Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

WELCOME NEW STAFF, NEW STUDENTS AND NEW FAMILIES
The year has commenced successfully and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome new members of the school community. We have many new students and families and also new staff. New teachers include Ms Dowd in 5D, Ms Murphy in 2M and Ms Snelling working with Ms Dow in 1D. We also have two student teachers from the USA, Ms Myers and Ms Kallergis who will be working predominately in the Prep Grades, and also Ms O'Bryan in 3P. If you get the opportunity please introduce yourself to the new staff, students and families and make them feel welcome.

THIS YEAR’S STUDENT LEADERS
At Monday’s assembly, our student leaders were presented with their badges by the Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Veronica Dowman. The leaders are as follows:
School Captains: Elly Wingfield and Kyle Wright
School Vice Captains: Heidi Fisher and Lucas Ion
House Captains:
Baxter Seals: Chelsea Wilson and Thomas Murray (C), Chris McLean, Jessica Tong and Layla Williamson (VC),
Harmer’s Sea Eagles: Maddy Adams and Luke Alford (C) Elenor Kane Dipaolo and Hayden O’Neill (VC)
Williamson’s Stingrays: Leah McNish and Matthew Kent (C) Jesse Orchard Moore and Miora Trainor (VC),
Powlett Penguins: Josh Bates and Leah Lovett (C), Kurt Brown and Brittney Elmore (VC)

CHANGES TO SCHOOL DAY
As there is no early bus call now so that classes are not interrupted on a daily basis, I would ask students and families to avoid using the bus loop exit at the end of the day. Students and families can exit the school via the gate outside the front office and then use the footpath to head south. This will reduce the chance of incidents occurring in the bus loop and also reduce congestion as we are trying to load students onto three buses in the short time frame. I would appreciate your support with this. Thank you.

EARN AND LEARN REWARDS
Last year many parents and friends collected Safeways and Woolworths dockets and brought them into school. The points from these dockets have now been collated and our school has taken...
delivery of new Lego resources. The Lego will be utilised in Grades Prep to 2 and also the Technical Lego in the other year levels. Thank you to everyone for handing in their dockets and to Mrs Strickland and many of last year’s Grade 6 students for entering the dockets on-line.

Finally it was great to see so many families in the school so far this year and to hear that parents have made the effort to introduce themselves to their children’s new teachers. Thank you for making a positive start to the year.

Matt McKittrick
Principal

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Term one will see our grades 3, 4, 5 and 6’s participating in their swimming program. This will be on a Thursday and will begin on **9th February** and continue to **22nd March**. The senior house swimming sports will be held on **Thursday 29th March**. Students need to remember to return their permission forms to their teacher. Until the permission form is returned students will not be allowed to swim. Students need to remember every Thursday to bring their bathers and towel. Please ensure that all students’ belongings are named. The swimming program has changed this year with the YMCA staff taking the swimming groups and the sessions being 40 minutes. The times for each of the groups are as follows:

- 9.10am - 3P
- 9.50am - 3R
- 10.30am - 4C
- 11.10am - 4W
- 12.05pm - 6B
- 12.45pm - 6D
- 1.25pm - 5K
- 2.05pm - 5D

Senior Swimming Trials

Last Friday a number of students elected to try out for the swim team that will go onto the district swim carnival on **Tuesday 21st February at Cowes**. The students who have successfully made the team will get a permission note sent home in the next week. It was good to see a large number of students willing to have a go with the trials.

3/4 Football Clinic

**Monday 13th February** will see all our grade 3 and 4 students walk down to the Wonthaggi Football oval and participate in a football clinic run by the AFL in conjunction with the Melbourne Football Club from 1.30pm to 3pm. All students should have received their permission form and need to return their permission forms to their teachers.

PMP (PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM)

PMP is a program which aims to develop the child’s perceptions and understandings of themselves in their world through movement and motor experiences. It aims to develop perceptions of time and space while also giving the children confidence. Grade Prep, 1 and 2 all participate in PMP during term 1. To make this a success parent helpers are needed. If you are able to help out at all please contact Kylie Strickland. Young siblings are more than welcome to come along with you and also participate in the program. More information will be sent home with the students and be in next weeks newsletter.

