**Welcome back everyone & welcome to 2017**

A very warm welcome to all students, staff and parents as we get the new school year underway.

Teachers have spent many hours over the holidays, organising their classrooms and preparing for a busy year of learning, fun and friendship.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the many new families that will be joining our Portland South PS community in 2017. We are super excited to have you on board and really looking forward to the year ahead.

*Our new foundation students are:* Archer Cumming, Ollie Gadsden, Riley Hameka, Thomas Logan, Ethan Matley, Ace O’Brien, Kewarra Saunders-Joseph, Quinn Stewart & Ryder Trickey.

Other new students—Elliana Clements (Gr 1), Dom Gadsden (Gr 2), Ruby Lavender (Gr 3), Harley Hamilton, (Gr 4) Emilia Clements & Shaila Lavender (Gr 5).

A big welcome back to Mrs. Jeanette Morton who was on leave last year. Jeanette will be teaching Grade 4/5/6.

Have a wonderful week,

**Vicki Fisher**

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**STAFFING**

- Vicki Fisher............ Principal, Art & Library
- Dianne Rogers ......... Business Manager
- Steve Gunsser......... Chaplain/Student Wellbeing
- Gaye Ryan ............ Art, Performing Arts, Library & Intervention
- Jeanette Morton...... .. Grade 4/5/6
- Michelle Hayden.... .... Grade 2/3 H
- Bernadette Gibbons.. Grade F/1 G
- Carly Saunders......... PE Teacher

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**WELCOME BBQ**

All families of Portland South PS are cordially invited to attend our ‘Welcome to 2017’ BBQ on Tuesday, 7th February at 5.30pm. Classes will be open for an informal ‘Meet & Greet’ with teachers from 5.30–6.00pm and then dinner will be served at 6pm.

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**STUDENT LEADER ASSEMBLY**

Friday 10th February

Please note that a special ‘Student Leader Badge Presentation’ will be held on February 10th at 2.45 pm. Parents are most welcome to attend.

**FRIDAY WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

This year we will continue to have Friday afternoon assembly in the Performing Arts room starting at 3.00pm. (N.B. Note change of time for 10th February assembly!) Parents are welcome to join us in the PA room from 2.45pm on Fridays when our school leaders will run the assembly to celebrate the week. Students are dismissed from the hall on Fridays.

**SPECIALIST PROGRAMS**

All students will commence specialist classes this week, as follows:

- **Visual Art**
  Tuesdays—Mrs Ryan
- **Library**
  Wednesdays - Mrs Ryan
- **Physical Education & Sport**
  Thursdays—Gr 2/3M—with Mrs Saunders

Indonesian classes will be conducted by the class teachers this year.

Students **MUST** have a smock (or old shirt) to wear in the art room and will require a library bag to bring their library books home in.
BELL TIMES

- 8.40am  Students may arrive at school—
  yard supervision begins.
- 8.50am  Students may enter classrooms
- 9.00am  Begin learning time
- 11.00am  Morning play time
- 11.30am  Begin learning time
- 1.30pm  Eating lunch in classrooms
- 1.40pm  Lunch play time
- 2.20pm  Begin learning time
- 3.20pm  Home time!

Your child WILL need a healthy and substantial snack
to eat at morning play time so that he/she stays
switched on to learning until lunch time!

ALL students will be taken to the shed at 11am to eat
their morning snack before they go to play with their
friends.

ALL students will be supervised by their teacher
during lunch eating time.

FRUITS SNACKS IN THE CLASSROOM ARE
WELcomed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Please also see the school website for dates for Term 1:
www.portlandsthps.vic.edu.au

Term Dates 2017:

Term 1:
23th January (staff), 31st January (students) to 31st
March

Term 2:
18th April to 30th June

Term 3:
17th July to 22nd September

Term 4:
9th October to 22nd December

Term 1 in detail:

FEBRUARY

- 1st , 8th, 15th, 22nd Rest days- Foundation students
- 10th School Leader Assembly– 2.45pm
- 17th Kate Howman’s Retirement Function
- 23rd School Council Meeting 7pm

MARCH

- 13th Labour Day Holiday - no school
- 17th Combined Athletics Sports with Portland PS.
- 22nd District Athletics Carnival - Nelson Park
- 31st Last day of Term 1, students dismissed at
  2.30pm

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

A whole-school Breakfast Program will
commence in Week 4  on Tuesdays and
Wednesdays from 8.20am to 8.40am. This will be
held in our hall.

Students will have be able to have Cereal, Toast,
Milk  and Tinned Fruit. Further options will be
available once we get the program up and
running!

Vicki Fisher & Steve Gunsser are the co-
ordinators of the Breakfast Program and would
love to hear from any parents, senior students or
community members who may be able to lend a
helping hand.

Parents are welcome to come along
and have a cuppa while the kids are
having brekkie!!

