**FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2023**

Dear parents and carers,

All classes are settling in well to school and class routines and we are looking forward to some key dates coming up this term including swimming carnival and three way get to know you interviews,  as we will see in this Principal Message. During the first couple of weeks we have invited Year 6 students to apply to become student school leaders. We are beginning a new process this year whereby our successful applicants in Year 6 will represent the school in numerous ways. They will have a range of extra-curricular activities and responsibilities to develop leadership skills and work with Mr Jon Tucker and myself. The selection process is underway and we will be acknowledging these students in a couple of weeks at a Tuesday morning assembly.

This is a good opportunity to remind parents when they can that we meet as a whole school Kindy – year 6 in the Hall each Tuesday morning. The purpose of these assemblies is for key whole school student announcements, focus on our PBL expectations and Social and Emotional concepts. We are providing parents only an option for hot beverages with a coffee van from 8.40am each Tuesday morning during these Tuesdays including small snacks. **This isn’t for students before school.**

**SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS**

This year we are commencing a new School Improvement Plan phase that covers the next five years. Recently I have advertised Friday morning Coffee chats to hear about this plan or just a chance to meet with myself and discuss any school matters. As part of our new school plan, we have School Board nominations that will open from Monday 20th February until Friday 3rd March. Being a school board parent representative is an opportunity to learn and work together with myself and others about the Strategic directions, financial management and many more aspects of school life. If you wish to find out more, please ring and speak with me or look out for an email where I will be sending out more information on Monday, 20 February.

**CANTEEN**

Our school canteen will once again be operating Wednesday – Friday this year. Orders are preferrable through Flexischools, via our school website or following this link: <https://flexischools.com.au/>

**BREAKFAST CAFÉ**

We will be opening our Breakfast Café in the Community Hub Monday-Friday this term, so children can have some toast to begin the day. One of our Youth Workers, Kieren and Justin will be there from 8.30am.

**P & C UNIFORM SHOP**

The uniform shop is located in the Front Office and is open for families to purchase uniforms from Monday – Friday from 9:00am -3:30pm during the school terms. Over the holiday period, there has been a slight increase in the cost of the polo shirts which are $28.00 each or 2 for $55.00. We also offer a 2nd hand uniform shop which has items that can be purchased for a gold coin donation.

**SAFE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS**

Earlier in the year I provided the below update as our school is very busy in the mornings and afternoons. The school board and myself are working towards exploring options with the Education Directorate for a car park extension in both front and back car parking areas. I urge parents to be extra cautious at these times with our children’s safety being the priority **and I appreciate the care and patience that has been taken.**

The start of the school year is a particularly busy time in our school carpark and surrounding streets. It’s important that we park safely and legally to support the safety of students.

Parking on a footpath, nature strip or roadside verge can: Cause safety risks for pedestrians as they are less visible to oncoming cars Increase the risk for vulnerable members of our community like children, people who are visually impaired, and those using a wheelchair or pram Restrict the line of sight for other road users Restrict access for emergency services vehicles. Parking on nature strips can also damage trees, footpaths, gutters and underground pipes and cables. Please also remember not to park across driveways or block neighbouring residents’ properties. As students return to school remember to also slow down and stick to the 40km/h limit around our school between 8am and 4pm.

Parking inspectors regularly patrol school zones to support safe parking and keep students safe. If you cannot find a car park in our school car parks, we suggest parking a little further away and walking or riding the rest of the way – it’s a quick and easy way to get in some exercise too.  I ask parents to be patient as school restarts when mornings and afternoons can be extra busy. We will be looking at alternatives to get to school such as a walking school bus if we can organise volunteers. Let’s all work together to keep our kids and community safe!

More information about travelling safely to school is available on the Transport ACT website.



**CHARLES CONDER AND THARWA PRESCHOOL P & C AGM’S**

We are looking for parents and carers to join us at Charles Conder on Tuesday, 21st February to become part of two P&C Associations. Please see the attached flyer. This is a great opportunity to learn about how you can contribute or become a volunteer to support community initiatives and build a positive school spirit.

The Tharwa Preschool P&C are holding their AGM on Wednesday, 22 February at 12:15pm. Anyone who is interested in joining the P&C are welcome to attend.

***Jason Walmsley***

Principal