School Costs for Parents
You may have read in the press that the Victorian Auditor-General has released a report on school costs for parents. In response to the report’s findings, the Minister for Education has asked the Department of Education and Training to review its parent payment policy. As a result of any changes to the Department’s policy, we will work with our school council to update our own policy. We don’t expect any changes until later in 2015 and we will let you know well in advance.

As the returning officer for the elections, I am now formally calling for nominations for the 2015/2016 Portland North PS School Council. Membership on the council is for a period of two years and there are eight meetings throughout the year. Councillors will also become involved in our three subcommittees of council: Education, Facilities, and Finance.

In 2015, we have four parent vacancies and one DET staff vacancy on School Council. Nominations for these vacant positions on School Council will close at 4.00pm on Thursday 26 February.

Words of Wisdom
.....Being happy doesn’t mean that everything is perfect but it means you’ve decided to look beyond the imperfections…..
Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying and rewarding.

**School Council Meeting**

School Council met last night and approved the following actions:

- That Mrs Marlene Punton be co-opted onto school council to fill the casual parent vacancy
- That Mrs Chris Matthews be co-opted onto school council to fill the casual DET vacancy
- That the following Pupil Free Days be approved:
  - Thursday, 26 March (Parent/Teacher Interviews)
  - Friday, 22 May (Staff Professional Day)
  - Friday, 20 November (Report Writing Day)
- That the Year 3 camp to Port Fairy be approved
- That the Year 4 camp to Cooriemungle be approved
- That the Annual General Meeting for the Portland North PS School Council will be held on Wednesday, 18 March
- That a Welcome Back Barbecue be held on Thursday 12 March

**Change of Biller Code for BPAY**

Any families wishing to use BPAY for payment of school fees, please note that the BPAY code has changed from last year to 87361. This new code will be on all statements which will be sent out this week.

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**Congratulations to our Swimming Squad**

Thursday, Ms Ball and I had the pleasure of accompanying our swimming squad to the Portland and Heywood Swimming Carnival.

All of our swimmers performed well and many members qualified to represent the school at the Division Swimming Carnival that will be held on Friday, 6 March.

I would like to thank all the parents, carers and grandparents who assisted on the day. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

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**School Council Election Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Thursday, 26 February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>Friday, 13 March 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**‘You Can Do It’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacobson</td>
<td>Ruby Perry</td>
<td>Keller</td>
<td>Hayden Bryant, Claudia O’meara, Badi, Ighaniyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Freya Ciugureanu</td>
<td>King</td>
<td>Alesha Whitehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speers</td>
<td>Jarvis Morton</td>
<td>Maybery</td>
<td>Zachary Elford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westlake</td>
<td>Charli Gleeson</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Tyler Bacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rickard</td>
<td>Tayden Van Heugten</td>
<td>Engelezos</td>
<td>Liam Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Zanay Bannam</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Caroline Ciechowicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth</td>
<td>Riley Lovett</td>
<td>Music/Art</td>
<td>Isabella Punton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Seth Parkes</td>
<td>Matthews</td>
<td>Jessica Phillips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certificates handed out at Friday’s assembly, 3.10pm

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**Kind regards,**

Anthony Dowling
**ZOOPER DOOPER FRIDAYS...**
Bring 50c to the PMP shed at playtime. Money raised goes towards the Rainbow Room. Please contact Leesa Hein, phone 0400591097 for all enquiries/sales/donations etc.

**Weekend Farm/Garden Roster**
It has been a tradition for some time now that we invite families to assist us in the running of our school’s farm program. For this reason we ask interested families to complete the weekend roster slip and return it to school as soon as possible. Details regarding requirements for duty families will be provided when necessary.

**Secondhand Uniforms**
Please contact Leesa Hein, phone 0400591097 for all enquiries/sales/donations etc.

**PORTLAND SIGNING CENTRE:**
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE can now be located at the Portland Library in Bentinck St every FRIDAY between 12 - 2pm. Cheryle Wilson JP, phone 0407806262.

**DISCOVER THE BAYVIEW DIFFERENCE**
School Tour: Sunday 1 March 2015, 2.00- 3.30pm. Tours commencing half-hourly from 2.00pm
At Bayview College we encourage prospective parents and students to experience our friendly and caring environment through a School Tour conducted by our students. During the tour you will be able to explore the school, meet the leadership team and speak with current students.

**Learning to Play Touch Football**
For boys and girls, if you’re aged between 8-12 years.

**DISCOVER THE BAYVIEW DIFFERENCE**
Information Evening: Tuesday 3rd March 7.00-7.45pm
You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the curriculum, enrolment and scholarship process.

**2016 Year 7 Scholarships**
Open Monday 9th February 2015 and close Friday, 20th March 2015.
Applications available from Bayview College or from our website from open date.
We also offer personalised school tours and these can be booked through Bayview College reception 55231042. www.bayviewcollege.vic.edu.au like us on facebook.