NEWSLETTER DAY

Please note that our weekly newsletter will be
sent home on a Wednesday, commencing 10th
February. If you would rather receive your
newsletter via email, please let Di know.
**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

We will be closely monitoring student attendance data again in 2017.

It is important that children are at school on time every day unless they are ill.

Please schedule family outings, holidays and appointments for after school hours or school holiday periods whenever possible.

Parents are reminded to telephone the Office (55232911) if your child will be absent, or to send a note upon your child’s return to school.

**ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL**

Students should arrive at school between 8.40 and 8.50am

Please wait until the 8.50am bell to enter the school buildings.

**LATE ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL**

If your child arrives at school after 9.00am, please come via the Office to sign your child in—the teachers will be marking the roll first thing in the morning and your child’s attendance will need to be updated from ‘ABSENT’ TO ‘PRESENT’ at the Office.

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**STAR STUDENTS**

*Our Star Student Awards will begin in Week 3*

For the first two weeks of this year children will be involved in ‘Learning To Learn’ within their classroom.

‘Learning To Learn’ is a program that helps teachers and students focus on building strong relationships and assists to help everyone settle into their new learning environment.

An emphasis is placed on discovering the many ways individual learners learn, different ways of thinking and solving problems, agreements about working collaboratively and effective forms of communication. These learning skills fit well within our Wellbeing framework, promoting resilient and confident learners.

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**YARD SUPERVISION**

Supervision of students in the playground takes place at the following times on all school days:

- 8.40am to 8.50am
- 11am to 11.30am (morning play)
- 1.40pm to 2.20pm (lunch play)
LUNCH ORDERS

Please note that Lunch orders are available on **FRIDAYS** only.

A lunch order menu is attached to today’s newsletter.

Lunch orders should be clearly written on a **brown paper bag** with correct money provided if possible. Orders MUST BE in the tub at the office by 9.10am.

ICE CREAMS SALES

Ice Creams will be available to purchase on Wednesdays during Term 1—commencing next **Wednesday, 8th February**:

- **Berri Quelch frozen fruit sticks** - 50 cents
- **Bulla Frozen Yoghurt Icy Poles** - $1.50
- **Paddle Pops**— $1.50
- **Drumsticks** - $2.00

Thank you to Debbie Knight who is going to coordinate this for the school.

PORTLAND SOCCER CLUB

Training has begun for the 2017 season - We welcome new players in all age groups.

Training for Under 12 and Under 14—5:00—6:15pm Tuesday and Thursday nights, U17 and Seniors—6:00—7:30pm on Tuesday and Friday nights in February and Women—6:00—7:30pm on Wednesday and Friday nights in February. For more information please contact David Stafford on 0409419813.

Miniros is starting again soon at the Portland Soccer Club! This Kickstart soccer program is for girls and boys aged 4 - 9 years of age. Children learn some basic skills, play small sided games and have lots of fun.

Go to www.miniroos.com.au to register for the 13 week program starting Saturday 11th February and finishing on 3rd June. The sessions will start at 11am and finish at 12pm.

Contact Les on 0414559106 or Tracy on 0417374784 for more information

PORTLAND NETBALL ASSOCIATION—NET SET GO - players needed, ages 8-10.

Monday 5 pm - 6 pm
Contact Sue Muldoon—55235140 suetone23&@gmail.com

JUNIOR BASKETBALL  SUMMER SEASON 2017

Registrations are now open online for all junior basketball. Comps available for 5 – 14 year old Children.

Registrations closed the 5th of February 2017.

Go to Portland Basketball Association Page & click on Register here link on right side of page.

All Inquires call 55232884.

REPLY SLIP: FAMILY BBQ— Tuesday 7th February

In order to assist with catering, it would be greatly appreciated if you could complete and return the reply slip below by this **FRIDAY** if you plan to attend for the BBQ:

**Family Name:** ________________________________________________

**No. Adults** ________________  **No. Children** ________________

**Dietary Needs:** If you have any specific dietary needs, please advise:
Get involved in the School Banking program

**Tuesday is our School Banking Day**

Portland South Primary School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

**Getting involved in School Banking is easy!**

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

1. **Online**

2. **In branch**
   Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver’s licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is <day>. Each week you need to <insert process for handing in book>.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)
DO YOU HAVE A YOUNG CHILD under 7 years old?

Is your child:
- not talking like other kids?
- not playing like other kids?
- ‘mucking up’ but you don’t know why?

Some kids learn differently, and we can help them learn better. Some kids that learn differently might have Autism Spectrum Disorder. **Early Days** workshops help families learn about their child and these learning differences. Workshops are free.

Who can come?
- Any person in your family
- Any person who teaches your child
- Whoever you want!
- Anyone that helps you

Date: Friday, 10th February 2017  
Time: 10.30am -2.00pm  
Venue: Windamara Meeting room  
21 Scott St, Heywood  
Bookings: [www.amaze.org.au](http://www.amaze.org.au)  
Kelly Gannon 5527 0000  Catering Provided.