A big thank you to the following parent who attended the working bee last Friday—Glenn Langdon, Stephanie Coy, Kellie Bonnici, Kari Males, Rachael McKay, Kylie McKay, Ann Honeychurch, Andrew Watts and Tuula Ferraro. What a great turn out!

We will construct two new beds over the holidays and then complete the Lillydale topping early next term.

**From the Principal’s Desk**

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**Student Achievement Awards**

**Year Prep—2**
Lili Taylor — For always assisting her classmates

**Year 3-6**
Zoe O’Brien — Helping others and her caring attitude.

**School Council**

At last weeks Annual General Meeting of School Council, the following office bearers were elected.

President—Kari Males  
Deputy President—Amanda Ruzicska  
Secretary—Ann Honeychurch

Other parent members of School Council are Rachael McKay and Tonia Langdon.

**Musical Instrument Tuition**

At last week’s School Council meeting there was discussion regarding the possibility of offering musical instrument lessons. If you or someone you know is interested in providing musical instrument lessons, please let us know.

**Walkathon**

We will be conducting a walkathon on Thursday 28th March. We ask that students are sponsored for the number of laps they complete of the walking track in 45 minutes. Alternatively a donation is acceptable. The walk will begin at approximately midday, it would be great if parents could attend and walk with us. After the walk we will be having an end of term sausage sizzle, draw the Easter Raffle and award prizes for the 5c fundraiser. Dismissal is at 2.00pm but parents who attend are free take their children home after the sausage sizzle. Please complete the sponsorship form and return to school by Thursday 28th March so we can process them and give them back to students to collect the money. (The form is also on our website.) Money should be sent to school early next term.

**Five cent fundraiser**

Donate your unloved and unwanted 5c pieces to the school and we will make them into a very long snake.

On the last day of term we will hold competitions with prizes for students to guess the length of the snake and the amount of money raised. Thank you to those who have donated so far.

**Easter Raffle**

We are once again conducting our annual Easter raffle and would like to parents to help by donating Easter eggs. We would like all donations by Friday the 22nd of March so Easter baskets can be made during the last week which would be fabulous. We have received quite a few new donations this week, thank you to those people.

We have had some offers of parental assistance in creating the Easter baskets, thank you to those parents. There is a basket in the office where donations can be left. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term.

Raffle tickets are $1.00 each or 3 for $2.00

More tickets are available, see John.

**Could all tickets and money be returned by Wednesday 27th March at the latest.**
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 Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).

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, 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 2013.

1. Educational—Education items Parents are required to pay this fee—$90 per student

2. Optional extras—only parents of yr 3-6 students need to pay $120 for 2013 for the netbook 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 $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 2013 and a further $120 in 2014.

Parents are reminded that either $120 is due before the end of term one or $60 in term one and $60 in term three as per the signed agreement.

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**Stephanie Alexander**

The responsible Pet Ownership program will be conducted at the school on Monday 25th March. Students will be given advice on how to look after animals and in particular what to do/not to do if approached by a dog.

Some parents who have applied for EMA need to supply us with a photocopy of their health or pension card. **Could this please be done before next Wednesday.**

After consultation with staff and some parents I will be suggesting to School Council that we form a sub-committee with teachers, some school councilors and parents to oversee the implementation of the Stephanie Alexander Garden Kitchen program and on going support. Any parent interested in being on the committee, see John.

Also, School Council approved the purchase of a container to store equipment and furniture presently in the shed, it will be delivered this Friday. We can then begin cleaning out the shed and begin the conversion into a kitchen.

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**EMA**

We will be scheduling open days for prospective 2014 prep student families early next term.

If you have a child who is scheduled to begin school next year or know anyone who has a child who will beginning school in 2014, please let John know. It may seem a long way until next year but we need to make some financial decisions this year which will be impacted by our projected 2014 enrolment.

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**Open Days**

Just to make the last day of term even busier, we have decided to make it a dress up day. Information was sent to parents last Friday. If you have any queries, see one of the teachers.

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Find attached to the newsletter information regarding parent helpers in the P—2 class.