Thursday 19th March 2015

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A note was handed to school students last Friday afternoon as they were leaving the school grounds. The school had no prior knowledge of this note. I am concerned this note may appear to have originated from the school and may have confused some families as to its purpose and message. Please note some of the details of the person referred to in that note are incorrect and she is not an appropriate first point of contact in relation to the matters dealt with in the note.

If parents have an issue relating to any matter at the school, then it needs to be raised with the appropriate staff member and if concerns continue, it needs to be raised with the Principal. There are guidelines and procedures in place at Cobargo Public School that address concerns and for the most part, being a small school, these are dealt with in an informal manner. The ‘Guidelines for Approaching your School’ is being sent home with this newsletter and includes a guide as to who is the best person to speak to at the school if you have a concern.

Any further issues should be dealt with in accordance with the Department's Complaint Procedure which are found on the Department's website at http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/how-we-handle-complaints

In providing families with a consistent message regarding a range of topics, including bullying, the school will control these communications. It is not the role of the authors of this unauthorised note to identify a further source within the Department and

At NO time should a parent approach another child at school.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Five students from Year 4 began this program on Tuesday with volunteer community member, Mrs Bronwyn Beechey, and staff member, Michelle Simkin assisting the students in the garden. A crop of Rainbow Beets was planted and are being nurtured by the students from Year 4. This group has chosen the name “Green Fingers”.

Next week, “Green Fingers” will harvest some of the plants. They will work in the kitchen with volunteer community member, Diana Winter, an experienced chef. The harvested plants will be made by the students into tasty and pleasurable meal, ready for them to share. This is not a meal replacement program; students are required to bring their normal lunch on Kitchen day as some days will have only a ‘taste’ amount rather than a meal. It depends on what can be harvested from the garden.

The philosophy of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation is attached to this newsletter. The students gain valuable experience in the cycle of ‘growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing, and cleaning up’. Cobargo PS is starting with Year 4 and plan to include Year 3 when Year 4 is in an established routine.

The second group of Year 4 students will commence their rotation, Tuesday 31st March, starting in the garden and will be in the kitchen first day back for students, Tuesday, 21st April.

Students will need an apron for kitchen days so they do not get food on their school clothes.

Michelle Simkin
Principal

What is Bullying?

Bullying occurs when somebody who is less powerful than another person or a group is deliberately and (typically) repeatedly hurt without in any way deserving that treatment.

It is not about children of roughly the same strength or power, arguing or quarrelling or getting into the odd fight about something. The behavior of the person bullying has to have three fundamental properties. First, the person must intend to harm the victim; bullying can’t be accidental. Second, the bullying behavior is usually repeated. A one-off spiteful remark would not be called bullying, but if it is constantly repeated, it would be. Third, bullying is not fighting among equal; there is a power imbalance in the relationship.

Rather than us focusing on one day, for example, ‘National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence - Friday 20th March 2015’, this school focuses on ensuring students are the best they can possibly be in all areas, academic, social and physical. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, the school has been very fortunate to access the expertise of Emma Hanson from ‘The Drama Lab’ who has worked with the girls in Years 3 - 6. The school is currently negotiating a suitable time for Emma to return to work with the boys in smaller
groups from Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 and may be as soon as next week.
An article from Headspace on ‘Bullying’ has been attached to this newsletter to assist families in supporting their child in this area.

CALENDAR
MARCH
20 – Assembly conducted by K/1
24 - Visit to Class 3/4 and Class 5/6 by Youth Liaison Officer, Donna Clarke
25 - School Fun Run
27 – School Parliament
APRIL
1 – P&C Meeting, 6.30pm
1 – Cross Country Run
2 – End of term one – Easter Raffle drawn
TERM 2
20 - Staff Development Day
21 – Students return
MAY
6 – P&C Annual General Meeting
Student Banking every Monday
Copies of most notes are now available from the school's website.

University of NSW Competitions
The University of NSW is offering an opportunity for your child to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12 in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Attached to this newsletter is as registration form if you wish your child to participate. Please return the registration form to the school office, with full payment, to the school by no later than Monday 30th March, 2015.

Canteen Manager
The current Canteen Manager is soon to go on leave. We are therefore looking for someone to continue with the ordering of food items and organising the roster for the remainder of the year. If you can help out please contact us.

P&C NEWS
EASTER EGG RAFFLE
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY
The P&C will once again be conducting their annual Easter Egg Raffle which will be drawn on the last day of term. Donations of Easter Eggs and other suitable items are sought. These goodies can be dropped off at the office. Tickets were sent home with last week’s newsletter, tickets are $1 each.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION / FEES
Thank you to the families who have paid the contribution fee. It would be appreciated if others could please endeavour to make a contribution before the end of term one.
Our voluntary fees for 2015 will be the same as 2013 and 2014; $35 for one student, $60 for two children and $75 for three or more children.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FUN RUN FUNDRAISER
The Annual School Fun Run Fundraiser will be held next Wednesday 25th March, on the school oval. Years 3/4/5/6 will start at 2.00pm and K/1/2 students will start at 2.20pm.
Come and cheer our children on to do one more lap.
Sponsorship monies need to be back at the School by Tuesday 31st March, so that we can order the student prizes before the end of Term. Thanks.
STAGE 2 AFL FOOTY DAY AT NAROOMA

Last week our Stage 2 children travelled to Narooma for an AFL Football day. The children had a great time and gained skills from this experience.

Olivia, Stella and Leah look smart in school uniform.

Lucy and Blake are chasing the football which can be a little hard to pick up at times.

Not sure if Dylan is protecting Nathan and Keely, or if he is going to give them a giant bear hug.

Mark that ball boys!

Are Brett and Noa watching for seagulls or the ball?
Great play boys!

Isla showing her kicking skills.

Cobargo Cooperative Society Proudly sponsors this newsletter.
**Presentation Day**

The awards handed out at the end of the year are currently under review by the school. Your feedback would be sincerely appreciated. Proposed changes under consideration include:

- Three book awards per class, except for Kindergarten
- Certificates handed out during the year and not at Presentation Day
- MultiLit students receive their award at a special assembly
- Dux of the School Award be renamed as **'Overall Year 6 Academic Achievement'**.

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**Anzac Day Service at Cobargo**

**Saturday 25th April, 2015.**

The school is preparing for this significant (100 years) event and are learning the songs to be sung on this day in a combined Cobargo PS/Quaama PS choir. The organisers and the school are encouraging as many students as possible to attend.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**BERMAGUI NETBALL REGISTRATION DAY**

Saturday 21st March, 10 to 11.15am at Bermagui Stadium.

Rego fee is $60.00 per child

Season starts first Saturday after the school holidays.

For more information please call Norma on 64933208.