Dear Parents and Students

At this stage we have had two further possible nominations to Council. We still have one position vacant. It was discussed at our Council meeting last week the possibility of meeting at 5.00pm. The earlier timeframe was suggested by current members and it was thought that this might make being a school councillor more accessible for families with young children. If you are still considering nominating please see me.

Council also agreed to establish a School Ground Landscape and Planning Team. This does not need to be only School Councillors, any parents wishing to work together as part of a team to plan and consider School ground developments are invited to volunteer. If you are interested please see me. Attached to the newsletter is a form where you can submit ideas for consideration by the team. Students, parents and teachers are all invited to submit ideas.

Each year the Council identifies activities and equipment for purchase with the monies raised through fundraising. In the past monies have gone to support things like - the school camps program, excursions, hall hire, music equipment, reading materials, photocopy lease, computers, bain-marie, and interactive whiteboard. If you have any suggestions please write them on the form for Council consideration.

Thank you to those people who came along and supported students and teachers at the Cluster Swimming Carnival last Friday. This year we had around one hundred students participating. If you have any photos of the day we would love to get a copy of them as teachers, water and cameras are never a good idea and we always come away from the day wishing we had captured some of the moments.

During the second half of 2010 the school developed a new Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the strategic intent in three areas –
As part of this plan staff and parents identified and defined the following values for our school.

- **Honesty**
  - Being true to yourself, family, friends and teachers

- **Persistence**
  - Being confident, resilient and optimistic when striving to meet challenges

- **Humour**
  - To enjoy and celebrate with others

- **Initiative**
  - To contribute ideas, be flexible and demonstrate leadership

- **Commitment**
  - Being dedicated to do your very best

- **Teamwork**
  - Working with and sharing with others to enhance learning for everyone

- **Respect**
  - Treating self, others and your environment with care and respect

During the next few weeks we will be discussing and working through what these values mean and what they would look like for students and staff at Halls Gap Primary School. We ask that you have discussions with your children about why we would have a set of values and why we would believe they are important for us to work towards.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**

This coming Friday Parks have offered to take us on a guided walk to Silverband Falls to view and help develop an understanding of the enormity and challenges the recent rains have caused in the National Park. Parents are invited and encouraged to accompany us. We will be meeting at the school at 9.00am and then travel by car to the beginning of the walk. We do not want to engage a bus for this activity as we are expecting that along with Parks, teacher and family vehicles we will be able to transport the students across this short distance. Each student will be required to return the Special Excursion permission form attached. Could you please indicate if you intend to accompany us and can assist with transportation. As the park is closed and will be for some time this will be a chance to come along and hear first hand the long term implications and challenges faced by those working towards getting the Park open for locals and tourists to once again enjoy. We expect this activity to run for no longer than a couple of hours. When we have an indication of who can assist we will notify families of the final transportation arrangements.

Our Zone swimmers head off to Ararat this Thursday to compete against other students from across our district. We wish them all the best. Frau Stoffel will accompany the team. GO SWIMMERS!

Have a wonderful week
Judy Hilbig

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**ALLERGIES – PLEASE AVOID SENDING NUTS TO SCHOOL**

Just a reminder – we do have a child at school with a serious allergy to nuts (anaphylaxis). We do ask that you refrain from

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**STAWELL 13&U FOOTBALL 2011**

Stawell 13&U Friday night football is back again for season 2011.
13& U football is the next step on from Auskick with 4 clubs – Magpies, Hawks, Tigers and Bulldogs.

Stawell 13&U Football Assoc
AGM
Tuesday 8th March
7pm at North Park clubrooms

Parents of current and future players are asked to attend. We are looking for people to help with some of the committee positions.

Starting dates times and training venues will be discussed at the meeting. Hope to see as many parents there as possible.

Any queries can be directed to Wes Illig 5358 3968 or Toni Stewart 5358 5541