We begin 2016:

I welcome our new students to our school community this year. There are seven new Foundation students for 2016: Declan and Kaitlyn Barrow, Josh Bellenger, Ashley Curnow, Sam McCarthy, Zac Ryan and Harley Wilson. We also welcome Declan and Kaitlyn's older brother, Rylee into Year 3.

As well as our new students, I also want to welcome back returning students for this year. This will be an important year for all students as we all work together to make the most of our educational opportunities.

As announced at the end of last year, we also welcome into our school community our new teacher, Mrs Erin Sapountzis, who will have an involvement across the school but her main focus will be working with the Year 3 & 4 students in the room with Lorraine.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund:

Applications for the 'Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund' (CSEF) will be open from the commencement of Term 1, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists.

A payment of $125 for eligible primary students ($225 for secondary) will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.

Please complete the attached application form return it to school by Wednesday, 24 February.

Uniform and hats:

Parents are reminded that all students are expected to be in school uniform each day. Order forms are available from the school office. The school holds a small second-hand stock of uniform that is available a minimal cost upon request.

During this term, all students need to have a school hat to play outside during recess and lunch. A student without a hat will be asked to play in the lunch area.

School council elections

At the beginning of each year, every Victorian state school engages in the process of electing parents to serve on school council. This group meets once per month (traditionally on the 3rd Tuesday of each school month) and aims to have about 10 meetings for the year.

School council is the group of people who are given the power to set the key directions for the school. This means that school council can directly influence the quality of education that a school provides to its students. It endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents including the School Strategic Plan, the school budget and the Annual Report to the School Community.

In essence, council makes sure that the school is running effectively in terms of how it
spends its funds and the guidelines it makes for how the school is to work.

I would like all parents to consider whether they can assist in this role and make themselves available. Nomination forms will be available early in February.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

**4-6 Classroom:**

Each week, students will complete a spelling test, a times-tables test and a set piece of homework. I would ask each parent to take a keen interest in assisting their child/ren to complete the preparation for these tasks. The results from these weekly set tasks contribute directly into student reports.

Our class novel for this term is *Hitler's Daughter* by Jackie French. As well as being a well-published author, Jackie has dyslexia and she is an example of someone who has been able to find passion and success in life despite this particular challenge. For the purpose of comparing works from the same author, we will also briefly touch on another of her books, *Birrung my Secret Friend*.

For parents wanting to read these texts to support student learning, they are both available from bookstores or as a digital download.

**F-3 Classroom:**

It has been an exciting start to our 2016 school year, with 7 new preps added to our classroom. Our focus for the next few weeks will be for them to become acquainted with school safety rules and expected classroom behaviours. As a class we'll be practising our organisation skills- getting ready for our reading and putting things away when we have completed a task.

An information pack will be sent home tomorrow, to parents of new Preps, with advice to assist their child to develop their reading skills.

Looking forward to another wonderful year of learning.

*Ms. Douglas*

*A big hello! From Mrs Sapountzis.*

As a new teacher, I have felt very welcomed into Tarnagulla Primary. I am looking forward to getting to know all the students and their families. This term we will be exploring the theme of “Me and My Community”, and the theme will be woven into our art, LOTE and science studies. In science this term, I will be working with the students to develop their inquiry skills, as we explore the theme of growth and growing up. It will be my pleasure to work with Ms Douglas and the F—3 students, and I look forward to the coming term.

**Art Smocks:**

Students at all year levels need to have a protective covering for the art program. Smocks can be purchased at a small cost from shops, or alternatively an old large shirt works equally well.

**Prep Program:**

Students in Foundation Level will not attend school each Wednesday in February to assist in their transition to a full-time school program.

Parents are invited to bring their Foundation child to attend the swimming program at Dunolly pool on Wednesday 10th and 17th February.

**MARC Program:**

The mobile library program continues this year with a new teacher, Kim McLean. The van will come each Thursday this year. Students across the whole school will engage in various specialised activities each week to support their breadth of experience and learning. A library bag to protect books is required.