After discussion with School Council we are keen to begin a renovation of the asphalt area between the art/library and the classrooms/music room. This area is an eyesore as well flooding when there is torrential rain. We would like to concrete the area, include some improved drainage, remove the shabby looking garden bed which runs beside the library and install seating. To kick this off we need about $5000. Rather additional fundraising we would like parents to pay their $100 essential items fee and $30 voluntary grounds fee before the end of February. Year 3—6 should also pay their $60 netbook fee for first semester or the whole year payment of $120.

If the vast majority of parents could pay by the end of February, this means we would immediately have in the vicinity of $4000– $5000. Usually this money comes in dribs and drabs including a substantial amount in December. We are not asking for more, only it be paid early in the year. The vast majority of students essential items for the year have already been purchased and been distributed to students or are in stock for later in the year.

By making your payments early we may be able get the renovation started in March, rather than later in the year as funds become available. We understand that coming off Christmas in particular, this may not possible for some parents. Even a partial payment will help. See John should you seek further information.

Nominations for school council close at 4.00pm today. I will send a note home tomorrow whether we have the same number of vacancies as nominations or whether we need to have an election.

Student/Parent/teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 20th February and Monday 24th February after school.

Due to Meagan and Janine attendind a training program for SAKG on the 20th, these interviews will now be held on Tuesday 25th February.

We hope to catch with any issues from the December reports as well as discussing student Individual Learning Plans for 2014. Please contact your child’s teacher to make an appointment. You can make an appointment for another time if you are unavailable on the nominated days.

A large number of parents are yet to book in for interviews. Please do so asap.

We are planning a family and meet new parents BBQ night on Wednesday 19th February @ 6.30 pm. We hope that every family can attend.

The school will supply sausages for everyone, you are free to bring your own meat if you choose. We ask that each family bring a salad or desert to share.

Twelve families have indicated they are attending. We really need to know by tomorrow morning if you are attending so we can cater for everyone.
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).

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 2014.

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 2014 for the netbook program. There is a $10 levy for the SAKG program for all students.

3. Voluntary—Parents are invited to pay a small levy to help with the improvement and up keep of the school grounds—$30—No change

**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 2014 and a further $120 in 2015. lump sum or $60 in term one and a further $60 in term two.

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**Bunnings BBQ**
Our first Bunnings Sunbury BBQ for the year is Sunday 23rd March. These BBQ’s are one of our main fundraisers for the year. If you can turn a sausage, pass a sausage in bread to a customer or give correct change then you’re qualified to help. We have two shifts (9.00—12.30 & 12.30—4.00) See John if you can help.

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**Camp**
It was very unfortunate that we had to postpone the year 3-6 camp because of the fires. I have been asked to contact the camp next week to make a new booking, likely to be in May/June.

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**Working Bee**
We have scheduled a working bee for Tuesday 4th March. There are elm suckers along the western fence line which need to be removed before they become too big. I would also like to separate the rubbish pile at the end of the yard order a skip dispose of the rubbish.

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**Thank You**
Thank you to Glenn Langdon for helping replace some florescent lights and Michelle Richie who has weeded the garden bed outside the art room and staffroom, a huge improvement!

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**Student Achievement Awards**

- **Year P–2**
  Hunter Collins – For his fabulous effort in his story writing.

- **Year 3-6**
  Harry Warburton — His excellent start to the school year. Keep up the good work!

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**Hair Dressing**
I have been approached by parents concerned with girls hairdressing one another. They would prefer their children come home with their hair the same as when they arrived at school. There are also concerns about spreading of head lice. Could you please reinforce this with your children. Tuula Ferraro is going to supply the school with treatments for head lice which will be available to parents. See Meagan if you have any queries.

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**Catholic Sacramental Program**
Children wishing to participate in the Catholic Sacramental Program for 2014:

- Reconciliation (Grade 3 or above)
- Eucharist (Grade 4 or above)
- Confirmation (Grade 6)

need to contact Joanne Reuther (Pastoral Associate) St Mary’s Parish – Lancefield & Romsey on 54292130

Enrolments close 28th Feb

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