Dear Parents,

Congratulations are in order as it is election time in our school.

**Junior School Council**
Children from Grades Three to Six have been elected by their peers to form the new year's Junior School Council. This year our representatives are congratulated for their preparation, speeches and enthusiasm. Our team this year includes Gr 3: Alexsia and Drew, Gr 4: Stacie and Jaiden, Gr 5: Zali and Nelson and Gr 6: Tahlia, Paris, Hayden and Travis.

The group will be responsible for our Fun Run, Charity Fundraising Days, our Buln Idol and Kids Market as well as being a student voice in decisions about our school.

I thank Mrs Johnston for coordinating the JSC again this year.

**Parent Club**

Yesterday's AGM saw the election of office bearers for 2012 take place. Congratulations and welcome, or welcome back, to your roles, Sharon Caia - President, Jan Doberer - Vice President, Trudi Hammond - Secretary and School Council Representative, Danielle Smethurst - Treasurer, Kim Storey - Purchasing Officer, and Veronica Paydon - Uniform Officer. I continue to be grateful that our school benefits from the level of energy and goodwill that our Parent Club has always, and continues, to provide.

**School Council**
Nominations close next week for School Council positions. Please see me if interested as places are available for people interested in participating.

**Social Skills**

‘Get along’ has been chosen as the Social Skills theme for the month of March. In our safe and caring School Community we collectively develop each child's social, emotional and academic skills for them to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

Marc Van

This week our Wednesday program has shifted to Thursday.

**Attendance**

It goes without saying that regular attendance is critical to good progress at school. We aim for an attendance rate of 95% or higher. In the month of February the rate was 97% which is very pleasing.

**Clean Up Australia Day**

Our grounds really benefited from the children’s efforts Friday afternoon when litter, sticks, stones and any undesirable items were removed. Grade 5/6 gets a special mention for their tidy up of the bus loop and Rec Reserve areas.

**Calendar 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Preps first Wednesday at School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Bulb Orders Due Wednesday's Marc Van today - don’t forget!</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>ICAS Entries Due Gr 4-6 Author Adam Wallace visits Prep-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>Saturday/Sunday</td>
<td>Relay for Life - Warragul Velodrome - see P/C for more details</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>School Council AGM - 7.30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Rural School Sports Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Donations Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>End of Term One—2.30p.m. dismissal</td>
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**APRIL**

| 16 | Monday | Term Two commences |

**Mowing Roster**

March 17/18 Saturday/Sunday Mel & Dean Brown

A very big thank you to the Duncan family for a great job on the weekend.

Again I say that time for two meetings per term and an interest in how our school can best provide for your children in the future are the only selection criteria.

**Social Skills** Awards were yesterday presented to Jaran, Drew, Tanesha, Jenna, Bailey, Georgia, Thomas and Jasmine for Tolerance. Each has earned their award for their conduct which is respectful and inclusive of others. Congratulations girls and boys. Our new focus is Thinking First, a skill which I am sure all of us would like to have.

**Newsletter No. 5 March 6, 2012**
Australia wide the event has become a significant annual task - wouldn’t it be great if such an effort was never needed again.

Walk to School Day
A big thanks to those who remembered our first Friday Walk to School Day - about three quarters were walkers on that morning.

Premiers Active Families Challenge
The Office of the Premier annually challenges families to spend 30 minutes of physical activity per day. This year the Premiers Active Families Challenge is to be held between March 19 - April 30. Registration is via www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or 1300 463 684. The website includes planners, health tips, recipes, incentives for participants and their schools and more. Why not?

University of NSW Competitions
Each year students from Gr 4-6 have the opportunity to participate in the challenge of the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. These are conducted by the University of NSW in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The highest score in the state wins a medal and certificates are issued for High Distinction, Distinction, Credit and Participation.

If you would like to see a past paper please speak with me. Permission slips are attached. Please return yours with the entry fees by Friday March 9, 2012.

And finally
Some people have all the luck. As of Thursday, Mrs Weller will be taking a well earned long service leave break before returning at the end of the term. Her time will be spent touring Vietnam. Enjoy, Mrs Weller.

Regards,
Stephen Keating
Principal.

Parent Club
Next Meeting: Monday April 30, 2012.

Thanks to everyone who attending our AGM yesterday and congratulations and welcome back to most of them for the 2012 year.

