On Monday we held the second day of the School Review and the panel interviewed groups of students and teachers asking questions around the Terms of Reference (TOR) “How do high quality learning and teaching strategies at Park Orchards Primary School challenge and engage students?” The discussion sessions were very valuable and illuminating. Our school has very good results in all areas and the panel’s considered direction for our school over the next four years is to stretch and enable every student to engage in and challenge themselves to achieve at high levels. The reviewer’s report should be completed in a fortnight.

On Tuesday evening we held our December School Council meeting, the school structure for 2017 was ratified and two recommendations from the Master Plan Sub Committee were passed. We have worked very hard to develop a structure where every class across the school is 26 or below. This year the spread of numbers in each year level is not as balanced as other years but we believe we have developed a structure which will maximise each student’s learning. In 2017 we will have two foundation classes, two year one classes, one one/two class, one year two class, two year three classes, three year four classes, one year five class, one five/six class and one year six class. Specialist subjects will include Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and LOTE, Mandarin. All foundation and new students to the school will learn Mandarin as was the case this year. Italian will be conducted on one day per week in 2017 for the students who studied it this year. The after school Italian class will also continue for interested students.

Our school has been allocated a total of $457,000 in the Condition Assessment Audit (CAR) funding from the state government. This money is to maintain school buildings and infrastructure. The money has been allocated in three amounts, $153,000 for Block A, $107,000 for Block B and $197,000 for infrastructure. Today I will meet with Department representatives and architects to begin the tender process for this extensive maintenance program. It is not capital expenditure but maintenance and I am very pleased to be in the position to ensure our buildings and infrastructure is maintained in excellent condition.

Student Reports will be posted on Compass on Friday December 16 and students will bring their Learning Journals home on that day.

We will hold a Parent Afternoon Tea on Tuesday December 13 at 2.30pm in the Arts Centre. This is a thank you from the POPS staff to the many, many parents who support us in so many ways including: classroom help, excursion, swimming,
On **Tuesday December 13 from 3.30-4.00pm** we invite parents to **meet their child’s teacher** for 2017.

On **Monday December 12 at 2.30pm**, parents are invited to our annual **Celebration Assembly**. At this assembly we will present our perpetual awards, Pettet Foundation for Citizenship, the John Gausden Science Award and our year six leadership positions for 2017. The foundation students and Junior and Senior choirs will perform their **Christmas Carols** at this assembly.

Congratulations and thank you to the parents who have taken on roles in the **Parents’ Association for 2017**, it is wonderful to have such fabulous support for our school and I look forward to working with them in 2017. Thank you to the members of the School Council for their work and support throughout 2016.

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**SRC CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

As the final SRC fundraiser for 2016, we have chosen to support local families in need.

We are asking for donations of new toys up to $20.00. A collection box has been placed beside the Christmas tree in the office foyer. These toys will need to be in the box by Friday 16th December.

Hoping that you can support this fundraiser that the SRC reps are passionate about.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Mrs De Carlo, Mrs Dennis and all our wonderful SRC reps.

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**STORYTIME**

STORYTIME AT P.O.P.S.

December 12 ~ Christmas

Monday Mornings 9.15am—10am

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**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Parents’ Association

On Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Parents’ Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) it was fantastic to see so many new faces, including two 2017 foundation parents, make the effort to attend the meeting.

The AGM involved Mrs Gordon (President), Mrs Hampton-Yep (Vice President), Mrs Love (Fundraising Coordinator), Mrs Price (Class Representative Coordinator), Mrs Williams (Uniform Shop), Mr Daley (Treasurer) and Mrs Fisher (PA School Council Representative) presenting their reports and celebrating another successful year for the PA. I would like to take this opportunity to publically congratulate all members of the Parents’ Association for a very successful year with raising funds to support our school and coordinating community events. Their hard working can-do attitude has been really appreciated by Mrs Daniel, our whole community and myself. Their support and commitment has reinforced to us what a wonderful community we have at POPS.

