Dear Parents,

Thank you to all families who were able to attend our Acquaintance Night on Tuesday. Acquaintance Night provides a great opportunity to meet and talk with teaching staff and is an important foundation in developing a positive relationship and partnership between home and school. We are grateful for any feedback that you could provide regarding the usefulness and format of the evening, please fill out the reply slip in this week’s newsletter to do so.

During this term we are looking to review and develop our school priorities for the coming years and we welcome input from the school community in regards to what you believe are important things to focus on in relation to your child’s learning. Included in this newsletter is a broader overview of our proposed areas of focus, please take the time to read it and provide comments.

Regards,

Stephen

Congratulations to Jake and Brianna for being elected school captains and Jack and Ella as vice captains.

Our SRC Representatives for Terms 1 & 2.
DATES TO REMEMBER

February
Friday 14th
Issue 1 Book Club closing date.
Monday 17th
Heat Ups roster – Amanda Munn.
Swimming commences – Year 3-7 & Year 1&2 class.
Monday 24th
Heat Ups roster – Liza Kirby.
Swimming – Year 3-7 & Reception/Year 1 class.
March
Monday 3rd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following our Acquaintance Night the Annual General Meeting was held, and afterwards, the first Governing Council meeting for the year. Our Governing Council will be composed of the following parents:
Tim Scanlon (chairperson), Michael Kirby (vice chairperson), Anne Gaffney (secretary), Rob Harding (treasurer), Rebecca Opperman, Mark Robinson, Stacey Stafford, Lucy Innes, Judi Paul, George Beck, Matthew Johns.

SWIMMING

Please note the following reminders for swimming. Lesson details are as follows:
• **Monday Feb 17th** – **Friday Feb 21st**
  Years 3-7 and Miss Warburton’s Class
• **Monday Feb 24th** – **Friday Feb 28th**
  Years 3-7 and Mr Savage’s Class
The lessons begin at 1.30pm and conclude at 2.15pm. As stated above, Reception to Year 2 students only participate in one week of lessons whilst students in Years 3-7 have lessons for two weeks.
We will be departing school at approximately 1:10pm and returning at approximately 3:00pm. If you intend to collect your child from the Aquatic Centre at the end of their lesson please ensure that you let their class teacher know.
Children are not to bring any money to spend at the Aquatic Centre and please ensure all clothing, towels etc are labelled. It is also a good idea to have a separate bag to put wet clothes in and for children to have footwear that is easy to get on and off. If time permits children will be given the opportunity to change in to their bathers at school prior to leaving.

SRC

Congratulations to the following students who will represent their class as SRC representatives during 2014. We look forward to all our SRC representatives and school leaders being positive role models for our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SRC</th>
<th>Terms 1&amp;2</th>
<th>Terms 3&amp;4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rec/Year 1</td>
<td>Eliza Beck</td>
<td>Thomas Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patrick Robinson</td>
<td>Eva Peucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1&amp;2</td>
<td>Noah Harfull</td>
<td>Brock Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abby Joyce</td>
<td>William Virgo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3&amp;4</td>
<td>Jorja Mitchell</td>
<td>Flynn Harfull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tallara Davies</td>
<td>Shaunn Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5,6&amp;7</td>
<td>Wil Scanlon</td>
<td>Harry Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nikki Birchmore</td>
<td>Eliza Harding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Gaffney</td>
<td>Harry Harding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Levina</td>
<td>Zoe Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gruzlewski</td>
<td>Ella Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Newton</td>
<td>Sam Birchmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brianna Scanlon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CERTIFICATES

**Angus Work** for practicing reading a lot in the holidays.
**Morgan Munn** for putting a lot of effort into her Maths work.
**Isabelle Forrest** for easing into her new school well.
**Rachel Mitchell** for being a supportive and caring friend.
**Ian Potter** for putting so much effort and careful work when completing his Science cover.
**Amy Innes** for consistently demonstrating that she does lots of thinking in her work.
**Nikki Birchmore** for her sunny attitude and settling in so well to the Upper Primary classroom.
**Brianna Scanlon** for challenging herself and writing an extensive narrative.

Respect - Participation - Success
SCHOOL VALUES AWARD
Jocelyn Work for displaying great manners toward others.
Brock Davies for consistently displaying a positive attitude and respect toward others.

SCHOOL & SWIMMING FEES
Thank you to those families who have paid swimming fees and also school fees. Your payment in such a timely manner is appreciated.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
Due to the upgrade of the Railway Land, which has been our location for past Clean Up Australia Day involvement, and the unavailability of other appropriate locations, we will not be participating in a Clean Up Day event. We will however use this as an opportunity to tidy our school yard.

SPORTS DAYS: ADVANCED NOTICE
- Internal Sports Day (held at school), Friday 14th March, 9:00am-2:30pm.
  Teams will be published and displayed on the Noticeboard next week.
- Small Schools District Sports Day (held at Blue Lake Sports Park),
  Friday 4th April, 8:45am-1:30pm.

