Dear Families,

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to everyone for term, the second half term of the year! It was great to see the students on Monday, many with lots of exciting news about all the things they got up to over the holidays. I was more than a little jealous! It was also lovely to enter the school grounds on Monday morning after our resident garden gnomes Rohan and Darren had been at work. Their special magic ensured that lawns were mown and the rather large tree branch was removed. Thank you so much for the time and care you put into our school grounds - it is amazing the number of comments I receive from members of the community about our beautiful school.

Term 4 is going to be jam packed with exciting activities, many revolving around GREASE! I hope that you are all spreading the word and inviting family and friends to our two performances - Wednesday the 4th of December in Stawell and Thursday the 12th of December in Halls Gap. Sue has been very busy over the holidays with costumes, new ones seem to be arriving on a daily basis, Josephina dropped off a very special looking car for our Kenickie and Angie has been using poor Scarlett as a make up model all holidays! Things are really heating up!

P-2 Excursion:
P/1/2 students will be joining their cluster friends on trip to Sovereign Hill on Friday the 1st of November. We will attend candle making, gold pouring and confectionary making demonstrations as well as participating in an olden days educational session. Unfortunately in order to pick up all students in a timely manner we are asking parents to drop their children off and pick them up in Stawell. We will leave at 8am and be home by 5pm. The meeting point will be the car park behind Bi-Rite and if you have any difficulties with travel arrangements please come and see me.

Halloween Party:
Dear Parents,
On Wednesday the 30th of October the Junior School Council will be holding a Halloween costume party where everyone has the chance to dress up, have a disco and enjoy the day.
There will be a participating fee of $2 per child which will cover the cost of snacks and drink. Lunch orders will proceed as normal - lunch will not be provided.
Sincerely the Junior School Council

November Market:
Please keep in mind that we have a market coming up on the 3rd of November. This weekend is traditionally a busy weekend for Halls Gap which will hopefully translate into a profitable market. As our last market for the year it would be wonderful to see a representative from each family helping out on the day - remember it is a lot of fun!!

Outdoor Furniture:
$10,000 worth of new outdoor furniture will be arriving at school within the next few weeks and we will be looking for strong people to assist with the unloading and constructing! Some of the school counsellors may approach you for assistance.

Active After School:
Just a reminder that Active After School Sport starts next Tuesday, the 15th of October. Neil will be taking cricket on Tuesdays and Jess from Ararat YMCA will be taking Self Defence for Kids on Thursdays.

Acting Principal
Samantha Stoffel
**A Project of Samaritan’s Purse** – also known as Operation Christmas Child sharing God’s love in a tangible way by giving gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children in over 100 countries. If you are interested in donating gifts please collect a brochure from the school foyer with further information.

Please note that Wednesday is lunch order day. If your child arrives after the bell has gone and they have a lunch order – please drop it over to the bakery.

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**OTHER DATES FOR THE CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th Oct</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 31st Oct</td>
<td>Junior School Council Halloween Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st Nov</td>
<td>P-2 Sovereign Hill Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3rd Nov</td>
<td>Craft Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th Nov</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th Nov</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Out There camp</td>
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**SCHOOL VALUES**

- **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.