Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
We will be helping to Clean Up Australia on Schools’ Clean Up day next Friday, March 1st. We will be cleaning up in Harvey Park and along the foreshore, and Bellarine Bayside will be providing a sausage sizzle for our students for lunch. More details will be in next week’s newsletter.

SCHOOL CROSSING SAFETY
A reminder for parents from The City of Greater Geelong:
For the safety of children, parents are reminded to take care and obey parking signs when picking up or dropping off children around schools. Council’s Parking Officers regularly patrol school areas during start and finish times and motorists detected breaching parking regulations risk being issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice. Remember, as soon as you stop to let your children in or out of the car, you are deemed to be parked. You do not have to leave the car or turn the engine off to be fined. At children’s crossings you must remain stationary at the stop line while any person, including an adult or the crossing supervisor, is on the crossing. Do not let your children get out of the car while you are waiting, make sure you are safely and legally parked.

IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY
When students come to school regularly and get to class on time, they are able to do better and are happier at school. If children miss the basic skills at primary school they can experience difficulties with future learning and they can have trouble keeping up in class as they miss the introduction to new work. Over the past 2 years there has been a steady rise in the number of student absences in every grade and this is causing problems for students’ learning. Parents have an important role in influencing the behaviour of students and need to encourage regular school attendance. Staying home for minor reasons, birthdays, shopping trips or to help mind a brother or sister is not acceptable and is not helping your child. Please let me know if you are having problems getting your child to school as we can work together to solve this.

SCHOOL WEB SITE
The school web site www.stleonardsps.vic.edu.au is updated regularly with photos of school and class activities and samples of children’s work. The newsletter is also available each week on the web site, so please take the time to check it out.

SOCCER CLINIC
The Football Federation Victoria will be running a soccer clinic for our students in grades 1 – 4 next Monday at school. There is no charge for this clinic.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS
We hope that all parents can complete payment for books and other class materials that the children have received as soon as possible, as we want these finalised. Invoices have been sent home to each family. These payments are in line with Department of Education guidelines.

PLAYGROUP
Play Group has started on Wednesdays from 9.30 – 11.00 am in the room at the back of the playground.
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Prep – Rylie King-Thompson  Always smiling and trying his best
Grade 1 – Jake Shillito  Fantastic writing about our school garden
Grade 2 - Kalysha McIntosh  Great work with numbers before and after
Grade 3 – Lex Van Dorssen  Great improvement in understanding place value
Grade 4 – Amber Pratt  Using MAB to represent number to 100’s
Grade 5 – Zac Van Dorssen  Persistence with place value in maths
Grade 6 - Harry Vella  A great start to grade 6, being helpful, hardworking Happy Harry

FUNDRAISING
EASTER CHOCOLATE DRIVE
Attached to today’s newsletter is a form for our Easter Chocolate drive. If you would like to order and can collect some orders from family and friends, please have the forms back at school by Friday, March 8th, so that we can have the orders ready before Easter.

ICY POLES
Icy poles are sold at lunch times for 40 cents each and funds raised will go towards our end of year disco.

FRUIT
Fruit will be sold at playtime and lunch time for 40 cents a piece. On Fridays, all children will receive a free piece of fruit at morning playtime.

MINI LOTTO
Next week’s jackpot is $6304. Last week’s numbers were 5, 9, 13, 15, 16. $2.00 entry, cross off 5 numbers, envelopes available from the office. Drawn at the Bowling Club each Friday at 7.30 pm

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST. LEONARDS BASKETBALL
Under 12 Division 4: Wednesday, February 27th 4.50 pm at Bellarine Sports Centre, Drysdale. There will be training for the Under 12 boys’ team on Tuesday.

BELLARINE SHARKS SOCCER: COME PLAY LOCAL SOCCER
The Bellarine Sharks junior soccer teams commenced junior training last Sunday with beach soccer on the Collendina Beach. This Sunday the training and mini game will be at the end of Cole St in St Leonards on the new Sea Change Estate Park. Training will start at 10am and last one hour. This season the Sharks will enter the following junior teams, under 7,9,11,13,15 and 17. Register your interest on the day or phone Murray for further details on 52572106.

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL
For students, Prep - 6, beginners to advanced.
Megan Birch Music offers tuition in the following instruments: piano, keyboard, guitar & singing.
If you would like the opportunity to give music to your child please contact: Meagan mbmt@bigpond.com or Fax 5264 5109

PORTARLINGTON DEMONS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB
Junior Footy Sign Up
Membership fee $100, includes insurance.
For further details contact: Dave McNamara Junior Coordinator 0428 591059 or Steve Ryan 0408 002769.

HOCKEY
What: Hockey on the Bellarine
Who: Primary school age children
When: Fridays 4:30pm-5:30pm
Where: St Ignatius College, Drysdale (enter via Gillies Rd)
How much: $3 per week (to cover ground hire) or $12 up front for all 6 weeks.
Start: 15th February for 6 weeks
Wear: Runners/sneakers and clothes to run around in, shin guards if you have them, mouth guard, hockey stick if you have one or just turn up and we'll lend you one
More Information: Call Gillie on 0439 309 081

DAY CARE, BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE IN ST LEONARDS
Accredited scheme, Government rebate available.
Full time, part time, casual & vacation care as well as before and after school care. Contact Julie 0409 876 983.