Dear Parents,

**TIMETABLE**

In view of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, and also in order to more easily provide the opportunity for a solid 2 hour literacy block, and 1 hour of numeracy each day, as well as accommodating the specialist programs we offer, the teaching staff have been discussing a more efficient way to break up the day. We are required to offer 5 hours of instruction each day and in order to maximise these hours staff have presented a proposed timetable change to School Council. This will break the day into 2 X 2 hour blocks and a 1 X 1 hour block. This model is adopted by many other local schools with some variation to start and end times, depending on local conditions. This was accepted at last week’s School Council meeting, and we are now seeking comment from parents.

The proposed new hours are:

- **8.55 - 10.55** First two hour block (10.00 Healthy snack time inside the classroom)
- **10.55 - 11.25** First break (Children to eat their “little lunch”)
- **11.25 - 1.35** Second two hour block
- **1.35 - 2.15** Second break commences - Children to eat inside supervised by staff
- **2.15 - 3.15** One hour block.

School will **finish at 3.15** (currently we have 2 finish times - 3.15 for the buses followed by 3.20 for the non-bus travellers. This leads to a “dead” five minutes at the end of each day). Staff will be on duty until 3.30pm at the front gate. Any children not collected by that time will be taken inside to wait, just by the front office.

The two main changes for children are: 3.15pm finish, and eating their second meal at 1.25 - 10 minutes later than the current meal break.
The advantages are: 2 x 2 hour timetable blocks for instruction; enabling a 2 hour session for the SAKG program cooking session, consistent end of day time for everyone and greater opportunity to more efficiently provide specialist classes (usually 1 hour duration).

Parents will need to ensure that food provided for the day includes a substantial "little" lunch. Research advocates a number of small meals a day, rather than 3 large meals a day for better health.

If you have comments about this proposed change please send these to the school office this week. It is anticipated that this timetable will commence shortly - all families will be notified of the date once it is finalised.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES**

We have received a number of comments from concerned parents about parking and traffic issues. It is time for a few reminders:

* The staff car park is not available for parent parking and pedestrian traffic is also not permitted - this is a very real safety issue - even if children are with parents! Please help us by not using the car park as a thoroughfare.
* Parking at the front of the school is controlled by signage. Please ensure you obey the restrictions as sign posted.
* The school crossing is for everyone - parents and children alike. Please use the crossing, and consider whether you are modelling safe pedestrian habits to your children.

We will be asking the local police to assist with these issues if needed - our priority is the safety of the children in our care.

Please consider whether it is really necessary for you to drop off and collect your children in Roberts Ave - maybe the Ray St gate could be an option, or maybe parking a little further away from the school and encouraging your children to walk a little way is a consideration.

**CHESS "Dream Team"**

Best wishes to the Dream Team who are travelling to Ballarat this week to compete in a chess tournament.

**SCHOOL FEES AND OTHER COSTS**

Our office staff have been busily checking payments and monies owing to the school. Accounts and reminders will be sent home very soon - currently we estimate that there is over $10,000 outstanding - some payments for camps and excursions are very overdue. **We cannot afford to carry these costs** and ask that accounts are settled as quickly as possible. If payment is a concern please contact the office so we can arrange a payment plan.

Best wishes, *Mary-anne Rooney, Principal.*

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**P.E. NEWS – REMINDER**

A reminder that this week some students from Grades 3 to 6 are participating in the Interschool Netball at Wesley Hill Stadium. Students should have their permission form returned by now. If not, please ensure that it is handed to the office by tomorrow morning (Wednesday).

Wednesday, Grade 3 & 4 students and Thursday Grade 5 & 6 students will attend netball. Students need to wear navy or black shorts, school t-shirt and runners. Please make sure they have plenty of food and a drink bottle. Transport will be via a bus.

**We desperately need as many parent helpers as possible on these days.**

Sam Chapman.

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**UNIFORM**

There is a large quantity of uniform items in the lost property area. Please check and collect any articles belonging to your child.

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**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**

The Education Department pay a travel allowance to families who drive their children to school under certain conditions:

- must be 4.8 or more kilometres from your nearest school
- or 4.8 kilometres or more from the nearest public transport/bus,
- if you have **applied at the beginning of the year you do not need to apply again,** it is only for families that are newly enrolled or have shifted since the start of the year.

Any queries, please call at the office.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK Week Ending – 12/08/2011
R02 (MAC H) Archie – for ignoring distractions and staying focused.
R03 (MAC F) Isaac – for his positive attitude towards ensuring successful group work.
R07 (MAC K) Kalinda – for OUTSTANDING organisational and Mathematical thinking during Chess. Well done Kalinda on using your thinking skills in a way that is both instructional and respective to others.
R08 (MAC M) Fionn – for his enthusiasm and finding fun in all he does.
R13 (MAC R) Scarlet – for leading the way on the dance floor.
R15 (MAC J) Cash – for being a great listener in class and a friend that makes good choices.
R16 (MAC W) Jacob – for working well and putting effort into activities, particularly Maths. Well done Jacob!
R18 (MAC TB) Jim – for making excellent contributions to the Mac TB learning environment and for his “head down” approach to all literacy tasks. Well done! Grace – for mixing well with everyone in your new grade and always listening carefully in the learning space. Well done Grace!

INDONESIAN Ella – for a fantastic attitude and retaining everything that is taught in class.

