1C – very considerate of her to not force us to change the “C”!)

TASKWORKS EXCURSION
The staff have organised for a Whole School Excursion to Taskworks in Mulgrave to start the school year. We will be travelling by buses to the venue and it is an activity based excursion with a great deal of co-operative activities attempted. The activities will support our Tribes Learning Community approach and engage the children in a variety of fun and challenging activities. The excursion will be held on Friday 28th February and a notice with permission form will be distributed next week. The cost will be approximately $25 but final cost is still to be determined pending transport quotes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BOOKLIST PAYMENTS AND EMA FORMS
The Office will be available for payments of booklists and receipt of EMA forms on Monday for those who have not already paid school fees and not returned EMA forms. Please address this immediately if not already completed. Please ensure that forms are in and payments made in order to receive stationery Book Supplies.

Book Bags and required stationery items will only be distributed to children whose families have paid the Booklist component of the fees or have organised a payment plan with me. For those families who have not already organised payment, pick up will still be available on Monday.

No books have been required for school work this week.

PREP HOURS

During January and February Prep children will be attending all day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this year. Prep children will not attend school on Wednesdays. Prep parents and children will also be involved in a Prep School Entry Assessment/Interview during the first weeks of Term 1. Mrs Christofis will organise the timetable for this process.

Prep children will attend school full time from Monday 3rd March.

SCHOOL CAPTAIN/VICE CAPTAIN ELECTIONS
I will be continuing with the same format as previous years for the process of School Captain/Vice Captain elections. Nominations will need to be accepted by me before the students present a speech to the grades. It is anticipated that presentation speeches will occur on Thursday 6th February between 12:30 and 1:00 pm in the school hall. All children in Year 6 will be expected to take on a leadership role of some type during the year. (Parents are welcome to attend if available.) All Year 1-6 children and staff will vote in a secret ballot at the conclusion of speeches.

HOMEWORK
This topic is always a contentious one and the School Council gave serious consideration at the end of 2014 to how we might achieve greater consensus on the application of Homework and for that reason I am going to survey parents as to their preferred options. Please complete the short survey form attached to the newsletter and return it by Friday 7th February.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
Our first official school assembly will be held on Monday 3rd February and all parents are invited to attend. Our Prep children will be involved in school assemblies right from the start of the year.

SWIMMING PROGRAM 2014
We will be including a Swimming Program during Term 4 this year at Belgrave Outdoor Pool. Children will be expected to attend this program in 2014 but parents may withdraw children for specific reasons. More information will be available next week. The 8-day program will cost approximately $110 and payments may begin under an instalment plan as early as Term 1 so that the financial commitment may be spread over the year as requested by many.

SOMERS CAMP
Children in Years 5 & 6 will be offered the opportunity to attend the Somers School Camp in the middle of 2014. There is a total of 160 student places for our network. The cost of the 9 day program is $185 which is heavily subsidised. If your child is in Year 5 or 6 next year and you would like them to attend, please consider the opportunity and I will provide more information at the beginning of 2014. Please be aware that this year the Year 5 & 6 children are booked into Beechworth Camp and it is quite expensive, in the vicinity of $450. More details are available at www.somerscamp.vic.edu.au . The camp dates are Tuesday 3rd to Wednesday 11th June for Somers.

THANKS & HOLIDAY WORK

PENCIL SHORTBREAD TREAT
Thanks to Kelly W for the baking of “pencil” shortbread biscuits that greeted the staff at morning tea on Thursday. Very appropriate, very much appreciated and very tasty!

TIDY SCHOOL GROUNDS
Thanks to the elves who have completed mowing in our school grounds before the start of the school year. (I know Mr G was one but I am not sure of the other!) Thanks heaps. I appreciate the commitment which is above and beyond the call of duty!

COMPUTER CABLING UPGRADE
RBF Electrical have completed computer cabling upgrading for the Junior Classrooms. This work was approved by the School Council and budgeted for in 2013 and will improve the speed and capacity of our computer access for Grade 2E and Grade P/1C.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Specialist Lessons
These will all begin next week. The following is the day schedule for Specialist Lessons:

Tuesday: Performing Arts/Music (Mrs Hickey) This will focus on working together, composition and expression for the senior children during Term 1.

Wednesday: Physical Education – PE (Mr Aspinall)
Thursday: Art/Craft (Mrs Kittredge)
Thursday: Japanese (Toshi Takahashi) Grade 5/6S only
Tuesday & Thursday: German LOTE for Year Prep to Year 4 children (Sharon Heffernan)

The Japanese language program has been introduced at Level 4 (Year 5 & 6) for the second year at Upwey PS and is in line with an initiative in the Upwey District cluster for provision of Japanese as an Asian language.

