Welcome all families, students and staff to 2016 at Yarra Road. This morning we greeted many new families and a group of forty bubbly new Prep students who have settled exceptional well. Their buddies from Grade Five have been very helpful, supporting them at playtime and generally checking on their wellbeing.

We have several new students throughout the other grades; Jye D – 1Dixon, Jesse M – 1Dixon, Alessandra A– 2 Robertson/Halliday and Ana Carolina P – 3/4Smith. A big welcome to you all; we trust that you and your families enjoy your time at Yarra Road and we look forward to having you as part of our community.

We have a few changes to staff this year; Narelle Cooper and Daniel Quick have both finalized their teacher training and started in their new capacity with us, Narelle will be teaching Grade Five and Daniel will be sharing the role of PE with Narelle Hurley and also teaching in Grade 3/4. We welcome Rachel Grogan to our staff, she will be replacing Barry Dinsdale as our LOTE teacher. Barry will be taking leave for the first part of this year.

Over the Christmas break we had some major grounds works undertaken and are near completion. The area on the blind side of the junior classrooms is being turned into a new outdoor learning area, with sand and water play activities to be introduced after the working bee on Saturday 6th February. It is so nice to be back. I hope that everyone had a restful holiday and enjoyed the opportunity to relax a little. I would like to thank staff and students for a smooth and positive start to the year, and I look forward to our time together in 2016.

Cheers, Kate
January has been a very busy time in the school grounds with a number of major projects and maintenance tasks undertaken. Have a walk around and see:

*the new retaining wall installed beside the ramp between the Bower and Junior Buildings. With the removal of very large trees and the previous retaining wall we have opened up a new outdoor learning space. When complete it will have seating, paving and new plantings of deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs.

*new bitumen patches which provide the only visible evidence that our flooding courtyard problem has finally been solved. Many thanks to Kingsley Allen for his time and hard work, and for organising all the required trades. A very special thank you to past student Luke Colenso of Beaut Plumbing for donating many hours of his time and expertise to the job. We are now looking forward to the next heavy rain!

*the amazing new outdoor learning spaces along the south side of the Junior Building. Daniel Quick has toiled for untold hours in summer heat to bring to realisation Jen Stone, of Etch Architects, concept plan. The spaces will provide outstanding opportunities to extend hands on learning in the Junior School. Many, many thanks to Dan and his helpers for all they have done.

We are now seeking the help of the school community to complete the final touches in these spaces at a Working Bee to be held on Saturday 6th February from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, lunch included.
Minor tasks completed included—replacing broken timbers on the boxes outside the portables, repairing drinking taps and adjusting doors.

*beautiful new shade sails will be installed next week above the play equipment and sandpit*

In addition our synthetic basketball court and oval had their annual preventative maintenance service and we took delivery of some great new equipment, resulting from the Woolworths Earn and Learn program - look out for the new padding on the basketball poles.

**And finally ….**

The Department of Education, through its contractors, make periodic inspections of all schools to identify potential hazards. Our school recently had an inspection focused on locating and assessing asbestos containing materials in our buildings. We have a very minimal number of asbestos containing materials within the school, all of which have been inspected and reported to be in a safe condition. These are confined the portables and include either porch underfloor, or ceiling, sheeting, all of which are safely sealed or covered. The type of materials that may contain asbestos is quite surprising. The contractor took, for analysis, samples of window mastic, the material that seals the glass inside the aluminium frame. We will receive the results in an updated Asbestos Register in 4 to 6 weeks. It is now a legal requirement that warning stickers be placed on the entrances to any buildings containing asbestos, hence you will see new blue information stickers on the portables. These serve as a reminder to check the School’s Asbestos Register before any building repairs or works are undertaken and ensure that regular visual inspections are completed.
Dear Yarra Road community,

Tim and I would like to express our gratitude for all the love and concern, never ending prayers, encouraging words, cards and floral pieces offered to us over the last couple of months. Thank you so much for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was much needed and deeply appreciated.

“Thank you” doesn’t seem enough for what it has meant us, but we want you to know we are forever grateful.

Tim and Rachel Baum

Christmas Raffle

And the winners were……..

1st – Thomas Kregting
2nd – Baillie Jackson
3rd – Adam Atkinson
4th – Steven Doon
5th – Dylan Soutar
6th – Luke Doensen

Congratulations!

PARKING

Once again I need to raise the ongoing issue of parking at the drop off and pick up times at school. New parents to the school may not be aware that there are 4 designated ‘drop off’ spaces adjacent to the bottom basketball court at the front of the school. Cars can only remain in these spots for up to 3 minutes and the driver must not move more than 3 metres away from their vehicle.

The purpose of these spots is for drivers to pull in, pick up or drop off their children and move straight away. **It is not acceptable for drivers to remain in these spots longer than 3 minutes.** Drivers not abiding by these regulations face the real possibility of receiving a $125 fine as the Council Parking Officers regularly monitor the school car park. If your child cannot be there waiting for you to pull in then I suggest that you park in the surrounding streets and meet your child at the School Crossing or front gate.

Parking at every school is a contentious issue and there is no perfect solution. I ask parents to please be considerate of others and tolerant of the situation. Thank you.

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YRPS INFORMATION

Click on the links to view:

- Current notices
- Diary Dates
- Noticeboard

All Shifts are from 12pm - 2pm

**CANTEEN ROSTER – Term 1**

- **Friday 5th February**
  - Liz Armstrong & Carrie Van De Graaf
- **Friday 12th February**
  - Jenny Brown & Leesa Ferguson
- **Friday 19th February**
  - Britt Millward & Shelley Schafer
- **Friday 26th February**
  - Ruth Robertson & Lucy Cooper
- **Friday 4th March**
  - Karen Lucas & Jo Hawking
- **Friday 11th March**
  - Sharon Gordon & Anne Dunne
- **Friday 18th March**
  - Vanessa Kennedy & Amanda Simpson

Regards

Caroline and Lisa