Welcome back, we hope you have had a restful and enjoyable break. We are thrilled to have three new prep students; Seth, Deegan and Liam. We also welcome Miss Meagan O’Sullivan who many of you met at the concert late last year and a new appointment Mrs Katie Duoba who has been appointed our new office manager. Please make them welcome.

For new parents, newsletters are usually sent home on Tuesdays.

Some newer parents to the school would be unaware that when our new classrooms were installed in September 2010 we were supposed to have a deck built between the new rooms and the music room. The government reneged on this promise which was bitterly disappointing when other schools received their full allocation of promised resources. We began a budgeting program of raising and allocating funds to make the deck a reality. The deck using purely school funds was completed yesterday; it looks fabulous. Thank you to School Council who supported this initiative especially those parents who diligently involved themselves in fundraising which made a significant contribution to the funding. Lastly to the Males family, Pete and his tradesmen, Karl for chasing things up when required and Paul for giving up a significant part of his long weekend to ensure it was finished before school started today. The school community thanks you for your efforts.

Included in next weeks newsletter will be advice for our School Council Elections as well as nomination forms. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact John should you require further information. The are two nominating forms where you can nominate another person or yourself. Additional nomination forms if required are available from the office. Nominations close on Tuesday 14th February.

School Councillors are appointed for two years. We have two vacancies in the 2013/14 cycle. Prospective parents can follow the link for more details on the role of school councillor.

We have students in our school who have food allergies. Reaction to consuming food to which they are allergic, can be severe. School Council made a policy decision that food containing nuts should not be brought to school. It is important that parents check the contents of food they give to their child(ren) before it is brought to school. Parents also are asked to reinforce that students are not to share food at school.

We also require updated asthma plans for students who are asthmatic. Forms to be completed by your doctor are available from John.

Student/Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 21st February and Monday 25th February after school. We hope to catch with any issues from the December reports as well as discussing student Individual Learning Plans for 2013. Please contact your child’s teacher to make an appointment. You can make an appointment for another time if you are unavailable on the nominated days.

### For Your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th February</td>
<td>School Council 7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th February</td>
<td>Family night 6.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st February Monday 25th February</td>
<td>Student/Parent/teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>EMA applications close</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>Curriculum Day Student free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th March</td>
<td>Last day term One</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### School Council

School Council generally meets twice a term at 7.00 pm on Wednesdays. Meeting are usually are of a duration of one to two hours.

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### Student, Parent, Teacher Interviews

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We are planning a family and meet new parents BBQ night on Wednesday 20th February @ 6.30 pm. We hope that every family can attend.

The school will supply sausages for everyone, you are free to bring your own meat if you choose. We ask that each family bring a salad or desert to share.

Please return the attached form for catering purposes.

**Education Maintenance Allowance**

The EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink/Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

For more information or an application form see John. Applications must be completed and returned to school by Tuesday 26th February for processing before the closing date Thursday the 28th February.

For more information about the changes to the EMA in 2013 please call 1800 060 970

**Sunsmart**

Bolinda Primary School is an accredited ‘Sunsmart’ school. All children are required to wear sunsmart hats in terms 1 and 4. Sunsmart hats have a wide brim or are legionnaire style where the back of the neck is protected. Caps are not sunsmart. Students without sunsmart hats will be asked to play in shaded areas. Please make sure that all hats and items of clothing have names on them. We have sunglasses for sale at $10 a pair.

**Preps**

Parents of Prep students are reminded that their children are not required to come to school on Wednesdays during February. Their first Wednesday will be 6th March.

**Uniform**

Thank you to uniform co-ordinator Kellie Bonnici for organising our uniforms. Please see Kellie if you have any uniform requests. We currently have stock of most sizes but get in early, we are endeavouring to only keep small amounts of stock on hand and re-order as required.

**Student Banking**

Packages in relation to Commonwealth Bank school banking have been included with the newsletter. It is a parental choice as whether you choose to take up this offer. Bank day is Tuesdays.

**Book Club**

Book Club has been included in with this week’s newsletter. Order forms and money should be placed in the letter box in the office by Tuesday 12th February.

**Chooks & Sooty**

Thank you to all the parents who feed Sooty and the chooks over the holidays. This is much appreciated.

**Netbooks**

Student netbooks for year 3—6 students should arrive early next week. Lease agreements will be sent home shortly.

**Contact information**

Please make sure that we have your current telephone numbers on our records including mobiles and work numbers in case we need to contact you. Several times last year when needing to contact parents, their numbers weren’t current.

**Logo Competition**

During last year we conducted a competition to see if we could come up with a new school logo. Although several were very good they did not fulfil some of the criteria especially that they would be simple enough to eventually be able to become part of our uniform.

In the end School Council accepted a design by Rachael McKay (parent and school councillor) which we unanimously thought was fantastic.

Would you like to see it. Go back to the front page of the newsletter and look in the top left hand corner!

We have run out of time and space. We will acknowledge recent birthdays in next weeks newsletter.

Find us at ... www.bolindaps.vic.edu.au

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