Asbestos Signage  - as part of the Department of Education and Training’s Health and Safety Management Plan new labelling has been installed at our school. The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up to date information from the school’s asbestos register. Asbestos – which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. Asbestos containing materials at the school are regularly inspected to ensure they remain in good condition and not damaged. New labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this additional step as a precaution. Please contact myself or Hugh O’Brien at the school if you have any concerns.

Curriculum Information Evenings  - This week we have been running our Curriculum Information Evenings. We finish with Years 5 and 6 tonight. Thank you parents for your support in attending the sessions. We hope they have provided an opportunity to hear about the year ahead for your child.

Whole of School Photos  - a reminder that school photos will be taken next week on Thursday 3rd March. Order form packs will be sent home on Friday 26th February. Please remember envelopes, payment and ensure all students are in uniform on the day. Thank you.

Swimming Sports  - Congratulations to our students in Years 3 to 6 for their participation in the swimming sports this week! As well as some excellent swimming results the students displayed terrific participation, sportsmanship and encouragement. Thank you Mr Sweatman for organising the sports and staff, parents, grandparents and student leaders and others who assisted to ensure a smoothly run and fun event.

School Council Election  - Nominations for School Council member positions have now closed. As the number of nominations was less than the number of vacancies those nominated are deemed elected. No ballot is required. Remaining vacancies will be filled by co option at the first School Council meeting.

Deb Mathieson  - this week the school received some sad news that Deb Mathieson had passed away. Deb made a significant contribution to the school in her role as an Integration Aide finishing at Mt Martha Primary School in 2013. Our condolences on behalf of the Mount Martha Primary School Community have been passed on to her family.

Bike Safety  - riding a bike to and from school is a healthy travel option. However, on occasion, we do receive reports of students riding erratically on the road or footpath and not wearing their helmets. In addition to road safety messages the students receive from the school, if parents could remind and reinforce safe bike use with their child that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Kind regards
Martin Page
**First Aid News**

Whooping Cough has been reported within the school this week. Please find below information from the Department of Education and Training on Whooping Cough prevention.

*Please note ** If your child contracts Whooping Cough, they must be absent from school until 5 days of a 10 day course of antibiotics has been taken.*

**Whooping cough prevention**

The number of children aged 5-14 years old catching whooping cough has increased dramatically in Victoria over the last four years.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly infectious disease causing a severe, persistent cough. Whooping cough is spread by coughs and sneezes from an infected person.

While most children and adults eventually recover, often after weeks or months of illness and household disruption, there is a serious risk if infected people pass the disease to young babies.

Whooping cough can have severe consequences for young babies. Around one in every 200 babies under six months of age who catch whooping cough will die. Some babies will suffer permanent disability from brain and lung damage.

Family members, including siblings and parents, are the main source of whooping cough infection in babies.

Timely immunisation offers the best chance of preventing the spread of whooping cough. Whooping cough vaccine is provided free for children at two, four and six months, at their fourth birthday, adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school and parents of newborn babies. The two month vaccine can be given early at six weeks to start protection earlier.

Parents are urged to ensure their children are vaccinated on time and to consider their own whooping cough vaccination needs. Vaccination is recommended for all adults caring for or working with young children, including school teachers, as well as all health care workers.

Parents should talk to their doctor or nurse if they have questions about the whooping cough vaccine.

For more information search ‘whooping cough’ on [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

Please feel free to call me on 59742800 or call into First Aid between 10.45 am and 2.15 pm daily should you have any concerns.

Regards, Lorraine Stuart, First Aid Officer.

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS - THURSDAY 3 March 2016**

**CLASS & INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS**

Class and individual photographs of all students will be taken at school on Thursday 3 March.

**ENVELOPES WITH CORRECT MONEY ARE TO BE RETURNED ON PHOTO DAY ONLY**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN BEFORE THAT DAY**

All children will receive an order form pack tomorrow Friday 26 February.

Packs range in price from $25-$45. There are 8 options you can choose from depending on how many photos you require.

**Sorry - No change available at the school office **

Each student will be given their own order form pack specific to their class.

Each student must hand his / her own envelope to the photographer on the photo day.

If the envelope is not presented the photo pack will not be included in the main delivery to the school.

**FAMILY PHOTOS**

Parents who want their children to have a Family Photo, need to collect a Family Photo envelope from the office from Monday 29th February. The photographer will collect Family Photo envelopes on photo day and the children will be called to pose for those photos during either the morning or lunch recess.

Correct uniform with attention to detail please.
Student Conveyance Allowance Application Private Car Travel

Students attending a Primary or Secondary School
An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended.

If approved the allowance payable is based on the one way distance to make the journey to and from school.

No allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a public transport service or contract school bus.

Before completing the form please read the information about the Conveyance Allowance Program at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/conveyance.aspx

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AND NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY TUESDAY 1ST MARCH, 2016

Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition!

To be eligible you must:

- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school or starting next year
- have some form of household income, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

For more information, please contact Kelly Clem your local Saver Plus worker on 8781 5937 or k Clem@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
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