

## From the Principal's desk.

The students at Strathmerton Primary are really shining at the moment. I am in classrooms regularly and the level of student engagement with their studies is really high. Then, when I am out in the yard, there is a really positive 'vibe', with students playing cooperatively and enjoying one another's company. The staff are all 'pumped'.

## EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS AND CAMPS

The new Parent Payment Policy, which is now in operation in all Victorian State Schools, outlines the expectations around the payment of school fees. This policy makes it quite clear that all school fees are voluntary, with parents/carers given the choice as to whether they contribute to the cost of the curriculum items requested or not. This is a major change that could impact our budget, making it more difficult to provide additional programs outside the regular curriculum provision. We hope that most of our families will still be happy to support us by paying the fees, outlined in the schedule, even though they know this payment is voluntary and no longer compulsory. A copy of the Parent Payment Policy will be sent home for you to read.

In the past we had greater flexibility to waive payment, or accept part payment for school excursions, incursions and camps, in instances where some families might struggle to find the money. This unfortunately, can no longer be the case, because the school pays the total for each camp, excursion or incursion beforehand, and we must be reimbursed in full, so it is now a strictly user pays policy. You must choose whether your child attends these events or not, and pay in advance. If not, they unfortunately will not be able to participate.

Please be aware that the school heavily subsidises the cost of every optional event by utilising our equity budget, to keep the cost at an affordable level. Also for concession card holders we can utilise the DET's CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) that is provided on their behalf.

## BENDIGO EXCURSION

This fantastic excursion is on next week! (Thursday, $\mathbf{3}^{\text {rd }}$ March). It's going to be a fun and informative day out for the whole school. Just remember, as outlined above, full payment (\$20) must be received beforehand for your child to attend. Just a reminder that we leave promptly at 9:00am, and won't return until around 5:00pm, so there will be no school bus run in the afternoon. I hope every parent/carer allows their child/children to attend. (At this stage lots of students haven't been paid for - time's running out!

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations for School Council are being called for. We have two parent vacancies on Council for this year, so if it interests you, please come and see me at the office. Nominations close on Monday, 28th February at 4:00pm. The term of office on School Council is for two years and we have two meetings per term on a Wednesday evening.

## WELCOME BBQ

We are going to hold a 'Welcome BBQ' on Wednesday, $\mathbf{9}^{\text {th }}$ March for all our staff, parents, carers and families to meet socially and enjoy one another's company over a snag or two. The evening will run from 5:30-7:00. The Parents and Friends Association will supply the BBQ food, with families asked to bring either a salad or a dessert to share. We'll hold the event out the front under the shady trees and we hope that you'll join us to make it a fun experience. New parents are especially invited to attend, to be welcomed into the Strathy School community.

## TUESDAY'S DATE WAS A PALINDROME

Tuesday's date was a palindrome, meaning it reads the same forwards as backwards (22-2-22). Madam is an example of a palindromic word. When will our next palindrome date be?

Geoff Weppner.

# This weeks award <br> winners 



