PARENT/TEACHER MEET & GREET INTERVIEWS (Tuesday 8th March)
We are offering short (10) minute parent/teacher interviews early in term 1, on Tuesday 8th March 2015 between 2-6pm.

These interviews provide parents and teachers with an opportunity to meet early in the school year to establish a relationship and share academic and social information.

A response sheet for these interviews is provided with this newsletter. Time slots will be allocated on a first in basis.

We are seeking 100% attendance at these interviews. If you cannot attend at the times offered please make alternative arrangements with the class teacher.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
It is great to see a large number of students nominating for 2015 Student Leadership positions (School Captains and House Captains) Students will be presenting their speeches early next week.

Our 2015 Student Leaders and Junior School Councillors will be announced and presented with their badges at a special Friday afternoon assembly on 12th February commencing at 3:10pm.

BIKE RIDING POLICY
A reminder that it is school policy that only students from grades 4-6 are permitted to ride their bikes (independently) with a helmet to school. Younger students must be under the direct supervision of a parent/adult.

Scooters are not an approved mode of transport to or from school. They are only to be used under direct parent/adult supervision.

SUNSMART POLICY
As a Sunsmart school all students are required to wear an approved school hat for all outdoor activities during terms 1 and 4.

Hats are available from the office at the cost of $8. NO HAT, NO PLAY.

WATER ONLY SCHOOL
A reminder that we are an accredited “water only” school. Students can bring water bottles and refill them at school.
2016 SCHOOL FEES
The School Council has set the 2016 fee payment at $200 per child for the year which consists of $100-student requisites, $20 photocopying and $80 excursions/visiting schools performances.
This price has remained the same as last year and is very reasonable compared to kindergarten and other primary school fees.

Discount: Any parent who produces a current Health Care Card or Pension Card at the office will be able to claim $120 per child off the total bill of $200 per child. This covers the student requisites and photocopying components of the fee.

The $80 excursion levy will be covered by the CSEF (Camps, Sport, Excursion Fund.) Forms are available at the office to complete in the 2016 school year. To be eligible for this fund (CSEF) you need a current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

For Low income families other Commonwealth Government Support that may be accessed depending on your individual situation are:
- Family Tax Benefits A & B, Schoolkids Bonus, Centre Pay (regular deductions).

GRADE 3/4 iPAD PROGRAM
This information is for parents who have paid a deposit for their child’s iPad Air but have not yet received it.

These iPad’s are now available to be collected from the office upon the second payment of $200.

Please remember students will only be able to use their iPads 24/7 after the 3rd instalment of $165 is paid. Until this time, your child’s iPad will remain securely locked away after school and during weekends.

You will be able to take the iPad home for one evening to initially set up your new iPad.

GRADE 5/6 DOXA CAMP
Preparations are underway for the Grade 5/6 camp to Melbourne city.

Camp 1 will run from 15th-19th February and

Camp 2 will run from 22nd—26th February. Students attending Doxa camp have now been allocated to either camp 1 or camp 2.

Final payments must be made by ...
Students will not be able to attend unless the total amount of money for the camp has been received by this date.

Parents should be aware that this camp is heavily sponsored by the Doxa Foundation and usually a 5 day camp of this type would cost at least double the amount of money. It’s an amazing experience, that your child will remember for years to come.

CHANGE OF COUNCIL SIGNAGE
Parent please be aware of the two new signs titled ‘Work Zone’ in Gwynne Street. Parking in not permitted at anytime between these signs.

BLANKET LOCAL EXCURSION PERMISSION FORM
We have a blanket excursion note for all local and day excursions. This eliminates the need to collect a separate signed form for each activity.

On the same form, is a section for parents to give their consent for their child’s photograph to be used for in our school newsletter, school noticeboards, local newspapers, the school website and school Facebook page.

We ask these forms to be returned to your child’s teacher ASAP.

CANTEEN
The school canteen will be open next Thursday 11th February.

This is an opportunity for students to purchase a small snack at recess or lunch time. Please note the canteen does not provide lunches on Thursdays. Students still need to bring their lunch from home.

We advise giving your child no more than $2.00 to spend.

EVERY DAY COUNTS - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day, for the whole day, is vital.

If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

We understand that on the odd occasion your child may be late for school or need to leave earlier than 3.30pm. Please collect either a late arrival pass or an early departure card for these instances.

