House Swimming Sports

On Tuesday this week Year Three to Six students and several spectators travelled with staff to the Belgrave Pool to participate in our House Swimming Sports. It was a beautiful morning with everyone really enjoying themselves. It was great to see everyone having a go and trying their best. Thanks to the super organisation of Ms Wood and the excellent marshalling of Mrs Lambert, we completed the events in record time which allowed the students to have free time in the pool! There were certainly also some ‘stand out’ swimmers who I’m sure will be proud to represent our school at the upcoming District Swimming Carnival on Friday 24th February.

Thank you to Kelly W, Steve W, David M, Noelene D, Zdenka K who attended and assisted on the day. You were an amazing help!
**Tribes Award**

**BEN**

Congratulations, you have been nominated by a school community member for:

Starting the year with a positive attitude. You have been a great help in the classroom.

---

**ELLA**

Congratulations, you have been nominated by a school community member for:

A commitment to participate and share her ideas and opinions.

---

**P/1B Ethan**

For his excellent listening skills. What a Super Star Ethan!

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**P/1B Tyler**

For being an excellent role model to our new Prep students. Fantastic work Tyler!

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**2E Zoe**

For excellent perseverance to concentrate and achieve a high level of accuracy on the Maths Mate 3.

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**3E Hermione**

For excellent perseverance to concentrate and achieve a high level of accuracy on the Maths Mate 3.

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**4/L Jessica**

For the great start to the year with your Maths Mates work. Well done!

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**4/L Sandy**

For great start to your Math Mates testing. Well done!

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**5/6W Miranda**

For a great start to the New Year. Well done!

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**5/6W Izabella**

For a great start to the New Year. Well done!

---

**TRIBES AWARD BEN**

Congratulations, you have been nominated by a school community member for: starting the year with a positive attitude. You have been a great help in the classroom.

---

**TRIBES AWARD ELLA**

Congratulations, you have been nominated by a school community member for: a commitment to participate and share her ideas and opinions.

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**TRIBES AWARD COREY**

Congratulations, you have been nominated by a school community member for: trying your best.

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**Welcome Barbeque and Information Night**

Just a reminder to everyone, that we will be having our annual ‘Welcome Barbeque and Information Night’ on Wednesday 15th February. The BBQ will commence at 5.30pm. There will be a welcome to everyone in the Library at 6.00pm. An information session will be conducted for parents of Prep-Year Three students at 6.30pm followed by an information session for the parents of Years Four to Six students at 7.00pm. Teachers will discuss matters of general concern and organisational structures to ensure a successful year. If you are unable to attend but would like to know more please feel free to collect some print outs of the information that will be available to you, from our Office.

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**Year Six Leadership Positions**

Just a reminder that the presentation speeches for the School Leadership positions will occur this Friday 10th February between 2:30 and 3.00pm 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 the speeches if available. All Year 1-6 children and staff will vote in a secret ballot at the conclusion of speeches.

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**Farewell to Sandra**

With great sadness we will be saying goodbye to Sandra Hartley today. Sandra has been an integration aid and an integral part of the Upwey Primary school community for well over 7 years. Sandra’s two children Lily and Kurtis were students here at UPS. We will certainly miss you, and all the help you have given over the years. We wish you well in your future endeavours and hope to see your smiling face when you pop in to visit.

**Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. This payment will cover sport and curricular excursions.

CSEF applications open from term one 2017. Please contact the office for the CSEF application form if you have not received one. Please return this form along with a copy of your Health Care Card.

**Staff car park**

A reminder to all parents and carers that there is no parking or drop offs in the morning and afternoon. Our wonderful Crossing lady Cheryl looks after our students every morning and afternoon and finds it very difficult to monitor students walking through the car park with cars coming in and out. We ask that you park in the Church car park or Darling Avenue. We also ask that you do not park on the Nature strips along Darling Avenue, rumour has it that the parking inspectors are watching!! We thank you for your understanding.

**Student Accident Insurance**

It is important to note that the Department of Education does not provide compensation to parents for accidents that occur involve students whilst at school. If you are interested in taking out ‘StudentCover Student Accident’ Insurance for $29.00 for the school year through EBM please visit [www.studentcover.com.au](http://www.studentcover.com.au) for more information or to apply online.

**Google Calendar**

If you are a regular visitor to our School website, you may have noticed some changes to our Calendar page. Parents are now able to view upcoming events for the year online. We hope that this will allow for increased communication between school and families. Please check back regularly as additional dates and activities will be added throughout the year as bookings are made.

**School Council Elections 2017**

The schedule for the 2017 School Council election process is as follows:

- Monday 6th February: Announce election schedule and call for nominations.
- Monday 13th February: Nominations close. Display list of candidates, nominators and seconders.
- Friday 17th February: Ballot papers (if required) distributed by this date.
- Friday 24th February: Close of ballot.
- Monday 27th February: Count ballots and declare results.

