

Goornong Primary School Newsletter

26 Grant St, PO Box 199, GOORNONG, VIC, 3557
 Tel: 5432 2236 Email: goornong.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
 Website: www.goornongps.vic.edu.au



Friday 15th December, 2017
 Issue 25

"Learning for the future in a caring rural setting."

Please note that the school newsletter is uploaded to the school's website. Copies of past newsletters are also available!

Dates to Remember

Next Week

Mon 18th Dec.	Swimming Program
Tues 19th Dec	Swimming Program
	Raffle tickets and money due back
Wed 20th Dec.	Swimming Program
Thurs 21st Dec.	Christmas Concert, 6.15pm at The Hall <i>Students need to arrive at 6.00pm please.</i>
Fri 22nd Dec.	Last day of Term Four, 2.15pm dismissal Special Visitor at 1.50pm!

Term One, 2018

Mon 29th Jan	Collect supplies and pay fees, 10am-2pm
Tues 30th Jan	First day of school for all students.

2018 Term Dates

Tues 30th Jan—Thurs 29th Mar	Term One
Mon 16th Apr—Fri 29th June	Term Two
Mon 16th July—Fri 21st Sept	Term Three
Mon 8th Oct—Fri 21st Dec	Term Four

Swimming Program

Due to the forecast hot weather on Monday and Tuesday next week the Swimming Program will be held at the following times on these days.

9.30am	Grade Prep-Two Lesson.
10.15am	Grade Three-Four Lesson.
11.00am	Grade Five-Six Lesson.

We would like to thank our instructors & the Goornong Pool for accommodating these changes.

	FRI Dec 15	SAT Dec 16	SUN Dec 17	MON Dec 18	TUE Dec 19	WED Dec 20	THU Dec 21
Summary	Sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Possible shower	Mostly sunny	Sunny
Maximum	32°C	32°C	34°C	40°C	39°C	29°C	29°C
Minimum	13°C	14°C	15°C	19°C	24°C	17°C	14°C

Goornong Primary School *Christmas Concert*

This year's Concert will be held on Thursday 21st December, beginning at 6.15pm at the Goornong Memorial Hall. *Students are required to arrive at 6.00pm.*

Please note that there will be a BBQ following the concert with sausages and drinks available for purchase. A big thank you to the Donnelly & Ede families; and Darin and Daron for volunteering to organise and cook the BBQ—much appreciated!

A reminder that the Concert is an alcohol-free event.

CONCERT COSTUMES FOR STUDENTS

Students will need to wear these items on the night of the Concert please:

- ◆ Shoes (no thongs! Black footwear is preferred).
- ◆ A plain or Christmas themed red, white or green shirt.
- ◆ Navy blue or black shorts or pants.
- ◆ A Christmas hat if you have one (not essential!)

We invite all families and members of the Goornong community to attend.

Weekly Awards

This weeks awards are the last for 2017. There will be no Awards Assembly next Friday 22nd December.

<u>Award</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
P-2 Values	Saanvi P	Charlie A
P-2 Literacy	Beau C	Saanvi P
P-2 Maths	Harry M	Kahlia R
3-6 Values	Amelia M	Taneeka B
3-6 Literacy	Bree T	Jasmin F
3-6 Maths	Sienna N	Rhylee C & Tess D
Principal's	None.	Charlie A

Principal's Report

This is the final newsletter for 2017. What a fabulous year it has been at Goornong PS. There are a number of people who make up 'Team Goornong' and contribute to making our school a vibrant and positive environment for teaching and learning.

Firstly, I congratulate all students on their successes throughout the year and thank them for making our school an energetic and interesting place to learn and work.

I thank our entire staff team for their care, enthusiasm and commitment towards the education of the students. We are very lucky to have such a strong team of classroom teachers, specialist teachers and support staff who each and every day come to work with a positive attitude and always with our core purpose in mind— the academic, social and emotional development of the students. Thank you all and enjoy and well-earned break!

Thank you to Mr D for his continued involvement and support of our school—you are always willing to help out when needed and this is really appreciated by the students and staff.

Thank you to our cleaner and groundskeeper, Les, who ensures that our buildings and grounds are kept clean and tidy for each and every school day.

Thank you to our bus driver, Mr Carty, who each day takes on the enormous responsibility of ensuring that the students arrive safely at school and home—thanks for your work Mr Carty!

Thank you to all parents who have helped out at the school throughout the year with things such as morning reading, head lice inspections, excursions and fundraising activities. Your support has been greatly appreciated by the staff and students.

To all School Councilors, I thank you for your leadership, vision and support of our school; and for always making decisions based on the best interests of the students.