School Council Elections 2014
The schedule for the 2014 School Council election process is as follows:

Friday 31st January Announce election schedule and call for nominations.
Friday 14th February Nominations close. Display list of candidates, nominators and seconders.
Friday 14th February Ballot papers (if required) distributed by this date.
Friday 31st February Close of ballot.
Friday 31st February Count ballots and declare results.
Monday 3rd March School Council AGM & School Council Meeting.

Current members continuing for their 2nd year are: Sue Comello, Steve Wickenton, Wendell Herbert, Kay Goodall & Nan Anderson.
The Parent/Staff members of the School Council whose period of office has expired are: Jenny Staff, Louise Hartley, Andrew Gannon, Kim Gray & David Myers. (They are able to seek nomination for re-election.)
The DEECD employee members of the School Council whose official period of office has expired are: Cindy Nyari. (She is able to seek nomination for re-election.) Kay Rowles will relinquish her position.

This means overall there are five positions available for any interested parents/staff.

Please note that nomination forms for parent and DEECD employee vacancies will be available on request from the office today (Friday 31st January).
Please contact the school if you would like a nomination form to be delivered or posted to you.

Sport

House Swimming Sports
It is confirmed, that our House Swimming Sports will be held on Wednesday 12th February at Belgrave Swimming Pool from 9:30 am until about 11:30 am. Children from Years 3 to 6 will be invited to attend if they have swimming competency. (Can at least swim 30 metres from the deep end to the shallow end, with possibly a little walking in the shallow end!) Any Parent of a Year 2 child who has swimming capabilities mentioned above may contact me regarding involvement if desired. The day will have some competition and a fun relay. The school team for the District Swimming Sports will be selected from the results of the House Competition. The District Swimming Sports will be held on Friday 21st February at Belgrave Pool. Parent helper volunteers are requested for both events. Please contact me or the office if you are able to assist.
Permission forms will be distributed next week.

Reminders
An attachment with the Upwey Primary School Expected Student Behaviours 2014 is provided for all families to indicate most expectations in a simple format. Please read and make your children aware of expectations at school. Your support will be appreciated.
Teachers will be “walking children through” this list over the coming weeks to ensure their understanding of our expectations.

Below are a few of the major issues as highlighted areas of our expectations to ensure consistency and positive conditions for learning.

School Staff Car Park
A reminder to parents that children arriving or departing in cars must be dropped off, and picked up, from Darling Avenue and not from the staff car park (except where some incapacity occurs). The safety of all children is a prime concern and Cheryl, our Crossing Supervisor, will continue to assist the children so that they cross the road safely.

Mobile Phones
Under school policy students are not permitted to have mobile phones during school hours. If it is necessary for a student to bring a mobile phone to school for some reason then they are required to pass it in to the office to be secured and it may be picked up after school.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
Under school policy students are to be in school uniform unless permission is gained via a note or contact with myself. Out of School Uniform days will be held on special occasions during the year. I will let all families know when the new Polo Tee Shirt is available from Beleza.

A school hat (broad rim) is compulsory during Term 1 and Term 4.

JEWELLERY ETC.
Under school policy the following applies to all children:

6.1 Only earring studs to be worn at school as other types of earrings (loops, sleepers, pendant earrings etc) should not be worn for safety reasons.

6.2 Long hair on all students is to be tied back at school to assist in avoidance of head lice infestations.

6.3 It is recommended that boys and girls wear track shoes or black school shoes (THONGS, SANDALS & HIGH HEELED SHOES will not be permitted).

CHILDREN’S LUNCH & PLAY LUNCH
I am seeking parent support in ensuring that children do not swap food items with other children and any food items not eaten at school will be taken home. We are also working at creating minimum rubbish at school and I ask that re-usable containers be used as much as possible.

Particular emphasis is placed on Wednesdays for rubbish free lunches.

NUT ALLERGY - ANAPHYLAXIS
Children in 5/6 S will not be allowed to bring any nut products such as peanut butter, Nutella, and actual nuts etc to school due to the allergies and risk of anaphylaxis of students in the classes.

I would like to enlist the support of the whole school community with children in other grades also not bringing nut products to school. This will eliminate the chance of affected children coming in contact with nut products. Please assist and support the school in providing this level of student safety.

CAFFEINE & GUARANA DRINKS, CHEWING GUM & BUBBLE GUM BANNED
I would like to remind everyone that drinks with caffeine or guarana are not to be consumed at school. Also chewing and bubble gum are not permitted at school. Both are for reasons of health and safety.

SHOES TO BE WORN AT SCHOOL
I am also seeking parent support in ensuring that children are wearing shoes at all times in the school grounds. Children may take shoes off in the classroom/hall according to teacher directed activity requirements. This is for safety reasons, especially with the possibility of broken glass around. I am insisting on correct footwear. During Physical Education lessons on Wednesdays children will need track shoes or similar to be worn to ensure adequate foot support to cope with the regime of activities completed.