I would like to also acknowledge Mrs Price, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Hampton-Yep and Mrs Love who are stepping down from their PA roles and personally thank them for their hard work and ongoing commitment to our school. It is also important to thank our wonderful Office Staff: Mrs Walsh, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Muirhead who are always willing to assist the PA with any requests in an efficient and professional manner. Please read the PA President's report to see who will be taking on executive roles in 2017. I am sure it will prove to be another fantastic team and another happy year for the PA next year.

Student Transition

At the end of every year, we provide an excellent transition program for all current and new students from Foundation to Year 6. We believe it is important for all students moving into new classes to feel familiar, safe, secure and connected to their new class teacher, class mates and to their learning spaces.

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Helping Kids be Brave by Michael Grose *(Australia’s No 1 parenting educator)*

Anxious kids, like worriers and sensitive types, benefit from a parenting style that is empathetic but at the same time empowers them to tackle their fears. [Read More](#).

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The transition program for students entering Years 1 to 6 takes place over two sessions in December. This week all students participated in a transition session into their next year level with the intent of familiarising students with Mathematics and Literacy expectations in their new year level. Next Tuesday during the final transition session students will meet their new class and teacher in their new classroom for the following year.
MERIT AWARDS - CONGRATULATIONS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation D</td>
<td>Henry B</td>
<td>For his great work using MAB to add numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation O</td>
<td>Harvey S</td>
<td>For his terrific work to add expression into his reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Millar S</td>
<td>For his fantastic Mini Beast work in science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ronan C</td>
<td>For his fantastic persistence when reading. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P</td>
<td>Phoebe B</td>
<td>For being a fantastic SRC rep this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Amity M</td>
<td>For being an efficient hard working student who always uses her time effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Grace D</td>
<td>For always being such a hard worker who acts responsibly and takes care of anyone in need - you are a fantastic class member!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3W</td>
<td>Lucy K</td>
<td>For using descriptive language to create a beautiful fairytale about Ella and the dragon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Keenan P</td>
<td>For your amazing reading skills. I love listening to you read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Q</td>
<td>Zach M</td>
<td>For being such a hard worker during writing. What a superstar!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Lucas M</td>
<td>For his fantastic achievement in reaching 300 days reading at home this year - a magnificent effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Allen G</td>
<td>For his consistently high standard of work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Ellie G</td>
<td>Her friendly, bubbly personality and her have a go attitude. You will be missed Ellie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>Josh O</td>
<td>For putting 100% effort into completing all of his tasks to the best of his ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6O</td>
<td>Rory S</td>
<td>His design and construction of a billy cart on Friday’s incursion, plus his skill in driving at high speed!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEDICAL ALERT

CHICKEN POX ALERT

We have an identified case of Chicken Pox at school. We need to take precautions to prevent and control the transmission of this disease. If your child exhibits symptoms (rash, fever, itchy skin or lack of energy) please seek medical advice and keep your child at home to prevent the spread of the disease. Please be vigilant and check students for signs of the virus, (fever, rash or lack of energy) seek medical advice and keep them home.

STEELERS BASKETBALL CLUB LOST PROPERTY

I encourage parents or students to go through the lost property at the basketball stadium and take whatever belongs to them. I plan to donate whatever is left over during the holidays. Thankyou for your assistance.

Emma Ficinus
Administration Manager
Park Orchards Basketball Club

SNACK SHACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>Mrs Schaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9</td>
<td>Mrs Sidebottom/Mrs Pratt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14</td>
<td>Mrs Schaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
<td>Mrs Schaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16</td>
<td>Mrs Schaper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

END OF YEAR MENU

Next week is our last week of Snack Shack. I will do my best to provide children with their first preference although this may be difficult at times as I won’t be restocking until the new year.

Mrs Schaper
Canteen Manager
2016 AGM PA Presidents Report

I would like to start by acknowledging the wonderful team of volunteers and Management staff that make up this committee. Everyone has given up their time and commitment to perform their position to high standards. Each individual needs to be recognised for their time and energy given throughout 2016. To Mrs Hampton-Yep as the Vice President, your ‘out of this world’ parent information evening turned into something POP’s hasn’t seen before. From your choice of guess speaker (Michael Grose) to gaining the attendance from other external schools and kindergarten communities was a huge success. Your efforts in pulling this fabulous night together was outstanding raising over $1000 for the school. Thank you for all you did in your position as VP.

