We have received some feedback that Fridays don’t work for some families in relation to helping out with working bees. Over the years we have tried different weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Fridays have easily proven the best at attracting the most numbers. If you have time on another day, there are tasks which can be completed when you are available.

We have a working bee scheduled for this Friday. Please let John if you can attend by tomorrow. If enough people are not available, we will postpone the working bee to early next term.

Year Prep—2
Hunter Collins — For taking responsibility in his learning and always helping out when needed.

Year 3-6
Ethan Campbell — For asking for help when he needs it.

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. We have received quite a few new donations this week, thank you to those people.

We have had some offers of parental assistance in creating the Easter baskets, thank you to those parents. There is a basket in the office where donations can be left. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term.

Raffle tickets have been included with the newsletter—$1.00 each or 3 for $2.00

More tickets are available, see John.
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, 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, 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 upkeep 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.**

**Responsible Pet Ownership**

The responsible Pet Ownership program will be conducted at the school on Monday 25th March. Students will be given advice on how to look after animals and in particular what to do/not to do if approached by a dog.

**School Council & A GM**

Our new School Council will have their first meeting including our Annual General Meeting tomorrow night Wednesday 13th March at 7.00 pm.

Office bearers will be elected.

**Happy Birthday**

Happy birthday to Keira for tomorrow. We hope you have a great day.

**Stephanie Alexander**

After consultation with staff and some parents I will be suggesting to School Council that we form a subcommittee with teachers, some school councilors and parents to oversee the implementation of the Stephanie Alexander Garden Kitchen program and on going support. Any parent interested in being on the committee, see John.

**Open Days**

We will be scheduling open days for prospective 2014 prep students families early next term.

If you have a child who is scheduled to begin school next year or know anyone who has a child who will beginning school in 2014, please let John know. It may seem a long way until next year but we need to make some financial decisions this year which will be impacted by our projected 2014 enrolment.

**Working Bee**

We propose another working bee to hopefully complete the weeding and spreading of the Lilydale topping on Friday 15th March straight after school. If you were unavailable last week, hopefully you can help out this time.

**Please let John know by tomorrow if you are available.**