From the Principal

Today we celebrated our past and present soldiers with a ceremony recognising their great sacrifice they made so as we can live in the “lucky” country. Tomorrow is not just a day off but a day to remember the people that have given their lives and continue to keep our country safe.

We welcome Shania Axford and her family to the Millewa – Shania moves into grade 3.

The Year 9 Alpine students made their way safely to their “new” school for term 2. We wish them all the best for the next nine weeks and hope they come back with some great stories and new skills.

In a few short weeks our years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students sit the NAPLAN tests. Therefore I thought it pertinent to remind our community of the link between achieving high results and the relationship between home and school. The relationship between parental involvement and student success is well-established. Engaging parents in the school’s literacy program by keeping them informed and getting them involved has the potential to greatly enhance students’ involvement and achievement in reading and writing. A major study in the United Kingdom (OFSTED, 2003) has shown that primary schools achieving high standards had developed strong partnerships with parents in the area of reading. Successful schools inform parents of the school’s approach to literacy development, enlist their help, and provide them with the support or resources they need to be involved (Barrs and Pidgeon, 1999, p. 16). If we continue to work together then our students/children will reap the rewards.

Lastly I would like to wish all our farming families the best of luck for the coming season, I know this time of year is a very busy time for you all and if there is anything the school can do to support you please let us know.

Erin Fush
CLUSTER SPORT/LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP
Grade 4-6 students will team up with St Joseph’s PS, Nangiloc PS and Sunnyciffs PS this year. Our combined football, netball and soccer teams will participate against Red Cliffs PS & Red Cliffs East/Cardross/Koorlong. Practise games are yet to be scheduled however the Lightning Premiership will be played at Quandong Park, Red Cliffs on Wednesday 20th June.

AUSKICK
Werrimull P-12 School is no longer responsible for the Werrimull Auskick program. The Werrimull Football Netball Club is looking to run the program before training on Thursday night or prior to home games on a Saturday. If you have a child who is interested in participating in the program contact me at school.

NAPLAN TESTING BEGINS TUESDAY 15TH MAY
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested, and how?
NAPLAN tests some of the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statements of Learning for English and mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

If you have any questions regarding the NAPLAN tests don’t hesitate to contact me.

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY- KOORLONG/SUNNYCLIFFS/WERRIMULL
On Friday 4th May all P-6 students will travel to Koorlong to compete in the Primary Interschool Cross Country. Students from Koorlong, Sunnyciffs and Werrimull will compete in three age groups; Prep – Grade 2, 9 & 10 year olds, 11 & 12+ year olds. Students will be competing for individual and whole school honours. The first event is scheduled to begin at 11.15am. Lunch orders are available on the day; order forms were sent home Monday 23rd April. All orders must be returned by Monday 30th April.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. I do hope this day finds you well and that during the holiday break you all had the opportunity to rest somewhat, as well as to spend some quality time with family. I do realise that cropping is not that far off if indeed not already upon you, but we all owe it to ourselves to have a little “me” and “us” time and Easter is the perfect time for that.

During my break I had the opportunity to take two of our Chinese teachers, Miss Liz and Miss Lauren, on a camping trip with my family up on the Darling River. What an experience! For all concerned!

At one stage during the weekend, that is Easter weekend when it was really blowy on Friday night, we started to count “firsts”;

- First time in a tent
- First time in a sleeping bag
- First time camping
- First time fishing, both from the bank with a rod and in a tinny lifting yabbie nets. Oh and by the way, apparently the yabbies in China come out of the river red.
- First time being bitten by a yabbie
- First time riding in the back of a ute
- First time shooting a gun. “You can’t have guns in China. They are illegal” they said
- First time eating all kinds of different food. Every time I cooked something for them they took pictures of it. I’m not kidding. And I’m talking only sausage and bread, bacon and egg sandwich, camp oven roast, yabbies and a baked bean jaffle

And the list goes on. Liz and Lauren were constantly amazed at the amount of space with no one around and with Liz coming from a city of two million people I guess space is hard to come by.

We all had a great time and learning from and about each other’s culture was truly an enriching experience. My family has since had them over for tea where I cooked kangaroo, another first for them and they have promised that next time they will cook and will teach me how to prepare dishes from their home.

So; why am I telling you all of this? Camping with Liz and Lauren really made me look at things from a different perspective and drove home the idea of not taking things for granted.

Look through the eyes of a child at something and discover it anew. Christmas and Easter take on major new significance when we ourselves become parents, we all know that, but try if we can to see things through the eyes of our older children and teens and it may help to avoid conflict. Even better is to try to look at things from the perspective of those who have less and we will find we have much more than at first we think.

Students are also reminded that the anonymous “Wellbeing Box” is set up in the library and that students can contact me through that should they require it. I can also be contacted on my email at morrison.kelly.j@edumail.vic.gov.au. 

Helpful Hint: 
Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well
Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
Dates to Remember

ANZAC

Anzac Day No school
25th April

Tasty Thursday
26th April

May

Cross Country
11th May

SSSA Cross Country
23rd May

June

Student Lead Conferences
15th June

9-12 Exams
18th June

Students return from Alpine School
23rd June

ANZAC Day

As you know next Wednesday is ANZAC Day. On Tuesday 24th April at 10am we will be holding an ANZAC Day ceremony at School and we invite all members of the Community to join us.

ANZAC day badges and wristbands are available to buy from either the School or Pub as they have been for the past few years. Badges start at $2 and wristbands are $3.

I thank you for your support and hope to see you next Tuesday at 10am.

Caroline Smith

School Lunch orders are available this Thursday from the Hotel

Please note there will be no Ballet this Wednesday because of the ANZAC day Holiday
Max Buffon, Sammy-Jo Sly, Brent Lambert, Kim Rowe and Josh Harris already to enjoy their time at Alpine School
What's Happening

This Term we are looking at Families and Home. If you have a chance to visit the Pre-School you will notice that everything has been moved around to provide the children with a proper home area for imaginative play.

The Kinder and School children did a wonderful job today making poppies for our ANZAC Day ceremony and listening to different stories related to ANZAC Day. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of all the children and the older children worked well to guide the Kinder children throughout the morning.

Please remember that we have Library every fortnight (the dates are listed below) and children need to return their books otherwise they are unable to borrow new ones.

Our new children - Juliet, Brody and Jessie-Dean - were very enthusiastic last week and I hope that their excitement about being at Kinder continues for the rest of the year.

This Thursday sees the four year old group visiting School to participate in some PE games and activities with Mr Bamford and the P-3 class.

I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>24th April</td>
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<td>26th April</td>
<td>Partnership visit to School</td>
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<td>8th May</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>17th May</td>
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<td>22nd May</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>5th June</td>
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<td>7th June</td>
<td>Partnership visit to Kinder</td>
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<td>28th June</td>
<td>Partnership visit to School</td>
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Shared Snack Ideas

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Cheese
- Dry biscuits
- Dried fruit

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day. The weather is still warm and even in Winter we need to drink lots of water.