Bulb Orders - due Thursday 8th March
A final reminder that Bulb orders are due back to school by Thursday 8th March - orders will be finalized then to ensure delivery before school holidays so please make sure you get them in. Thanks.

Easter Raffle
It’s that time of year again and our annual Easter Egg Raffle will be taking place on the last day of school for the term, Friday 30th March. Donations are now being sought for anything Easter - toys, eggs etc..... Please leave them at the office. A book of raffle tickets will be sent home next week.

End of Term Lunch
Order forms will come out in a couple of weeks for our end of term lunch but if you have a few hours to spare on the Friday to help with the BBQ and preparation and distribution of the lunch it would be greatly appreciated. Please leave your name at the office.

Relay for Life - 17th/18th March 2012 - Warragul Velodrome
Registrations are still open for our Relay for Life team. Every one that wants to walk needs to fill out a registration form. The $20 registration fee covers insurance, jumper and it goes towards our teams fund raising total. If you have a spare 1/2 hour either on the Saturday or Sunday please feel welcome to come along. Registration forms are available from the office if you need one. You can fill it out and leave it at the office along with $20. Raffle tickets are also available at the office with all sales of ticket and any donations going to our teams total. If you have any questions or would like a raffle book please see Danielle Smethurst 0438 320139.

Shopping Tour
Planning is well underway for our Annual Shopping Tour which this year will take place on Saturday October 14. We have a number of people already interested so to ensure your spot on the bus please pay a deposit of $20 to Lyn at the Office.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
It never occurred to me when I had my three children within four years that the busyness of the early years would be repeated. To my surprise and delight the busyness has returned and I now have two children who have recently become engaged, and two parties have been planned to celebrate within a short space of time. The first occurred at my home on the weekend and 130 people came to celebrate with my son Ben and his fiancée Kate. My favourite part of catering for this event was baking their engagement cake a Red Velvet layered cake with raspberry curd mousse filling and white chocolate cream cheese frosting baked in the shape of two hearts. In four weeks time the second party is planned and the first of the weddings occurs on June 30th. So the exciting events will continue for some time and I wanted to share some of this news with the school families. This also provides a moment to reflect on the love that is shared and care that is provided to children within families. This is the focal point of my display area in the staff room at the moment. In a book titled Family which includes many of the M.I.L.K photos that have been reproduced on greeting cards there is a quote by writer James McBride that says; “Family love is like the wind: instructive, raw, fragile, beautiful, at times angry, but always unstoppable. It is the world’s greatest force....It is our last miracle”. Miracles so easily pass us by if we let them and unless we allow ourselves to take delight in the big and the small family events the joy of these times can elude us.

Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS

Bookclub
Due to Mrs Weller going on leave, orders and correct money must be back tomorrow, Wednesday 7th March. Thank you.

Volleyball
If there is a mum or dad out there interested in playing volleyball, I need 1 or 2 more players to fill my side. Play on a Thursday night at Bellbird Park, Drouin. Game times range from 7.00 pm - 9.20 pm. If interested please see Mel Brown.
Neerim District Lions Club
The Neerim District Lions Club is having a membership drive. If you would like to join a group of dedicated volunteers, please come along to our meeting on Tuesday 10th April at 7.30pm in the Algie Hall. For more information phone Secretary Judy on 0400 791 325 / 5628 1502

BBCCFR Neerim South
Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief – Neerim South is a voluntary organisation providing food and support to low income earners, pension card holders and those who require assistance on a short term basis. We also provide a community lunch each week and everyone is very welcome to come along for a chat and a laugh. A book swap library is also available. Monetary Donations or edible supplies are always gratefully received. We are open every Thursday from 11am until 2.30pm. Our premises are at the rear of Algie Hall Neerim South. For more information please phone Judy on 0400 791 325.

Drouin Junior Football Club
We are after any boys or girls born in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to come and join in the fun family atmosphere at the Drouin Junior Football Club. We have great coaches and lots of parent helpers to encourage and support your child in learning new skills. If you are interested in finding out more please come and see us at training,
U12 (2000 & 2001) Thursday’s 5:00pm to 6:00pm at Drouin Secondary College
Raelene Fry: 0408 142928
djfcsecretary@dcsi.net.au