Dear families and carers,

Welcome everyone to 2018

I would like to welcome you all back to another exciting school year at Yarrabah. Indeed, it promises to be a historic one. Not only have we pulled down and replaced buildings, some of which had been there for 20 years, we will now begin building 21st century facilities starting in April.

We welcome staff who have been appointed this year. Christina Jasem (Teaching in Lower Juniors), Kayla Cherrington (Teaching in Upper Junior), Sarah Storey (Teaching in Middles), Iroshi Rose (Teaching in Inters), John Bowles (Teacher in Seniors), Mieta Italiano (Speech Therapists), Camilla Reeves (Ed Support Upper Junior), Jamie Munro (Ed Support in Middles), Stephanie Munro (Ed Support in Inters) and Nina Rodriquez (Therapy Assistant). Welcome back to Carlee Jones and Amali Fernando.

We would also like to welcome the new foundation students and families. We also welcome families who have come to our school from different places and start in different years.

**Sun Smart**

Yarrabah is a sun Smart school. It is important to provide the school with a hat and sunscreen that can be applied during the day. Our staff are reminded to keep children hydrated and out of harmful conditions. Staff will attempt to apply sunscreen if required; otherwise, we ask that you do so before your child leaves home in the morning for added protection. The school enforces an indoor policy when temperatures reach 30 degrees and above.

**Enrolment**

This year we have a total enrolment of 180.4 school aged students and 64 Early Education students, which is an increase of 10 students from last year.

**School Communication - Flexibuzz**

The school uses a tool called Flexibuzz. Information for setting Flexibuzz is found on page 3 of this newsletter. Yarrabah School uses Flexibuzz to notify families of upcoming events, changes to activities and general announcements. Please ensure you set Flexibuzz up on your mobile phone.

**Mobile Device Policy**

The school does not accept the responsibility for loss or damage of electronic games or devices which are brought to school. They are not to be used or left on during class sessions, assemblies or similar organised activities or events unless they are a documented as a support strategy.

Students misusing electronic games and/or devices at school or causing a nuisance will be brought to the attention of the Principal.

The Principal may revoke a student’s privilege of bringing electronic games and devices to school.

Yarrabah does not believe that students require the use of mobile phones at school. In some circumstances, parents may consider a mobile phone is required for reasons of personal safety. In these events, students are required to adhere to the Mobile Phones policy and drop them off to the office for safekeeping during the day. Students will have the opportunity to take mobile phones during travel education activities only. Students are not to use the mobile for taking photos of other students.
School Hours
The school day begins at 9.00am and ends at 3.00pm. We ask families to have children at school for a 9.00 am start. Students will be involved in an active morning program between 9.00 and 9.30 with formal classes beginning from 9.30am.

Farewell Rone
With much sadness and disappointment, we say farewell to Rone Liebenberg from the 16th of March. Rone has been a wonderful teacher, leader and supporter to many children, families, carers and staff at Yarrabah. Rone is moving back to Queensland, where her husband has accepted an employment opportunity. Rone will continue to teach room 13 until she leaves.

School Pick up and drop off
All families will continue to pick up and drop off students from the front of the school until further notice. There is an alternate entry protocol however, you need to discuss circumstances with your class teacher first and then have arrangements approved.

Contractors on Site
Students will notice different contractors on site over the next two years during building works. The admin team in consultation with the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) have developed a guide for contractors on how to interact with students. In essence, we are discouraging communication and instead encouraging structured and supported interactions. All other interactions will be respectful of privacy and consider our social safety programs guidelines for interacting with people in the community. If you would like to know more about our ‘Social Safety program’ please see a parent information invitation on page 5.

School Council
The first school council meeting is the 19th of February. A number of parent positions will be vacant due to others stepping down and students graduating. Council is a great way of actively contributing to the school. If you are prepared to represent the families of Yarrabah by committing to a Monday afternoon, twice a term, during school hours, we welcome nominations. More information about school council positions available soon.