Mrs Ashdown played a valuable part of the committee as Secretary, the administration of the minutes was both timely and accurate, complete with all necessary details discussed at each meeting. A position that requires attention to detail even when at times the discussion points would go off track just slightly! Thank you, Mrs Ashdown, for your contribution as Secretary in 2016, the committee will miss your involvement.

Mr Daley has carried out his 2nd year as PA Treasurer, and his commitment to each meeting has been a great contribution. It’s great to see some dads playing a part in the PA. Thanks Mr Daley, look forward to next year.

To Mrs Fisher, as School Council Representative for her 2nd and final year on the PA committee. Thank you for your enormous support and communication between both Committees where you have represented the PA and all our requests. It has been a pleasure working with you.

The Class Rep Co-ordinator, Ms Price. A huge amount of work early on at the start of the year, allowed for the position of class rep co-ordinator to run as smoothly as it did. The class lists were distributed, the class reps were allocated and briefed. Social events were carried out with great support from many year levels. Cake stalls were a huge success each month, your enthusiasm and support for all volunteers from each year level paid off in having some huge sales throughout the year. Pancake Tuesday is held early in the year, your efforts in co-ordinating this event with the support of class rep volunteers and additional community members is outstanding. It’s definitely well worth the effort when you see all those sticky faces and hands and the students loving it. The other social event and on a much bigger scale is the fathers day breakfast. This is a huge event, but you have managed to create a beautiful and memorable morning for all the students and dads that attend. Ms Price, we thank you very much for your hard work over the past 3 years on the PA committee, you have been a valuable committee member.

Mrs Love and her team of fundraisers, what a year! A sensational effort by all that carried out so many big events. The engagement and commitment from the fundraising team was so successful, that we have so much to offer back to the school for the students. Each event held was a success on its own. Starting the year with a fabulous welcome back evening, Easter raffle (special thanks to Mrs Southgate), Mothers Day stall (special thanks Mrs Brodie), fun run, the students had a ball! Where the parents had a ball at the Trivia night, Pie Drive (special thanks to Mrs Honan), The school disco another big hit for the students. Another special thank you is for the tireless efforts of Mrs Hamilton. The fundraising team pulled off a massive year and this is with thanks to Mrs Love for her dedication as Fundraising Co-ordinator for 2016.
2016 AGM PA Presidents Report cont....

Uniform Shop Co-ordinators - Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomson for the outstanding and ongoing work they have put in this year into ordering and distributing all new uniforms on a weekly timeframe. This turnaround is so grateful for many parents we are always in urgent need for more uniform supplies. A fabulous effort to you in your commitment to this position. A big thank you to Mrs Williams for her many years in this position.

We also can't forget to mention the wonderful contribution of the second hand uniform shop ladies Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Thomson and Mrs Nguyen. Thank you for always being there each month set up and ready to go after each Aussie of the Month assemblies.

Mrs Daniel and Ms Garrity, our school management team for the PA. Your ongoing support and dedication to the PA has enabled 2016 to be a fantastic success. The PA members have been provided with up to date and valuable school communications throughout the year that assists us in representing the PA to the school community. Your commitment in making a school ‘wish list’ allows for the PA fundraising team to promote their events and raise further excitement throughout the school. We have aimed to raise and spend the money within the year to show the school community how the monies are spent. Thank you for your time and encouragement throughout the year.

I thank the amazing teaching staff in supporting us with all our requirements throughout the year. Allowing students to be available to perform in events and for to create art work for our major fundraiser.

Lastly, a big thank you to our office staff, Tracy, Elissa and Michelle you have always been willing to assist in our many requirements, from communications, compass notices, newsletters, reimbursements, reports etc. Thank you immensely for your time and dedication to support us.