Further details will be published in upcoming Newsletters.

FROM THE STUDENT WELFARE WORKER
Children today are growing up in a digital world with many opportunities to assess and gain knowledge and skills through these mediums. There are plenty of educational apps available online but do these really enhance your child's learning? Dr Kate Highfield is a lecturer and researcher in early childhood at Sydney's Macquarie University who has stated that 'some do, if used appropriately, but it's important to choose your children's apps carefully'.

Apps are not needed to be played to enhance children’s learning however can be used as another tool to have in your educational kit box, there’s "considerable evidence" well-chosen apps can help children in areas including literacy, science and maths. Some apps can enhance learning incredibly, particularly when they are to do with practicing specific skills or when they give the child the opportunity to create their own content and communicate in new ways.

When picking an educational app for your child you need to make sure it is matched with your child’s education level so they’re not bored or intimidated and that it promotes higher level/order thinking.

So how do you recognise the better quality apps? Looking at app reviews on sites, such as the non-profit Common Sense Media (http://www.commonsensemedia.org/), where you can filter reviews based on a number of variables, including the skill the app develops.

And with any app use, it is encouraged that parents "co-play" or interact with their child as much as possible. You need to know what habit of mind they're creating. For instance, apps that reward children every step of the way with enthusiastic phrases like "great job, well done" may set up unrealistic expectations about the level of reinforcement for any learning activity.

Help your child keep a balance between learning in the digital world and learning in the real world. Too much time in the digital world is harmful to a child's development. If you're a parent who's engaged with your child's life, you're going to extend their learning quite naturally. Read good books to, or with, your child. Go on adventures. Have fun. Sometimes that can be digital fun, but it doesn't always have to be.

Robyn Howard

PARENT CLUB NEWS
Lunch Orders
When you order your child’s lunch for Friday lunches, we need the orders to be written on a brown lunch bag, not plastic bags, as we need to return their lunches in it. Also please include your child’s full name and classroom on the bag as we have lots of new children in the school.

2013 End Year Concert DVD
We are still waiting for them to come in. Deb Burn is the contact person for this.

Respect - Participation - Success
Heat Ups
Parents are asked to please ensure the heat ups are wrapped in foil (or oven proof material) and clearly named.

Easter Raffle
Parent Club will be holding an Easter Raffle on Mil Lel Sports Day. Please place your donation of eggs or Easter goodies in the basket provided at the front office by Tuesday 11th March. Tickets will be sold on Sports Day and the raffle and the raffle will be draw at the conclusion of the day.

Parent Club Community Phone Book
Information and reply slip is included in this Newsletter. To be included in the telephone book all parents will need to return their form with YES or NO selected.

District Sports Day
Please remember that students need a white polo shirt with school logo and green shorts. Parent Club arrange logo printing each year. You can leave your white shirts, clearly named, in a bag also named with correct payment $5.50 each at the front office. Orders will be taken in for printing on 20th March.

Next Meeting - Thursday 20th March in the French Room at 2:00pm. Pre-school children are welcome. Hostess: Sandie Oehms.

2014 ICAS UNSW ASSESSMENTS
This year, if families would like their children to sit any of the assessments offered below, they will be responsible for payment of the test. In the past Parent Club and the school have covered the cost of student entry fees but a decision has been made to not continue with this arrangement.

If you would like your child to participate in any of the assessments, please fill in the reply slip provided with the necessary payment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday May 20</td>
<td>Tuesday April 22</td>
<td>$8:80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday June 4</td>
<td>Wednesday May 7</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday June 16-Friday June 20</td>
<td>Monday May 19</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday June 17</td>
<td>Tuesday May 20</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday July 29</td>
<td>Tuesday July 1</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday August 12</td>
<td>Tuesday July 15</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY NOTICES
You will find further information regarding the following on our Notice Board, by phone contact numbers or visiting websites provided.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE
A new children’s dental benefits schedule for 2 – 17 year olds started in January 2014. It is called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider and welcomes babies, children and young people under 18 years.

Dental care is FREE for most children and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare. Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can still attend – a small fee may apply for each course of general dental care provided. There are no waiting times at the School Dental Service. To keep your children’s teeth and gums healthy we encourage them to attend the School Dental Service. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, and for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

SOUTH EAST SHOWBAND
Primary and secondary students in the Limestone Coast have the opportunity to play weekly in the South East Showband. Currently, the band is seeking new members to join the 2014 band.

To register your interest or for further information contact Musical Director Geoff Trevenen 0412 865 376 or trevenen@westnet.com.au

ARMY CADETS
The 48th Army Cadet Unit (Mount Gambier) is seeking new members to join. The Unit is holding an Information night for potential cadets and their parents on Friday 14th February at 7.30pm at the Army Reserve Depot, Shepherdson Road, Mount Gambier. For further enquiries call Rod Wewer on 0497 898 268.