Kidsmatter and Respectful Relationships
Yarrabah is a Kidsmatter school. During this year, we will be focussed on, “Working with Parents and Carers” and “Helping Children with Mental Health Difficulties”.

Coping with Change
Changes bring mixed feelings and emotions throughout our school community. I like to think of change as the thing that is always constant.

My staff and your children have come back to a school of environmental change. Your children have come back to different class locations, classes in different locations, different playgrounds, different teachers, new children in their class, a new way to get to their class. It has changed. Yarrabah knows that some of our students are confused. It will take some time for some students to cope with the change. That is OK. We understand your child processes change individually.

The Yarrabah team hope that all together we will cope with these changes and continue to provide your child a school that values Tolerance, Respect, integrity, Care and Support.

If you would like to speak to Sophia, Lauri or myself, please call the office to make an appointment. We actively support our staff to make your child’s school journey individualised, fulfilling and enjoyable.

Matthew Harris
Principal
FlexiBuzz is Yarrabah School's App for receiving current information, reminders, accessing the school website, sending absence notices and much more. You will need to download this app from iTunes or Google Play store. The download is free.

Yarrabah have been trialling this App and the way it is used to communicate. We want to provide a range of communication choices that suit your busy lifestyle. We also want to make it easy to receive the latest news and updates from across the school and your child's classroom.

FlexiBuzz can be downloaded free onto your mobile device or home computer.

The school has a password to access the WHOLE SCHOOL updates.

The password is Y5142

There are separate passwords to access updates from our Middle, Intermediate and Senior sections.

Passwords can be obtained from your classroom Teacher.

If you require further support using or installing FlexiBuzz on your phone or computer let the office know.
**Important Dates and Information - 2018**

**Newsletter #1**

**Canteen Resumes for 2018**
Friday February 9th (Order form attached)

**Footy Day (St.Kilda players attending)**
Monday February 12th (1:30pm - 2:30pm)

**Sailability begins – Mordialloc Sailing Club**
Friday February 16th

**School Council Nominations**
Week beginning February 19th

**Come and See Health & PE Week**
Week beginning February 26th

**Student Support Group Meetings – Week 1**
Week beginning February 26th

**Blackwood Camp (Two sessions)**
- Mon. February 26th – Wed. February 28th (Middle students)
- Wednesday February 28th – Friday March 2nd (Senior students)

**Student Support Group Meetings – Week 2**
Week beginning March 5th

**Labour Day Public Holiday**
Monday March 12th

**Come and See Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP)**
Week beginning March 19th

**School Council Meeting & Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 1pm**
Monday March 19th

**Bike Camp – Inters/Seniors**
Mon. March 26th – Thurs. March 29th

**Term 1 ends – 2:30pm finish**
Thursday March 29th

**Term 2 begins**
Monday April 16th

**Colour Fun Run**
Friday April 20th

**Immunisations – Year 7 and Year 10**
Wednesday May 9th

**Camp Manyung (Middle)**
Wednesday May 30th – Friday June 1st

**Senior Formal – Rossdale Golf Club**
Wednesday June 6th, 6pm onwards

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**Transition Swimming – Term 1**

A reminder to parents/carers that the Transition swimming program is intensive and consists of three sessions on a fortnightly basis. These will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each even week, starting on week 2 (February 5th - February 7th). Please remember to send your child’s swimming clothes, goggles, towel and change of clothes (if necessary) each day so they can attend each session.

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**Fundraising Committee Request**

Our 2018 Fundraising Dinner is being held on August 25th at Woodlands Golf Club.

Planning is well underway for the event. We are currently seeking donations to be used as prizes on the night. If you are able to assist personally or have contacts or associates who would like to make a donation, please contact the office.

