I hope by now our school community has read of my intention to resign in March next year and re-apply for the principal position at Bolinda Primary School. As outlined in my letter, this decision is purely about my ability to receive a better superannuation package when I do retire. I have received wonderful feedback from many parents and several students, it has been quite humbling. So this process will run its course, I will forget about it for the time being and get on with teaching and learning, our primary focus why we are here.

The annual athletics sports with Darraweit Guim and Clarkefield has been confirmed for tomorrow Wednesday 3rd December. The sports are conducted at Bolinda PS. They will begin at approximately 9.45am and finish about 2.30pm. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Please make sure students have appropriate clothing and footwear as well as hats, sunscreen and drinks. There have been further developments in the guitar or keyboard lessons at our school. We now have about 10 students wishing to learn guitar and 5 keyboard. I have been in contact with all interested parents I think, if I have missed anyone please see me asap.

Music Stars has offered us two packages, $120 a term with them completing all the administration in relation to the collection of fees. In the second package Music Stars would invoice the school and we would chase up payment of fees. In this instance the fees would drop to $80 a term, a significant reduction. After speaking to School Council and our business manager Katie we believe we can accommodate the $80 offer and it is that time of year once again. Could parents please donate prizes and leave them at the office. These will be made into hampers. The draw will be at the Christmas School Concert. Additional books are available from John. A couple of people have already sold their book and returned them.

As outlined in the letter sent home last Thursday, we have decided that the Bolinda Hall no longer has the capacity for School Concerts including Year Six Graduation Ceremonies.

We will use the Mechanics Institute in Romsey which has a 250 seat capacity. Although there are additional costs associated with venue and bus hire we are confident with a good return from the Christmas Raffle we can absorb most of the cost. School Council did consider charging a small fee for entry but it was rejected. Please buy plenty of raffle tickets!

The timetable for the concert will be:

**Wednesday 10th December**
P-2 students will travel by mini bus to Romsey at 11.30 am, Year 3 - 6 students will depart at 12.00 noon. Parents are to pick up students from the Mechanics Institute 122 Main Rd. at 3.30pm.

**Thursday 11th December**
Parents are asked to drop off students at the institute at 9.00 am. We will return to the school by mini bus in the afternoon. Normal pick up from school at 3.30pm.

Students should arrive at the institute for the concert no later than 6.45pm.

**Friday 12th December**
If parents choose, we are happy for students to come to school at 10.00am. Any families who need to drop
Uniform

We have new stock of size 6, 8 & 10 size polo shirts. See John or Kellie Bonnici if you would like to make a purchase.

Swimming

The end of year break up with Darraweit Guim and Clarkefield primary schools will once again be at the Gisborne indoor pool on Thursday 18th December. Students should arrive at the pool at 10.30 am and be picked up at 2.45 pm. They will need lunch and a drink. The cost will be $8.00.

School Council met last week and set the fee structure for 2015.

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 (no change)

2. **Optional extras**—only parents of year 3-6 students need to pay $120 for the netbook program 2015.

   There is a $20 levy for the SAKG program for year 3 - 6 students. (increased from $10)

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 $260 contribution for the lease of each machine. Parents are asked to make a payment of $120 for 2015 and a further $120 in 2016. It may be paid in a lump sum or $60 in term one and a further $60 in term three.

There are several families who have yet to paid fees for this year, the netbook program and/or for some incursions and excursions.

Please see Katie if you have any queries, she is here on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Cat Roster**

The cat roster for the Christmas holidays is in the office. Thanks to everyone who will look after Sooty during our break.

A small amendment has been made to our vision statement by School Council at our last meeting. It now reads

‘For all students to develop their skills in a safe and supportive environment and to become independent lifelong learners’.

It is now on the header of the first page of the newsletter.

We would like every person in our school community to be able to tell others what our vision statement is.