Dear Parents,

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Please note that Term 2 commences on Monday 11 April at 9.00am.

HAVE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED?
Please ensure you let the school office know if you have changed address or updated mobile phones with new numbers.

This information alleviates stressful situations on students when they are ill and we cannot contact parents.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM
We held our School Council AGM on Tuesday evening and welcomed our new members to school council, elected office bearers and presented the 2015 Annual Report.

A copy of the Annual Report for 2015 can be found on our school website.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2016 ARE AS FOLLOWS:
Staff: Robbie Mallett, Ryan Bolger, Sandra McGregor and myself as Executive Officer.

Parents: Tim Day (President); Geoff Williams (Vice-President); Sorin Ardeleanu (Treasurer), Mick Daly, Cherilynne Kingston, Paul Barbaro, Andrew Van Oosterwijck and Sue Bleeker.

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WE HAVE ONE CASE OF CONFIRMED SCARLET FEVER AT THE SCHOOL
Scarlet fever is caused by an infection with group A streptococcus bacteria (usually strep throat). The bacteria make a toxin (poison) that can cause the scarlet-colored rash that gives this illness its name.

Not all streptococci bacteria make this toxin and not all kids are sensitive to it. Two kids in the same family may both have strep infections, but one child (who is sensitive to the toxin) may develop the rash of scarlet fever while the other doesn’t.

Usually, if a child has this scarlet rash and other symptoms of strep throat, it can be treated with antibiotics. Infected children should be excluded from schools and children’s services centres until they have received antibiotics for at least 24 hours and feel well. People with skin lesions should be excluded from food handling until infec-
tion has resolved antibiotics. So if your child has these symptoms, it's important to call your doctor.

**Symptoms**
The rash is the most striking sign of scarlet fever. It usually begins looking like a bad sunburn with tiny bumps and it may itch. The rash usually appears first on the neck and face, often leaving a clear unaffected area around the mouth. It spreads to the chest and back, then to the rest of the body. In body creases, especially around the underarms and elbows, the rash forms classic red streaks. Areas of rash usually turn white when you press on them. By the sixth day, the rash usually fades, but the affected skin may begin to peel.

Aside from the rash, there are usually other symptoms that help to confirm a diagnosis of scarlet fever, including a reddened sore throat, a fever above 101°F (38.3°C), and swollen glands in the neck. The tonsils and back of the throat may be covered with a whitish coating, or appear red, swollen, and dotted with whitish or yellowish specks of pus. Early in the infection, the tongue may have a whitish or yellowish coating. A child with scarlet fever also may have chills, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite.

When scarlet fever happens because of a throat infection, the fever usually stops within 3 to 5 days, and the sore throat passes soon afterward. The scarlet fever rash usually fades on the sixth day after sore throat symptoms began, but skin that was covered by rash may begin to peel. This peeling may last 10 days. The infection itself is usually cured with a 10-day course of antibiotics, but it may take a few weeks for tonsils and swollen glands to return to normal.

In rare cases, scarlet fever may develop from a streptococcal skin infection like impetigo. In these cases, the child may not get a sore throat.

Karen Jenkin
Principal

**School Office will close at 3pm today, 24th March, 2016.**
Last Thursday the grades 1 – 6 in the EAL group had a special activity day. There were 3 main activities and early finisher activities. The three main activities were: making little scarecrows with Bu Jones, cooking honey joy haystacks with Mrs Price and writing about a scarecrow with Mrs Hayden. In Mrs Price’s group we baked honey stacks and had turns stirring the pot.

In Mrs Hayden’s we had a poem about a scarecrow trying to protect the garden from the birds and then we wrote our own poems.

With Bu Jones she paired us up as partners so the big kids worked with the little kids. At the end everyone sat down and had a photo taken with their honey joy haystacks. Then we ate them.

By Zainab and Fatima
For over 45 years, the Waverley Benevolent Society (WBS) has been giving a helping hand to the local community. In continuing with their proud tradition, they now have funds available to help low-income parents with school expenses.

The Society will give a $50 voucher to primary School families to be used at Big W or Kmart.

To be eligible, parents need to provide a Centrelink card or proof of residence in the Monash municipality and evidence of low income. They also need a hard copy from the provider of what they would like the cheque to cover.

If you want to find out more information about this fund assistance, please make an appointment with WBS by calling 1300 552 509 (preferred option) or email waverleybenevolent@bigpond.com (recommended for schools and counsellors who have questions).