Dear Families,

What lovely weather it was for a long weekend. By all accounts Halls Gap was busy. Our market volunteers and stall holders had a steady day and we raised $2370.00. Thank you to all of our families that helped out with both the market and the mini clean up on Friday. Please keep in mind that the Easter market is only about three weeks away and we really need as many helpers as we can get for this one!

Well done to our JSC for organising last week’s “I want to be” Day. It was great to see that all students participated in this event. The JSC coordinated an afternoon of activities – a lot of which had to be altered a little to allow for wet weather. They showed great flexibility in their leadership!

Ja-San Trimble
Principal

### JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

**“I WANT TO BE” – FUNDRAISER**

Thanks everyone! We had a wonderful day on Friday and I’m sure that our raised money ($40) will help out the Kids Cancer Project.

Thank-you, Junior School Council
School Fees are now due – please make payment at the office or make direct payment with your BPAY details printed on your statement. If a payment plan would assist you to pay weekly or fortnightly, please call in to see Sue at the office. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>School Council AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Cluster cross country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22nd March</td>
<td>Working bee (10am) followed by bbq lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26th March</td>
<td>Last day of term 1 – 2.15 dismissal</td>
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<td>Sunday 5th April</td>
<td>Easter Market</td>
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<td>Monday 13th April</td>
<td>Term 2 starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th April</td>
<td>Cluster day at leisure complex – Stawell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th April</td>
<td>School review day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th May</td>
<td>Division cross country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th May</td>
<td>Cluster athletics – in Halls Gap</td>
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<td>12th – 14th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN – Grade 3 and 5 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th May</td>
<td>Division winter sports</td>
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Please remember to provide a copy of birth certificate & immunisation details if you haven’t already done so.

ALSO
Please return student information details even if there are no changes. It is important to us to have the correct details.

**Invitation to help with reading**
Each morning the students head into the library for Read To Self and Read To Someone. Parents are invited to assist with listening to students read. Please ask us if you are not sure about what would be involved but it is a great opportunity. We read from 9am to 9.30am every day and would not necessarily require any prior notice or consistent commitment. Just come in when you can – we would love to see you!

**WHY READ AT HOME FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?**

Reading is “brain food”
Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you’re the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading improves listening skills
What parent doesn’t want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognize phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

Practice makes perfect
Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you’ll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading.

Reading improves academic performance
There is a strong correlation between a child’s ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading improves relationships
Because we are often busy it can be difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

Source: http://www.k12reader.com/why-read-20-minutes-a-day/
14-19 MARCH Grampians Textures
WHERE: Various locations around Halls Gap
WHEN: 9am-4pm each day
ABOUT: Develop your interest and build on your skills in fibre arts at Grampians Textures. An opportunity to work with leading Australian and international textile art tutors in 2, 4 or 6 day workshops.

15 MARCH Block Party
WHERE: Stawell Library
WHEN: 11am-2pm
ABOUT: A community event to introduce new residents to sporting, social and community groups in Stawell. Promoting social connection and inclusion in the community. Casual BBQ, entertainment for all ages and meet and greets with representatives from local sport, social and community groups.

21-22 MARCH Halls Gap SES/CFA Fundraiser
WHERE: Halls Gap Zoo
WHEN: 9am-4pm each day
ABOUT: A great day out at the Halls Gap Zoo, $5 entry per person and raising funds for local CFA, SES and emergency teams. The day will have face-painting, a jumping castle, as well as a BBQ lunch.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

THEME: What does living in the Northern Grampians mean to you?
Capture what it means to you to live in the Northern Grampians and be a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

ADULT COMPETITION
1ST PRIZE: IPAD MINI
2ND PRIZE: $260 CASH
3RD PRIZE: $100 CASH

JUNIOR COMPETITION
1ST PRIZE: $100 CASH
2ND PRIZE: $50 CASH

CHALLENGE OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 20TH MARCH

Please visit the Council website to download an entry form and conditions of entry at www.ngrshire.vic.gov.au or visit our Customer Service centres in Stawell and St Arnaud.

Galleries of all entries will occur in December in Stawell, St Arnaud and Halls Gap.

For further information, please contact Community Partnerships Officer Cary Georgian on 5356 5597.