

# Announcing a new Spring Fair structure for 2014!

Members of the Spring Fair organising committee from last year have conducted a review of the Spring Fair & Open Day - how it's organised, what we can do better, what might be change.

We asked how we can better engage our school community, how do we build on and share our knowledge and experience and how do we make Spring Fair easier and more fun!

We had a very long discussion with Dale, Keir and Craig who then took our ideas to the teachers. We've also made a presentation and had a discussion with School Council.

I've attached the **Review notes** (PDF documents – 4 pages) that show the path we followed and the thoughts and discussions that were had along the way.

There were 5 main outcomes:

**ONE** - our Spring Fair is first and foremost about celebrating our community and our school. If we get that right, the fundraising will follow.

**TWO** - everyone gets to choose how they contribute to Spring Fair! Choices will be made at class meetings this week.

**THREE** - the teachers can choose how they participate as well - teachers also volunteer their time for Spring Fair.

**FOUR** - we have asked Leadership and School Council to work with us to find better ways to use the resources that already exist within the school. We need you on School Council Subcommittees for Marketing, Buildings and Grounds and Finance!

**FIVE** - we need a Spring Fair organising committee!

**If you're interested to know more, please read on!**

Kind regards,

Tina Wilkins  
Spring Fair Co-ordinator 2011 - 2013

# Review Outcomes

**ONE** - our Spring Fair is first and foremost about celebrating our community and our school.

If we do that well, the fundraising will follow.

Understanding this shifts the focus of our Spring Fair but we don't expect it to change how our Fair looks and feels. Our Fair is the most diverse and wonderful events in the Fete Calendar and every year it's a celebration of our school community.

At the core of our thinking are the values and traditions that have been developed over many years and we trust our community to make decisions based on what they value most about their children's school.

**TWO** - everyone gets to choose how they contribute to Spring Fair!

That's right – as classes, you can choose your stall! We ask you to look at your class community and ask what your interests and strengths are - what would you like to do?

Year levels might like to combine across Reggio/Mainstream and Steiner to collaborate on a big stall or one class can go it alone.

If your class enjoys running the stall, then you can choose it again next year, building on your experience and knowledge. If not, you will be free to choose something else.

We ask only two things of you:

1. **Each class** choose a stall or activity (it can be shared), organise it and update the Fair organising committee on your progress;
2. **Each year level** get-together to share rosters so that no one misses out on seeing their child's performance. The programme will be scheduled so that this will work out.

If you don't like what your child's class has chosen to do then you can help on any stall you like – or even better, get together with a few like-minded friends and run a stall of your own - like the group of dad's who have been running the Great Crate Stacking Competition on the western oval for the last two years. Maybe it's running a single BBQ cooking corn for a few hours or maybe you'd prefer to do something behind the scenes?

In the **Review notes** that are attached you will find a list of suggested stalls based on previous years and some new suggestions.

If you can't download the documents, copies will be available from on top of the display cabinet in front of the office.

## **THREE** - the teachers can choose how they participate as well.

We consider our teachers to be our community leaders and have asked them to think about what they would like to do and how they can work with their class for the Fair.

**In the class meetings being held over the next few days, class teachers will be asking you to choose what your class would like to do for Spring Fair! (You will need to list three in order of preference.)**

They will also talk to you about how much of their time they can volunteer (yes, they're volunteering too!) and how the students might be able to participate.

The teachers will then let the Parents Association know how your class community has chosen to contribute.

## **FOUR** - we have asked Leadership and School Council to work with us to find better ways to use the resources that already exist within the school.

We have the resources of the School Council sub-committees in Marketing & Communications, Building and Grounds, and Finance – **BUT** - we need more parents with skills and expertise on these committees to help develop strategies (and design the poster!) and build efficiencies for Spring Fair.

**If you have experience in any of these areas then we need you! Urgently!**

A briefing will be provided.

Maybe this is the way you choose to contribute to the Fair and on the day you can kick back and relax – *guilt-free!*

If you would like to share your skills please send your details to [collingwoodcollegespringfair@gmail.com](mailto:collingwoodcollegespringfair@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

## *FIVE* - we need a Spring Fair organising committee!

As I said at the end of last year, 2013 was my last Fair as organiser. Over the last three years I have been inspired by the mentoring and prolific help provided by Mary Gardiner, Marion Halpin and Toni Turner who have been involved in running the Fair for the last eleven years.

It's a tradition I want to continue and as the new President of the Parents Association, it's the kind of friendship and support I'd like to foster in our community.

I know that everyone who has been working with me feels the same way, so if you volunteer your time to be on the committee you will have a world of experience beside you at every turn – if you want it!

There will be lots of things to be done to organise the Fair – big and small. Again, you choose how much time you have to give and what you spend that time on.

There will be more information once we know what choices everyone has made.

Traditionally Spring Fair meetings have been held after drop off on Friday mornings in the canteen however meeting times can be made to suit whoever wants to turn up – or times can vary so that more people can participate! You choose.

If you're interested, please email me ([collingwoodcollegespringfair@gmail.com](mailto:collingwoodcollegespringfair@gmail.com)) with some days and times you can be available and we'll work out a time that suits everyone for the first meeting in the **third week of May**.

*Finally,* I'd like to thank all of the parents who have contributed to the review – with formal feedback from last year and over a cup of tea in the canteen, and for those who gave their time, skills and experience to review the way we organise our Spring Fair.

I'd also like to thank Dale, Keir and Craig and the School Council for their time, contributions and support - and for being so receptive to the idea of re-visioning Spring Fair.

I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's choices and working together again this year.

Kind regards,

Tina Wilkins  
Spring Fair Co-ordinator 2011 - 13