Over a very short period of time our enrolment has grown from 26 students. It was hoped there would be a harmonious integration of all our new students into the way we do things at our school.

This was our hope but it is going to take a little time for everyone to find out who is who in the zoo. The playground is experiencing growing pains with a small number of students at times not behaving appropriately.

Our student welfare protocols are strong and staff will be reinforcing these continuously. Rest assured that all incidents are followed up and if any parents have any concerns they should see me. Sometimes the staff are the last ones to know about an incident, we have teachers in the yard continuously but we will never see or hear everything that happens.

Please reinforce with your children should something untoward happen, they should not retaliate but inform the yard duty teacher or their classroom teacher.

Included in this last week’s newsletter was advice for our School Council Elections as well as nomination forms. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact John should you require further information. There are two nomination forms where you can nominate another person or yourself. Additional nomination forms are on our website or see John. Nominations close on Tuesday 17th February.

School Councillors are appointed for two years. We have two vacancies in the 2015/16 cycle.

Prospective parents can follow the link for more details on the role of school councillor.


School Council generally meets twice a term at 7.00 pm on Wednesdays. Meeting are usually of a duration of one to two hours.

Student/Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Monday 23rd February and Thursday 26th February after school. Note there was an error in the dates in last week’s newsletter.

We hope to catch with any issues from the December reports as well as discussing student Individual Learning Plans for 2015. Please contact your child’s teacher to make an appointment. You can make an appointment for another time if you are unavailable on the nominated days.

The guitar and keyboard lessons will begin tomorrow Tuesday 10th February with four sessions between 1.00pm & 3.00pm. Instruments are supplied.

A letter outlining the program and the costs were sent home late last week. Lessons must be paid for by Friday 13th February. In terms two, three and four fees must be paid in advance. The cost of this program was reduced from $110 to $80 if the school did the administration. Please help Katie with this additional workload and return the money before the due date.

If there are any new parents who are interested in...
The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides for the provision of free instruction in the standard curriculum program, and empowers school councils to charge for goods and services used in the course of instruction and to raise funds.

Free instruction includes learning and teaching, instructional supports, materials and resources, administration and facilities associated with the provision of the standard curriculum program. The standard curriculum program includes core learning and teaching activities associated with the Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AusVELS).

In summary, school councils can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions.

These payments fall into three categories:

1. **Essential education items** which parents and guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, textbooks etc.)

2. **Optional extras** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. netbook program, SAKG program, extra curricular programs or activities)

3. **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians may be invited to donate to the school (e.g. grounds maintenance, beautification).

School Council has set the fee structure for 2015.

1. Educational - Education items Parents are required to pay this fee - $100 per student

2. Optional extras—only parents of year 3-6 students need to pay $120 for 2015 netbook program. There is a $20 levy for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG) program for all year 3 - 6 students. This fee will supplement the allocated school budget for this program. Students will receive 16 free lunches which is a $1.25 a lunch. **Please note it is now only a year 3-6 program.**

3. Voluntary—Parents are invited to pay a small levy to help with the improvement and upkeep of the school grounds - $30

**Netbooks**

Parents of year 3-6 students participating in the netbook program are required to pay $120 for the lease of their netbook each year. The school will make a $160 contribution for the lease of each machine. Parents are asked to make a payment of $120 in a lump sum or $60 in term one and a further $60 in term three.

**Stephanie Alexander KG program**

For students receiving their first netbook, they need to return the netbook agreement which was sent home last Friday before they can take their netbook home.

Attached to the newsletter is the helpers roster for the SAKG program. The program is conducted on alternate Fridays for year 3-6 students. The program can’t happen without parent support. See Meagan or Meg for more details, especially new parents to the school who may need further explanation of the program.

**Walk a thon**

The first session begins this Friday 13th February.

Our annual Walk a thon will be held on Thursday 5th March at approximately midday to 1.00 pm. A sponsorship form is attached to the newsletter.

Parents are reminded that the cost is $120 a year due now or $60 in term one and $60 in term three.

The Education Department asks schools to provide their estimate of the enrolment of the school for the following year on the 1st August. Funds are allocated to the school in two instalments at the beginning of term one and two based on this estimate. At the beginning of August last year we had 30 students enrolled for 2015.

As we now have 42 students the additional funds we are entitled to will be paid in the term 3 & 4 grants.

So at the moment we are light on in terms of cash in reserve, particularly after we paid for the new synthetic grass in the green area last week.

**It would be extremely helpful if all parents could pay their fees as soon as possible.**

We are planning a family and meet new parents BBQ night on Wednesday 18th February @ 6.30 pm. We hope that every family can attend.

The school will supply sausages for everyone, you are free to bring your own meat if you choose. We ask that each family bring a salad or desert to share. Please return the attached form for catering purposes.
We were informed late yesterday afternoon that the music tutor who was to begin the guitar and keyboard lessons today has quit Music Stars. So unfortunately lessons will not start today. It is hoped that a new tutor will be appointed by next week.

Happy birthday to Grace for last Saturday and Liam for tomorrow. We hope you had/have a great day.

**Student Achievement Awards**

Chiara Rooke - For showing maturity and helping all the preps in their first week of school! Keep it up!

Nea Ferraro - For her fantastic attitude towards her maths and trying her best.

**Art Smocks**

Could new students to the school please bring an old shirt or similar to use as a art smock.

**School banking**

Thanks Meg.

Book Club is due by Wednesday 11th February. No late orders will be accepted. Payment via Scholastic Loop or credit card.

**Payments**

Loop or credit card.

Can parents please ensure that payments are made to the office in an envelope that is clearly labelled with the note included.

It is appreciated that payments are made on time.

Please ensure that absences have a note. If you are signing our early or are late to school please fill in the movement book in the office.

Thanks Katie.