Dear Students & Families,

It has already been a busy start to the school year. Students and teachers are settling into classroom routines and there is an abundance of enthusiasm around the school as students' enter their class each morning and check out the daily timetable to see what their day holds. Teachers are spending time establishing set routines and clear expectations with their students. These expectations are developed with students and based on our school values:

* **Safety**—keeping yourself and others safe
* **Persistence**—doing your best
* **Respect**—Thinking of others
* **Responsibility**—for your actions and possessions
* **Positive**—Having fun and celebrating.

These expectations are established, not just for the classroom, but also for the playground, in our local and wider community and during bus travel. This ensures students’ are aware of expected behaviour and are able to learn the social expectations involved with being a member of our community.

Each year nominations for School Councillors are sought. This year there are three parent positions to be filled. Please read the detailed information in today’s newsletter and contact us if you are interested. Nominations are now open and close Tuesday, 23rd February.

Alesha
The Preps and all Room 3 staff have had a fantastic first week of 2016!

There are five new students: Alex N, Alex T, Charlie, Emily and Summer. There are also five staff members in Room 3: Jess, Emma, Stacey, Chris B and Tina. We are enjoying getting to know each other and having lots of laughs. We have had fun in the Therapy Room, doing water play, going out into the courtyard, reading lots of stories and singing lots of songs. We are all looking forward to learning lots in the wonderful year ahead.
We have a limited number of $5 Entry Vouchers to Circus Royale Opening Night, Warragul - this Friday 12th February at 7:30pm. Contact the office for details.

SCHOOL - Move open dominant hand diagonally at side of face, twice.

**STUDENT AWARDS**

- **Oscar**
  - Room 1
- **Stephanie**
  - Room 1
- **Ayden**
  - Room 7
- **Harley**
  - Room 14

**Raffle Winner**

Grace, Room 2
for GREAT participation in Blue Earth
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2016

All Government schools in Victoria have a School council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

There are three categories of membership:

- A mandated Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be a parent member at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school. However, these parents must be counted as DET members in the Council quorum.

- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

The term of office is 2 years.

Parent membership on school council can be a very fulfilling personal experience and satisfying and parents may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

There are three members whose two year terms expire this year and any parent of a student attending Warragul & District Specialist School is welcome to nominate for council.

Parent nominations can be made in two ways either by Self Nomination or Nomination by another Parent at Warragul & District Specialist School. Both forms are available at the office or contact the school and a form can be sent home.

**If you have any further queries, please ring Matt at School.**

The time line for 2016 is as follows:-

Notice of election and call for nominations - Tuesday 9th February, 2016
Closing date for nominations - Tuesday 23rd February, 2016

If a ballot is necessary:

Ballot papers prepared and distributed - Monday 29th February, 2016
Close of Ballot - Monday 7th March, 2016
Vote count - Wednesday 9th March, 2016