Dear Parents and Students

Dinosaurs galore! If you haven’t had a chance to ask a Prep – 3 student something about dinosaurs then now is the time. Each student is currently undertaking a study of a particular dinosaur; researching and answering their questions. Senior students are working towards defining the three levels of government and the self-selected study area of their Discovery Unit. We still have a small team of students preparing for the Zone Cross Country event at Lake Bolac next Monday.

Teachers have begun collecting data and preparing reports for end of semester reports. One area that teachers assess students in is the Interpersonal Development domain. The learning students work through in this area helps them to initiate, maintain and manage positive social relationships with a range of people in a range of contexts. It is through the development of positive social relationships that individuals become linked to society, develop a sense of belonging and learn to live and work with others. In this area there is a particular focus on developing students’ capacity to work cooperatively as part of a team as this is widely acknowledged as being a core requirement for success in the workplace and in the community. To build these relationships students need to be empathetic and to be able to deal effectively with their own emotions and inner moods. They need to be aware of social conventions, able to manage and resolve conflict in a sensible, fair and effective manner, present their own ideas and listen to others. The Interpersonal Development domain provides students with learning opportunities and experiences that will support their learning across the curriculum, particularly in relation to working in teams where collaboration and cooperation, sharing resources and completing agreed tasks on time are highlighted.

Another area teachers will assess is the domain of Personal Learning. This area supports students to develop a positive sense of themselves as learners by providing them with knowledge, skills and behaviours to –

- develop an understanding of their strengths and potential
- seek and respond appropriately to feedback from their teachers, peers and other members of the community
- develop skills of goal setting and time and resource management
- increasingly manage their own learning and growth by monitoring their learning, and setting and reflecting on their learning goals
- learn to understand and to manage their own emotions
- develop resilience and dispositions which support learning
- recognise and enact learning principles within and beyond the school
- prepare for lifelong learning.

As you can see from the above these two domains play a key part in all aspects of learning and as such are assessed. For students in Pre-3 these areas are embedded in the various domains. For students in years 4-6 these areas are assessed and named in the student report card.

Please note schools are able to hold a report writing day during 2011. Halls Gap will identify a date for the report writing period during semester 2. We will not be holding one during semester 1.

Have a wonderful week

Judy Hilbig
HEAD LICE
Still creating problems – please check weekly!

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 sending nuts or products that contain nuts to school.

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDRAISING MONEY
At a recent meeting of council, councillors determined $2000 of money raised through markets would be allocated to purchase maths equipment for the classrooms. A significant amount of this money has been spent and students are enjoying using the equipment during class time. An additional $500 was transferred to Junior School Council to add to the monies raised through raffles etc for the purchasing of sports equipment.

The school raises significant money each year to support learning programs. Past purchases have included the building of the gym, interactive whiteboard, laptop and desktop computers, extensive reading materials, buses for excursions, the school camping program, playground equipment, cooking and food preparation equipment and annual lease support for school photocopier.

At the last meeting of School Council it was proposed that we hold a meeting to discuss ongoing challenges associated with fundraising activities. This will be an opportunity for everyone to come along and speak to councillors and fundraising committee members. This meeting will be held next Tuesday at 3.30pm.

COMMUNITY EVENT – CASSEROLE NIGHT – ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS COMPETITION
When: this Friday
Where: Cricket Club
Please bring a casserole to share
Come along and enjoy an evening of fun

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES PROJECT

Our progress at this stage -

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UNIFORMS
Please note we have had a run on uniforms and need to place an order to fill several sizes that sold out. If you think you are going to need items in the near future please contact the school as soon as possible. We will send in an order at the end of the week.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS
GOOD LUCK FOR MONDAY!
We are hoping we will have enough parents to drive students. If you are not intending to go on the day please let us know. Felicia along with help from Franz will be managing the team on the day.