As mentioned briefly in last week's newsletter, Janine and Glen are expecting a bundle of joy in mid September. I have had a couple of enquires from parents asking what will happen when Janine takes maternity leave. This likely to happen about a month into term three.

We will advertise for a new teacher late this term as a replacement on contract for the remainder of 2014. This person will take over Janine’s role and will join our school about a fortnight before Janine leaves to learn Janine’s support role. Janine has indicated that her preference to return part time in 2015. We would then back fill this role with another part time teacher.

While on the staffing path, we advertised the French position late last term and interviewed last week. I am very happy to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Lee. Beginning in 2015 only qualified languages teachers may teach a language other than English. Jacqueline is a qualified French teacher which means she will hopefully be able to continue our French program next year.

We would like to thank Sarah Hughes who stepped into the French role when Caroline Smyrk retired last year. It is a difficult role which Sarah taught with enthusiasm and excellent planning. Our students always look forward to French. Sarah is not a qualified French teacher and would not have been able to continue in the role in 2015. She will still be available for filling in during teacher absences as a CRT (casual relief teacher) so we will probably still see her from time to time.

For the past seven years the Education Department has mandated the way in which schools must report to parents on student progress.

This has included a graph of progression points indicating where the student’s achievements are in relation to the expected VELS, now AusVels standards. It also included teacher written comments in relation to what the student had achieved, areas for improvement /future learning, what the school will do to support the student in their learning and what parents can do to support learning. There is also reference to work habits and attendance.

As of this year the department has decided that schools should have some flexibility and that school communities have input into this process. The graph of progression points is still compulsory but anything further is up to us.

Teaching staff typically spend two to three hours to complete a student report. This includes interpreting work samples and other forms of assessments to arrive at accurate determinations of progression points and written comments. These written comments are then expanded upon at interviews, in essence a double up.

We would like to have a meeting with parents to discuss the type of reporting we think we should have tomorrow night Wednesday 30th April at 7.00 pm.

School Council met last Wednesday after school to ratify our Annual Implementation Plan for 2014. This is our plan where we set out our teaching and learning goals for students for the next year.

I have also completed the Annual Report to the Community which is due tomorrow. It will appear on the MySchool website in the next month or so. Unfortunately it is not a very informative document as much of the data is unavailable due to our small cohorts of students. The department will not publish small cohorts as individuals maybe able to be identified.
**Student Achievement Awards**

**Year P-2**
Melissa Salmon – For her fantastic attitude towards all areas of her learning.

**Year 3-6**
Declan McLaughlin — For picking up sports equipment and returning it to the tub when others chose not to.

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**Reading Awards**

Congratulations to the following students:

- Dakota Harris — 50 nights
- Keira Watts — 50 nights
- Seth Harris — 50 nights
- Alex Richie — 25 nights

Well done!

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**Naplan**

I have been fielding some questions about student participation in Naplan for year three and five students from 13th - 15th May. See the following from the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority (VCAA) website.

*NAPLAN tests are a routine part of the school calendar. However students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer if there are religious beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers in consultation with their child’s school. A formal application in the manner specified by the relevant Test Administration Authority (TAA) must be received by the principal prior to the testing.*

In essence it is parental choice as to whether your child completes the Naplan tests.

Further information is available from the VCAA website. See the link below or make an appointment to see John.

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**Sustainability Incursion**


Our theme this term is sustainability. We have booked an incursion for **tomorrow** the 30th April - 'S.O.S - Students Observing Sustainability.' It will also include landfills in Paraguay, deforestation, palm oil and logging in the jungle of Sumatra. In the workshop students will have the chance to leap daringly like a trapeze artist, roar like a lion, cavort like a clown and sway like an elephant, all in costume. **The cost will be $10 per student.** School Council will subsidise the balance of the cost.

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**Cross Country**

The money should be paid by tomorrow if it has not already been paid.

There will be a Mothers Day stall next Friday 9th May. More details in next week’s newsletter.

Meagan has been training a group students who are keen to compete in the cross country at Hanging Rock on this Friday 2nd May. Only students who can successfully complete 2km without stopping or walking are allowed to compete. Thank you to Michelle & Cam Richie who filled in the two new garden beds with soil outside the library on Anzac Day.

I also completed painting the wire mesh panels for the chicken coup and reinstalled them on Sunday. I also painted about half the remainder of the coup.

If any one has some spare time and would like to do a little painting, I would be grateful. I have done a considerable amount of painting at home over the holidays and this weekend and am pretty sick of it!

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**Open Days**

We will have Open Days for prospective prep 2015 enrolments. If you know anyone who has a child starting school next year please get a flyer to give to them from John.

We welcome visitors to our school and invite you to a tour on our open days on Tuesday 13th or Thursday 22nd May and 11th June or 19th June at 10.00 am -12.00 or by appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Visit our website www.bolindaps.vic.edu.au

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**Book Club**

John Mackintosh
Principal

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**Mothers Day Stall**

Mullalys Rd Bolinda 3432
Phone 54 285 317

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**Birthdays**

Mullalys Rd Bolinda 3432
Ph: 542875317 Fax: 54285346
Email: bolinda.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au