Dear Families,

We had a fantastic time at the Fun Swimming afternoon last Friday. It was great to meet up with Pomonal Primary School again and just be able to enjoy the wonderful facility that is the Halls Gap swimming pool. Mrs. McCann did a wonderful job of organising the afternoon.

School Council has approved the introduction of a school Facebook page. At this stage, it would be a trial and would just be there as an extra means of communication with parents only. As soon as this page is up and running, I will let you know.

MARKET THIS WEEKEND! - Please ensure that market rosters are returned to the school as soon as possible so that the fundraising committee has plenty of time to finalise and send out rosters for this weekend’s Craft Market. School Council has agreed that the major plan for this year’s fundraising is to purchase a shipping container for storage purposes. Something we badly need so that we can use the gym for its intended purpose.

This week Frau Stoffel and I have some requests. We are hoping that families would be able to start sending in their old newspapers and magazines. We are also in desperate need of some new art smocks. Any old shirts (long sleeved and light preferably) would be very much appreciated.

Ja-San Trimble
Principal

As promised last week, here is our report from the Division swimming competition.

Last Tuesday Kaylee, Keira, Tobie, Dylan and Eugene from Halls Gap competed in the Division Swimming Carnival with Bella, Eve, Jarli, Bailey, Jayde, Aron and Lachy from Pomonal. Everyone competed in an individual event and a freestyle relay. They also had a medley relay competing with Kaylee doing Backstroke, Jarli Breaststroke, Keira Butterfly and Bailey Freestyle. Four people got through to the next level and will be competing in Warrnambool next Friday. It was an awesome day because everyone got to swim and made it all the way to the end of the pool without getting disqualified. We hope to go well next Friday.

By Keira & Kaylee ;)

(We also hope that you do well and have an enjoyable time, Keira and Kaylee)
**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
  - To contribute ideas, be flexible and demonstrate leadership
- **Initiative**
  - Being dedicated to do your very best
- **Commitment**
  - Working with and sharing with others to enhance learning for everyone
- **Teamwork**
  - Treating self, others and your environment with care and respect.

*Please discuss these on a regular basis at home as a family.

**REMINDER** – School fees are due, deduct swimming program if you have a season pass.
If you are a recipient for EMA, please complete an application and have your health care card photocopied.

**Special Request:** Do you have any old clothing, hats, hessian bags, straw/bale of hay or old timber that you would like to donate to the school for the children to make scarecrows. Miss Laura would greatly appreciate any donations available.
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 is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- *Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.*

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

**From 1 March 2014**, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.