Dear Parents,

As I write, today is the last day of winter and as usual it is a very cold and wintry day up here in the hills. Last night there was a fair bit of white stuff on the ground which I am assured by the kids was snow but may have been hail. Whatever it was it was very cold and makes the conditions very slippery and dangerous particularly when leaving the car park. If it is hailing or snowing here when you come to pick up your children please take care entering and leaving the grounds as that small slope at the gate can be very treacherous.

You will have heard a lot on the news lately about the impending Industrial Action on Wednesday 5th September. Teachers find any sort of action that affects our classroom teaching to be difficult to accept but we do see the need. The campaign to establish a new Agreement for the teaching profession is not progressing at the moment as there are several issues that impact the teaching profession to which the union will not agree. Should you wish to know more about the negotiations you are able to access details on the AEU website.

On Wednesday 5th most of our teaching and support staff will be participating in the action and as a consequence we will be unable to run the normal program for our students. A letter has been sent to all parents advising them of the action and asking for confirmation that parents will make alternate arrangements for their children on that day. Those parents who are unable to make alternate arrangements for the care and supervision of their students on Wednesday 5th September are asked to return the slip attached to their letter to the school no later than Tuesday 4th September.

If you have been up to the school recently you will notice the new front steps. They have been widened to enable easier passage up and down by groups of people. They look much nicer and make the front to the school look very welcoming.

Last week we had our very successful Round Tables. This opportunity for students to share their learning with friends and family is incredible. We invite a large number of community members into the school to participate as panel members and they are absolutely astounded at the depth of learning that is displayed by our students. This method of assessment has been pioneered by Sherbrooke and is a wonderful way for our young people to demonstrate their skills in their own chosen field of study. If you have not been part of our round table process and would like to participate next time please let your child’s teacher know and we will add you to the list.
The year is moving past at a fast pace. This term sees the end of all VCE studies with next term devoted to revision and practice. This is a very stressful time for all involved, both staff and students, so be aware that your student will have a lot more commitments over the next few weeks if they are studying for their VCE. VCAL students will be completing their own projects and making sure they have met all their requirements and completed the necessary work for every outcome.

Today I had the pleasure of seeing one of our year two students, Rune Valkyrie, organise a cake stall to raise funds for the Red Cross. Rune is very good at organising events and thanks to the help of other students and staff with the baking there was a very impressive array of cakes for sale. As I am a buyer not a baker I was able to make a contribution and buy cakes which will be very well received when I go home this evening. Well done to Rune and all her helpers from the primary section.

Hector still continues to grow and develop and has very long legs now. He is particularly happy about the new steps as he refused to use the old ones and would only go up and down the steps near the hall. Of course he is now too big for Leanne to carry. He is learning his lessons and will continue to practice until it is time for his final assessment before he goes into full training.

Last Friday we had a very successful community tree planting day. I would like to extend a very big thank you to those of you who braved the icy conditions to come and plant a huge number of trees on the grounds. You will see a large number of them near to the car park.

In the next few weeks there will be some building activity at the back of the cottage as we erect a new garage for the bus and the trailer. Our bus is deteriorating as it is in the weather all of the time and the trailer has begun to rot. We really need to have undercover storage for these expensive resources so I have arranged for a large garage to be built onsite for their preservation. At the same time I have organised for the car park to be fixed so the drainage is working properly. I am planning that the work will redirect the ground water into the storm water system and not across the car park as it is now.

On Tuesday 14th August we had our Athletics Carnival with Boronia K-12 College. Although a cold and cloudy day it was a wonderful success with students from both schools participating and gaining a great deal of personal satisfaction and achievement. It was wonderful to see our students having such a great time and joining with Boronia students to have a fantastic day. Joel Cordwell our sports and Physical Education teacher works very hard to provide a wide range of sporting activities for our students.

