A reminder that all students absences require a written explanation. We really appreciate parents calling us in the morning to let us know when their children will not be attending or even a quick verbal explanation before or after school, but for audit purposes the reasons must be in writing. A set of absence proformas has been included with the newsletter.

We have so far received only 10 responses to the family night next Thursday night 21st February. It is always an enjoyable evening and we would love all families to attend if possible. If you have yet to respond, a new form has been included with the newsletter. For catering purposes we must have all forms returned by Friday this week. Further information is contained later in the newsletter.

Thank you to all our parents who responded to the request to keep students home on the stop work action day this Thursday—the school will be closed.

Information was handed out to parents at the gates last night, we hope this will provide further information as to why we feel this action is necessary.

For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th February</td>
<td>School Council 7.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th February</td>
<td>Stop work meeting School Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th February</td>
<td>Family night 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st February Monday 25th February</td>
<td>Student/Parent/teacher interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>EMA applications close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>Curriculum Day Student free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th March</td>
<td>Sunfest Festival 10.00 am—12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the Principal’s Desk

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Student Achievement Awards

Year Prep—2
Talitha Van Der Weerden— Her hard work and focus during learning tasks.

Year 3-6
Harry Warburton— Settling into the senior class well and trying to improve his work.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to Liam for his birthday yesterday. We hope you had a great day.

Student, Parent, Teacher Interviews

Many parents have yet to schedule parent, student, teacher interviews.

These meeting will be held on Thursday 21st February and Monday 25th February after school. We hope to catch up with any issues from the December reports as well as discussing student Individual Learning Plans for 2013. 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.

Sunsmart

There are a small number of students who take their sunsmart hats home and forget to bring them back the following day. Can you please discuss with your child/children the importance of being sunsmart and leaving their hats at school. It would also be helpful if hats as well as windcheater/jumpers are labelled with your child’s name. We seem to have cool mornings and warmer afternoons where students remove clothing and leave it in the yard when they get hot.

St. Marys Parish

A message from St.Mary’s Parish Church Lancefield.

Any catholic parents who would desire their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation are asked to contact St.Mary’s Parish on 54 292 130 as soon as possible. No further enrolments will be taken after 26th February 2013.
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 Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).

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, text books 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, 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).

Parents who have difficulty paying for essential items may have access to a range of support options including the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

School Council has set the fee structure for 2013.

1. Educational—Education items Parents are required to pay this fee—$90 per student

2. Optional extras—only parents of yr 3-6 students need to pay $120 for 2013 for the netbook program.

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

**Netbooks**

Parents of year 3-6 students participating in the netbook program are required to pay $240 for the lease of their netbook over two years. The school will make a $268 contribution for the lease of each machine. Parents are asked to make a payment of $120 for 2013 and a further $120 in 2014.

**Given we have just spent $15 000 on the new deck, it would really be appreciated if all parent payments could be paid as soon as possible.**

A form asking permission for use of student images was sent home last Tuesday. There are still six families who have not responded. We wish to update some of the photos on our website and would like use as many students as possible. If you have misplaced the form, it is on our website. The address is at the bottom of this page.

Included in last weeks newsletter was advice regarding our School Council Elections as well as nomination forms. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact John should you require further clarification. There are two nomination forms where you can nominate another person or yourself. Additional nomination forms if required are available from John. Nominations close **today** Tuesday 12th February at 4.00pm.

At present we do not have any nominations but believe I will have two nominations before 4.00 pm. If there are only two nominations, an election will not be required.

School Councillors are appointed for two years. We have two vacancies in the 2013/14 cycle.

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

We are planning a family and meet new parents BBQ night on Wednesday 20th 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.

The EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink/Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

For more information or an application form see John. Applications must be completed and returned to school by Tuesday 26th February for processing before the closing date Thursday the 28th February.

For further information about the changes to the EMA in 2013 please call 1800 060 970
Sunfest 2013

The Sunbury Community Festival is Sunbury’s largest community event. 2013 will be SunFest’s 37th year.

SunFest is held on the third weekend of March each year and is a free to enter – two day festival full of fun and entertainment for all ages.

The next SunFest will be held on Saturday 16th March and Sunday 17th March 2013. SunFest is well supported by local traders, businesses, residents, the community and visitors from all around Melbourne and Country Victoria.

With thousands of people attending SunFest each year, we will again offer great attractions on our main stage and dance floor with local talent, and national acts. Battle of the School Choirs, award winning entertainers, and children’s entertainment.

For the last 37 years we have been running our ever popular Grand Street Parade. Again this year we have Sunbury Idol and Sunbury’s Got Talent and our ever popular Reardon Amusement Rides and Carnival Games, Roving Entertainers, Magicians, the SunFest Motor Show, Walk and Run for FUN and much, much more.

For more information please visit their website www.sunfest.org.au

We wish our choir to perform at the Sunfest Festival on Saturday 16th March between 10.00 am - 12.00 noon for the “Battle of the School’s Choir Competition.

Please indicate on the attached form if your child(ren) will be able to attend.

Easter Raffle

We are once again conducting our annual Easter raffle and would like to parents to help by donating Easter eggs. We would like all donations by Friday the 22nd of March so Easter baskets can be made during the last week which would be fabulous.

Raffle tickets will go out later in the term and parents assistance in creating the Easter baskets would be greatly appreciated.

The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term.