Our vision for Dixons Creek Primary School is to empower students to embrace learning; to achieve their personal best and to build their emotional, social and physical well-being so they may actively contribute to the local and global community in a child safe environment. All members of the school community will value, and REACH to be: Resilient, Energetic, Accountable, Caring and Honest.

PRINCIPAL PREAMBLE
Hayley Bawden

I want to start off the newsletter with a big thank you to our school community. We’ve had a busy term so far and your continued support and positivity is greatly appreciated.

I particularly want to thank Cassie Ralis, Kerrie McMurray and Emma Moore for organising and running another highly successful and enjoyable Trivia Night. Well done to the Rusty Nuts for taking out the top spot. Thank you to all of the parents that attended on the night as well as the parents and staff who organised donations for the silent auctions. The parent’s club looks to have raised over $7,000. An amazing effort!

It’s been a brilliant celebrating Book Week this week at school. The student’s costumes looked terrific during the parade! Well done to Chelsea Vaserfal, Kade Smith, Emily Cross, Chloe Morris, Jericho Shortis, Belle Vaserfal and Harry Gabel who won the best costume awards. I hope you’ve all had a chance to visit our Book Fair as well. If you haven’t had the chance, please pop in to the office and have a look through the fantastic books on offer. The Fair will be open until next Friday. A huge thank you to Kirsten Smith who has donated her own time to organise, set up and run the entire fair. We’re very lucky to have you Kirsten.

We have been fortunate enough to have a few special visitors over the past fortnight as well. A big thank you to my Dad, Tony Bawden, who came and spoke to the 4/5/6 grades about his international trade project between Horsham and China. His presentations about national and local imports and exports was very informative and the pictures of his travels in China were eye opening. Thank you to Angie MacMillan for presenting ‘The Tempest’ puppetry show to the school on Wednesday for book week. Your puppets were amazing and the show was enjoyed by all.

One final thank you to the parents that have been attending our Thursday afternoon assemblies. The students work very hard to prepare for this event each week and we have seen their performances becoming more polished and entertaining. After receiving the results from our online survey today, we were excited to announce that our new House Group names are Lorimer, Dickson, Hargreaves and Smeadley.

Don’t forget that next week we have our long awaited Short Film Festival on Thursday night, with a BBQ dinner from 5 and films screening from 6pm. This will be followed by a curriculum day on Friday. The staff will be learning about coding and Google Classroom with leading ICT teacher Tom Daniels.
Kids Helpline is a fabulous resource for families and children. Most of the material is in child friendly language and presented in a sensitive way. There are great articles for teens as well. If you have any issues you would like addressed in this area of the newsletter, please tell Sharon Walker.

Little Learner Orientation Dates 2016

Wed September 14
Wed October 12 and 26
Wed November 23
Wed December 7 (9am - 1.30pm)

Our students regularly learn about how we use digital technologies in our everyday lives such as websites, phones, games and cameras etc. As teachers, we are always amazed to hear about the things that students are doing and the apps and games that they are using. If you haven’t already, I encourage you to ask them about what apps and programs they are using. In the classrooms next week we will be looking at staying safe online and learning about what we can create with technology. Our school currently has a specific focus on coding, or programming, so if your child asks to go onto code.org, scratch.mit.edu or CS First, please encourage them.

With the way the world is going, our students are going to grow up to live and work in a world that is so unlike our own. Whilst we need to encourage them to learn, explore and grow with technology, we also need to make sure they have the skills to stay safe. Here are some things you can do at home:

- Do your research. Know what your child is doing on line and look into what it is, and any potential risks.
- Stick to age restrictions on social networking pages such as Facebook and Instagram. These restrictions are in place for a reason.
- Look into making a family contract for technology usage so that your child is aware of the guidelines.
- For students playing online games such as Clash of Clans, Minecraft or Call of Duty, on Computers, PlayStation and Xbox;
  - Where possible, use private servers to restrict gameplay to a trusted group of people
  - Encourage your child to avoid sharing personal or private information such as their name, the school they attend or even the name of their local sports team.
  - Nothing is free—warn your child about accepting gifts (even virtually) from people they don’t know.
  - If your child is communicating on line with people using headphones, listen in every once in a while to make sure that you’re supportive of their conversation.

For more information, have a look through the iParent Resources Guide, found at https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent

A Message to Parents

Parents and carers, students and staff all share responsibility for ensuring that Dixons Creek PS is a positive, respectful and safe school environment. We are all responsible for sustaining a positive culture within our school community and for treating each other with dignity and respect at all times. Everyone should be mindful of the manner in which they conduct themselves in and around the school, noting that we are the role models that impressionable students look to.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contribute to the positivity and productivity of our school community each and every week. Though I cannot thank each of you individually, I wish to assure you that your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Being in the Acting Principal Role, this is an opportune time for me to emphasise that my door is open to discuss any concerns you may have, simply contact the front office to schedule an appointment.
A Message from School Council

At each monthly meeting we get the opportunity to reflect on how lucky we are to be a part of the Dixons Creek PS community. We believe we are incredibly fortunate to be a part of something so unique and special.

