**Dear Parents**

**Student Awards**

Congratulations to Blaze for 100 nights reading and to Amelia, John, Carmen and Montanna for reaching 300 Nights of Reading.

This week’s awards go Jake, Kate, Maddy, Elli, Layla, Olivia and John.

**Buln Idol**

In assembly yesterday we were treated to the Buln Idol finalists’ performances.

Thanks to the organisers of the competition and to all of those who rehearsed, auditioned, judged and performed.

The judging panel of Tessa, Jasmine, Ayden and Jaiden, deliberated hard and announced Flynn as the winner for his outstanding rendition of ‘Brave’.

The overall places were:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Flynn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ethan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jacob
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Jessica and Sophia

**Library Stock Take**

As the end of year approaches could you please have a quick check in your child’s bag and around home for any library books that might need returning. This will help Janette / Mr Bucknall in their cataloguing, sorting and stocktaking of the library in readiness for our return in 2015.

**Prep and Grade 6 Buddies Teddy Bears Picnic Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Prep and Grade Ones with the Grade 6 Buddies will be having a Teddy Bears Picnic on Friday morning. All children in these classes are welcome to bring along their teddy for the picnic.

**Concert Rehearsals**

These are now in full swing as the students prepare for the end of year concert on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets will go on sale for the concert on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Concert Tickets**

Concert tickets for this year’s concert go on Sale from 8.30a.m. – 9a.m. and 3.15 – 3.45p.m from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the school foyer. Correct money would be appreciated for the tickets at $12 per Adult, $6 for non Buln Buln students and preschoolers are free. Please be mindful that tickets will not be on sale at the West Gippsland Arts Centre on the night.

A permission form for bus travel to the West Gippsland Arts Centre for rehearsals on
Thursday 18th, December are being sent home today. There is no cost for the bus but please return the permission slips promptly.

**Christmas Holidays and Cyber Safety**

As Christmas approaches there are many excited students talking about the new games and devices that they are hoping to get as presents. The issues that are faced in each household as children are introduced to the digital world are, in some ways, age dependent. It is important, no matter what the age or the issue, that the children are educated constantly about safe and responsible use. The following two links for parents and kids are excellent educational resources that can help develop understanding.


Some older children use a range of platforms to communicate, which can expose them to cyberbullying. The following advice is given by Susan McLean. She is Australia’s leading cyber safety expert and was a member of Victoria Police for 27 years. She was the first Victorian Police officer appointed to a position involving cyber safety and young people.

**Tips for parents to stop cyber-bullying.**

Social media is more accessible than ever – with the rise of smartphones and tablets, it has never been easier to jump online.

For young people, it means being more connected than any other generation – friends are never more than a tweet away. Unfortunately this has also led to a rapid increase in cyberbullying – to the point that at least one in 10 children are cyberbullied each year.

Cyberbullying can be very different from traditional bullying, and many parents can feel ill-equipped to respond if their child is being cyberbullied.

Even if parents have no experience with social media, by following a few basic steps, parents can effectively support their children to be safe online.

'Parenting in the 21st century requires you to be able to parent in the digital space,' 'Technology is firmly entrenched in our lives and that of our children so we need the tools to deal with issues as they arise.'

'It's really important that if your child is being cyberbullied, you don't cut them off from social media and take their technology away - the vast majority of kids won't tell a parent if they are bullied and harassed online for fear of losing access. They would much rather put up with the bad to keep the good.'

When confronted with their child being cyberbullied, parents should follow the cyberbullying quick response checklist:

- Reassure and comfort
- Don't respond
- Block and delete bully
- Report to the site
- Keep a copy
- Tell school (or relevant place) and seek action
- If ongoing inform police
- Support your child as they have done nothing wrong

The Department’s Bully Stoppers website has a range of advice for parents, students and teachers about how to respond to all types of bullying.
School Captains
A reminder that applications are invited from current Grade 5 students for the positions of School Captains and Vice Captains.

Have a good week
Drew Allison
Principal

Parent Club

End of Term Parent Christmas Dinner
We have booked this fun night out for Friday 5th December at 6p.m. at the Courthouse.

Xmas Raffle
We are now asking for donations for all things XMAS for our raffle. Could you please leave all gifts with Lyn at the office.

End of Term Luncheon
Order forms are being sent home today. We would appreciate it if you could please return the forms with the correct money by December 11th, 2014.

Second Hand Uniforms
We have a broad range of second hand uniforms for sale. They are only $2 a piece. They are out on display every Monday and Friday near the office. They will also be out this Thursday (prep transition day). Always handy to have some spare pieces. We also gladly accept any donations of current uniform.