I am very pleased to have been re-appointed the principal of Bolinda Primary School. I am very appreciative of the support from the school community during this process.

I have feedback that everything went pretty smoothly in my absence, thank you to the staff and acting principal Kate Ballantyne for steering the ship in my absence.

Unfortunately someone decided it was okay to steal the metal box we keep Sooty's cat food in during the holidays. (They also stole the food) Makes you wonder .........

Interested students in Year 3 – 6 have started training for the cross country at Hanging Rock on Tuesday 5th May.

While smoking was banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools by the Minister for Education in 2009 via a Ministerial Ban Order, the new bans are enshrined in legislation and will also apply to Catholic and independent schools in Victoria, thereby ensuring a consistent approach across the government and non-government sectors.

It is a legislative requirement that each school installs suitable ‘No smoking’ signs at all entrances to the school premises.

The next SAKG session for year 3 - 6 students will be Friday 24th April.

Parents are reminded that our sunsmart accreditation was renewed late last year and several parts were updated to comply with the current recommendations. The policy states:

- Students are required to wear broad brimmed or legionnaire style hats while outdoors at all times from the beginning of September until the end of April and whenever the UV index level reaches three and above. Particular care is taken between 10 am – 2 pm (11am – 3 pm daylight saving time) when UV index levels reach their peak.
- Students without hats or covering clothing will be restricted to designated shaded areas. Sunscreen is available in all classrooms.

We have a Bunnings BBQ scheduled for Sunday 17th May. We will require parents to help on the day setting up, handling money, serving customers and cleaning up at the end of the day. It has been suggested that instead of the two shifts of parents, we have four shifts which would only require parents to stay for two hours. We are interested in your feedback. As a fundraiser we made over $1000 last year and would love to raise this amount or more this year.

A package will be sent home next week to inform parents of the process for enrolling year six students for secondary school in 2016.
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, 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, 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 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.

**Essential items items - Compulsory charge $100**
$1750 is outstanding

**Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program $20**
$350 outstanding

This is a total of $4,450 outstanding. There are a number of items in our budget we are unable to purchase because the funds are unavailable.

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

If making Bpay payments please send an e-mail to Katie indicating what the payments is for.

Katie

duoba.kathryn.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Reading awards**

Max Taylor - 25 nights
Chiara Rooke - 25 nights
Mikaela Rooke - 25 nights
Ryan Brawn - 50 nights

**Nysa Males**

On the 28th & 29th March I went to the State Athletics Championships. I had a wonderful experience and I made new friends. When I ran my races I was really nervous. When I was running in the 800 metres I got caught up in traffic but I managed to get to second place. I beat my personal best by 17 seconds and the girl who beat me beat the Northern Metro record.

Then in the 400 metres I came third and the girl who won the 800 metres also won the 400m. I ran a personal best by 7 seconds. I had a great day.