STUDENT FREE DAY—Next Thursday 25th February

Next Thursday, 25th February, all staff at Churchill Primary School will be involved in a Professional Learning Day. As decided last year by our School Council, no students will be required at school on this day. Please make alternative arrangements for your child(ren).

THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We have had an organised and calm start to the school - thank you to all for making our school such a great place to be. All students are welcome to attend Breakfast Club at our canteen from 8:15am every morning; it is a real social event and we encourage all students to attend as eating breakfast helps students learn!

Do not forget that the yard is not supervised until 8:25am so unless your child is attending Breakfast Club they should not be at school before this time. Thank-you for your cooperation.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Our Student Representative Councillors have now been chosen and the following students will represent their classes:

Savannah Lehrner, Monai Porykali, Marli James, Georgia Bruce, Will Towers, Hayley Kamphuis, Jade Hawkins, Moncidel Strack & Teshawn Harrison.

This year our ‘Bee Keepers’ will change at the beginning of each term. Term 1 Bee Keepers are:

Madilyn Bryce, Lexi Sterrick, Lakisha Seddon & Tayla McAvoy.

Our apologies to the Blue House Captains who were incorrectly listed in last fortnight’s newsletter. Our BLUE HOUSE CAPTAINS are:

Delphine Johnson & Lachlan Bell.

We congratulate all these students on being selected to represent our school in such important leadership roles and we are expecting great things from them throughout the year.

On April 21st, in Term 2, all student leaders will be attending a Student Leadership Conference in Traralgon with Mrs Burke and Mrs Gilmore. Please look for the Student Leadership Course outline in this issue of our newsletter.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Last week members of our Buildings & Grounds committee and their families helped to prepare the area where our new playground will be erected. A big thank-you to the following proactive members of our school community:

Jake Nievaart, Peter Ellerington, Simone Schmidt, Kenny Kerslake, Adam Jellis, Lindsey Turner, Tracey Braun, Thomas, Annalyse & Ruby.
DET EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
There has been another spate of threatening phone calls received by several schools across the state during the week.

We have been advised by DET that if we do receive any calls of a threatening nature we are to enact our Emergency Management Plan.

At this stage we have not received any of these calls.

Please find information supplied in this newsletter that will support you to talk to your child about any possible threats.

FREE TEXTS FOR SCHOOLS / SMS ALERT SYSTEMS
As part of the support to schools during emergency situations the government will now cover all costs associated for schools communication through SMS emergency situations.

This is great news and will certainly assist to ease the minds of all parents during emergency situations should they arise.

YINNAR & DISTRICT SWIMMING SPORTS
On Monday, 9 students represented Churchill Primary School at the Yinnar & District Swimming Sports at Churchill Leisure Centre:

Delphine Johnson, Marli James, Madilyn Bryce, Jordyn Bryce, Lachlan Bell, Ryder Lesiw, Moncidel Strack, Jayda Foster and Hayley Kamphuis.

All students were wonderful on the day and should be commended for having a go and doing their best. Congratulations to everyone who competed.

STUDENT INSURANCE
Parents are reminded that the Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. They can be obtained by school councils on a whole-of-school basis, or by parents/guardians for individual students.

Private property bought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. The school has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage and therefore recommends that valuable items are not brought to school.

For further information you can contact Susan at the school or the following DET contacts:
Mike Roleff - roleff.michael.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Ph: 9637 3533 or
Jane Wilhelm - Wilhelm.jane.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Ph: 9637 2509.

HEAD LICE
We all hate them and wish we didn't have to deal with them but unfortunately these inconvenient parasites are a part of school life. We have had a few reports of Head Lice over the past week and we urge parents to remain vigilant at home in your fight against these pests.

We ask parents to please diligently check your child’s hair and treat if necessary on a regular basis, at least once a week! It is recommended that children with hair below their collars to please wear it up in plaits or buns to help stop the transfer of live lice from student to student.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
A reminder that our first School Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd March in our staffroom at 7pm. All members of our school community are welcome and encouraged to join us. Likewise, if you know of anyone that would like to be part of this important decision making body please consider nominating them. Nominations must be received by the office no later than 4pm on Monday 29th February.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing your smiling faces again next week,

Susan Gilmore

Postal address: P.O. Box 64, Churchill, 3842, Coleman Parade, Churchill. Telephone: 03 5122 1343, Facsimile 03 5122 2039.
Website: www.churchillps.vic.edu.au
School Photos

School Photo Day will be held on Wednesday 16th March and order forms have been sent home with students this week. These forms can be returned along with payment at anytime prior to the day and they will be kept in the safe and distributed to the photographer on the day OR they need to be handed straight to the photographer on the day.

