FROM THE PRINCIPAL:
It may only be the third week of the year, but things are in full swing. The students have settled in extremely well and look very comfortable in their classes. It is fair to say they are off to a fantastic start!

This will be a BIG year for our school, teachers and school councillors. It is our school review year. That means that we will evaluate and reflect on what Portland South has achieved over the last 4 years and then work together as a whole school community to develop a future plan for our school forward. I envisage that this process will begin towards the end of Term 2.

FIRST AID
All teachers and educations support staff completed their Level 2 FIRST AID training this week. We have spent the last two Monday nights refreshing our skills and updating our qualifications, so that ALL staff at Portland South are First Aid trained.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB & BREAKFAST CLUB
We have been extremely lucky to recruit members of the Portland Lions Club to assist with Breakfast Club on a Wednesday morning. We are very appreciative of this partnership and hope it will lead to a closer affiliation throughout the year.

GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
On Wednesday 22nd February our School Captains and Vice Captains will attend the GRIP Leadership Conference in Mt Gambier. This conference is unique in that it concentrates specifically on training student leaders for their role as SCHOOL LEADERS. The goal is to have our student leaders leave the conference with a clear vision, an understanding of leadership and dozens of ideas to support their time as a leader.

CHILD SAFE POLICY
I just want to keep you all informed re: Portland South PS Child Safe Policy.

The child safe standards have been introduced in Victoria to achieve a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

All children have the right to be safe and protected, including at school. Schools have to meet legal requirements for the care, safety and welfare of students.

Please see attached to this newsletter the Child Safe Information Leaflet for parents.

Last year we signed a Statutory Declaration to commit to the Child Safe standards. This year the Child Safe Policy and accompanying policies—Mandatory Reporting, Code Of Conduct etc. will be ratified at School Council and then sent home with your child/children for you to read.

Have a wonderful week,
Vicki

HEAD LICE
This year each grade has a nominated staff member who will conduct head lice checks on a regular basis, or if there is evidence of head lice in the grade.

Our policy is that any child who has live head lice present will be sent home and must be treated prior to returning to school.

We believe this approach will assist with the control of head lice and prevent any major outbreaks.
**Dates for your Diary**

**Wednesday 15th February**
- Rest day - Foundation students
- Ice Cream Sales

**Friday 17th February**
- Lunch Order Day
- Kate Howman’s Retirement Function 5.30pm — any interested parents/carers are welcome to attend — $15 per person (see Di at the Office to book in).

**Tuesday 21st February**
- Bank day
- Breakfast Program commences — 8.20am — 8.50am at Admella Hall.

**Wednesday 22nd February**
- Breakfast program — 8.20am to 8.50am
- Last Rest day — Foundation Students
- Ice Cream Sales

**Thursday 23rd February**
- School Council Meeting 7pm

**Friday 24th February**
- Lunch Order Day

**Tuesday 28th February**
- Breakfast program — 8.20am — 8.50am

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**ICE CREAM SALES**

Ice Creams will be available to purchase on Wednesdays during Term 1

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

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**REMINDER……**

**CAMS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

If you hold a current Health Care Card, please complete your application for the CSEF grant as soon as possible.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

Mrs Rogers sent application forms home last week to families who were in receipt of the grant last year. However, if you are eligible for this grant and have not received an application form, please call at the Office as soon as possible to complete the form.

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**UPCOMING 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 in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging/engagement.

Each year, approximately half of the School Council retires to allow new members to become involved. To this end, we are now formally calling for nominations for the 2017/2018 Portland South Primary School Council. Membership on the council is for a period of two years and regular meetings are held monthly. Councillors will become involved in three sub-committees of council: Finance, Policy & Environment. If you would like to know more about being a councillor, don’t hesitate to give me a call, or send an email to portland.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

In 2017, we have three parent vacancies on School Council for a full period of two years.

Nominations for School Council will close at 4.00pm on 1st March 2017.

Please contact Di or Vicki for a nomination form if you are interested. If we receive more nominations than positions available, an election process will follow in the coming weeks.
Hot Shots Community Play Tennis – is once again being offered to interested parents & children during the month of March at Portland Lawn Tennis Club. Details as follows:
5 week program, $25 payable week one.
Commences Friday March 3rd – Friday March 31st 2017
Equipment provided.
Times : Red Group (5-7yr olds) 4pm – 4.45pm
Orange group (8-10 yr olds) 5-6pm
Co-ordinator : Karen Malseed
To register your child please text or call PLTC Secretary Jane Booth - 0403654859

“Hookin2Hockey” gives young boys and girls the opportunity to learn the basic skills of hockey, develop fundamental motor skills and make friends all while beginning their lifelong love of hockey.
This fantastic program is for primary school aged children (5-12yo) and includes six weeks of skills based hockey and your choice of participation packs for only $55. Your first session is free. Register online & pay $85 and Portland Hockey Club will reimburse you $30 at your first session.
When: Saturday the 18th of February 9:30am
Where: All Saint’s Primary School corner of Fawthrop St and Must St
Any enquires please contact Nikki Edwards Ph 0431433522

Bayview College INFORMATION EVENING Wednesday 15 February 2017, 7.00pm.
Information evening for Primary School students and their parents who wish to find out what Bayview College has to offer. Information on Scholarship and Bursaries will be available at this session.

Bayview College OPEN DAY Sunday 19 February 2017, 2.00-4.00pm.
An opportunity to tour the school, meet the students and teachers and participate in the exciting curriculum Bayview College has to offer.

Year 7 Scholarships & Bursaries for students commencing in 2018
Scholarships open Monday 6 February 2017. Applications available from Bayview College or our website. www.bayview.vic.edu.au from open date.
Ph:55231042 www.bayview.vic.edu.au

North Portland Junior Football Club
Pre-season Football Training commences Tuesday 21st February at 4:30pm.
Registration and re-registration
Registration and payment (cash, cheque) (eftpos available 21st ONLY) at Flinders Park on 21st, 23rd and 28th.
February from 4:15pm to 6:00pm.
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
For enquiries, contact Mall on 0417 592 969.
TERM 2 MINDUP PROGRAM

What is it?

MindUP™ is based on Neuroscience, Positive Psychology, Mindful Behavior and Social, Emotional Learning. It offers students new mindful strategies that can increase self-control, focus, empathy and optimism. MindUp is made of 15 lessons where students engage in various fun activities and discussions in a group setting that have been proven to increase self-regulation and emotional intelligence.

N.B. There will be 8 places available this term, however, we can form a waitlist for the following term. Families will be contacted on April 3 with further information.

Please feel free to contact Windamara if you have any questions regarding the program and how it works. 

The MindUp Program

- 15 lessons over 8 weeks
- A Social & Emotional skills program
- Ages 6-10 years
- Mondays & Fridays
  3:30-4:30pm
- The Green Building
- Beginning Term 2
  Monday 24th April
- Contact Name:
  Reception or Shae M.
  (Family Services)

WINDAMARA

21 Scott Street
Ph: 5527 0000
Email: reception@windamara.com
9am – 5pm