I sent out a letter to all families last Friday announcing that Kate Ballantyne would be the acting principal for the last three weeks of term. Jane Horton was appointed as an Education Support person and we would not require a School Council Election as we had two vacancies and two nominations. We welcome Dannielle Keogh and Andrew Watts to council for the next two years.

Parent teacher student interviews were conducted last night and will also continue on Thursday night. There are still a significant number of parents who have yet to schedule meetings. The SMS sent to parents last was reasonably successful with all but three families responding. I will catch up with them this week to find out what happened.

Happy birthday to Nysa for Friday, we hope you have a great day.

The new School Council will meet for the first time and conduct our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5th March at 7.00pm. An agenda will be e-mailed later this week or early next week.

Our annual Walk a thon will be held on Thursday 5th 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. Please complete the sponsorship form and return to school. Another form is attached to the newsletter or it is also on our website. The money raised will help us purchase some new stools for the artroom.

I was informed last Friday that we had been successful in gaining an Information, Communication & Technology grant of $4000. It is very specific in what we can purchase. We have a quote for three new switches for our network (makes the network faster), three new desktops for our classroom and a dedicated laptop to use with the electronic white board in the 5/6 class. We should be up and running late this term.

I received a phone call from Music Stars yesterday informing us that the keyboards they had ordered will not arrive by today. I asked that when they arrive they contact us and we will make a decision as to whether we proceed for the last few weeks of term or we start at the beginning of term two. I have voiced our displeasure at this situation! They promised something they have been unable to deliver.

P– 2 class  Max Taylor - For making a great transition into school and always being helpful in the classroom.

3/4 class  Kaydence Martin - For her fantastic effort

For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th February</td>
<td>SAKG year 3 – 6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Teacher interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>Conveyance allowance forms due.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Friday 27th February</td>
<td>SAKG for year 3 – 6 students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th March</td>
<td>Walk a thon First meeting new School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th March</td>
<td>Curriculum Day Student free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Student free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Last day term one 2.00 dismissal</td>
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</tbody>
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From the Principal’s Desk

Student, Parent, Teacher Interviews

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ICT grant

Musical Instruments

Achievement Awards

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P– 2 class  Max Taylor - For making a great transition into school and always being helpful in the classroom.

3/4 class  Kaydence Martin - For her fantastic effort
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 upkeep 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 Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for year 3 - 6 students will start this Friday 27th February. 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.

### School Fees again!

As we now have 42 students the additional funds we are entitled to will be paid in the term 3 & 4 grants.

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

### Furniture

We have a number of furniture items we no longer require. There are storage units, a filing cabinet and office chairs. See John if you are interested.

### School Banking

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for year 3 - 6 students will start this Friday 27th February. In 2015 our Student Banking Day is Tues-

day! Thankyou to those children that have begun school banking. This year the CBA have a fantastic space themed item that students can redeem their tokens for, the rewards for term 1 are a Planet Handball and an ET DVD. If you have not received a student banking welcome pack please see the office.

### Scholastics

Thankyou to all the families that purchased books through Issue 1 of Book Club. With ever order placed we earn rewards that we can spend on library books and resources for the school. For Issue 1 we earned $55.5 rewards, and we used to $140 of existing rewards to purchase over $1000 worth of books for the library.

### Conveuance Allowance

Families that can receive the conveyance allowance will have received paperwork to complete and return. Can you please ensure that this is returned to the office by the 26th February. Once submitted families will need to wait until the end of term 2 to have their forms processed. Please contact the office for further clarification.

All absences require a note from the family. This includes absences due to illness, medical appointments, late arrival/ early departure from school, parent choice, or extended family holiday. Can you please ensure...