Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and Friends,

**Successful schools start with healthy minds**

Starting school is a big change for children. Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care about their needs. Belonging improves mental health, wellbeing and learning.

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing. Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children’s mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers, helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older ‘buddies’ to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying.

**School Council Elections 2016**

A big personal thank you to Rosie Bell who has worked tirelessly to make sure we have the best school possible for the betterment of all our children by engaging the school community through the parents club and SC.

There are 3 **parent** vacancies available –

**PARENTS WHO WILL FINISH AT THE THIS ELECTION:**
Jackie Goudy  
Renee Molloy  
Catherine Bromley

**PARENT WHO WILL CONTINUE**
Lainie Noonan  
Scott Boreham  
Leonie Lidgerwood  
Donna Willis

**Community Members**
Kindergarten Liaison?
Parents Club

**STAFF MEMBERS WHO WILL FINISH AT THE NEXT ELECTION:**
Lauren Milne

**STAFF MEMBERS WHO WILL CONTINUE:**
Lee Murnane  
Anthy Seremetis  
Tara Williams
Timeline:

Monday 22nd February  
Call for nominations

Monday 29th February  
Nominations close

Wednesday 2nd March  
Display list of candidates

Monday 7th March  
Distribute ballot papers if an election is required

Tuesday 15th March  
Close of poll

Wednesday 16th March  
Count votes and declare poll

Tuesday 22nd March  
New council meets

The formal ‘Schedule 4 – Notice of Election and Call for Nominations’ for the four parent vacancies went out to families on last week with information for parents and the official time frame. These positions are for the standard term of 2 years.

A big personal thank you to all our parent councillors who have worked tirelessly to make sure we have the best school possible for the betterment of all our children.

School Councils have a number of roles and responsibilities arising out of their designated powers. In summary these roles are:

- Developing the School Strategic Plan
- Determining the general educational policy, goals and priorities of the school within the framework of the school strategic plan and statewide guidelines
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school in relation to the goals and priorities in the School Strategic Plan, including participation in review processes
- Reporting annually to the school community and the Department
- Approving and monitoring the school budget (including school-generated funds) which needs to be consistent with the school charter
- Ensuring that all monies coming into the hands of the council are expended for proper purposes
- Making recommendations to the Secretary on the appointment of the school principal
- Entering contracts for purposes consistent with the School Strategic Plan
- Employing non-teaching staff and any casual relief teachers or contracting for the provision of those services
- Exercising a general oversight of the buildings and grounds and ensuring that they are kept in good order and condition
- Generally stimulating interest in the school
- Be on at least one Council Sub Committee

Seaford North Primary School Phone App

The Seaford North Primary School mobile app solution that will allow us to communicate with you, our parents, straight to your smart phone is available. We will be sending reminders and updates so that you can be even more connected with your children’s activities and events at Seaford North. You can now download the app from the itunes store and Google Play.

If you are having any problems assessing the app please contact the school and we will get in touch with the developers for a solution.

Lee Murnane  
Principal
**COMING EVENTS**

**MARCH**
- Wed 2nd: District Swimming
- Friday 4th: House Athletics Carnival
- Sunday 6th: Seaford Wetlands Awareness Day
- Monday 7th to Fri 11th: Woorabinda Camp
- Monday 7th: District Swimming
- **Tuesday 8th School Photos**
- Monday 14th to Friday 18th: 5/6 Camp
- Thursday 24th: Last Day of Term 1 – 1.30 finish

**Permission Slip Return Dates**

- Athletics Day Canteen Pre-Order form: Lunch order forms to be in by Wednesday 2nd March
- Photo Envelopes: To be brought in on PHOTO DAY Tuesday 8th March

**PENSION AND HEALTH CARE CARD HOLDERS PLEASE NOTE**

CSEF – Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. You are eligible if you are the holder of a Health Care Card or a Pension Card that was current as of the first day of term 1 or term 2. If you are eligible please call in to the school office with your card and fill out an Application Form by 24th June, 2016. The annual CSEF amount per student is $125 for primary school students.

**SAFETY IN THE STAFF CAR PARK / SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Please be advised that the Staff Car Park is for staff and visitor usage ONLY. It has come to our attention that there have been a number of reported incidents regarding the safety of students, parents and staff members within the car park area. It is not a pick up or drop off area.

**PARKING IN HALLIFAX STREET AND AIRLIE GROVE**

Please keep the last two car parks on either side of the streets nearest the school FREE, these are no standing areas even though the signs have come down. The Council will be booking people.

There was a car damaged in Airlie Grove on Thursday 18th February at morning drop off, the offender left no details, if you know anything about this could you please contact the Office.

**ADVERTISING - Please Note:**

The Department of Education and Training does not endorse the products or services of any private advertisers. No responsibility is accepted by DET for accuracy of information.

**NICO'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Experienced music teacher offering lessons in violin, guitar, piano and singing to students of all ages and levels.

**FIRST LESSON ONLY $10**

Come and learn a fun skill that will last a lifetime!

Located in Airlie Grove, Seaford
$20 for 30min lessons
Contact Nico on 0427 734 148 for enquiries and lesson bookings
Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition!