CHECK YOUR iPAD ADAPTERS
Apple are offering AC Wall Plug Adapter Exchange Program for certain adapters. Please go to www.apple.com/au/support/ac-wallplug-adapter which has the information.

You Can Do It
Fiona Anderson, Acting Principal

Student Banking
If you are interested in joining school banking all you need to do is open an account with the Commonwealth Bank and bring in your deposit book into school every Thursday. Please come to the office if you have any questions or to receive an information pack for this year!

We will have a visit from the bank to talk about student banking at our morning assembly on Monday 8th February.
**Sport News**

**NORTH GEELONG DIVISION SWIMMING**

Any grade 3-6 students interested in participating in the North Geelong swimming championships please see Mr Carracher before next **Tuesday 9th February**. Qualifying times will be required to enter.

**SPORTING SCHOOLS**

We have once again had a huge response to our Sporting Schools Program. Due to number restrictions unfortunately some students have missed on a place and have been placed on the emergency list.

All students who were successful in gaining a place in the program were notified yesterday by note. The program begins in week 5.

**NETBALL**

We are currently seeking a parent to coordinate/manage our Thursday night Netball teams, a position left vacant by Mrs Lyndal Jones. If a parent can’t be found for this position unfortunately this program can’t continue. If interested please see Mr Carracher ASAP.

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**Requests for the Art Room**

The art room is in need of the following items:

1) Towels/ tea towels  
2) Cardboard boxes  
3) Old magazines  
4) Old books

Thanks for your support.

Ms Ryan

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**Art Activities**

**Preps**

created fabulous self and family portraits in there first week.

**Grade 3/4’s**

explore charcoal and value when doing an observational drawing of a pear.

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**Parents & Friends Association**

Our first Parents and Friends meeting for 2016 is on **Monday 15th February** after assembly at 9:30am in the staff room.

We would love to see some new faces come along to our meetings, so all parents are welcome to attend.

**Victoria State Schools Spectacular 2016**

A reminder that all expressions of interest for the 2016 State Schools Spectacular must be returned to the office no later than **Monday 8th February**.
Cost: $5
Sizes Include: 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 (no more size 6s)
Available at the office.

Girls Pants for Sale

Reminder to all students with asthma to bring their Ventolins and an updated plan for 2016 into the office asap.
We have blank asthma plans available at the office.

Asthma Ventolins and Plans

This term Program Achieve is ORGANISATION

Program Achieve

It’s Not Ok to Be Away!

How many days of school has your child missed this semester?

It’s Not Okay To Be Away

In the ‘good old days’ it used to be hard to get a day off school. Now it seems to be easy, maybe too easy?

The wider school community, parents and students need to fully understand the impact of missing too many school days.

If a student has a day off once a fortnight, this would add up to 20 days in a school year.
20 days is the same as missing a tenth of a school year.

If your child missed 20 days each year up to year 10, this would equal to missing a year of schooling.

A key message that needs to be embraced by schools, parents, and the wider community is that “It’s Not OK to be Away.” The fallout of poor attendance is very real. These students will be at risk of not achieving their potential and therefore limiting their life choices. Also, other real consequences are:

- Social isolation
- Will have gaps in their learning of knowledge and basic concepts
- May feel insecure in the school environment
- More likely to leave school early
- Be over-represented in the juvenile justice system
- Be the victims of bullying and harassment.

When you consider all the above, schools, parents and the wider community need to work in partnership with each other to ensure students enjoy school success and as a consequence make enriching life choices.

0-6 days
This is within normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7-10 days
This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of schooling between prep and Year 10.

11-20 days
This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss up to one year of schooling between prep and Year 10.

20+ days
This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one and a half years of schooling between prep and Year 10.

Some Benefits of Regular School Attendance

For Students:
- The development of skills and attitudes such as self-discipline, punctuality, and being organised will optimise life choices
- Regular attendance leads to making friends and learning how to maintain relationships over a length of time.
- Regular attendance leads to learning social skills necessary to live and work with others.
- It’s safer at school than on the street.
- The more students attend, the more they will learn and the more they will like school.

For the Community:
- Young people are the next generation of community leaders and community citizens.
- Community agencies can work in partnership with schools towards the shared goal of developing future community leaders and citizens.
- Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to be safe.
- Young people who attend school regularly are less likely to be involved in crime.
- The more students attend, the more they learn and the more likely they are to make a positive contribution to society.

With thanks to Project Schools National School Participation Project