Welcome back, and yes I have changed my name. Brooks is my maiden name! Penni, in the office has also changed her name from Lawn to Williams.

This year we welcome two new teachers Miss Emma Price and Miss Megan Emmett. Emma has been teaching for a few years and has also spent some time overseas. This is Megan’s first job as a teacher. She has recently completed her training at La Trobe University.

We have 21 new Preps starting this year and we certainly hope they are enjoying their first days at school.

We also welcome three new students: Keith McKenzie (2C), Lowan Joseph (5/6M) and Dylan Scutcheon (5/6P).

All staff were officially back on deck on Wednesday January 27. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday staff worked on school policy development, analysing student data and planning teaching programs. We found these days to be a very beneficial way to start the year.

Once again staff have discussed and developed a set of expectations for classroom behaviour that will be consistent across all grades. This week all classes have been discussing, establishing and unpacking a set of class norms for their classrooms. Overriding these norms is the belief by all staff and students that “all children will have the right to learn and achieve to the best of their ability.”

These norms will be coming home for the children to share with you.

**MY SCHOOL WEBSITE**

There has been a media hype around the new MySchool website which displays data sets from all schools throughout Australia. Our performance was very good compared to like schools. We are extremely proud of the grade 3 data from 2009, which places our grade 3 reading at well above state average.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The next meeting for School Council will be held on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm.

**PORTSEA CAMP**

We were fortunate to be offered five places for the newly resurrected Portsea Camp over the Christmas holidays. Sarah Schurr, Kassandra Gibb, Donny Mammone, William Innes and Kelly Rayner attended the week long camp at Portsea, south of Melbourne.
SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMS
As part of the grant we received from the Victorian School pride initiative we have had the staff room, meeting room and sick bay painted during the holidays. Extensions to the multi purpose room are well under way and should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

We are continuing to decorate the office foyer as an attractive first point of call for all to the school. You are most welcome to pop in to have a look at our efforts.

I have had a phone call to say that the new building is still coming, hopefully within the next term! This is a replacement for the double modular building we currently have.

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SCHOOL BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

February.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

YELLOW HOUSE

Adam Bennett & Isabella Bennett

RED HOUSE

Kelly Rayner & Lachlan Rowett

GREEN HOUSE

Kiah Morrish & Joshua Symes

These children will receive their badges and certificates at a special assembly on Monday 15th February.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Each class will have one student as their environmental leader. To be considered for this leadership role, the student will be required to write a letter explaining their reasons for wanting to be an environmental leader. The 2010 Environmental Leaders will be presented with badges and certificates at assembly on Monday 15th February.

Student Leadership

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Last year our House Captains were elected and presented to the school community at the Family BBQ.

Congratulations go to;

BLUE HOUSE

Atu Puku & Eric Putland

YELLOW HOUSE

Adam Bennett & Isabella Bennett

RED HOUSE

Kelly Rayner & Lachlan Rowett

Bus Stop

Please do not park or drop off your children in the bus stop on 15th Street. The buses have had to wait for cars to be moved from the bus stop so that they can drop off students. This is a no standing zone and is clearly labelled with signs.

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Happy Birthday

January

James Pearce Davis (1st)
Davinell Burrows (2nd)
Bryna Marley (3rd)
Tyson Light (4th)

Claudia Cavollo (5th)
Lachlan Fisher (5th)
Joseph Zacccone (7th)
Lily Adams (16th)
Madison Harwood (16th)
Ellie Zappia (17th)
Mrs Cardew (22nd)
Josh Symes (26th)
Ben Symes (27th)
Jake Giles (27th)

Aiden Mckinnon (28th)
February

Abbey Minter (3rd)
Lachlan Rowett (5th)

Nichols Point Soccer Club

Family Day

Come and help kick off 2010 BBQ, activities for the whole family & 2010 registration information
Sunday 28th February from 11am-2pm @ Nichols Point Oval

New and current members welcome
For more info contact Steve Walker 0428598376

Stop

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Daniel Burrows (3rd) Alysha Marley (4th) Tyson Light (4th)

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The Elms family have one female black and white baby rabbit that needs a loving home. If you would like to have a new pet, phone Tania on 50 247025 or 0400353859.

Rabbit to give away

If you would like to have a new pet, phone Tania on 50 247025 or 0400353859.

Sunraysia Singers

Community choir for children aged 3-17

Join one of these exciting choirs and have fun, perform, learn many musical and singing skills and make new friends.

The choirs foster artistic creativity and increase self-confidence.

The choirs are directed by Maris Frances. She has had extensive experience with adult and children’s choirs and the teaching of music in schools. Contact: 50281212 or 0407757024

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The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- Be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (27 January 2010 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (12 July 2010).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 26 February 2010 for the first instalment and 6 August 2010 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $225 for primary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

### Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 78.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 33.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 225</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2010 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 26 February 2010 and prior to or on 6 August 2010, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**Contact:** School Office for application form and further information.

**School Photos**

School photos will be taken on Thursday 18th February. Envelopes for ordering photos, were handed out to all children today. If you wish to have a family photo taken, order forms are available from the Office. All envelopes and money are due back by Monday 15th February.

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**Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15th</td>
<td>Wed 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Leaders</td>
<td>Preps come to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 18th</td>
<td>Mon 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Labor Day, Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22nd-25th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Ballarat Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term 1.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Art Room**

All children require an art smock to protect their clothing from ‘messy’ stuff!

Many art smocks stayed at school over the holidays. These have been washed and returned to the children’s new rooms. There are lots of unnamed art smocks waiting for a new owner. These will be available to sift through on Friday and Monday mornings before assembly.

Emma Lord, Art Specialist

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**Lunch Orders**

Stacks of Food in Irymple will now be catering our lunch orders. Lunches can now be ordered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Menu and prices will remain the same.

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**Chooks**

We are the proud owners of nine chickens! Each class has their own chook to look after. The classes are getting to know their chook by naming it and handling it. Ask your children about their chook. We will introduce them to you in the coming weeks!
The Preps have had a great start to their schooling at Irymple South Primary School.

Some of the things that they have already done:
- Learnt how to spell the word 'to'.
- Read with their Grade 6 Buddy.
- Discussed the difference between a living and a non-living thing.

What do you like about school?
- Drawing and learning to read. Ella
- Going outside. Nunzio
- Learning to read and write. Zali
- I love everything! Jayshree

Connor Aunger
Jayshree Barrett
Ella Burford
Will CastlEMALE
Darcy Coppola
Zali Doolan
Angus Droffelaar
Declan Fisher
Lilly Harris
Brittany Laskaj
Joseph McLoughlin

Patrick McWilliams
Lily Neagle
Jesse Orsini
Maria Petralo
Joshua Raskovic
Cy Romeo
Viktoria Smart
Georgia Symes
Nunzio Tabacco
Cooper Waylen