We are still looking for volunteers to help out in the canteen at recess and lunch. If you are able to come and help us out for an hour on the occasional day it would be greatly appreciated. Unfortunately we are unable to provide child care if you have pre-schoolers. Should you have an hour to give us please contact the office.

Thank you for all your support with the Coles and Woolworths docket. We are currently tallying them for return so we can get our rewards.

This is the last newsletter for the term so we look forward to seeing you around the school.

Anne Broadribb
National Tree Planting Day

At the end of July we celebrated National Tree Planting Day by planting 200 trees. Through the Shire of Yarra Ranges’ Ribbons of Green program we were given 300 plants and so the CaLM students co-ordinated the day and each showed the rest of the student population how to plant properly. Most students from prep to year 12 planted at least one plant out in the Conservation Area. This area is being populated with indigenous plants so that it can act as an island or corridor for native animals to travel between the Mt. Dandenong National Park and Sassafras Creek Reserve.

CaLM – VET VCE Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management

Community Tree Planting Day August 24

We were lucky enough to get 350 more trees to plant as part of the State government’s Plant 2 million trees for Victoria campaign. We had invited Sassafras Primary and each of our students to bring along an adult. Unfortunately the weather was cold and rainy so the primary school decided not to walk over to our school and many parents stayed at home. However we had about 30 guests – adult friends, parents and grandparents – who braved the cold and we all went out to be taught by the students how to plant. This time we planted at the entrance to the school drive. We planted about 150 trees in 20 minutes before the heavens opened.

Once back in warmth of the hall, one of the teachers, Al, told the story of the Lone Pine seeds brought back from Gallipoli in WWI. We have an offspring from one of the trees from these seeds that was grown at the Shrine of Remembrance. Our Lone Pine is at the back of the school with a plaque at its foot. This is a great example of how humans place a lot of importance on trees – they represent many things. We ended the day with Devonshire Teas for all.

Many thanks to our guests and special thanks to the teachers but especially Luc and Jake for cleaning up and Rocki and her fabulous cooking classes who provided 350 scones!
Learning for Sustainability Conference

The CaLM crew has been investigating recycling and waste management. They did a waste audit on Aug. 2 and went to the waste recovery centre at Dandenong. They then looked at ways to increase our recycling and reduce the school’s wasted resources that went into landfill. The students took part in the Shire of Yarra Ranges Learning for Sustainability Conference at Healesville on Aug. 24. Callum presented a PowerPoint (designed by Che) about our endeavours. Ed and Bee taught a group of teachers and councillors how to use newspapers and magazines to make useful gift bags and Andy and Alex taught them how to make drink coasters. The participants were very impressed by the students and I was as proud as punch!

DD

- Over 40% of garbage stream is food waste
- Over 10% of garbage stream is recyclable
- Potential for 50% reduction in waste generation

![Garbage Generation Comparison to 2011](image)

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Junior Players required for Season 2012/13

Boys and Girls welcome!
Milo In 2 Cricket Age 5 to 8: Friday Nights
Under 11 Soft Ball: Friday Nights
Under 11 Hard Ball: Friday Nights
Under 12: Friday Nights
Under 13: Friday Night / Saturday Option
Under 15 & 17: Saturday Morning

20/20 Cricket and new concepts to playing rules to be introduced. Also required are volunteers to assist in all Age Groups

Enquiries:
Junior Administrator: Greg Brown
Mobile: 0424052311
Email: gwbrownac@yahoo.com.au
Web: belgrave.vic.cricket.com.au

The New Me Personal Training Studio
51 Main Street Monbulk
9752 1556
pt@thenewme.com.au

Experienced, qualified & insured Personal Trainers ----- Increase strength, suppleness, stamina & build character ----- Mums & Bubs fitness & core stability, Fridays 11am ----- Teen Gym, ages 12-17, Tuesdays 4pm ----- Zumba ----- Group Fitness Classes ----- Tai Chi & Dao Yin

Memberships ----- 1on1, 2on1 PT by appointment

FREE trial 30 minute 1on1 PT by mentioning this ad!