Dear Parents,

From today we are joined by Rachel O’Dwyer and Alesha McDowell who are second year student teachers. They will complete two 3 week blocks with Mrs Martyn and Mrs Renshaw which will prove to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience I’m sure.

**Opening of the School**
An official opening of our new school buildings is to take place on Monday morning March 26, from 9.30 am. Whilst the Federal Government is yet to confirm a presence local members, Russell Broadbent and Gary Blackwood will be in attendance together with representatives of the Education Department.

A formal couple of speeches will be followed by a tour of the school and a morning tea.

All are welcome.

In preparation for the big event any help tidying up around our buildings and grounds Friday afternoon would be appreciated.

**School Council**
I would like to acknowledge the contributions to our School Council made by our colleagues whose 2 year terms have completed.

A big thank you to Helen Aitken, Peter Crump, Cathy Jones and Elise Watson. I am grateful for your considered support and on behalf of all our school community thankful for your time and opinions.

For 2012-2014 I welcome Kylie Barry) to our team. Thank you Mrs Weller for renominating and Mr Christensen for nominating to fill our staff vacancies. I also thank Mrs Renshaw for replacing Mrs Martyn who will step down this year.

We do still have 3 parent vacancies however and your participation would be welcome.

Please note that the date of the School Council AGM has been changed to Tuesday 27th March not the 20th as previously advertised.

**Sports Practice**
Each year our senior students take on captaincy roles to ensure each of our relay teams are as well prepared as possible. Participation is shared among all students and our Captains’ responsibility is to help our mixed age teams learn the game, co-operate and give their best.

Once again our leaders are doing very well indeed. Keep up the good work boys and girls.

**Head Lice**
Whilst we have had a good start to the year with no reported cases of headlice, not all schools have been so lucky. Please remain vigilant and report as soon as you have had a case in the family so that we can alert others if necessary.

And finally
The Preps enjoyed a wonderful time at Civic Park on Wednesday 29th February as they played with their new friends before their full week at school started. Thanks to everyone who was able to come. I think the kids were too busy playing to feel the cold wind that the parents were feeling.

All are officially fulltime schoolkids now!

Regards,
Stephen Keating
Principal.

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**Parent Club**

**Next Meeting:** Monday April 30, 2012.

**Easter Raffle**
Attached to the newsletter today is a book of raffle tickets for our annual Easter Egg Raffle that will be drawn 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.

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**CALENDAR 2012**

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<td>17-18</td>
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| APRIL | 16  | Monday | Term Two commences |

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**MOWING ROSTER**

March 17/18 Saturday/Sunday Mel and Dean Brown Family
**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 are interested please fill out the form and drop it into the office along with $20. If you need more forms they are available at the office.

The event is on 17th-18 March from 4pm-10am at the Warragul Velodrome. It is a family friendly event with lots of free activities and entertainment for the whole family. The more walkers we get the less we all will have to do. We will have a site at the venue and you are more than welcome to stay the night. There will be food and drinks available on site.

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**
Over the long weekend Melbourne “got together to have fun” during the Moomba festival. As always the parade down St Kilda Road highlights the multicultural nature of our state and nation. It seems appropriate that this is followed by Harmony day which is celebrated on 21st March. The Harmony day website describes the event in this way.

*It's a day when all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day gives people the opportunity to celebrate what makes each Australian unique and share what we have in common. The continuing message for Harmony Day in 2012 is that Everyone Belongs, which means all Australians are a welcome part of our country, regardless of their background. It's a time to reflect on where Australia has come from, recognising the traditional owners of this land. It’s also about community participation, inclusiveness and respect – celebrating the different cultures that make Australia a great place to live.*

One of the ways to recognise the diversity in our communities is to consider the foods in our diet. We have such a variety of food items and cuisines. It is commonplace to include dishes that we associate with many of the continents like Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. All these belong in our diet and are enjoyed. To help students appreciate our cultural diversity some cooking and food based activities are planned as a lead up to Harmony day on Monday 19th March. This will also mark the beginning of our cooking program that will commence the following Monday. Initially this will involve groups of students from Grade 3-6 who will cook and eat lunch together. Parents and students will be notified in the newsletter in the week prior. I welcome the assistance of any parents or grandparents who would like to cook when it is their child’s turn and a cooking roster will be kept in the office.

Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS

**Hooptime**
It was great to see so many children enthusiastic about participating in Hooptime. Hooptime teams for Grades 3,4,5 and 6 have been organised. These are on display at school.

**The dates are:**
Grade 3/4 Friday 3rd August
Grade 5/6 Friday 20th July.

The venue is to be advised. More details about the event will be given closer to the time. We will be looking for coaches on the day. If you know of anyone who would be interested let me know.

The children have been encouraged to practice at school and at home. More formal trainings at lunchtimes will begin next term.

Any questions see Teresa Martyn.

**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.*

**Trivia Night**
Neerim District Secondary College are hosting a Community Trivia Challenge.

Saturday 5th May 2012
JD Algie Hall, Neerim South 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start

$15 per head - tables of 8.

Book your team table today!!

Ph Inge 56 281455 or Maren 56281254 during school hours

All funds to go towards the new gymnasium

Bookings essential

**The Chocolate Festival**
Bona Vista Primary School, Bona Vista Road, Bona Vista
Sunday 25th March 10 am - 3 pm

Easter Egg Hunts, Chocolate Fountains, Art & Craft Activities, Chocolate Sales and Raffles, Facepainting and More.

**Gulls Hockey**
Registration Days
Monday 19th March 5:30pm-6:30pm (U15-U17)
Wednesday 21st March 4:15 pm-6:30pm (U9,U11,U13)
at Bellbird Park, Drouin. Adult players welcome.

For more information Contact Jenny Gilbert on 0417 118 120