All students settled in well last week and the first three days were very productive with an emphasis on our school values, Learning, Respect, Communication, Co-operation and Responsibility.

Student Achievement awards are given to students who display these values in classrooms and in the playground at our assemblies on Tuesday mornings.

It is with regret that I inform parents that teaching staff will be taking stop work action on Thursday 14th February. It is disappointing that this dispute remains unresolved. Thank you to our parents who have strongly supported us. We have been selective in not applying some bans and the half day stop works. We always have the needs of our students first and foremost. I will be available straight after school on Wednesday in the carpark if parents would like to discuss this action further. I am not permitted to discuss these issues on school grounds.

As in the past, I believe it is most important that I attend the meeting to support staff and am privy to the latest information. If I am unable because parents choose to send their children to school, as Principal I have a duty of care to look after them. I would appreciate if the attached form could be completed and returned the school indicating that you **will not** be sending your children to school on the stop work day.

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 Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)

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, 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 2013.

1. Educational—Education items Parents are **required** to pay this fee—$90 per student

2. Optional extras—only parents of yr 3-6 students need to pay $120 for 2013 for the netbook program.

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**From the Principal’s Desk**

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**A EU stopwork meeting**

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**For Your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th Feb</td>
<td>School Council 7.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th Feb</td>
<td>Stop work meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th Feb</td>
<td>Family night 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st Feb</td>
<td>Student/Parent/teacher interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th Feb</td>
<td>EMA applications close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>Curriculum Day Student free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Payments**

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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 2013 and a further $120 in 2014.

Permission Forms
The oldest child in the family will receive an envelope with a number of forms to be signed regarding student images, Cyber Bullying policy and School Council elections. The will also be a package of forms for year 3–6 students for the lease of their netbooks. Please return the envelope with everything signed. See John if you have any queries.

Family Night
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.

Could the form went home last week be returned by Wednesday 13th February 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 further information about the changes to the EMA in 2013 please call 1800 060 970

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

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.

Birthdays
There are two students who had a birthday over the holiday break or last week
Tana 15th January
Lili 1st February.

We hope you had a fabulous birthday and didn’t eat too much cake!

It is Grace’s birthday this Thursday 7th February. We hope you have a great day.

School Council
Included in this weeks newsletter is advice regarding our School Council Elections as well as nomination forms. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact John should you require further clarification. There are two nominating forms where you can nominate another person or yourself. Additional nomination forms if required are available from John. Nominations close next Tuesday 12th February at 4.00pm.

School Councillors are appointed for two years. We have two vacancies in the 2013/14 cycle.

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

P–2 class
Year P—2 students eat fruit at 10.00 am daily. It would be much appreciated if parents could supply fresh fruit for their child.

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.

Student, Parent, Teacher Interviews
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.