FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL CAPTAINS ELECTED
Last week the Year 6 students participated in a democratic election for their school captains and vice captains for 2014. There were 46 students nominated for the 4 positions, which is an outstanding tribute to the quality of students in Year 6. Each student prepared a speech which was delivered to all students and staff in Years 5 & 6 and the standard of these was highly admirable. A formal secret ballot preferential voting system was then used to determine the leaders.

When the election outcome was announced, I observed the most wonderful thing. Everyone cheered to congratulate the captains. No one student looked disappointed. What wonderful young citizens and I am so proud of them all. They have generous spirits and a maturity to be able to be genuinely pleased for others.

The captains for 2014 are:
Captains
Kayla Kourmadias Philip Alex
Vice Captains
Lily Matousis Alex Kyriakopoulos

A formal badge presentation ceremony will be held this coming Monday 17th February at 9.15am in the school theatre. Parents are most welcome to attend.

On Wednesday we will have elections for the House Captains and classes from Foundation to Year 6 will elect their Junior School Councillors for the first half of the year. As you can see, we take student voice and democracy very seriously here at Serpell.

INVITATION TO ASSEMBLIES
Assembly is held each Monday afternoon as follows:
Foundation – Year 2 2pm
Years 3 & 4 2.30pm
Years 5 & 6 3pm

Parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome to attend any assembly. You can take a seat at the centre of the stadium seating, so that you will be able see well and get great photos of your child.

WILMA CULTON

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our new school year!

It is wonderful to see so many families walking to and from school this year. The weather has provided a perfect welcome to the new school year (maybe a little hot for some of us!) providing great conditions for all of our community members to improve their health through walking, scooting or riding to school. It is also a great way to make new friends!

With an increase in the number of pedestrians around the school, and building works in full swing in Serpells Road outside of St. Charles, please be aware of the following VicRoads rules:

Drivers giving way to pedestrians
At a children's crossing – eg Tuckers Road, Burleigh Drive, Serpells Road and King Street
You must approach a children’s crossing at a speed from which you can safely stop. You must stop at flagged children’s crossings if a pedestrian is on or entering the crossing, even if there is no crossing supervisor present. You must not proceed until the pedestrian has left the crossing. You must also stop if a hand held Stop sign is displayed at the crossing.

Keeping crossings clear
A driver must not enter a children’s crossing, a marked foot crossing, or a pedestrian crossing if the road beyond the crossing is blocked.

An exception applies to crossings without traffic lights, where there is a pedestrian crossing immediately before the intersection. Drivers can enter the crossing to get a view of approaching traffic after the giving way to all pedestrians.

At intersections
When turning at any intersection (except a roundabout), you must give way to any pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

In slip lanes
You must give way to any pedestrian in a slip lane.
### Footpaths and Driveways
When entering or leaving a driveway or private property, you must give way to pedestrians and bicycles on any footpath, path or nature strip you cross.

**When making a U-turn**
You must give way to all pedestrians as well as vehicles when making a U-turn.

**Roundabouts**
Unless there are specific crossings provided, there is no requirement for vehicles to give way to pedestrians at roundabouts.

**In shared zones**
In a shared zone shared by both vehicles and pedestrians, you must give way to pedestrians.

**At Stop or Give Way signs or lines not at intersections**
You must give way to any pedestrian at or near the sign or line. This includes pedestrians as well as bicycles crossing in front of you on a shared or bicycle path.

### Tips for safely using school crossings
Obey the **signals** from the crossing supervisor.

1. **Wait** behind the crossing supervisor as vehicles are driving past.
2. **Wait for 2 whistles** before walking across the crossing.
3. **Walk** between the **white lines**.
4. **Hold onto any balls** when walking and walk bikes and scooters.
5. **Parents**, always use the crossings as this ensures your children will know the safest way to walk with or without your supervision.

### A reminder to our families
Please use the designated crossings and encourage your children to develop safe pedestrian skills. It is disappointing to observe a number of families crossing the car park in the front of the school without using the crossing.

**Children, Challenges & Choices - Reminder**
Kim Pedler from Parentzone will be running a session for all of the parents who attended the 2013 Children, Challenges & Choices workshops, this Wednesday evening from 7 – 9pm.

**Please confirm your attendance by ringing the school office on 9842 8182.**
New courses will be offered later this year. Information will be provided in the school newsletter.

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### CLASSROOM HELPERS

#### PARENT LITERACY EDUCATION SESSIONS.

#### CLASSROOM HELPER TRAINING/SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN EARLY YEARS LITERACY LEARNING.
Morning, Afternoon and Evening sessions Term One.

Parent training sessions for the Classroom Helpers program will be held in the morning, afternoons and evenings this term. These sessions are designed around the areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. If you are interested in assisting in the Early Years Classrooms, attendance at the four training sessions is essential. If you would like to learn more about the way your child learns literacy skills, you are most welcome to attend. There are four sessions, (three for the evening course) each of approximately 90 minutes duration. You must commit to the whole four (evening three) sessions.

The following sessions will be held this term:
- **Mornings:** 9.15 – 10.45 on Wednesday Feb. 12; Wednesday Feb 19; Wednesday Feb 26 and Wednesday March 3
- **Afternoons:** 1.30– 2.45pm on Friday Feb.14; Friday Feb 21; Friday Feb 28 and Friday March 7.

**EVENING SESSIONS.** These will be offered if there are sufficient numbers, from 7-8.30pm on Wednesday March 12, Wednesday March 19 and Wednesday March 26.