SOCIAL SKILL:
Last Week’s Social Skill was: Playing Fairly.
The Winners are: Ariana, Will and Gus.
This Week’s Social Skill is: Playing Fairly.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN
For those who have not met me, my name is Jane Grylls and I am the SAKG kitchen specialist. I love my new job and am looking forward to getting stuck into the cooking very soon. I have been working hard getting the kitchen up to scratch and sorting out what we have, need, and putting together a wish list (I will keep you posted on that one).

Last Thursday Gerri and 4 preppies (Cash, Minna, Lulu and Alice) came in to give me a hand with some sorting. They did a great job and we heard that Lachie was to serve his delicious Jamaican Chicken Soup project. The preppies did a beautiful job setting the tables and Lachie’s class had a sit down lunch which was enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Truffle making Chris, who helped out with the toast. And Lachie, I would like the recipe for future classes please!

Ryan, Kane and Matthew were geniuses at helping me get ready for Wally’s Grade 6 Pizza class. We set the work benches up on the deck outside and the boys made and then kneaded the dough, oiled a work bench, and prepared the pizza sauce. They loved smashing the garlic in the mortar and pestle, and using the knives. The 3 of them showed quite a bit of culinary skills, so thank you boys. Good job!

Wally’s class have volunteered to be the pizza cooks for the Fete. They had a lot of fun rolling the dough and using their imaginations with the assorted toppings on offer. We did a taste comparison with a frozen ham and pineapple pizza and our homemade one, and it was great that everyone thought ours was better. One comment was that the frozen one “tasted like dog food”. The class decided what pizza they would like to cook for the Fete, using as much as they can from the garden, which we will practise again this Thursday. Anyone wishing to help with the pizza stall please let myself or Fiona know.

If anyone has any dry, grey box fire wood, we are desperate for some for the Fete. Please leave under or near the pizza oven.

Healthy Lunch day is fast approaching and it is important to get your orders in soon. And please it would be greatly appreciated if you could donate any of the following - SR flour, tasty cheese, buttermilk, eggs or ricotta.

What’s in Season?
The local apples and pears are delicious at the moment. Pink Ladies have a great crisp texture and sweet taste. They are a good lunch box filler and are also delicious stewed. Try some lemon bergamot pears, which are available at the local fruit shop. They are an heirloom variety and only available locally. They are eaten green.

SOMERS CAMP
Some items have been delivered to the school that were left at the Somers Camp. If your child is missing something, please call at the office to check if we have it in storage.
FETE – Saturday 10th September – RAFFLE TICKETS - $2.00 each

Thank you to everyone who has been selling raffle tickets.

If you are unable to sell any tickets, it would be appreciated if you returned the books to school.

All money and tickets need to be returned to school no later than Friday 9th September, 2011.

Raffle drawn Saturday 10th September, 2011 at our school Fete.

Results will be published in the Midland Express. WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

FETE – Cake Stall

Below is a recipe that would be suitable to bake for the upcoming Fete Cake Stall.

**Angies Lemon Cake**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lemon</td>
<td>Pinch Salt</td>
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<tr>
<td>200g Caster Sugar</td>
<td>1 Level Teaspoon Baking Powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250g S.R. Flour</td>
<td>250g Softened Unsalted Butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Large Eggs.</td>
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**Syrup:** 150 g Caster Sugar and Juice of 1 Lemon.

Line an 18cm round tin with paper. Zest and juice the lemon. Pulverise zest with the sugar in a food processor. Sift together S.R. flour, salt and baking powder, and add with butter and eggs to the food processor. Process until mixture is smooth. Place in tin and smooth over. Bake in a moderate oven for approximately 1½ hours. Turn hot cake onto serving dish and spoon over syrup. Leave to cool.

**Syrup** – stir sugar with lemon juice in a saucepan, over low heat, until sugar is dissolved.

Recipe taken from Stephanie Alexander Cookbook.

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**FETE – 10th September 2011**

1). **WANTED STALL HELPERS FOR FETE**

There are still gaps for the following stalls:

- Ice Cream, CSIRO Sport Activities, Lolly Hunt, Pizza and Lucky Jars.

We would love to hear from anyone who can help out with these Fete stalls. Please see Fiona ASAP.

2). **FETE STALL COORDINATOR MEETING**

If you are co-ordinating a Fete stall, we are holding our next meeting on Friday 26th August at 3:30pm in Fiona’s classroom.

3). **NEEDED TABLES**

If anyone can loan the school a trestle table and/or card table for the Fete, please see Fiona.

4). **TRASH & TREASURE STALL**

It’s time to do a spring clean and get rid of those things you don’t need. We would love to have your trash and treasure for the Fete stall. Pick up can be arranged. Please call Melanie Mitchell on 5473 4300 or 0459 097 758. No Clothing please.

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**MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS 2012**

Castlemaine Secondary College Music Department is offering 4 Music Scholarships to Yr 7 students entering the Music Stream in 2012. The Music Stream focuses on ensemble playing, music theory and music analysis. The four scholarships on offer are for the following instruments; oboe, bassoon, violin and viola. These instruments are offered to ensure the college has an even balance of orchestral instruments for the music program to run successfully. The scholarships include free music tuition and free instrument hire for 2012. It is highly desirable for the scholarships to be awarded to students who have been learning an instrument in primary school and are wishing to continue their musical studies on one of the offered instruments; however beginners are also welcome to apply.

For further information please call Kirsten Boerema – Instrumental Co-ordinator, at Castlemaine Secondary College on 5479 4222.

**FOR SALE**

Victorian Goldfields Railway has for sale old railway sleepers that are suitable for firewood - $50 for small trailer load – extra for larger trailers.

Please contact Russell on 0488 539 419.