GAME BOYS, PS2, NINTENDO DS ETC
The above items and other expensive personal items are not to be brought to school for reasons of security.

LUNCH ORDERS
Lunch orders will be available through the school and Burrinja Café on Tuesdays to Fridays (not Mondays). This service will begin on Tuesday 4th February. Please check the price list for items and correct prices. Children will need to remember to drop any lunch orders in the Lunch Order Box located in the Office Foyer by 9:00am. A copy of the updated Lunch Order menu will be attached to the newsletter.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

HEADLICE
Now that the school year has begun and children are in contact with a greater number of other children please continue to check your child’s hair in our continued effort to eradicate infestations.

HEAT HEALTH ALERT
The Education Departments has distributed reminders associated with the current hot conditions. The focus in particular is on the need to hydrate well. The other focus was on ensuring that children are never left unattended in a car.

ADVERTISEMENT

BOOKSHELF CD PLAYER/RADIO
I have been given a 2nd hand Kenwood Bookshelf Sound System – CD Player & Radio (also Mini Disc player) to be offered for free to a good home. Any parents interested, could you please leave your name and phone number and I will complete a draw for the lucky recipient. It will be in my office for viewing for anyone interested.

Malcolm Aspinall
Principal
**Term 1 2014 - Upwey Primary School**

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**Before & After School Care**

Hi all.
So good to see you all again. Looking forward to a great year.
To make a booking for BASC come and see me or Cindy or Kay in the office.
**MONDAY** - Games in the hall or outside
**TUESDAY** - cooking
**WEDNESDAY** - Making magnets
**THURSDAY** - Super science
**FRIDAY** - candle making
Have a great weekend and see you on Monday
Sam

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**P.A. News**

A huge welcome to our new (& our current) families at UPS
We hope that your holidays were relaxing and you're now geared up for a great 2014.
Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 4th Feb
In the Staffroom at 2pm
We hope to see many new faces, so please come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon tea.
Toddlers always welcome

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**Happy Birthday**

31st Jan - 7th Feb

Jai
Kurtis
Callum
WHY, MUM, WHY?
For kids who like to ask questions.
Science and maths fun, hands-on experiments, maths puzzles and creative art to let your curiosity run wild at Belgrave Library first Tuesday of the month, 4pm.
Presented by Dr Louise Hartley, mum to grade-4 Sam and grade-prep Hermione. On Tuesday 4th Feb we will be looking at “Why is the South Pole cold?” with buckets of ice and some friendly (paper) penguins for help.
Costs $5, please book in advance at Belgrave
**SUSHI EXPRESS Lunch orders**

**Friday's only**

**Hand Rolls $2.50 each**

- Californian roll
- Teriyaki Chicken roll
- Crispy Chicken roll
- Avocado roll
- Vegetarian roll
- Salmon & Avocado roll
- Tuna & Avocado roll

**DRINKS $1.50**

- Apple & Blackcurrant

Please write your order on an envelope and leave it at the office.
Homework is common part of school life but often is a contentious issue. We are seeking your views on aspects of Homework and ask that you complete this survey and return it to school by Friday 7th February. It is generally accepted that for any homework children would ultimately be expected to take responsibility but parents would need to support the approach and could assist/check as required.

### Homework Policy

**PURPOSE**
The provision of homework within the Upwey Primary School’s program should provide a positive reinforcement for work and work attitudes established in the classroom. It should be seen as a means of enriching the school program, developing study habits for the students and providing an avenue of communication between the school and the home.

**GUIDELINES**
1. To communicate to parents the type of work being carried out at the school.
2. To lay the foundations for home study habits necessary for higher education.

**To give the students further opportunities to reinforce and practise school work in the home.**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Homework may be issued at the discretion of the students’ teachers. Consultation between classroom teachers and specialist staff should occur to monitor workloads. Homework may be provided for a whole class, for groups of students or for individual students with the purpose of:

   - providing reinforcement by practising examples of known work skills
   - developing desirable study habits
   - encouraging the organisation of leisure time
   - developing research skills
   - fostering independent work skills
   - finishing tasks not completed at school

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1. Your name: .................................................................  Child’s Grade: ...........

2. I support Homework as being compulsory at Upwey Primary School  YES  NO

3. If YES to HOMEWORK please indicate which of the following ways you would like to receive the homework

   Hard copy  [ ]  By Email  [ ]  Hard Copy & Email  [ ]

4. If YES to HOMEWORK please indicate your preference. (More than one may be selected.)

   a) Homework distributed on **Monday** and returned on **Friday**  YES  NO

   b) Homework distributed on **Monday** and returned the following **Monday**  YES  NO

   c) Homework distributed on **Friday** and returned the following **Thursday/Friday**  YES  NO

5. If YES to HOMEWORK, Homework should include. (Ex. – Reading, Spelling, Maths Tables etc)

6. Further Comment