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**Sun Smart**

A reminder to parents/carers that Yarrabah is a Sun Smart school. It is important to provide the school with a hat for your child and sunscreen that can be applied during the day.
You are invited to attend an information session on

Yarrabah’s NEW Social Safety Program – 6th March 2018

Yarrabah School in conjunction with Family Planning Victoria has developed a comprehensive new resource that provides educators working with students with an intellectual disability an age and developmentally appropriate set of relationships and sexuality education resources.

All students in Upper Junior, Middle, Transitions, Intermediate and Senior sections of Yarrabah School are involved in weekly Social Safety lessons. Dependent on section of the school the following topics are taught:

- Body awareness
- Public and private
- Feelings
- Puberty
- Identity
- Protective behaviours
- Relationships
- Conception to birth

We believe parents and carers need to be aware of what their student is learning to allow opportunities for open, positive re-enforcement of these vital skills within the home and community. For this reason, we invite you to this event; details are listed overleaf.

Kind regards,

Matthew Harris (Principal)

Melinda Hewitson and Ellyce Pryor (Occupational Therapists for Middles and Upper Junior)
Lindsey Rouette and Amy Dyer (Occupational Therapists for Transition, Intermediate and Seniors)
Social Safety Information session

When: 6th March 2018
Time: 1:30 pm inc. question time (light refreshments provided which includes tea/coffee)
Where: Yarrabah School, Staff Room
RSVP: please return the slip below by 26th February

I will be attending the Social Safety information session on March 6th
My child’s name _________________________________
My name _______________________________________
Number of family members attending _______________
8th February 2018

2018 Yarrabah Senior Formal – Expression of interest

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are seeking expressions of interest from families who would like their child to participate in the upcoming Senior Formal. It will be held from 6pm onwards at the Rossdale Golf Club in Aspendale on Wednesday, June 6th.

Students will each partner another senior friend (aged 17 – 18 years old) from school or a support person. Each participant will be introduced and participate in three formal dances for a very receptive audience. An MC will guide us through the night and we shall enjoy a 2-course meal, of which students have alternate options.

Music and dance will remain a feature throughout the night. You can dance the night away whilst students enjoy each other’s company. A DJ will liven up the night after the formal dances with music from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s, and naughties.

Family and friends will enjoy an evening, which celebrates the young person for who they are, what they can achieve and where they hope to be in the not too distant future. The night promises to be very significant and one that you will never forget.

If you would like your child to attend, please return the slip to school prior to February 16th.

Kindest regards,

Matthew Harris
Principal

Expression of interest – Yarrabah 2018 Senior Formal

(Please return by Friday, February 16th)

I would like my child __________________________ to participate in the 2018 Yarrabah Senior Formal at Rossdale Golf Club on June 6th.

Name: ________________________________

Signature: _____________________________ Date:        /        /2018
### Wraps & Hot Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salad wrap</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>Ham &amp; Pineapple Pizza</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittney's Chicken tender wrap (with GF tenders, lettuce and dairy free mayo, all wrapped)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>Puppy Dog</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>Hotdog</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td></td>
<td>.20c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken tenders (3) (Gluten free)</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>Pasta Bolognese</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross’ Plain Hamburger (with cheese/lettuce)</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>Macaroni Cheese</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato sauce</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler’s Hamburger with the lot (with cheese, lettuce, cucumber, carrot and tomato)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>Dim Sims (steamed)</td>
<td>$1 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomato sauce</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>Soy Sauce</td>
<td>.20c</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat Pie</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>Sausage Roll</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomato sauce</td>
<td>.20c</td>
<td>Tomato sauce</td>
<td>.20c</td>
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### Fruit, Cold Drinks & Snacks

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>.50c</td>
<td>Orange juice pop top</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>.50c</td>
<td>Apple juice pop top</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn (sealed bag)</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>Strawberry Frozen Yoghurt</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie’s Honey Joys (Gluten free)</td>
<td>.60c</td>
<td>Chocolate Milk</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbie’s Chocolate Crackles (Gluten free)</td>
<td>.60c</td>
<td>Strawberry Milk</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total amount enclosed**

**Change required**

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