Dear Parents, we have had another busy week. Thank you to everyone who attended the BBQ last Tuesday night. It was a great opportunity for me to meet many of you. I appreciated families coming out on a school night and everyone enjoyed the lovely food provided. The Stephanie Alexander program cooked up a storm on Friday, the pasta dish cooked for lunch was enjoyed by all. The Vegetable garden has a few new seedlings planted, hopefully some rain will come and give them a good drink. Thank you to Ms Haycox and O’Sullivan for their ongoing work with this great program. In the Grade 5/6 room we have been discussing what makes listening to stories interesting. To support their understanding we participated in a whole school shared reading session after assembly this morning. It was lovely to see everyone reading, sharing and listening to books. Thank you to Tuula Ferraro for sharing one of her books written in Finnish. We enjoyed listening to her and trying to work out what the story was about! Lovely to hear a story in another language. On the last day of term we will be running a variety of activities with children participating in small multi aged groups. We would love to have three parent helpers to support us on this day. If you can volunteer to work with a small group from 9.00 – 1.00 it would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you can come along and help. We will finish the activities by 1.00 and then eat lunch as a whole school before the children finish for the term at 2.00pm. Thank you for continuing to make my brief stay at Bolinda PS a very happy one. Have a lovely week. Kate Ballantyne (Acting Principal)
Student Achievements
Congratulations to the following students:
Ryan B. – 25 Nights of Reading
Tahlia W – ‘Her enthusiastic approach to learning and her ability to openly share knowledge’.
Clancy M – ‘His outstanding effort and excellent result in the walk-a-thon’.
Jenna H – ‘Her fabulous story about “Ocean the Sneaky Owl”.
Harry W. – ‘The positive way he helps those around him’.
Liam O. – ‘A great effort in his writing about the weekend’.

Purple Day – Epilepsy Awareness Day
On 26th March students are invited to dress in Purple for a gold coin donation to raise money for Epilepsy Awareness Day.

Sooty Feeding Roster
Sooty is our cat that some of us may have been lucky to see. She is about 13 years old, and was born at the school to a stray mother cat. There was a sister but after 3 or 4 years she went missing (she was a wanderer. I like to think she found another home).
Sooty never goes anywhere and even though you don't see her in the daytime, she is always there for her feed at night.
A roster will be put up shortly for volunteers to feed Sooty.

Walkathon
Thankyou to the families that have returned their donations, there are still a few donations outstanding. If families could return any outstanding Walkathon money by the Thursday 26th March that would be greatly appreciated, The money raised will help us purchase some new stools for the art room.

Soft drink Containers
The 3-4 classroom are looking for empty washed soft drink containers, can people please bring them to school by Monday 23rd March.

Uniform
A uniform order will be placed prior to the end of term. If you need any new uniform please ensure that you order it now as we will only place an order once a term. Please use the uniform order attached and return to the office no later than Monday 23rd March to ensure you do not miss out.

Principal Position
The position has now closed, and the interview and selection process will begin shortly. Further information will be available once known.
Music Lessons - Guitar
We have been assured by the company that the guitar lessons will all be ready to go when we start back in Term 2.

From the Office
Scholastic
Thankyou to the families that have ordered scholastic – every order that you place equals money that the school can spend in the library. As of this morning our order has been shipped out, so you will receive yours before the holidays.

Student Banking
Next Tuesday is the last day of Student banking that any tokens for Term 1 items can be redeemed.

BPAY
When making payments via BPAY it would be greatly appreciated if parents could send me an email so I know what your payments are for.

Sunbury Heating and Cooling
Over the past couple of years, Dean from Sunbury Heating & Cooling has been helping Bolinda Primary School with maintenance of our air conditioners, plumbing works, and also the fit out of the SAKG kitchen.

For all your heating needs. Get your heating system serviced before the cold wintery mornings hit
Call Sunbury Heating & Cooling: 9740-9808

Kate’s Lumberjack Cake

2 green apples, finely chopped
1 cup of chopped dates
1 teaspoon of bicarb soda
1 cup of boiling water
125g butter
1 cup of sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon of vanilla
1 ½ cups of flour

Topping
60g butter
2 tablespoons of milk
½ cup of firmly packed brown sugar
1 cup of shredded coconut

Heat oven to 180c. Combine apples, dates, soda and water in a bowl. Allow to cool to lukewarm. Line and grease 8 inch deep cake tin. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, add egg and vanilla and beat well. Sift flour and beat in alternately with apple mixture. Pour mixture into tin and bake up to 1 hour or until cooked.
Make topping by combining butter, brown sugar, milk and coconut in a saucepan. Stir over a low heat until melted. Spread over hot cake and return to oven for a further 20 minutes or until topping is golden brown. Cool in tin.
SCHOOL FEES

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, extracurricular 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. 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 are asked to make a payment of $120 in a lump sum or $60 in term one and a further $60 in term three.

The Education Department asks schools to provide their estimate of the enrolment of the school for the following year on the 1st August. Funds are allocated to the school in two instalments at the beginning of term one and two based on this estimate. At the beginning of August last year we had 30 students enrolled for 2015.

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