If you would like to order family photos to be taken there are special forms available at the office. Please keep these forms separate to individual photos so that there is no confusion on the day.

Introducing Our School Chaplain: Matt Stear - 2016

My name is Matt Stear and I am Churchill Primary Schools’ chaplain.

My initial introduction to working with children and families began as a volunteer with Y.F.C. where I began prison visitation at Tarana boy’s correction centre (now Parkville youth corrections centre). Later on I volunteered for six years on S.U family camps at Port Arlington and as a youth leader in our local church youth group for several years.

In 1998 my family (I have four great kids of my own ranging in ages from 13 to 18) and I moved to Foster where I ran a home based relief milking business and volunteered as an R.E. teacher in our local Primary school for three to four years. Later on this became casual employment at both the primary and high schools as I took charge of the maintenance and gardening. Here I was able to develop good relationships with the kid’s right through from P-12 and it was here that the desire to work with families took shape.

My main role is to provide Pastoral Care, which seeks to address a person’s present needs while being respectful of their unique circumstances. I am not an extension of R.E. I am here for the whole school community, students, parents & staff. As a Chaplain it is not my role to judge anybody. My aim is to instill a sense of purpose, to help kids believe that they are of great worth, to bring hope and to help them reach their full potential!

All matters that are discussed are treated in a totally confidential manner which is in line with current privacy legislation.

I am available by appointment through the school office.

If you see me in the school grounds please say G’day.

Looking forward to meeting you soon – Matt Stear
Next Tuesday 23rd February is our House Sports Day. The day will run like a typical school day with events starting at 9.10am. Timetables will be available from the office next week for parents. Please make sure students are wearing their house colours as well as shorts and runners. A good lunch and drink bottle is also important to keep up energy levels.

Parents are most welcome throughout the day. Helpers at events and with age groups are also important and appreciated. If you can help out for all or part of the day, please let me know. We are looking forward to another great CPS Sports Day.

Thank you,

Hollie Burke, PE Teacher

SCHOOL CAPTAINS:
Earlier this week our new School Captains were taken out to lunch by Mrs Gilmore to local café Vintage C’hill. The girls discussed their roles and personal growth goals.

The girls also received their captain badges and were excited and wore them with pride.

In addition to our normal assembly on Monday, a special assembly will also be held next Friday at 9am when Mr Russell Northe will officially present ALL our student leaders with their badges. Parents are invited to join us for this special occasion.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS:
A very big congratulations to CPS students Lily Booth and Mitchell Berechree on receiving the Lions Club of Churchill & District’s Junior Citizen of the Year Awards; presented to them on Australia Day!

We are very proud to have such wonderful, caring and responsible young people as part of our student body and we’re sure they’ll continue to impress us with their consideration and respect of others throughout the year.

Pictured left to right:
Lily Booth & Mitchell Berechree
WHAT WILL OUR SCHOOL LEADERS LEARN AT THE CONFERENCE?

How to Grow as a Leader
Many students assume that leadership is something that some people are chosen for and others miss out on. This presentation presents the view that everyone has the opportunity to lead in different situations and therefore everyone is on the journey of growing as a leader. Using the analogy of a growing tree, this session ensures that students are equipped to grow as a leader by establishing core values, combining with other leaders, contributing to others and continually learning.

Bye Bye Bullying
The unfortunate reality is that different forms of bullying exist in many schools. Whilst significant focus is often placed on preparing victims to suitably respond to such cases, there is much that student leaders can do collectively to eliminate bullying on behalf of their peers. This practical workshop will help primary student leadership teams to implement a student driven campaign to say 'Bye Bye Bullying', using the process of spotting out, speaking out and stamping out bullying.

People to Influence
Leaders need to be continually reminded that leadership is not about themselves nor those in their closest circle. This session makes student leaders aware that all people are important and that they have the opportunity to positively influence younger students, their peers, teachers and the wider community. Activities during this session will enable students to have discussions with other schools to share experiences and generate ideas together.

Traffic Light Leadership
Traffic lights help people know when to go, slow and stop during a journey. Using this analogy, students will work together to create a plan for their own journey as a student leader. This plan will involve ideas that students wish to GO forward with, whilst also identifying areas that could be SLOWED (less focus than previously). Finally, the plan will identify negative things that student leaders could endeavour to STOP and fix during their journey.

