I am pleased to report a very organised and eager start to the 2015 school year. I trust that everyone kept safe and had an exciting and somewhat relaxing holiday period. May I offer an enthusiastic welcome back to current families and our new families.

It is great to see our Prep children Bella S, Zephyr P, Phoebe V, Clements M, Nicholas W, Cedar Q, Cierra G, Lila R, Phoenix P, Rosie A & Maddy S in their uniforms and settling into school life in P/1C. They are already becoming familiar with the school under the care of Mrs Christofis.

It is also great to see our new children Finn A (Year 3) & Rhiannon J (Year 4). We will again be welcoming other new students during the year. Please make all new children and parents welcome if you see them before or after school.

STAFF INTRODUCTION
Welcome back to our enthusiastic staff. I am sure they had a wonderful holiday period and are looking forward to the 2015 school year. I also welcome a new staff member and our returning staff members who have again shown great commitment at the beginning of the year.

Mr Andrew Weekes is taking Grade 3/4W this year after being introduced to the children at the end of 2014.

Mrs Kittredge will be taking on the Environmental Education and Art roles this year and will also be completing Primary Welfare Officer duties on Tuesdays.

(Note: Notice that I refer to children in Year levels such as Yr 5 and Yr 6 children but when I refer to a grade it will be mentioned as Grade 5/6W. For example we have Year 3 children in Grade 2/3E and Grade 3/4W)

SUPPLEMENTARY STAFF
Welcome to Kim Shelley who is completing relieving duties in our BASC program while we are in the process of determining/selecting our new co-ordinator.

Also welcome to Ms Shepherd who will be assisting in Grade 2/3E on Mondays and Tuesdays as part of her training as an Integration Aide.

We will also welcome Mrs Pert into Grade 2/3E next week as part of her teacher training.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
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 Friday 6th February between 2:00 and 2:30 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. As we have 7 Year 6 children I will be organising the leadership roles with two school captains and one vice-captain with all positions available to boys and girls.

(Parents are welcome to attend the speeches if available.) All Year 1-6 children and staff will vote in a secret ballot at the conclusion of speeches.

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
HOMEWORK
Our Homework Policy was revised in 2014 and Homework is compulsory for all children. I am expecting that for the first two weeks of the year children will complete reading as their homework. Starting on Friday 20th February all grades will be given their first formal homework and this will be completed by Thursday 26th February before the following homework will be distributed on Friday 27th February etc. (All grades will have homework distributed on Fridays and due on Thursdays unless otherwise notified by the class teacher.

MATHEMATICS FOR 2015
Mathletics will not be available at school or at home until next week so please be aware that you will be unable to log on until new codes have been completed.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
Our first official school assembly will be held on Monday 2nd February and all parents are invited to attend. Our Prep children will be involved in school assemblies right from the start of the year.

SPECIALIST LESSONS
These will all begin next week. The following is the Specialist Lessons days:

- Tuesday: Environmental Studies (Mrs Kittredge)
- Wednesday: Art/Craft (Mrs Kittredge)
- Thursday: Physical Education – PE (Mr Aspinall)
- Thursday: Japanese (Toshi Takahashi) Grade 3/4W (with all Year 3 children included) & Grade 5/6W
- Thursday: German LOTE for Year Prep to Year 2 children (Sharon Heffernan)

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

GRADE INFORMATION EVENINGS AND FAMILY PICNIC
This year the staff has decided to adjust the format for the Grade Information Evenings and include these on the same evening as the Family Picnic Evening allowing parents to attend staggered Grade Information Sessions that will be held at different times (particularly accommodating families with children in more than one grade). Please put Tuesday 17th February in your diaries as the day for this special event. More details next week.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIME
Just to clarify that children are expected to arrive at school between 8:45 and 9:00 am and not earlier. This is the time that teachers supervise the yard. If children arrive earlier then they will be required to have parents book them in to Before School Care or be supervised by the parent. Children will be placed in Before School Care if they arrive too early and parents will be charged accordingly for the service. Children need to be supervised for safety reasons. The exception to the rule will be Friday mornings when children are invited to attend from 8:30 am if they wish to participate in Free Feed Friday with a breakfast provided by Gavin, Chris and Linda.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT – PA & SCHOOL COUNCIL
I am encouraging parents to consider becoming members of the Parent Auxiliary/Fundraising Committee or School Council and actively becoming involved in school decision making and school activities. **We not only appreciate this involvement but need it!** Please see me if you are requiring any more information on commitments which includes a meeting on an evening once a month.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015
The schedule for the 2014 School Council election process is as follows:

- Friday 30th January and call for nominations.
- Friday 13th February list of candidates, nominators and seconders
- Friday 13th February distributed by this date
- Friday 30th February Close of ballot
- Friday 30th February results
- Monday 2nd March School Council Meeting
- Announce election schedule
- Nominations close. Display
- Ballot papers (if required)
- Close of ballot
- Count ballots and declare
- School Council AGM &

Current members continuing for their 2nd year are:
Andrew Gannon & Louise Hartley.

The parent/staff members of the School Council whose period of office has expired are: Jenny Staff, Nan Anderson, Sue Comello, Steve Wickenton & Wendell Herbert. (They are able to seek re-nomination.)

The DEECD employee members of the School Council whose official period of office has expired are:
Kay Goodall & Cindy Nyari. (They are able to seek nomination for re-election.)

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 on Monday. Please contact the school if you would like a nomination form.

SPORT

HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS
Our House Swimming Sports will be held on Friday 6th 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. The District Swimming Sports will be held on Friday 20th 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.

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.

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 3rd 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.

THANKS & HOLIDAY WORK

TIDY SCHOOL GROUNDS
Thanks to the garden elves who completed mowing in our school grounds before the start of the school year. (I believe that Ben R, Wendell H, Steve W, David M and several children completed tidying and clean up duties.)

Thanks heaps. I appreciate the commitment and I am sure parents and children would thank you for your effort.

CONGRATULATIONS
A huge congratulations to Sam and Hermione, Dylan, James and Louise on the birth of your baby brother and son Byron. We look forward meeting your new addition very soon.

Malcolm Aspinall
Principal

Our 2014 year 6’s today. We think they miss us!