School Council last week approved two small increases in fees for 2014. Essential item fees will rise from $90 to $100 and an additional $10 optional extras fee for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The SAKG program will be conducted fortnightly in 2014. For $10 we deliver the entire program for the year and a free lunch each time. That’s 20 lunches for $10 or 50c a lunch. The school will match the contribution from parents to fund the program. Twenty seven students @ $10 = $270, the school will contribute an additional $270 with a total budget of $540. See the full explanation of fee structures later in the newsletter.

Parent Information Night

Thank you to the parents who attended the information evening last Wednesday night. It was great to be able to discuss our plans for 2014. For those unable to attend the main points of discussion were:
- Meagan O’Sullivan will be the main teacher of the P—2 class, John will teach the 3– 6 class. Janine DiBella will spend substantial time assisting in the junior class, as well as providing individual support to students as required part of her role as Welfare Co-ordinator.
- Explanation of the Kids Matter, Better Buddies and eSmart programs in light of the social skills issues identified through the parent opinion survey.
- Explanation of the new curriculum AusVels

Parent Lunch

We have decided that we would like to invite parents to a special lunch on Friday 13th December at 1.00 pm. Our students and staff will provide a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden lunch as a thank you for your support throughout the year. Please see Janine or Meagan if you can come for catering purposes by Friday 6th December.

Christmas Raffle

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 Graduation and Christmas Concert.

Prep 2014 Graduation

We had our Prep 2014 Graduation last Thursday, Alex Richie, Dakota Harris and Clancy McLaughlin. They were very proud of themselves.

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<th>For Your Diary</th>
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<td><strong>Monday 9th December</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 10th December</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 13th December</strong></td>
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Principals Desk

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Achievement Awards

Year P—2
Lili Taylor— For always completing and enlightening us with interesting facts for her Show’n’Tell

Year 3-6
Ethan Campbell — For his improvement in reading his wiki and 77 words work
Congratulations to the following students.

Reading Awards
Keira Watts—225 nights
Talitha Van Der Weerden—175 nights
Nea Ferraro—125 nights
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).

Parents who have difficulty paying for essential items may have access to a range of support options including the **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

School Council has set the fee structure for 2014.

1. Educational—Education items Parents are required to pay this fee—$100 per student

2. Optional extras—only parents of yr 3-6 students need to pay $120 for 2014 for the netbook program. There is a $10 levy for the SAKG program for all students.

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 $268 contribution for the lease of each machine. Parents are asked to make a payment of $120 for 2014 and a further $120 in 2015.

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**Camp Sunnystones**

The make up day for Camp Sunnystones is next Monday, Year 3—6 students must arrive at 8.45 am. They will require play lunch, lunch and a drink. We will return at approximately 3.30 pm.

School Councillors are reminded that our last meeting for the year is Wednesday 11th December at 7.00 pm. We will have a very short finance meeting and then celebrate our achievements for the year. Bring a plate!