Principal’s Report...........

Sensational Performance
On Saturday my wife and I attended this year’s Wish Upon a Star Ball and, to my great surprise and pleasure, one of the star performers on the night was none other than one of our Year 3 students, Kade Noonan. Kade joined the band on stage and played a couple of sets on the drums. His performance was outstanding and he received a thunderous applause. Well done, Kade!!!!

Busy Term Ahead
Term 1 is always a busy term because of the many sporting events the school participates in. Additionally, I need to attend to the writing of the school annual report, the supervision of school council elections, and the planning and managing of parent/teacher interviews. This year, I also have to add to my duties the management of the refurbishment of the old school house and the review of the school by an external reviewer appointed by the Education Department.

Suffice it to say, I’m going to be very busy this term. So, if you don’t hear or see me as often as you normally do, you’ll know what I’m up to.

Bully Stoppers
Students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior. Portland North PS places a big emphasis on making sure the school provides a great environment for our students, one that promotes tolerance and is inclusive, harmonious and free from bullying. We work towards achieving this goal through education in the classroom, intervention in the playground and a focus on promoting positive behavior. With the rise of social media, however, bullying now occurs online, as well as in person. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

Cyberbullying is an increasing issue in the wider community and that’s why Portland North PS is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign. This campaign has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying.

Parents can access these resources from the Bully Stopper web page at: www.education.vic.gov.au/bully stoppers

AFL Footy Clinic
Students from Years 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in a football clinic organised by the Western Bulldogs on Wednesday, 18 February.

The clinic will start at 11:15 am and will finish at 12:30 pm. Participating students will travel to and from Hanlon Park by bus.

Special Performance
The first special performance for the year is an Indian dancing and music act. This performance will be performed on, Tuesday, 24 February.

Golf Clinic
Students from Years 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in a golf clinic at the school on Wednesday, 25 February.

School Council
The first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, 18 February. A meeting agenda and other reports will be emailed to School Council members.

School House Refurbishment
The refurbishment of the old school house is progressing as planned and it won’t be long before it is being used by Adam and our students.

Assembly Tomorrow
There will be an assembly tomorrow afternoon and all parents and carers are most welcome to attend. The assembly starts at 3:10 pm.

Student Absences
It is important to remember that every time your child is away from school you need to notify the school of the reason for the absence. This can be done by phoning the school or sending a signed explanation note the day your child returns.

Student Personal Belongings
Parents and carers are reminded that private property brought to school by students is not insured and, therefore, neither the school or the Department of Education and Training (DET) will accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

Family Contact Details
If your family contact details have changed, please contact the school or email the school as soon as possible.

School Council Elections
All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

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.

Each year, approximately half of the School Council retires to allow new members to become involved. This year’s School Council election process will start on Thursday, 19 February.

Membership on the council is for a period of two years and there are
eight meetings during the year. Councillors will also become involved in our three subcommittees: Education, Facilities, and Finance.

If you would like to know more about being a councillor, don’t hesitate to give me a call or speak to one of our current School Council members.

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.

Change of Biller Code for BPAY

Thankyou to the families who returned slips to help out on the weekends, more families still needed. George and any other boy bunnies need to find new homes in the next two weeks. Please email me if you are interested. Don’t forget we always appreciate donations of, grass clippings, cow/horse manure, hay, mulch, sawdust, bark chips, sand, dirt, and any other useful garden materials.

Great big congratulations to our new Green Thumbs!
holtz.melinda.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

 Kind regards,
Anthony Dowling

New Staff Members
Please welcome to Portland North PS our new staff members. On the left is Miss Mel Ball, who is our P.E. teacher. On the right, is Mrs Bronwyn Lane who is our new ESS officer.

ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Community Play program for 5 – 7 year olds will be held at the Portland Lawn Tennis Club starting Friday, 20 Feb for 5 weeks. Sessions will start at 4 pm and will run for 45 minutes. Cost for the 5 week program is $25 – payable week 1. To register your child or for further enquiries please contact the Hot Shots coordinator: Karen Malse

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

BOOK CLUB DUE WED 18th FEB

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.

Weekend Farm/Garden Roster

Checklist for Parents to Help Manage Their Child’s Asthma

Does your child have an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)? The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child’s asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated & signed by the doctor on an annual basis.

Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their carers?

Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)

Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?

Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the teachers aware of these triggers?

Do you listen to what your child says? They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.

Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?

Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.

PARENTS’ CLUB
BULB ORDERS SENT HOME

Evening of ‘Music and Picnic in the Park’. Theme- Hawaiian Beach Party. At Mitchell Park Fri evening Feb 20th, 5-8 p.m. FREE live music and organised kids activities, with prizes. Lucky dips $1. BYO the family, a picnic, fish’n chips or BBQ (utensils provided) and a chair. Relax to the music and songs by Craig Rosier, and join in the fun, young ad older alike. Dress in a brightly coloured shirt if you have one. This is an initiative of the North Neighbourhood Activity Group. Info Shanee on 0422 589 689,