More information will come early in Term 2
Advice for Parents supporting children and young people exposed to a potential traumatic event.

- Children may wish to ‘talk’ about the event in different ways – some will use language, some will use play and others may prefer to write or draw
- It is wise for you to monitor your child’s exposure to television coverage, print media and social media
- Some children and young people will want to talk about the event or what has occurred. They will continue to try to make sense of what they have both seen and heard
- Other children will avoid any discussion around the events and will be reassured by routine and normality
- Remember the importance of routine, sleep, exercise and healthy eating.
- Children need boundaries and limits in place. This helps to restore predictability, safety and security
- Be mindful of the emotional and developmental level of your child. You know them best and if their behaviour is out of character
- School staff will always ensure that the safety of children and young people are their first priority. An event may occur at a school that will result in an evacuation or lockdown to keep students safe. This may be upsetting for some students, especially young children. This may see your child reluctant to go to school. If this occurs let the teacher know.

There is a range of things you can do to assist your child or young person including:

- Listen to your child or young person’s retelling of the events
- Allow your child to take the lead – they will guide the discussion, give them time to ask questions, discuss their feelings and emotions
- You can validate their feelings by listening to them
- The fears usually diminish in a short time
- Reassure children that they are safe
- Look for signs of distress (e.g. some children/young people might be scared/withdrawn/nervous/curious)
- There may be some behaviour changes – angry outburst, withdrawal, and hypervigilance, reluctance to leave their parents or carers
- Normalise responses - typical response will range from anger to general upset or sadness, and may include regression in behaviour
- Maintain a normal routine - keeping the structure at home or at school in place
- Allow children to express feelings as they arise
- Telling stories about how people manage during difficult times can be helpful
- Separate fact from fiction e.g. children may express fears about unrelated events
- Plan relaxing activities before bed – talk your child through a gentle relaxation, this might include using soothing music and talking them through relaxing tension in their body or simply reading something to them that induces relaxation (i.e. a favourite book)
- Speak in hopeful terms – children and young people will often take their cues from their parents’ reactions; if you are honest, calm, compassionate and open they will be much more able to trust that they will be okay

Additional Resources


Churchill Primary School
Twilight Fete 4-8pm
Friday 18th March 2016

★ Rides ★ Amusements ★ Showbags
★ Silly String Battles ★ Cake Stall
★ Market Stalls ★ Hot Food ★ Lucky Envelopes
★ Lions Club BBQ ★ Face Painting & much more

Pre-purchase unlimited ride wrist bands
$25 each and SAVE!
Available from Churchill Primary School office

Stall Holder Enquiries
Email: cpsfete2016@gmail.com

“Respectful, Positive Learners”
Gumboots are needed for Churchill Community Festival activities on March 19 2016: Gumboot throwing, painting and planting. They can be dropped off at the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre inside the Hub on Philip Parade.
Get fit and make some new FRIENDS!

8am Every Saturday

Free, weekly, 5km timed run/walk for all ages and abilities.

Start/Finish: Churchill Hub, 9-11 Philip Pde Churchill. Arrive 7:45

2. Print out your unique barcode
3. Turn up with your barcode, run or walk and have fun!

Don’t want to run or walk? Why not help others by volunteering?

www.parkrun.com.au
Confident Parents, Confident Children
A parenting program that helps parents to learn new parenting strategies and build positive relationships in their family.

Program Details

2016 Dates:
Tuesday mornings for five weeks
- 23rd February
- 1st March
- 8th March
- 15th March
- 22nd March

Time:
10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Venue:
Moe Neighbourhood House
1-11 James Street, Moe

Child care is available at Moe Neighbourhood House – please telephone 5126 3123 to enquire about availability.

The parenting program is free.

For more information or to register please contact:
Christine at Parentzone Gippsland on 5133 9998

anglicarevic.org.au

Anglicare Victoria acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate. We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing culture and spiritual connections to this country.
Moe Neighbourhood House, 1-11 James Street, Moe
STEPHEN McCULLOCH
*with special guest*
Andrew Darling

Live @ The Churchill Hotel
Sat 20th of Feb, 8:30pm
entry $15  Bookings Ph (03) 51221800
Churchill Hotel, 1 Balfour Place, Churchill, Vic, 3842
www.stephenmcculloch.com