Dear Parents, Term one has progressed very smoothly, with all our new students settling in very quickly. Our Foundation (formerly called Preps.) students are now here for the whole week, which can often be very tiring for them. We ask that parents ensure the children have a rest when they arrive home, and have a full night’s sleep, to be ready for more fun learning the next day.

Since our last newsletter we have had the official opening of the Lorne St. Kindergarten which is also running extremely smoothly. At the opening our local state member of Parliament, Frank Maguire, spoke about what a great facility the community now has and how fortunate the community is to have such a facility linked to the school.

As always we continue to have an excellent tone of behaviour among the children, both inside the class and in the yard. It has been great to see the older children looking after the newer students, and generally acting out our motto of “Caring and Sharing”

This year we currently have an enrolment of approximately 190 children in 9 grades, similar to last year. All the grades have developed a very positive working environment and a great relationship exists between all teachers and the children in their grade.

Included with this newsletter is our 2016 Parent Information Booklet.

Parking and Traffic: Unfortunately cars and primary school children don’t mix. At the moment we have a large number of parents who are putting the lives of others at risk by doing things that might save them 20 or 30 seconds, but also might lead to a child being injured or killed. Some of the more dangerous examples include:

- Stopping their car on the pedestrian crossing to let children out or to pick up children. This is particularly dangerous for other children who are using the crossing, as other drivers often can’t see the children.
- Not stopping to let children cross at the School Crossings
- Parking in the school car park or the driveway to let out children while other children are using this entrance. Reversing back into traffic is also causing traffic chaos and there is always the danger of reversing over children.
- Having children run across the road while the parent waits in the car.

We regularly have officers from the Fawkner Traffic Management Unit patrol our school and the Police will issue hefty fines for these, as well as parking in No Standing areas, which will hopefully help people find a safer way to drop children off and pick them up.

Contacting the school: If parents need to speak to teachers we ask that they contact the office to make a time to see the teacher personally or to speak on the phone. Parents are asked not to go to the classrooms before school or during class times, as the teachers are busy in meetings, preparing or delivering lessons, doing Yard Duty or a number of other important jobs. Parents are asked to respect that teaching is a very difficult task and that the classes should not be interrupted by parents. We also ask that parents wait outside for children rather than coming inside at the end of the school day. It is very distracting for both teachers and the students if parents are in the passage while lessons are taking place.

Student discipline and behaviour issues: In simple terms we aim to reward good behaviour and schooling patterns, and deal with behaviour that isn’t acceptable or appropriate. A key element of our Student Engagement Policy is that we will inform parents and ask them to become involved if their child displays inappropriate behaviour. We ask and expect that par-
ents work with us to help improve any behaviour that may be causing issues.

One thing in particular that we ask is that parents not become involved in childrens’ issues. This will only lead to bigger problems. Parents should never speak to another child about any incident, as they have no authority to speak to other children, or to directly approach teachers regarding any incident. If a parent believes that something inappropriate has been said or done during the day that affects their child, the school Principal or Assistant Principal should be informed immediately so we can find out exactly what happened, and who was involved, and then we can deal with it.

Quite often we will phone parents to make them aware of a situation that may have happened during the day. We only do this after thoroughly looking into each episode and speaking to all people involved. In all situations, we ask that parents trust that we are being fair and objective, doing what is best for all. We are aware that children will often give their parents a different version of events, or at least one that limits their involvement in any wrongdoing. However we again ask that parents trust us, and that as professionals we always endeavour to find out exactly what has happened and gain as accurate a picture as we can ascertain. If we believe it necessary we will then organize an appropriate consequence.

Breakfast Club. We have had a very positive response to our Breakfast Club, where we regularly have 15-20 students come along on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Any child can come along to the staff room, where we will provide a choice of vitamins and milk, oats, toast and vegemite, toast and jam or toast and margarine, fruit salad. Children are welcome to come to the staff room between 8.30 and 9.00. There is no cost for this. Children are supervised eating breakfast and are able to go out to play or go straight to their classes after they have eaten (and helped clean up).

Canteen helpers. Annette is looking for volunteers to help do this very important task. New parents are always welcomed. We cannot run the canteen without volunteers, so we really do ask parents to consider helping out occasionally so the school can run the canteen. Parents can speak to Annette in the office at any time. Canteen runs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We only do lunches and only sell quality food. We don’t sell soft drinks, lollies, fatty foods etc., and we sell the food for close to cost price.

Naming of the BER building. Our school has two main buildings where classes take place. The original building is the long building that was built in the 1960’s. This is where the current Prep-Grade 2 children have their classes. The newer building was built in 2010 as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. This building has always been referred to as the BER building. We believe the time is right to give the new BER building a better name, and are asking the children and community to consider suitable names. Teachers and students will be putting together some information to send home asking for suggestions to be considered. If you have any ideas please look out for the information when it comes home.

Assemblies are held on Fridays. This year we will continue having our Assemblies on Friday mornings, at 9.10. All parents, family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Our assemblies are held in the new building.

Art smocks. Our Art teacher, Mrs. Arena, has asked that parents check that their child has an art smock to use during Art lessons, to protect their school clothing. An old shirt or light jumper is perfect

Important notes:

Arriving on time. Could parents please ensure children are at school before 9.00 as it is important that every child is here ready for the day by the scheduled start. It gets them into good habits and they don’t miss out on important learning time.

School hat. Please note that during Terms 1 and 4 all children should be wearing a school hat whenever they go outside while at school. This is part of our School Sun Smart program, that helps children learn about positive life habits. Hats are available to be purchased from the office.

**School terms 2016**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Finish Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>January 28 - March 24</td>
<td>2.30 finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>April 11 – June 24</td>
<td>2.30 finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>July 11 – September 16</td>
<td>2.30 finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>October 3 – December 20</td>
<td>1.30 finish</td>
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If your child is absent from school, please notify us via the Skoolbag App or send a note or with your child when they return with an explanation for their absence. Alternatively you may telephone the school.

If we have not received any notification we will send an SMS which you can reply to.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR CSEF?
Applications Close
3 June 2016

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF (Camps Sports and Excursion Fund).

Application forms are available from the school office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2016
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

If you would like to join school council please see our Principal Roger Pell.
Dear Parents and Families of Fawkner Primary School,

Fawkner Primary School is lucky to have a beautiful space where our students can learn about growing foods.

This year, we would like to teach students about the importance of growing and eating fresh foods throughout the year. We also want students to learn about the cultures and foods of families from our school.

Please complete the following questions and return back to your child’s classroom teacher by Friday 18th March 2016.

If you would like to get involved in helping to maintain our garden, please speak to Maria Weston.

1. What is your family’s cultural background?

2. What vegetables and herbs does your family use when cooking at home?

3. Do you have any seeds or cuttings that you could donate to the school’s garden? (Please place them in an envelope and return them to the school by Friday 18th March 2016)