Last Wednesday’s parent information evening was a fantastic example of parents and teachers working together to make decisions and recommendations to strive to enhance the learning opportunities for our students. The key discussions were:

- Examining the ‘Parent Opinion Survey’ results
- The findings of the ‘Peer Review’. Further details of the ‘Peer Review’ are provided later in the newsletter
- The structure of the school classes in 2015. There was broad agreement that the following model be adopted - Three classes: P - 2       13 students
  Year 3/4   17 students
  Year 5/6     8 students       Total 38 students.

Teaching staff now need to adjust the timetable to accommodate how we integrate the specialist areas. Teachers are also, under the ‘Government Schools Agreement 2013’ entitled to administration and planning time i.e non face to face teaching time. This is a work in progress and we should be able to share the timetable after the curriculum day. We will also have additional funds available due to the increase in enrolments. We will explore the notion of employing more staff and what their roles would be.

I have had preliminary discussion with Meagan and Meg regarding which teachers will have which classes. I should be able to announce this next week.

We also discussed some thoughts around uniform and the possibility of bomber jackets being a uniform item.

Lastly as I reported by SMS to parents late last week, I have now have assurance that the eves above the bubble taps and surrounding areas are totally clear of asbestos and lead paint contamination. I have been provided with certificates stating this is the case. I thank parents for their level headedness and patience during this time, it has been very much appreciated.

**Year P – 2**

Patrick Keogh - For his fantastic start at his new school and his responsibility in helping younger students.

**Year 3 – 6**

Emma - Rose Langdon - Being polite and helpful to others.

Congratulations to Nea Ferraro for 100 nights.

We have organised an excursion to the Melbourne Museum to study Dinosaurs on Wednesday 19th November. We will be travelling by bus leaving at approximately 9.15 am and will return before 3.30pm. The cost will be $20 per student. A permission form will be sent home next week.

The ‘Peer Review Report’ made several recommendations which we will pursue in relation to our new ‘Strategic Plan’. These are in four categories:

**Achievement**

Investigate programs to support reading interventions and in particular speech training such as DISTAR, Sound Ways, the Victorian version of THRASS and Easy Read and assessment strategies such as the Southern Phonological Awareness Test, short term memory testing and rapid automatic memory testing.

Document and record reading activities for disengaged students and provide regular reports on progress and activities to parents to strengthen their engagement.

Consider a rewards program to encourage student reading.

**Engagement**

Continue to review existing strategies to promote attendance and implement a range of strategies to inform parents of the importance of attendance.
Wellbeing
Reinforce consistent messages across the school about positive behaviour management and the importance of the Better Buddies program

Explore ways of obtaining and analysing attitudinal data from student in F-4 (Prep - year 4)

Productivity
Investigate a range of moderation strategies to provide teachers with the opportunity to share teaching and learning practices with other teachers.

Explore opportunities with other schools for professional learning including teacher attendance at relevant Professional Learning Team’s in those schools.

Review and plan meetings and professional learning time across the school years

Consider allocating a more significant budget for teacher professional learning.

Bolinda Primary School
Intake 2015 Prep Orientation Program

We are very much looking forward to meeting all our prep children once again. We have planned a sequential program over five days (up from three days after parent feedback) gradually lengthening the duration of the stay. Unfortunately we have a number of timetabling issues including staff availability to work around so we hope most people will be available most days.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Day One - Tuesday 28th October 9.00 – 11.00

The prep children are to meet in their classroom with their parents. Teachers will outline the session. There will be a walk around our school followed by activities in the classroom. Parents are free to stay or return during or at the end of the session.

Day Two - Thursday 6th November 9.00 – 11.30

The prep children are to meet in their classroom with their parents. Parents will walk in with their children then leave. They will be involved in the typical class program. Children will need to bring their play lunch. Parents may choose to spend time with their children in the playground during morning recess from 11.00 am until 11.30 am.

Day Three - Wednesday 12th November 9.00 – 1.05

Parents are to drop off their children at 9.00 am and leave. Children will require both play lunch and lunch.

Day Four – Thursday 20th November 9.00 – 1.15

Parents are to drop off their children at 9.00 am and leave. Children will require both play lunch and lunch. The session will be conducted as a typical morning for students in this class in 2014. Parents pick up students at 1.15 pm. They are welcome to stay observing their child in the playground until 1.30 pm.

Day Five – Thursday 27th November 9.00 – 1.45

Graduation

Parents are to drop off their children at 9.00 am and leave. Children will require play lunch. The session will be conducted as a typical morning for students in this class in 2014. Parents are invited to return to school at 1.00pm and eat with their child, all the other children, teachers and the principal in a picnic lunch sausage sizzle and fruit salad.

We will then conduct a graduation ceremony for our 2015 prep graduates. Bring your camera!

During these days we will use the new 2015 school classroom structure with classes working as a P– 2, a year 3/4 and a year 5/6.

Macedon Ranges Running Group & Declan McLaughlin

Declan McLaughlin’s interest in running came about from the introduction he received at Bolinda Primary School to the Inter School Sports program. He recently became a member of the Macedon Ranges Running Club and will on Sunday complete his very first 5km run … without stopping or walking for the entire distance.

The Macedon Ranges Running Group is a social, non competitive long distance running club. The club operates with the assistance of community volunteers (leaders) offering novice or non runners the opportunity to learn how to successfully run long distances without stopping. While the program is aimed at adults many children have enjoyed the benefits this group have to offer.

If you are interested in cheering Declan on, he will complete the run in Gisborne (near council chambers) this Sunday. Start time is 8am.

If you are interested in the Macedon Ranges Running Group, visit: http://