PREP STUDENTS:

We welcome our new Prep students and their families to the school. A reminder that Prep students will attend school from 9.00 am until 3.25 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the first six weeks and will commence full time the week beginning Tuesday 13th March. Well done for an excellent start Grade Prep.
**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND BAND - MONDAY:** Our instrumental music lessons and band will commence Monday 13th February. Due to children leaving there are several vacancies in the instrumental music classes, if your child is interested in learning an instrument please contact the office. Lessons are $15.00 for a 20 minute lesson.

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROGRAM:** This year we are running sports activities after school on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 3.30 – 4.30. There is no cost for these activities and students will be provided with fruit to eat as a snack. For Term One the activity will be Football Skills with Grades 1, 2 & 3 on Tuesday afternoon and Grades 4, 5 & 6 on Thursday afternoon. Notices have been sent home please fill in and return by tomorrow if your child is interested in participating.

**BOOKCLUB:** If you wish to order from this issue of book club, orders are to be returned to the school by Friday 17th February. Please make sure cheques are made payable to Wonthaggi North Primary School not Scholastic Book Club.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:** We have had a great start to the year and could all students please have an art smock or shirt to protect their uniform.

**PFA:** The first meeting of the PFA for 2012 will be held in the staffroom at 9.45am Monday 20th February. Please come along and support the school, new faces are very welcome.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**
Our students look fantastic today with all students dressed in school uniform and I thank all families for their support in this matter. Please don’t forget hats and labeling of all uniform. Hats are available at the office at a cost of $7.50.

**EXPENSIVE ITEMS AT SCHOOL**
I discourage students from bringing expensive toys or other articles to school as they can be misplaced, broken or (sadly) taken. Staff cannot be responsible for the safety of these items.

**JEWELLERY AT SCHOOL**
A reminder that jewellery is not to be worn at school except for inexpensive watches and studs or sleepers in the ears. Nose rings are not to be worn. Safety is our first concern in this matter.

**HEAD LICE**
Please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair for head lice. Unfortunately this is a problem we share and we must support each other in this matter. From experience head lice can be very distressing for families and vigilance at home is the best way to address the problem.

**PAUL’S COLLECT A CAP** We are still collecting the caps, please send any that you have collected over the holidays to school to enable us to cash in some more caps.

**HELICOPTER LUNCH:** Next Friday 17th February the school will be running a radio controlled helicopter lunch. Students with R C helicopters are invited to come to the gym with their helicopters at 1.00pm to play with their helicopters for 25 minutes. For further information see Will Brusamarello in 4W.
Information for 2012

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1 February 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2012 for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 for primary students and $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 years in 2012 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary school*</th>
<th>Secondary school*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 82.25</td>
<td>$ 164.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 82.25</td>
<td>$ 164.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Parent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>$ 235</td>
<td>$ 470</td>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will form the basis for calculating the amount payable to parents and schools.

Contact: School Office for application form and further information.

SUSHI ORDERS

We will be ordering sushi from Youki’s Japanese again this year. Sushi is $2.50 per roll available Wednesdays only and orders are to be sent to the school office by 9.00am.

- Tuna Mayo and Corn
- Salmon California
- Chicken Teriyaki
- Crab Stick California
- Chicken Schnitzel
- Vegetarian Salad
- Spicy Tuna Mayonnaise

Late orders cannot be accepted
**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th February</td>
<td>Football Clinic Grades 3&amp;4</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th February</td>
<td>Final payment due for Grade 5 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st February</td>
<td>District Swimming Sports - Cowes</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd – 24th February</td>
<td>Grade 5 Tidal River Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Division Swimming Sports – Korumburra</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Sports – Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>National Ride or Walk to School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>WNPS House Swimming Sports</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM ONE 2012**

Children always love to see their parents, grandparents or friends helping at school and our canteen cannot operate without volunteer help. The hours are from 11.30am until 1.30pm on Wednesday to Friday. No prior canteen experience is necessary, just a willingness to help.

Canteen duty involves placing food and drinks in the classroom crates, serving children if you wish to and some washing of dishes and sweeping the floor.

If you wish to help in the canteen, please fill in the details below and return this section to the school office by Monday 13th February 2012.

Thank you, Heather Wintle – Canteen Manager.

**NAME:** .......................................................... **TELEPHONE:** ........................................

