I noticed a week or so back that the grass in the front car park that was a bit out of control had been mowed and looked great. I didn’t ask anyone to do it and no one told me that they had done it. After some investigation we suspect it was the handy work of Glenn Langdon. Thanks Glenn, very much appreciated.

We have received very positive feedback regarding the change of venue for the Christmas Concert.

Lastly, thank you to the parents who attended the athletics sports last week. Our students had a great day and were extremely well behaved as usual.

**Student Achievement Awards**

**Year P – 2**

Seth Harris - For continually getting 10/10 on his spelling test.

Chiara Rooke - For continually getting 10/10 on her spelling test.

**Year 3 – 6**

Declan McLaughlin - For being kind, generous, helpful friend to all.

Congratulations to the following students.

**End of year disco**

Hunter 100 nights  Clancy 125 nights
Dakota 225 Nights  Seth 225 nights

We will be holding an end of year disco for the kids on 12th December from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm in the Bolinda Hall. Cost will be $5 per student – games, party pies & sausage rolls will be provided.

**Christmas Concert**

Could all raffle tickets be returned to the school by tomorrow. Tickets will be available at the concert. Please remember we hope to offset some the cost of the hire of the Mechanics Institute with the raffle.

**Christmas Raffle**

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 off at the usual time between 8.30am & 9.00am are free to do so, staff will be in attendance.

I have some commitments that will keep me out of the school over the last few days of school. I am attending a professional development day on Friday 12th December for Information & Communication Technology planning. For attending the school will be able to upgrade our computer network backbone with an up to $4000 grant.

Both my children are graduating from Melbourne University next week and I will need to leave early on.

**Contact numbers**

It is imperative that we have current contact phone numbers. Find attached to the newsletter is what the school has currently. Please let us know if any have changed or are no longer in use. It is extremely
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.

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. Could the note and money be at school by this Thursday at the latest (give to Meagan at the Mechanics Institute at drop off.)

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. (no change)

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)

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.

The cat roster for the Christmas holidays is in the office. Thanks to everyone who will look after Sooty during our break. **There are still days to be filled in.**

School Councillors are reminded that we will be meeting on Thursday 11th December at 3.40 pm to approve the 2015 budget. It should only take about 10 minutes.

Parents are reminded that the last day of term is Friday 19th December with dismissal at 2.00 pm.

In 2015 teachers return to work on Wednesday 28th January and students on Thursday 29th January.

New prep students do not come to school on Wednesdays in February. Their first Wednesday at school will be 4th March.