Thank you to the following parents who attended our working bee last Friday night — Glenn Langdon, Stephanie Coy, Kari Males and Kellie Bonnici. We managed to get rid of most of the cobwebs around the school (we have VERY busy spiders), sweep and blow leaves and some gardening/pruning. A big thank you to Matt Bonnici, who mowed the entire school last Thursday.

**Year P– 2**
Grace McLaughlin — For her excellent effort towards her reading and reaching her orange words.

**Year 3- 6**
Tana Males — For improving her handwriting

Also congratulations to Tana who ran at the Cobaw Primary Schools District Cross Country Run at Hanging Rock last Friday – 2km. After being a bit anxious at the start line, a little encouragement from mother Kari did the trick and she won the event comfortably. Well done!

**Walkathon**

We still have a few families yet to return their walkathon form and money. Could these please be returned as soon as possible.

We have some concerns regarding students arriving late for school. Punctuality has been excellent over the past few years. Late last term we seemed to have gotten into some bad habits in relation to punctuality when arriving for school; this has continued in term two as well. Students being late for school can have an effect on the teacher, other students and themselves in the following ways.

**Latecomers:**
- Miss out on talking to their class teacher before school
- Miss out on playing with other children before school
- Miss out on organisation time, for example getting their workbooks and pencil case from their tub setting up for the day. Also out marking the role and handing in notices.
- Miss out on learning time or are unsure about what to do in the lesson
- Particularly miss out on reading and writing time
- Find learning becomes disjointed and difficult
- Are failing to take responsibility for their own learning
- Tend not to see being late as a problem
- Distract other students when they arrive.

**Teachers:**
- Need to repeat instructions and/or find extra materials before late students can begin work
- Need to give late students extra attention so they know what has happened or what the class is doing
This is unfair to other students who require extra attention
- Can be expected by parents of latecomers to be available although teaching has begun
- Have to find the time to communicate their concerns to parents about unexplained absenteeism and late attendance.

We believe the optimal time for arrival is 8.45 am. This allows plenty of time for the execution or prevention of many of the above points.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A big happy birthday to Harreson who turns eight next Saturday 18th May. We hope you have a great day.
As part of our Space theme this term we have arranged an Astronomy and Night Sky viewing at the school commencing at 7.00 pm sharp on Tuesday 4th June conducted by Astronomy Alive Melbourne’s leading astronomy presenters. The cost will be $10 per family, could you please pay on the night. They will be bringing a telescope and powerful laser. Should the weather or clouds be against us, the backup date is Tuesday 11th June.

The school will be supporting the Cancer Council’s ‘Biggest Morning Tea’ on Thursday 24th May from 10.30 am -11.30 am. We would like as many parents, grandparent, friends, neighbours and people from the local community to attend. We intend to use the hall and have the biggest morning tea we can possibly muster.

At the moment we haven’t had anyone indicate they will be attending. If we don’t receive significant support by this Friday, unfortunately the event will be cancelled.

Attached to the newsletter is another list of what we would like people to bring and invitations you can give to other people. These are also available on our website.

If attending, RSVP Meagan O’Sullivan by Friday 17th May.

We are once again collecting stickers for the Woolworths Earn and Learn program, it would be nice if we could get enough stickers to obtain some nice things for the school. Last year we were able to get the blow up planets now hanging in the junior room and the USB microscope.

School photos are scheduled for Friday week the 24th May. Included with today’s newsletter are individual envelopes for each student with a number of available packages. Payment may be included in the envelope and returned on the day of the photographs or orders may be completed online. See John if you would like a form for sibling portraits. There is also a discount for families with three or more children at the school. (Take notice McLaughlin family! – see John)

We have received the excellent plans for the kitchen design. Thank you to Gunther Behrendt from the Gisborne Men’s Shed. I am in the process of speaking to cabinet makers, plumbers and electricians. This will be further discussed at School Council tomorrow night.

We have arranged an excursion to Vasili’s Garden on Friday 21st June. This will complement our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program which will begin later this year. Below is a blurb from their website.

Vasili’s Garden offers you everything you need to know about creating a healthier and sustainable lifestyle for you, your friends and family. Bringing back the ways of life that people throughout the world have been living for hundreds of years, growing and preparing their own food for their family and friends. Its our passion to share the wealth of good gardening and good living knowledge, that has been handed on through generations of wonderful people, recognising the life stories of families and individuals who we hope will inspire you to take up and continue traditional ways of living and eating.

Further details and cost will be included in next week’s newsletter.

NAPLAN testing began today for our year three students. Writing conventions and writing were completed. Reading is tomorrow and mathematics on Thursday.

We have made a booking at Camp Sunnystones in Bacchus Marsh from Wednesday 12th June to Friday 14th June for Year 3 - 6 students. We will be attending with students from Clarkefield and Darrawiet Guim Primary Schools. We are sorry for the short notice but these dates were the last available for this year. I am still waiting on quotes for the bus but I expect the cost to be approximately $180. I will be able to confirm the cost next week. I am still awaiting for the clothing list from Sunnystones. The medical form is attached to the newsletter.

For more information go to their website http://www.sunnystones.com.au/

School Councillors are reminded that our next meeting is tomorrow afternoon Wednesday 15th May at 3.45 pm. We expect the meeting to be finished about 5.00pm.