Welcome back, hope you are ready for busy start to term three.

Please be vigilant in booking your parent teacher interviews as early as possible as they begin next week, Tuesday 21st July. With 43 interviews to be conducted, we do not want this to be drawn out for weeks. Interviews are of a ten minute duration and are really just touching base and discussing any issues arising from the Student Progress Report.

Should you require a meeting of a longer duration, please see your child’s teacher as soon as possible to make an appointment. As you can imagine, scheduling longer duration interviews next week will be limited.

Also please remember that interviews with teachers can be scheduled at anytime during the year, not just the allocated times in July.

We need to modify our student parent teacher interview procedure. Our larger number of students means it will be very difficult to fit in all interviews after school.

If supported by parents we would like conduct interviews beginning at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 21st July for the P-2 and year 3/4 students. The second day of interviews will now be Thursday 23rd July (due to a date clash) and will remain beginning after school.

The year 5/6 interviews will all be conducted after school because of smaller numbers of students in this class.

The next meeting of School Council is Wednesday 22nd July at 7.00 pm. As this is a very busy week with parent teacher interviews and our last meeting was only three weeks before the end of last term, we will attempt to make this a fairly short meeting. The agenda will be sent out tomorrow.

Our sixth annual Trivia night has been confirmed for Saturday 8th August at ‘Seasons’ in Riddells Creek.

The cost is confirmed at $50 a head for a two course meal as well as tea and coffee, drinks at bar prices.

As always it is a great night with lots of laughs and prizes. Bookings can be made with Kari Males. It has been a sell out the last couple of years so get in early and don’t miss out.

During the last week of term the new sign for the school was erected near the corner of the school and the Melbourne - Lancefield Rd. Andrew Watts was able to trim foliage along the fence line to make the sign more prominent. Glenn Langdon then removed five trailer loads of the cut branches away. Maybe ‘trim’ for what Andrew did is a little inadequate! Matt Bonnici repaired the lawn mower and then proceeded to mow the whole school.

The school community gratefully thanks these parents.

All gutters in the school were cleaned and/or repaired and gutter guard installed on the Mod 5 building (P-2 & year 3/4 building) as per School Council’s building maintenance plan. All school buildings now have gutter guard which should save on costs in the future. It should also prevent the gutters outside the entrances to the Mod 5 classrooms overflowing during heavy rain.

Lastly the rubbish pile adjacent to the kitchen has been removed.

The total cost of the above i.e. sign, gutters and removal of the rubbish totaled a cost to the school of...
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 -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 up keep 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 were asked to make a payment of $120 in a lump sum or $60 in term one and a further

Presently, most parents have paid or partially paid the essential education items levy which is pleasing.

Unfortunately very few payments have been paid for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, or the netbook program.

Collectively approximately $1600 is outstanding for these two programs.

Please understand that the school produces a balanced budget for utilities, maintenance and new resources every year. This includes fundraising, fees from parents as well as the funds from the Department of Education & Training (DET). If fees have not been paid or fundraising falls short we need to prioritise which items in the budget are purchased and which others will be put on hold until the funds become available.

Invoices for outstanding fees will be sent home next week. We ask that outstanding payments be made as soon as possible.

Congratulations to the following students

Dakota Harris - 100 nights

Seth Harris - 100 nights

Ryan Braun - 125 nights

Since our request for students to arrive at approximately 8.45 am for school there has been a marked improvement in students not arriving very early and being disengaged with nothing to do. We also had a huge improvement in students not arriving late. This is to be commended as it does make a very big difference to student learning and disruption to the class.

There was a bit of a drop off in the last week or so last term. Let’s make a big effort to get back on track and arrive on time.