I am available to assist on the following days. (Please circle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>How Often</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Each fortnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Once a month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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WONTHAGGI STRINGZ

Wonthaggi Stringz is a group of string players who meet every Thursday evening in the Wonthaggi Citizens Band room at 7pm. We are currently seeking new players to join us. Our rehearsals will start on March 1st. If you play the violin, viola, cello or double bass you are most welcome to come along and join us. We are looking for players of all ages and all standards – children are very welcome, even if they have only just started playing. We can also cater for experienced players.

If you are interested please contact Tonya – 56722445, thehackett@aanet.com.au, or just come along.

SKATE & BMX LESSONS February & March

LEARN2SKATE & LEARN2RIDE

Lessons are a great way to get started or improve your skills with skating. Clinics involve the teaching of safety, how to skate/ride properly, skate park etiquette and knowing your boundaries when learning how to skate/ride. The YMCA will be holding regular sessions for beginner or intermediates of all ages (suggested min age 6 years).

> Each lesson is 45 minutes in duration.
> All equipment for skaters is supplied free.
> BMX students will need to provide their own bike. (Mountain bikes accepted)
> Lessons will be held at Wonthaggi and Inverloch skate parks on Saturdays. Please contact the YMCA to find out available dates.

Private Tuition- Any Ability - (2 Students) - $20 flat rate – Skate
(2 Students) - $20 each- BMX

Group Lessons- Beginners (first time/not confident on a board) -
(max. 6 students) - $10 per person – Skate only

For Inverloch and Wonthaggi bookings contact the Wonthaggi YMCA aquatics and leisure centre- 5672 4194

Bookings are essential so contact us as soon as possible!

For any other enquiries contact the YMCA skate services co-ordinator Travis Blackney: email- travis.blackney@ymca.org.au phone- 0468 935 634
**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

*Host an International Exchange Student*

- Gain a new family member
- Make a life long link to a family in another country
- Learn about another language and culture
- Share the beauty and culture of Australia
- Contribute to international goodwill

By offering to act as a host family in a volunteer capacity, you will provide an international student with the opportunity to study and experience life here in Australia.

With new students arriving in June-July 2012 from over 20 countries, why not give the students in your local area the opportunity to learn about other cultures and make international friends!

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today. Note: opportunities exist for families to host on a long term basis (5 or 10 months) basis as well on a temporary and short term basis (2 or 3 months).

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia call 1300 135 331 or visit our website: [www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student](http://www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student)

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**SOUTH GIPPSLAND CARERS**

South Gippsland Carers is a group of carers and families of people with additional needs and frail aged

We are there for all carers who live in the South Gippsland region, and we provide support, social get-togethers, information sharing and regular meetings

*Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month during school Term from 10am – 12 noon at the Leongatha Community House, 16 Bruce Street Leongatha.*

For more information please contact Heather on 56 689 243

*Next meeting will be Tuesday February 14th, 2012*
Back to School 2012 – Tips for Parents and Carers

A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms, and subsequent hospital admissions of children occurs during the first few weeks of Term 1. While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children coming into contact with triggers that they have had time away from now that they have returned to school.

What can parents and carers do to help their children avoid asthma exacerbations at school?

- Ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (eg. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. Also ensure that you provide medication to the school or preschool that your child attends if required
- Ensure that you have provided the school or preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan that has been signed by a medical practitioner
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early asthma symptoms, and can self-administer their reliever medication properly
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au

Preparing Your Child for School Sports Days

Sports carnivals are an important highlight in every school’s calendar, and it is important that all students are able to participate to the best of their abilities. Exercise is a trigger for over 50% of people with asthma, so asthma exacerbations are common on sports days. Parents and carers can take several easy steps to help manage their child’s asthma, and to prevent them from having a serious asthma attack.

- Return an updated Asthma Action Plan to the school so that staff are ready to respond appropriately to any asthma symptoms that your child may have
- Teach your child to recognise early asthma symptoms, and help them to feel confident to self-administer reliever medication (also using a spacer where possible)
- Encourage your child to notify staff if they experience asthma symptoms, even if they self-administer reliever medication and feel comfortable returning to activity
- Be aware that if your child is unwell or has poorly managed asthma, they are more likely to experience symptoms during exercise.

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au