To be eligible you must:
- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school or starting next year
- have some form of household income, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

For more information, please contact Kelly Clem your local Saver Plus worker on 8781 5937 or kclem@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

School Holiday Program

Easter School Holidays Moonlit Sanctuary Junior Ranger Program

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care.
Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities, fun and games for ages 7-14 years.

Easter school holiday dates:
- Week 1: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 1st April 10am – 4pm
- Week 2: Monday 4th to Friday 8th April 10am – 4pm

Cost: $65.00 per day, or $175 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).

Maximum 16 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited

Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary
550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Open daily between 10am and 5pm

Nude Food Day

Nude Food Day will run every Monday at Seaford North Primary School. There will be a trophy for the winning grade having the least amount of rubbish in their lunchboxes. At the end of each term, a raffle will take place for the children who have Nude Food for at least 4 weeks to win a special Nude Food Lunchbox.

Nude Food Day is a nationwide initiative developed to encourage kids and parents to eat well and live well, and eliminate all unnecessary packaging and wrapping that goes into schools. Nude food is an investment in our future. By reducing the amount of rubbish, we are caring for our wildlife because they think rubbish is food and they eat it. Nude food also saves trees as there is less pollution in the air. The pollution is created when the factories make the wrappers.

Secondly, nude food uses less rubbish and energy. It helps decrease landfill because we are using reusable containers, not wrappers and cartons. Nude food also saves energy because we don’t buy the little containers, so less energy is used making the big containers.

Lastly, nude food also saves money. Nude food saves money because if you buy a big tub of yoghurt and put it in containers it is cheaper than buying lots of little tubs of yoghurt. It also saves money because the price of buying a nude food lunchbox is less than buying all the small packages for a week of school.

In conclusion, go nude food because it is an investment in the future. It uses less packaging and energy and it also saves money.

Go nude food!
Our IB Journey

Hello again,

After reading the IB Mission Statement in the last publication of the newsletter, you were probably wondering how it filters across to our school. IB use a list of attributes that a learner needs to be able to display to become an IB student. They are called Attributes of the Learner Profile. These attributes include:

**Inquirers** They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

**Knowledgeable** They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

**Thinkers** They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

**Communicator** They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

**Principled** They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

**Open-Minded** They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

**Caring** They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

**Risk-takers** They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

**Balanced** They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

**Reflective** They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

In an IB school, these attributes replace the old nominates school values as they are what we value in an internationally minded student, the new direction for Seaford North Primary School. Awards at assembly will revolve around these attributes and the school is currently transitioning across to the new certificate system. Please be patient with staff as they move through the change and we get the logistics in place. The wording on the awards will involve the attributes of the Learner Profile so please read through the descriptors carefully so that you can see where your award recipient is shining!

I also think that in this newsletter I’d like to provide you with a short answer to the big question, “What is an IB education?”

**WHAT IS AN IB EDUCATION?**

An IB education fosters creativity and imagination. It offers students opportunities for considering the nature of human thought and for developing the skills and commitments necessary not only to remember, but also to analyse one’s own thinking and effort – as well as the products and performances that grow from them.

Through inquiry, action and reflection, the IB programmes aim to develop a range of competencies and dispositions that include skills for thinking, working with others, communicating, self-management and research.
TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE IB

This constructivist approach leads towards open, democratic classrooms through the interaction of asking, doing and thinking. An IB education empowers young people for a lifetime of learning, independently and in collaboration with others. It prepares a community of learners to engage with global challenges through Inquiry, action and reflection.

Inquiry:
The IB programmes feature structured inquiry into established bodies of knowledge and into complex problems.

Action:
Principled action, as both a strategy and an outcome, represents the IB’s commitment to teaching and learning through practical, real-world experience. Action in the IB programmes may involve service learning, advocacy, and educating self and others.

Reflection:
Critical reflection is the process by which curiosity and experience can lead to deeper understanding. Please understand that this statement describes IB education in a simplified nutshell narrative; it is a lot more complex than this! My job at Seaford North is to work with the whole school community to adopt the Mission of IB which includes the Philosophy, Organisation and Curriculum. As part of the school community, we want you to learn about the Primary Years Program that is being implemented during this stage of the process. During the next few weeks, a display will be placed in the foyer which further breaks down the PYP. I will also use the newsletter as a way to focus on the many different aspect of PYP. Finally, I will be providing you with an information evening which will include a 15 minute question and answer time. If you are interested, please keep March 22nd at 6.00 – 7.15 pm. free. It will be held in the middle space in the BER building. I am looking forward to working with you.

Lisa Coates

2016 Term Dates
Term 1: 27th January (school teachers start) to 24th March (25th March is a public holiday)
Term 2: 11th April to 24th June
Term 3: 11th July to 16th September
Term 4: 3rd October to 20th December
Last day of all terms 1.30 finish

2017 Term Dates
Term 1: 30th January (school teachers start) to 31st March
Term 2: 18th April to 30th June
Term 3: 17th July to 22nd September
Term 4: 9th October to 22nd December
Family Fun Night

On Thursday the school community had a fabulous time at our family fun night. It was wonderful to see laughing and happy kids everywhere (and parents). It makes putting on events like this so worthwhile. Thanks to the parents club who did a great job once again with the BBQ and drinks and to the parents who made the wonderful badges for the children and all the teachers for helping.
We now have a wonderful drumming club free to children through Primary Music Institute (PMI), another great lunchtime club.