All sessions are held in the staff room. **No pre-school children please.**

Please fill out the return slip below if you are interested in attending this Literacy Education Program and return it to the school office. We will be in contact with you before the workshops begin to confirm that we have sufficient numbers to run these classes.

#### SUE YOUNG
Assistant Principal.

### Parent Literacy Education Sessions

- **I will be attending the Parent Literacy Education sessions.** Please circle the session you will be attending.
  - □ Morning  □ Afternoon  □ Evening

Please print.

Name: ..............................................
Child’s name: ..................................
Child’s teacher: ..................................
Contact number: .............................
FROM THE OFFICE

If your child has been absent from school, there is no need to ring the office unless it is due to an infectious disease i.e. chicken pox.
When your child returns to school, please send along a written note with their name, grade and the dates they were absent along with a reason for their absence i.e. sick, personal reasons, holiday, religious celebration etc.

Thank you for your assistance

FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

Conjunctivitis
There have been several cases of conjunctivitis in the school. The symptoms are:
- Irritation & redness
- A gritty feeling
- A yellow or clear discharge
If you suspect conjunctivitis, you must take your child to the GP. He/she can only return to school once eye drops have been commenced as conjunctivitis is highly contagious.

Gastro
Gastro is also in the school. If your child has diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, headache, stomach ache or fever, please keep them at home so their recovery is quicker and the spread to other children is minimised.

MARY ZITO - School Nurse

SCHOOL BANKING

Welcome to all new bankers and welcome back to all our current bankers.
Student banking is on every Tuesday morning.
Please fill in your deposit slips clearly with pen and enclose the correct amount of money. You will receive a token for every deposit which can be redeemed for rewards.
If you want to open an account you can go online to [www.commbank.com](http://www.commbank.com) or go into any branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12</td>
<td>Classroom Helpers Session - am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14</td>
<td>Classroom Helpers Session - pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7</td>
<td>Classroom Helpers Session - pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday – No School</td>
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2014 SCHOOL TERM DATES

| TERM 1   | Wed 29 Jan | Fri 4 Apr |
| TERM 2   | Tue 22 Apr | Fri 27 Jun |
| TERM 3   | Mon 14 Jul | Fri 19 Sept |
| TERM 4   | Mon 6 Oct  | Fri 19 Dec |

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 1 catalogues have now been distributed and are due back Wednesday 19th February.
Please ask your teacher if you have not received any.
Please make sure you fill in the order forms correctly, with your child's full name and grade printed clearly. Please send in correct money or payment details.
Any late order forms, or forms not filled in correctly, will not be processed.

Thankyou
The Book Club Team

CAMP AUSTRALIA OSHC

Welcome to Before and After School Care. We have had a fun week of settling in. The Children have been busy creating fun Chinese New Year fans, Lanterns and Dragons.

Next week we are heading into a week of colour and fun sports. We will be having fun painting and creating bright coloured items and taking a look at how to make fun colours out of basic shades. We will hopefully be heading out to the basketball courts and the oval with weather permitting and getting fun games happening for the
children. Please remember all children need to have a hat for outdoors play.

It is that time of the year when we will be asking parents to sign new enrolment forms for the children. Please allow some time over the next two weeks to fill out the forms and a new item I am needing is a copy of the immunization record of your child. For any questions please let me know.

Please stop in and see our new what’s on board for highlights for each week. We look forward to a fun week.

For booking and account information please log on to www.campaustralia.com.au

Christine and Staff
0424 454 961

PARENT’S ASSOCIATION

PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual AGM will be held on Friday 28 Feb after school drop off at 9.10 am in the Staff Centre. All parents are most welcome to attend and we look forward to meeting you. The Parents’ Association at Serpell is an important group that provides an opportunity for effective and organised parent participation in the life of the school. Elections for Executive Positions will be held at the AGM and further details about these roles and their responsibilities are attached in a flyer.

CADBURY EASTER FUND RAISER

It’s time again for our Easter Cadbury chocolate fundraiser!!! Please see attached notice for further details. If you have any queries please e-mail Samantha Koukourikis, Project Co-ordinator at ksamantha@optusnet.com.au and we hope that you support this major fundraiser for 2014.

2014 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to be Class Rep this year for your child’s class. This is a very special, valuable and important role that will not only enable you to become more involved with your child’s class, but with the school community as a whole. As a Class Rep you all need to do is to prepare and distribute your new Class’s Friendship List. The Class Friendship List enables us to keep in contact with each other and for the class children and parents to keep in touch with each other. You are also encouraged to arrange at least one social activity per term which could be morning teas, an after school play in the park, school holiday social events, mum and teacher dinner or mums movie night, a whole family dinner event etc. There are so many ideas of things you can choose to do with your class. Ideally we need two class reps for each class so this is perfect to do with a friend, as it is a very easy and rewarding role.

If you have not already volunteered and would like to do so please e-mail Dora Demos at dora.demos@bigpond.com our Class Rep Co-ordinator with your name, your child’s name, class and your phone number.

Sarah Hull - President, Parents’ Association

SERPELL NETBALL CLUB

Just a reminder that Netball training commences on Tuesday 18th Feb from 3.30pm - 4.45pm. We look forward to seeing all new and existing players then.

Naomi Allison - 0411 11 53 52 or naomi2@cat6e.com Serpell Netball Club President.

SERPELL BASKETBALL CLUB

RESULTS of Games W/E 8th Feb 2014  Leed Street

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starlets 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U9 Girls</td>
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<td>OLOP Opals 0</td>
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<td>Centuars 3</td>
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