Dear Parents and Friends,

Change to DET policy re. fire danger days.

The Department of Education has introduced a new policy whereby schools on the Bushfire At Risk Register, such as Malmsbury PS, can close or relocate on a forecast Extreme Fire Danger rating day. I am attending a meeting tomorrow to learn more about this and the implications for our school and will send more information home next week.

School Council elections.

There is information in this week’s newsletter about School Council elections. Our School Councillors play an important part in our school life as they are often a point of contact for other parents who wish to discuss school issues, they help us set the direction for our school and work together with myself, staff and other parents to help our school continually improve.

You can speak to any of our current school councillors—Kirsty, Sharon, Olivia, Kate Graham, Kate Gamble, Mark, Lachlan, Belinda—to find out more or me!

Getting the most out of school life.

On Tuesday 23rd Feb we are holding a ‘Getting the most out of school’ information night. This night will be a sharing of information between parents about how they manage home routines so home reading is done, children are in bed at a reasonable time and to school on time. The teachers will also be explaining lots of things about school—our routines and expectations. We will offer child minding on the night so do let us know if you will be attending. A note will go home closer to the date.

Parents Night Out.

You might notice on our calendar that on Wednesday 23rd March we are offering to look after your children so you, our parents, can enjoy a meal together somewhere. How is that for an offer!!!! You do HAVE TO come and collect your children by 8:30pm though, we’re not keeping them here for the night! More information will come out closer to the date.

Warm regards,
Carolyn Tavener.
Principal
tavener.carolyn.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC)

This week we have been busy making grass heads, being very arty and peeling our hard boiled eggs— that was tricky! You can see some of our art on the noticeboard near the OSHC room.

All children must have a current enrolment form completed and handed in to Deb before they can attend. Bookings can be made on the day by 11:00am. Cancellations also must be made by 11am.

Here is our program for next week -

Monday— Raisin bread. Puppet making and skipping.
Tuesday— Mini quiches. Making our mini quiches! Puppet making and ball games.
Wednesday— Dip, biscuits & vegie sticks. Puppet making and water play.
Thursday— Fresh fruit. Puppet making and monkey bars.
Friday— Toasted sandwiches. Making our toasted san-gas, puppet making and using the play equipment.

Thanks Freya for the puppet making suggestion! I hope to see some new faces in OSHC soon!

From Claire.

Parents Club.

Don’t forget we are holding our AGM on Tuesday 16th Feb at 2:30pm in the Playgroup room. All are welcome to come along and join in. Parents Club has an important role to play in our school as we organise a range of supporting activities for our school such as special lunches, fundraising, mothers day and fathers day crafts.

Hope to see lots of new faces along on the 16th.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students for striving to be the best they can be.

School Values Award.
Conor for being a great helper during Games Club.
Isabel for going above & beyond as a leader during House activities.
Jack T for demonstrating excellent leadership qualities in the classroom.
Tahlia for being a great help to our younger students; making them feel part of the school.
Flynn for an enthusiastic start to the year.
Djed for having a great start to school life.

Musician of the Week-
Chris for his fabulous dancing & ukulele playing.
Jack T for his emotive singing and engagement during our lessons.

You Can Do It Award-
Sophie for reading with great expression and for using punctuation when reading aloud.

Mathematician of the Week-
Kayla for explaining a tricky maths idea and helping her classmates understand a new concept.

Absent: Flynn
27 January 2016

Malmsbury Primary School
28 Cameron St
Malmsbury VIC 3446

Dear students, parents and staff,

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letters and extraordinary community effort to reverse the Education Department’s decision to remove a portable from your school.

I understand how upsetting this decision has been – especially given its lousy timing at the end of the school year when students and staff should be looking forward to Christmas and the approaching school break.

Following my visit to your school in December, in the last sitting week of Parliament for 2015 I appealed to the Minister for Education to intervene to prevent the portable being removed. As you would be aware, this appeal was unsuccessful.

This is a disappointing outcome. The previous government’s failure to invest public education means there is a critical shortage of classrooms across Victoria and schools like Malmsbury are paying the price.

Despite this setback, I want to assure you that the highly valued French and performing arts program at Malmsbury Primary School will continue. The Minister has requested the Education Department work closely with your Principal, Carolyn Tavener, and myself to ensure these programs are relocated in the school’s permanent buildings.

I know this has been a difficult time for students, families and staff of Malmsbury Primary School. I look forward to working with the school community to overcome this setback so that your music and French programs can continue to grow from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Anne Thomas
LEARNING, SHARING, GROWING TOGETHER

We love reading in P/1!

And making things out of playdough!
PREMIER’S ACTIVE APRIL CONSENT FORM

Premier’s Active April is a Victorian Government initiative that encourages Victorians to participate in 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April.

To accompany this form, we recommend you visit www.activeapril.vic.gov.au/schools to download our Information for Parents flyer that explains the health and wellbeing benefits of joining Premier’s Active April and outlines the great incentives and prizes you can win by registering.