Benefits of small schools like DCPS:

- Small schools have been found by numerous research studies in the last 25 years to be generally better for most educational purposes.
- Small primary schools have a positive effect upon student achievement, extra curricular participation, student satisfaction, student behaviour and attendance.
- In our small school there is a strong sense of pride, and an attitude and sense of personal possession and involvement on the part of students, parents, staff and community residents, which exists to a greater degree than in large schools.
- Over 20 years ago researchers proposed the “inside-outside perceptual paradox” which stated that even though larger schools were more impressive on the outside, upon closer scrutiny the small school provided a better quality of education. The small school can offer benefits in several areas: (1) personal relationships, (2) students, (3) teachers, (4) administration, and (5) curriculum and instruction.

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- The size of the school does not inhibit personal interaction; it encourages it. Small schools typically serve a community nucleus. This invites strong support from parents and community members as well as closer working relationships among the school staff. In a small school it is not unusual for teachers, administrators, and school council members to know each other well. This can lead to easy acceptance of new ideas among friends as well as a strong sense of identification and belonging.

STUDENTS

- Morale among students tends to be higher in small schools. Because there are fewer students individuals are generally exposed to more opportunity to develop leadership skills in a greater diversity of situations. Often, literally everyone must participate in order to make a project a success. This promotes among students a sense of belonging, of pride in their community, their school, and themselves. As a result, students are likely to have better attitudes toward school and less likely to create discipline problems.

References:

MISS JACOBS 3/4J

It is hard to believe that there are only three weeks of this term left, yet we still have so many upcoming events. The children have been working on fractions and probability in mathematics and have begun an important portfolio task. They are also working very hard on learning their times tables. The class usually undertake a "minute maths" activity at the beginning of each mathematics session.

English we have been looking at lots of different proverbs and discussing the deeper meaning of these proverbs. We have learnt that proverbs don't have to be interpreted literally but they are words that can encourage us to take positive action in our lives. We will soon be moving on to learning about metaphors and similes.

It is going to be a very busy end of the term, with tabloid sports coming up on Friday, the film night and then the annual "Jump Off" in the last week of school, the children will be well and truly ready for holidays when they come around.

We are very lucky to have Miss Robinson working in our classroom until the end of term. We are looking forward to her contributions.

MRS POPE 4/5B

Healesville High Musical ‘Legally Blonde’

Last Wednesday the Year 5/6 students went to Healesville High to see the musical called ‘Legally Blonde’. We went on the bus with some Yarra Glen Primary students. When we got into the theatre we got into our seats and the show started in about 10 minutes. Ms Lyons went on the bus with the Yarra Glen students and her daughter Hannah was in the play and she was the main character. She was amazing. I thought the show was good.

James Maffescioni

Tony Bawden

Last week Miss Bawden’s dad came into talk about countries exports and imports that come and go in Australia. Tony Bawden worked for Horsham City Council and helped to develop a freight terminal from his area to Melbourne, to send produce to China.

Tony Bawden went to China for a trading agreement with a group that he was working with at the time and a bunch of important people from Horsham. Tony showed us lots of photos of when he was in China making the agreement. The photos were of the Chinese food, culture and many more things. Some of the food was witchery grubs, beetles, grass hoppers and fish. The culture is made up of a lot of minority groups. In the minority groups they have to were certain clothing to attract people from around the world.

Fun fact: Australia’s highest imports are from China and the second is the USA.

By Shanice and Rhylee
MRS HOOGIE F– 1H

You might see Miss Christel and Mrs Davies helping out in our class over the next couple of weeks, both are student teachers that will provide valuable assistance and teach a range of interesting lessons. We are always excited to cook on Wednesdays and I can see that the students have gained practical knowledge through involvement in the cooking program. On Fridays we have been busy designing and constructing during puppet making classes and our paper mache heads are starting to take shape as we add more layers.

MRS SCHABEL 1/2S

We have had a really jam packed fortnight in the 1/2 room! We have been busy making our stop motion movies for the upcoming film night, learning all about tens friends numbers such as $6 + 4 = 10$ and cooking wonderful vegie muffins and bread baskets, which the majority of the children enjoyed immensely. Our little museum continues to grow as more children bring old items from their homes to share with us. In puppetry we started to make our puppets using newspaper, tin foil and paper mache. Much fun and mess was made! We also had Larn as a visitor to our school last week. He helped us with making our movies and literacy rotations. Both he and the kids had a wonderful time together.