Throughout all our events, this year we have raised close to $30,000. Another fabulous year of committed funds that we can put back into our school for our students to enjoy. The success of this year goes to all parents and the school community who come to our events and contribute to our school. This year we have seen the purchase of new equipment and furniture in the Science lab. Contributed to the Year 6 Young Leaders Conference and Year 6 year books. We are also excited to allocate a large proportion of these funds to create our junior sports complex which we hope to get underway next year outside the Arts Centre.

Each year the PA committee members offer their time and effort to help support the school and in turn are an integral part of the school community. Thank you all for your involvement this year and your time on the PA committee.

Please welcome our new committee members for 2017.

President Mrs Gordon  Vice President Mrs Dempsey  Secretary Mrs Hampton-Yep  Treasurer Mr Daley
Class Rep Coordinator Mrs Southgate  Fundraising Coordinator Ms Martin
School Council Rep Mr Brick  Uniform Shop Coordinator Mrs Thomson & Mrs Allen

I look forward to working with you all in 2017 thanking for joining the committee.
Dear Parents,

Park Orchards Primary School provides high quality education and 2016 has been another successful year with many highlights in all areas of student learning. As a school we are committed to continuous improvement and aim to always provide the best learning environment we possibly can for our children.

The superior condition of our buildings, grounds and resources are due to the support that our parent community has provided over many years through the voluntary parent contributions and fundraising initiatives.

Without this support we would not be able to provide the quality education and facilities or continue to improve what we provide for our students in 2017 and beyond.

As a state public school money is provided from the government to conduct learning programs and provide infrastructure for students. The money is provided for basic programs and is allocated on enrolments. For a school our size we have a very large site and extensive facilities including a Science Room, Arts Centre, Basketball Stadium and Kitchens. This means that we have extra costs associated with servicing, maintaining and improving our facilities.

Focus areas for 2017 are to continue improving the classroom environment with upgrading furniture, classroom blinds, air conditioning, and carpet as well as continuing to upgrade the learning resources. Unfortunately none of these attract government funding. Our buildings and grounds plans for 2017 include an upgrade of the basketball court area and the asphalt areas. We will also re-look at the covered ways between the buildings and most importantly, we will continue the ongoing maintenance of our extensive buildings, grounds and play equipment.

Attached to this letter is information about the Parent Payments for 2017. The Parent Payments for 2017 and Parent Payments Policy were ratified by School Council on November 15 and are consistent with the Department of Education Guidelines. Excursions and Incursions will be charged as they occur throughout the year and payment will be required prior to enable student participation in these activities.

We understand that families may experience financial hardship and difficulties at times and they are invited to contact the Business Manager (Tracy Walsh) or Principal (Georgina Daniel) on 9876 1249 or via email park.orchards.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to make an appointment for a confidential discussion on how they can be supported.

All students will again be provided with individual stationery kits. These kits are a component of the Essential Education items that parents pay for. The school also provides opportunity for parents to contribute to the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of the school’s facilities and learning resources through the Voluntary Contribution program and tax deductible Library Fund.

Payments can be made at the office before 20 December 2016 or when collecting your stationery boxes on Wednesday 25 January 2017 between 9am-12pm and Monday January 30 2017 between 1pm-4pm.

We appreciate your support of the Parent Payments Program and look forward to continually improving our school and working with you and your children throughout 2017.

Yours faithfully,

Melinda Frost
School Council President

Louise Jeffery
School Council Treasurer

Georgina Daniel
Principal

The Future ... Starts Here
PARK ORCHARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT PAYMENTS 2017

* ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

Essential Education Items: $260 per student
Essential education items are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents are requested to pay the school. Essential education items include educational resources and equipment, classroom and individual student requisites, including student stationery consumables, photocopying and publishing costs, specific supplies for all curriculum areas and three online programs: Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Sound Waves which can all be accessed at home.

Cucina Cooking Class – Y3 and Y4: $12 per student
This charge covers the cost of ingredients for four lessons.

Athletics Charge – Y3 to Y6: $20 per student
This charge covers the cost of transportation and hire of equipment for the School Athletics Carnival.