This year, our school will be participating in Premier’s Active April and we are asking students to join their school or class team and get more active and join the fun.

There are three options below showing you how to register and join our school team. Please contact the school if you need further information.

Registration and Team Details
Login / Register  activeapril.vic.gov.au
Team ID  malmsbury-ps-superstars
Team Name  Malmsbury PS Superstars

- Once registered, students will have the option to join multiple teams. We encourage you to register your whole family and create a family team as well, enabling you to share the experience and keep each other motivated.

How to join our school team:

1) If your family are already registered:
   1. Login to the Active April Activity Tracker app using the student’s username and password
   2. Go to the Teams page and select “Request to join a Team”.
   3. Enter the Team ID (see above) and click “Send Request”
   4. A notification will be sent to the teacher who created the team. After the teacher accepts the request, the student will see the team details when they next login.

2) If your family are not registered
   1. Register at activeapril.vic.gov.au – register yourself first, then register family members.
   2. Once registered, your child can use their unique username and password to access the Activity Tracker and program incentives.
   3. In the top right navigation, change “Logged in as:” to the relevant child’s name. You’ll now be viewing the Activity Tracker app as though you are logged in as this user. NB: you may need to refresh the page to see this.
   4. Go to the Teams page and select “Request to join a Team”.
   5. Enter the Team ID (see above) and click “Send Request”.
   6. A notification will be sent to the teacher who created the team. When the teacher accepts the request, the student will see the team details when they next login.

3) If you’d like the school to register your child
   - If you don’t have access to the internet, you can sign the consent form over the page, complete a few registration details and return it to your classroom teacher.
School Council elections.

Each year, half of our parent school council positions become vacant and nominations are called for. This year we have four vacancies and our school council election time line is as follows:

**Thursday February 11th**—Notice of election and Call for nominations

**Thursday February 25th**—Closing date for nominations. If more nominations than positions, list of candidates and nominators displayed near office and ballot papers prepared.

**Thursday March 3rd** Ballot papers distributed.

**Thursday March 10th**- Close of ballot and vote count.

**Friday March 11th**—Declaration of ballot.

Nomination forms are available from the office. You can nominate your self or be nominated by someone else with your agreement.

**Why would you want to be on school council?**

Being a member of our school council offers you the opportunity to work with an enthusiastic group of parents and staff members who are working together to set the key directions for our school and to improve our school to the benefit of all our students.

As a school councillor you help to represent our school in the wider community and to promote meaningful school and community participation. You don’t need to have any special skills or be an expert but you do need to like people and be able to work in a team, to be keen to help us make Malmsbury PS the best school it can be now and into the future. Children whose parents are actively involved in the school feel a greater sense of belonging with the school.

Our school council generally meets twice a term on a day and time that suits the school councillors. Last year our school council met on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

If you have any questions, please see Carolyn.
Kyneton Secondary College
English and Literacy Information Night
The staff at Kyneton Secondary College warmly invite primary school parents to our English and Literacy Parent Information Evening, which will be held on **Wednesday 24 February at 7pm**.

Our English teachers, in conjunction with local literacy experts, have recently engaged in extensive professional development in the teaching of phonological awareness, and we are excited to announce the implementation of our innovative literacy program for our Year 7 and 8 students. The program is delivered in addition to the core English classes through three dedicated literacy classes each week. In these sessions, students are led through activities designed to improve their spelling, grammar and punctuation. Each literacy class begins with the explicit teaching of phonemic awareness. The classes will target each student’s individual strengths and weaknesses.

During the Information Evening we will further explain the new program, as well as providing ideas on the ways you can support the development of your child’s literacy at home through their transition to secondary education.

Any enquiries can be directed to our literacy leader Sharon Bird, or to the English co-ordinators Cas Tardif and Kate Rantall on 5421 1100.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Bowl with it!**

**Accredited Coaches**

**TRY IT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT**

**Juniors Night**

Monday Night’s Commencing 1st Feb @ 4pm

Barefoot or flat soled shoes

Kyneton Bowling Club
5421902 - manager@kynetonbc.com.au

www.bowlsvic.org.au

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**DTM**

0407 502 438
creekhorns-and-songs.com

**MUSIC LESSONS**

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**2016 INSTRUMENT LESSONS**

♫ Piano and keyboards
♫ Electric, Acoustic & Bass Guitar
♫ Ukulele

$20/lesson -GST
For enquiries, please contact Drew
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drewthorpemusic@gmail.com
Facebook page: Drew Thorpe Music

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**Turn those unwanted goods into cash, clean out those cupboards and come along to the**

**TYLDEN UNITING CHURCH**

**CAR BOOT SALE**

Monday 14th March, 2016 commencing at 9.00 am.

Book a site for just $10 and sell your goods at our Car Boot Sale at the Tylden Uniting Church Grounds, Trentham Road, Tylden

**OTHER STALLS ON THE DAY**

Sausage Sizzle
Devonshire Tea
Cakes & Produce
Books & Crafts etc

Call Glenda on 5424 8218 for enquires and to book your stall today.