**Current members continuing for their 2nd year are:**

Anne Fratini, Ryan Martin, Ben Harris and Lauren Dwyer.

The parent members of the School Council whose period of office has expired are: James Murray (Parent), Stephen Wickenton (Parent), Zdenka Kollarova (Parent), Chris Francis (Parent). This makes for a total of three vacant parent positions.

The DET employee member of the School Council whose official period of office has expired is Cindy Nyari (DET). In addition to this we have two vacant DET positions. This makes for a total of three vacant DET positions.

All previous members are eligible to renominate.

*Please note that nomination forms for parent and DET employee vacancies will be available on request from the office on Monday. Please contact the school if you would like a nomination form.*
In the News…

There has been some talk in recent weeks about student absenteeism and what some schools perceive to be an increase in the number of parents allowing their children to have days off school for birthdays, shopping trips and other family outings.

The Department of Education suggests that any student who has attendance levels of 90% or below is ‘at risk’ of disengagement from school and their learning. School leaders are asked to offer additional support to these families.

In order to ensure consistency in our programs and hence a high level of student achievement and success for our little people, we ask that student absences are minimized. You can help us to achieve this by:

- Only keeping students home from school if they are genuinely unwell.
- Setting a high standard for your child by ensuring they attend school, even on days when there may be activities held which they may dislike. As adults we know that in the workplace you are often required to do things which are outside your comfort zone or that you may not enjoy. In our view having a go at these activities, within our supportive learning environment assists children to build their self-confidence and a positive attitude. We make it our business to ensure everyone is praised for their efforts.
- Supporting our school and its initiatives by discussing the Gold and Silver attendance awards with your child and encouraging them to strive towards being awarded one.

Building Confidence in Your Child

Children with healthy self-esteem and self-confidence learn more, achieve more and are generally happier than those with low confidence levels. However building children’s and young people’s confidence is complex.

Great confidence-builders use a number of approaches that impact on how children think, how they feel and what they can do.

Here are 5 practical strategies that you can use to build real self-confidence in kids of all ages

1. Model confident thinking
Children soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour especially when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like “I’ll have a go at this. If I don’t do so well then I can try again tomorrow.” This is far more effective than “I’m no good at this. I’ll probably stuff it up.” What story are you creating that your children will copy and pass on?

2. Focus on effort & improvement
Current thinking shows that people who believe they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better over time in school, work, and life. One way to develop this ‘growth mindset’ is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what kids do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than pure ability, talents or smarts.

3. Praise their strategies
While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the be all and end all. Children need a broad repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. Focus your language on better and smarter ways of improving. Comments such as “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!” and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right” are descriptive statements that have significant instructional value for young people.

4. Develop self-help skills from an early age
A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. Give them real responsibility
From a young age, start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to be independent.

Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life’s challenges and know that they can become more independent.

For those who are following the …’is there any news about Ms Caddy’s baby yet’ twitter…no news yet everyone!! Stay tuned!

Thank you for another fantastic week everyone!

Anni Smart
Acting Principal
Hi everyone, hope you had a wonderful holiday and welcome back to BASC.

WHAT'S NEW at BASC

We would like to start some regular morning activities, your suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

Starting from
Monday 20th February

Monday’s: 7.30 - 8.10

YOGA & MEDITATION PRACTICE
OR GAMES WITH RYLEY

Wednesdays 7.30 - 8.30

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Please call the office for a booking sheet.

ENVIRONMENTAL ED this week at UPS

Students throughout the school added some colour to the gardens this week. They planted out our stacked pots, and added some colour to the Prep/1 gardens. A herb garden was planted in front of the principal’s office and we would like to thank Lea (Angelina’s mum) for her kind donations. Garlic, potatoes, radishes, onion and a couple of cucumber were harvested ready for cooking. Thanks Upwelians, for all your hard work! Many hands do make light work!
Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental Music Lessons in Tecoma. I teach electric bass, drums, beginner piano and beginner guitar from my home studio in Tecoma. I have full teaching qualifications, full VIT registration and nearly 20 years experience teaching primary and secondary aged students. Lessons are $25 for half an hour.

Please contact me on 0418 329 149 or email ceprattico@gmail.com
PA News

SAVE THE DATE

We are looking for volunteers for our Bunnings Fund-raising BBQ on Sunday 26th February – please look out for the roster in the newsletter and let the office know where you can be of assistance – a great way to get to know our school families!!

PA Meetings are child friendly and everyone is welcome – held once a month at a time convenient to the group – our first meeting for the year is this Friday 10th February at 9.15am in the staffroom.

Come and have a chat and a cuppa, share your ideas and help our children at the same time!!

See you Friday!

Michelle Myers on behalf of the PA Committee
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days

School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.upweyps.vic.edu.au and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.