Interschool Sport Charge – Y5 and Y6: $65 per student
The interschool sport charge per student is for bus transportation expenses and equipment hire but does not include Hooptime, or District/Zone/State finals.

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Student Camps – Y3 to Y6: Deposit $50 per student (non-refundable)

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Curriculum Focus Contribution: Two additional Mobile Interactive Touch Panels for Classrooms $45 per family
This contribution covers the purchase of educational aids and other material of an enduring nature to improve the school’s resources. Over the past two years we have been upgrading the classroom interactive boards across the school in accordance with our ICT plan.

Buildings and Grounds Contribution: $80 per family (no increase)
This contribution assists in the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the school’s buildings and grounds which are extensive and need constant upkeep.

LIBRARY FUND 2017 - TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Donations are very welcome and directly enable improvements to the library resources including ICT equipment and allow us to offer an environment conducive to individual learning.

IMPORTANT DATES:

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ON COMPASS

Student Stationery Kits will be available for collection at the office upon payment of *Essential Education Items for 2017

Stationery Kit collection dates
- Wednesday 25 January 2017 between 9am and 12noon
- Monday 30 January 2017 between 1pm and 4pm

Payment Options
- Pay in full by 20 December 2016 – Optional
- Pay in full by 30 January 2017 to collect your student stationery kit
- Pay in instalments by agreement (Contact the Business Manager 98761249)
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IF DONATING TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY FUND

LIBRARY FUND DONATION

I enclose a donation of $__________ to the Park Orchards Primary School Library Fund.

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Class: ______________

Details for Tax Deductible Receipt:

Name: __________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________

Thank you for your donation.

A Tax Deductible Receipt will be forwarded early in 2017 to the person listed above.

PARK ORCHARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY FUND
ATO registered Tax Deductible Gift Recipient
C/- 1-3 Bowmore Avenue, Park Orchards, 3114.
ABN: 64218969707
On the 2nd of December a company called Supreme Incursions came to school. All the Year 6s participated in a billy cart workshop. The first activity was to design a billy cart on a piece of paper. The second activity was to make a small model of your design with planks of wood and nuts and bolts. The third activity was to put together and reassemble a cart as quickly as you could. Last but not least was to race the carts. The carts were pre made but still very fun to race. Every two laps you would change drivers with your partner who would push you around the track. It was a nice way to end the year with the Year 6s.

By Rory Sutherland
Park Orchards Primary School will be hosting

**POPS Open 2016**

**(Rubik’s Cube competition)**

On Sunday 11th December 2016
9am to 5pm
At the Arts Centre

The school community is invited to come along to watch the competition where local speedcubers will challenge international world champions.
Events include 2x2, 3x3, 4x4, one handed 3x3, Pyraminx and Skewb puzzles.

It is a free event for spectators.

The will be a **Rubik’s cube workshop** for POPS students
at lunchtime, Thursday 8th December
at the Grade 6 common room.

It will be run by POPS & ex POPS students.
All students are welcome!
Bring along your Rubik’s Cubes from home.
There will be spare cubes to learn from or a cube can be purchased for $5.

For more information, go to http://www.speedcubing.com.au/
Looking for Christmas presents? Christmas 2013 saw POPS release our very own hardcover cookbook filled with yummy family favourites. Some of the faces have changed but the recipes are still delicious! We have limited stock left!

Now only $10 each

But be quick! You only have till Wednesday the 14th to place your order so that they will be ready for collection on Friday the 16th from 3.15pm in the science room.

Name: _______________________________________________________
Childs Name & Class: ___________________________________________
Daytime Phone No: _____________________________________________
Quantity of books required: ___________________ Total amount due: $ ___________________

Tick Payment Preference:  Cash ☐  Cheque ☐  MasterCard ☐  Visa ☐

POPS Cook Book – Credit Card Payment Authority
Card Holder’s Full Name: ___________________________________________
Signature: __________________________________ Daytime Phone No: ___________________
Date: _____/____/____  $ __________  Exp Date: ____/____
☐ MasterCard
☐ Visa