We begin 2017 going into the last year of our Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017 which will be an important document to guide to reflect on the past four years and direct the decision making and resource allocation of the coming four years.

The entire plan is underpinned by the following Vision statement:

At Tootgarook Primary School we aim for all to achieve their personal best

Central to this plan, are the four Values that have been prioritised by our school community.

These include:

- **Respect** – Being tolerant, caring, supportive and valuing ourselves and each other
- **Integrity** – Being true to ourselves and each other and not betraying each other’s confidences
- **Celebration** – Acknowledging our individuality and achievements
- **Honesty** – Having open communication and trust

Over the course of the year, we will aim to ensure these Values shape the behaviours and expectations we have for all students.

It would be great if parents could also make note of these Values and also use them as a reference point at home. The more congruent the alignment between school and home, the stronger the partnership we are able to forge.

**Upcoming School Council Elections**

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students. Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging/engagement.

Each year, approximately half of the School Council retires to allow new members to become involved. To this end, we are now formally calling for nominations for the 2017/2018 Tootgarook PS School Council. Membership on the council is for a period of two years and regular meetings are held at 6pm on the third Monday of each month. Councillors will become involved in sub-committees of council: Education, Facilities & Finance and Community Engagement.

If you would like to know more about being a councillor, don’t hesitate to give me a call.

In 2017, we have three parent vacancies on School Council for a full period of two years. Nominations for School Council will close at 4.00pm on Friday 16th February. Please contact me for a nomination form if you are interested. If we receive more nominations than positions available, an election process will follow in the coming weeks.
Grades 3/4/5/6 Water Safety Program was cancelled this week due to poor water quality as outlined by the EPA.
The Program has been rescheduled starting Monday 20th February.

**Student of the Week**
Students will be presented with certificates at next Thursday afternoon’s assembly.

Prep P – Mrs Perkin – Olivia Golding – for remembering to raise her hand before sharing her ideas. Well done Olivia for showing respect to our class.

Prep S – Mrs Read – Angus Livesley – I am impressed with the way you have settled into our Foundation classroom. You are a great friend to others and always follow our classroom routines. Well done Angus.

1A – Miss Arnold – Travis Bowden - What a fantastic start to Year One you have had Travis. You listen carefully to instructions and have tried your best with all of our activities.

1P – Miss Perkins – Summer Rogers - WOW Summer! We are super impressed with the integrity you have shown with your learning tasks this week! You take your time and work quietly.

2B – Miss Boyd – Holly Thomas – for challenging herself and peers with extended questions during Maths. Well done Holly!

2L - Mrs Baird – Billy Wyhoon – What a great start to the year! Billy has made a conscious effort to look at the speaker and to listen carefully. Well Done!

3H – Mrs Houston - Makenzie Cooke – for a great start to grade 3 and presenting his work to a high standard!

3WB – Ms Walton & Mrs Bos – Baxta Penzo – for sharing his Canada holiday photos. Everyone enjoyed seeing where he had been over Christmas. Thankyou Baxta!

4H - Ms Hone – Charli Vis – for always being ready to help her teacher and other students as we start the school year. Thankyou Charli for your wonderful initiative!

4P – Miss Pittard - Hazel Read – for learning and acting with the RICH School Values. You always act with Integrity and complete every task with enthusiasm and positivity. Well done Hazel!

5/6H – Mrs Haddad – Zac Kent – for establishing a fantastic homework routine by completing Maths and English holiday homework. What a great start to Grade 6!

5/6 K – Mr Kitchin – Jake Bell – What a fantastic start to 2017 you have had! You have applied yourself and achieved some great results. Keep up the great work Jake!

5/6M – Miss McGhee - Leigh Rosowski - For trying his best in every lesson this week. Leigh you have started Grade 5 off very dedicated and have produced some wonderful work. Keep it up Leigh!

Art / Craft – Miss Davey – Lilah Hills 3H – Well Done Lilah on your first Art lesson for the year. I loved the way you used your imagination when designing your visual diary front cover. Keep up the great work!

Music - Mrs Young – Ryan Hardy- Prep R- Well done Ryan on your first Music lesson at Primary School. You participated with enthusiasm and skill - well done!

P.E. – Mrs Burns - Well done Billy Wyhoon – Grade 2L. You listened attentively to instructions and encouraged your classmates during Phys. Ed. this week. Keep it up!

Indonesian – Mrs Clements- Josh Sterling- You were a star in Indonesian this week. Well done!!!

**BookClub Orders**
are due back
Monday 13th February
ATTENTION HEALTH CARE CARD OR PENSION CARD HOLDERS

The Department of Education + Training again this year offering the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund of $125 per child which is to be used towards school camps, sports and excursions.

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pension Card being eligible on 30th January and successfully validated with Centrelink.

Application forms are available from the school office.

State Schools’ Relief Prep CSEF uniform support is also available for Prep parents – a fact sheet is available from the office.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

School camps provide children with exciting experiences in the great outdoors, encourage a deeper understanding of how the natural world works and promote leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover part or all of the costs of school camp, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid, non-cancelled concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The amount CSEF awarded per student is:
- $40 for primary school students
- $22 for secondary school students.

Eastbourne Vacation Care Program

Monday 3rd April 2017 to Thursday 13th April 2017

Eastbourne Primary School will conduct a Vacation Care Service during the forthcoming school holidays. Activities will include excursion to PARC Swim Centre, Boneo Maze, Wheels Day and lots more.

If you would like to enrol your children in the Holiday Program – please take note of the following:-

1. Bookings will be taken until Friday 24th March 2017.
2. Cost is $50.00 per child per day inclusive.
   If you are eligible for a Centre-Link Child Care Rebate, this will continue to apply. As has been the case in the past, once the relevant calculations have been done taking your Centrelink rebate into account, you will only need to pay the balance owing.
   If you do not currently receive a Centrelink Childcare Rebate and are unsure as to your eligibility – please contact Centrelink direct on 136 150.
3. Eastbourne Primary School has an EFTPOS facility, phone payments or direct payment into the school’s bank account for any parents who wish to use this method of payment.
   Forms are available from the school by phoning 5986 4884 or collecting them from the school office:

   Thankyou
CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR GR 5 AND GR 6 CHILDREN

St Mary's Star of the Sea will hold the Confirmation Ceremony on Wednesday 26th April at 7pm this year. Any Gr 5 or 6 child who is baptised Catholic and has received earlier Sacraments, is now eligible to make their Confirmation. Please contact 59844374 to register for after school classes.

Classes commence on Wednesday 8th March 3.45 - 4.45pm in St Joseph's School. Any queries please email Eileen: ewhite@sjsorrento.catholic.edu.au