Dear Parents,

How the weeks are flying at the moment! We are now in December and Christmas is quickly approaching.

Grade 5/6 Students

Next week will see our grade 6 students attend their orientation days at their 2017 High Schools. On Monday 5th December, Sophie will attend Assumption College. On Tuesday 6th December, Lauryn and Harry will attend Gisborne Secondary College. We look forward to hearing all about the day and we hope they have a fantastic time. On Thursday I will be heading to Gisborne Secondary College with the Grade 5 students. They will be provided with a ‘High School’ experience. How exciting!!

Prep Transition

It has been great to see Erin having so much fun during her Prep transitions. She has had a lot of fun in the classroom and has made many friends outside. We are sure she will love being at Bolinda Primary School in 2017.

Reports

Teachers have been working very hard finalising all the students’ reports. All reports will be completed and sent home on Friday 16th December.

End of year Concert

It has been very exciting to see all the students build in excitement as they anticipate the end of year concert. They are sounding amazing and the props are looking fantastic. Please refer to the permission note provided with today’s newsletter for all of the details.
However, on Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} December the students will travel by bus to the Romsey Mechanics Institute to practice. Parents are reminded to collect the children from the Mechanics Institute by 3:30pm. The following day (Thursday 15\textsuperscript{th} December) will see the students dropped off at the Romsey Mechanics Institute (do not bring children to school this day) for a Full Dress rehearsal. Children will be returned back to school by bus and can be collected at the end of the day as per normal. That night will see the students all come together to perform ‘The Lion King’. Students are required to be at the Romsey Mechanics Institute no later than 6.30pm (the show will begin at 7pm sharp!). This night will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the Graduation of Lauryn, Sophie and Harry. How exciting!!!

\textbf{Assembly}

It is always great to start assembly each week by singing the National Anthem and reciting the School Oath. This week saw Sebastian and Kaydence hold the flag as we sang. Congratulations to Beth, Lili, Nathan and Sebastian on receiving Students of the week. Talarah, Thomas and Joel received awards for their home reading efforts. Deegan and Hunter received certificates for ‘Teach your Monster how to read!’ We were entertained by Harry, Kaydence and Talitha on the drums! Talitha and Lili were able to share information about the visit from our local MP to provide the school with new flags. Harreson spoke in detail about the silver cent challenge. It was exciting to hear that the Silver Cent Coin Challenge was able to raise $484.10!!! What a fantastic effort. Students have been using the coins to develop their mathematical knowledge. Some of the funds is being used for the end of year concert. The rest of the money will go towards sand and toys for the sandpit (which we will begin in 2017).

\textbf{SAKG}

On Friday 25\textsuperscript{th} November the Middle and Senior students got back into SAKG. We were able to prepare some additional garden beds. Thank you to the Braun family for being able to provide the mushroom compost to get the beds ready. In the kitchen the students cooked up a storm. Once again a great meal was shared. Thank you to Andrew, Stephanie and Jacqui for helping out in the kitchen. A highlight of the day was getting the chickens out to play with them. The students were amazed by their tree climbing ability.

Have a great week, Stuart Telford, Acting Principal
I was alarmed to go down the big slide... down to the pits. I took a deep breath, down I go
........ARARARARARARARARARARARARARARARARARARAR
Whoa... BOOF!!
Hey, where am I? Oh... I am in a giant mountain of balls... great. There is only one way out - going up.
I start climbing.. “oh no” a band aid fell right in front of my face- great flop.
I let go of the balls... whoops! I nearly fell. But I grab onto a sticky Lollypop. I start climbing up. I make it to the top. Yay! The lollypop is still good - yum.

Dear Mum & Dad,

I would like to invite you to our very exciting Afternoon tea. We are holding this special occasion to thank all the parents who have helped us this year.
As well as an afternoon tea we will be holding a Musical performance or all students who participate in the music program.
DATE: Friday 16th December
Time: 2:30 - 3:30pm
Hope to see you there lots of love
Your child/ren  XOXOXO
Santas Magical Kingdom – Silent Auction Tickets
Congratulations to The Honeychurches for winning the not so silent auction. We hope you have an awesome time at Santas Magical Kingdom!

Student Movement Book
There is a new student movement book that needs to be filled out any time a student arrives at school late or gets collected early. Please ensure that you enter the details in the book that is located in the office. Student absence letters have been sent home today to those that have any unexplained absences or late arrival, early departures from school.

Please refer to the attached sheet for further information regarding this initiative.

WANTED….Christmas donations for our Raffle
Thankyou to all parents that have generously donated items for our Christmas Raffle. Please keep the items rolling in. The box is in the office. Tickets have gone home today!

Uniform
The uniform order and Grade 6 jackets have been ordered. Stay tuned for delivery!
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:
- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)
MACEDON RANGES TOY SHOP

The Combined Churches of Macedon Ranges are working together to distribute Christmas gifts to struggling families in our community. Help us to make sure every child opens a gift this Christmas.

We Need You To Donate!

Gifts are to be $20 in value for boys and girls aged 0-18.

Please donate at: Cobaw Community Health (Kyneton & Woodend)
Or Contact: Georgina Harvey 0404 442 891