Uniform Shop Reminder

Could you please make sure that all uniform orders are completed and handed to the office by Friday September 9 for Term 4 requirements. The school now only holds limited stock and will only be ordering once, at the end of each term. Please check your child’s summer uniform sizing. And ensure that they have their hat ready for Term 4.

Students starting school in 2017 will be able to come and view items in the office before purchasing. It is compulsory for all students to wear school uniforms, including black shoes, and to have a hat, book bag and school bag.
The Year 5/6 students have spent a lot of time over the past two weeks writing scripts and shooting scenes for their movies for the Short Film Festival, to take place on Thursday September 8. They have learnt a great deal about the importance of planning and rehearsal. After many takes and lots of bloopers the movies are now being edited and will soon be in the can (completed). The students are designing advertising posters to promote their three films “Stereotypes Galore”, a mockumentary, “Roberto’s” a film about the character’s involved in an Italian Restaurant, and a not so stereotypical version of “Hansel and Gretel”.

As part of our Geography inquiry into countries in the Asian region we have studied Marslow's Hierarchy of needs and compared the standard of living we have in Australia to other countries around the world. We have also explored how countries make money through exporting products and services. This trade is balanced by the items we import to provide products and services we don’t produce in Australia.

Visit by Tony Bawden by Bailey Banks

Mr Tony Bawden came in to tell the 4/5/6 students about imports and exports and our top trading partners. Australia’s top trading partner is China. China doesn’t have the things that we have so we trade for goods and services that we want. Australia imports things and exports to other countries. Import means other countries send products from their country into Australia. Export means to send our products to another country. We export mainly minerals and food and we import a large variety of manufactured goods.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

The art room continues to be a hive of activity. All classes are participating in the Threads and Textiles unit. F/1 students have been practicing some weaving and simple stitching techniques in warm and cool colours. The 1/2 children have been inspired by the designs of Liz Payne; stitching paths and patterns on hessian, which they previously used paint to print on. The 3/4 students are making lizard sculptures from straw and thread, inspired by indigenous Tjanpi figures, which is proving to be fun. The children in the 4-6 classrooms are using traditional basket weaving techniques to weave their own colourful baskets, with inspiration from the Bilinudgel Weavers and the Yolngu Experience.
A Message from Parents Club

Can we say a huge thank you to all of the Parents and Staff of our amazing school community for all of the effort that they put in, making this year’s Trivia Night a huge success. A big thank you to those from the wider community that chose to join us on the night, making the diverse company a great bunch to enjoy the night with. We could not hold such a night without the efforts of everyone that was involved. We cannot thank you enough.

WORKING BEE / SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1st

We are holding a Spring working bee to rejuvenate our school grounds. We need many hands to make light work of a large number of tasks. Below are listed the tasks, equipment required, an approximate workforce and suggested time for completion. If you are available for one or more of these tasks please put your name on the list at the front desk in the office or e-mail your availability. A BBQ lunch will be provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grounds</th>
<th>Equipment required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR PLAYGROUND</td>
<td>Drop saw, drill / hammer, post hole digger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber retaining wall to be repaired around south east corner.</td>
<td>Mattocks, Shovels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground beneath play equipment to be dug up and levelled ready for new softfall to be applied.</td>
<td>6-8 people—Time: 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some areas to be filled beneath play equipment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeds</td>
<td>Weed sprayer, whipper snipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray weeds in front garden beds and car park area.</td>
<td>2 people - Time: 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeds sprayed along fence lines and around buildings. Dead plants trimmed and removed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prune and tidy</td>
<td>Secateurs, gloves / spade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden beds near art room and library. Plants trimmed and beds weeded and refreshed.</td>
<td>2 people—Time: 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailer &amp; Frame</td>
<td>Shovels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be removed / Relocated to beside the large shed.</td>
<td>4 people—Time: Half an hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegie Garden</td>
<td>Sand and mortar mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavers to be replace.</td>
<td>1 person—Time: 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet and shelter shed</td>
<td>Hammer, saw, ladder (and license)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotten timbers to be replaced. Timbers to be primed and painted.</td>
<td>Paint brushes / electric sander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting touch ups to green sections of toilet block.</td>
<td>2 people—Time: 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old BOY / GIRL signs to be removed, repainted and restored.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footy Goal Posts</td>
<td>Paint brushes, sanding equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be sanded and painted.</td>
<td>Time: 1 hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You are invited to
Dixons Creek
Primary School’s
Short Film Festival
Thursday September 8,
5:00 – 7:30pm

Enjoy watching the student’s short films and animations.

Bring a picnic tea and grab a BBQ sausage to support the Green Thumbs Community Group.

Pop corn and drinks for sale

Screening starts at 6pm!

Join us for all the fun!