To the members of our *Friends of the School* group, I thank you for your passion, commitment and willingness to 'have a go'. Your continued support of our school ensures that we are able to provide our students with the high quality facilities they deserve.

Good luck to our departing Year Six students – Ruby, Jai, Molly and Jimmy. On behalf of the entire school community I wish you all the best at secondary school!

Farewell to the A'Vard family who have their youngest child graduating. We thank you for your significant support of our school and wish you all the best for the future!

Finally, I wish all students, parents, staff and members of our school community a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. See you in 2018!

FAREWELL MISS SOMMERVILLE

I am saddened to announce that our wonderful Music teacher, Miss Somerville, will not be returning to Goornong PS in 2018. Miss Somerville has been our Music teacher for the past five years and has also coordinated the students' Christmas Concert performances over that time.

I thank Miss Somerville for her significant contribution to our school and wish her all the best for her future endeavors in education.

We are currently working on options for Music in 2018 and will be in a position to announce our new Music teachers at the beginning of the year.

FAREWELL YULING

I am also saddened to announce that our expert Chinese LOTE teacher, Yuling, will be finishing up at Goornong PS this coming Tuesday. Yuling has developed a wonderful rapport with the students and I know they all enjoyed her lessons.

I wish Yuling all the best as she takes up increased hours teaching at Bendigo Senior Secondary College.

I will announce our new Chinese teacher's name once an appointment has been made.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

At the final school council meeting for 2017 on Monday evening the Parent Payment Policy was reviewed and approved. A copy accompanies today's newsletter. I am pleased to announce that there will be no increase in school fees for 2018. This means that school fees at Goornong PS have not increased over the past six years! As such, fees will remain at \$200, which includes all excursions throughout the year.

In setting fees, our school gives consideration to ensuring that fees are as affordable as possible for our families, whilst ensuring that our school continues to be able to provide quality educational programs, experiences and resources for our students.

We wish to remind families that our school asks for a contribution towards excursion costs as part of our school fees, rather than requesting payment each time we go on an excursion (eg: the Gym Program, Prep-Two excursion etc. are all covered within our school's fees).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

(Continued over page).

Principal's Report Continued

ORIENTATION DAY

Tuesday's Orientation Day was very successful with all students 'stepping up' to their 2018 Grade level. It was a pleasure to see students from both the Prep-Two and Three-Six Learning Spaces engaging with new peers and, in some cases, getting used to a new school. We welcome Indy (Grade 3), Madison (Grade 3), Amelia (Grade 4) and Molly (Grade 6) who completed their first day of school at Goornong PS on Orientation Day and will be beginning in 2018.

Orientation Day was the last of the six Little Learner's sessions for our 2018 Preps. These sessions have helped the students get used to the structures and routines of the classroom in readiness for beginning Prep next year. Thanks to Mrs Wickham for her efforts coordinating the Prep Transition Program.

ATTENDANCE

I wish to congratulate all parents and students for their efforts throughout 2017 to ensure that the students are attending school as regularly as possible. This year our school has achieved an average of 11.3 absent days per student, which is a fabulous results considering there are approximately 197 days in the school year. Well done to the Grade Fives who achieved the best average number of absence days per student of 7.5.

Congratulations to the following students who received a certificate for attending every day of Term Four—Charlie A, Ash B, Savannah M, Wade N, Alliera N, Bailey A, Sienna N, Mitchell W, Jazmin F & Matthew L. A special mention also to Jazmin F who has not missed a day of school for the entire year!

STUDENT REPORTS AND LEARNING JOURNALS

Student Reports and Learning Journals have been sent home with the students today.

TERM FOUR KIWANIS CLUB AWARD

Our school is pleased to continue its partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Bendigo. Kiwanis is a world wide service organisation of men and women who want to improve their communities, including providing assistance to young people. Each term one student receives an award in recognition of their efforts and citizenship within our school community.

Congratulations to Jaxson R (Grade One) who is the Term Four recipient of the Kiwanis Club Award.

2018 SCHOOL YEAR

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday 30th January. As was outlined earlier this Term, supplies can be collected and the Educational Supplies (\$85) portion of the fees paid between 10am—2pm on Monday 29th January at the school.

2018 CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

Planning for the 2018 school year with regards to classrooms and teachers is now finalised. At this stage, we are anticipating our enrolment numbers to increase for 2018. As such, there are some changes which I wish to make parents aware of.

Miss Mac will be continuing at our school in 2018, working with Mrs Patton in the Grade Three-Six class as a teacher.

From 2018, the Grade Prep-Two classroom will be relocating to the spare learning space at the eastern end of the new building. This will enable the Grade Three-Six class to be based in the two adjoining learning spaces on the southern side of the building, which will better support the team-teaching approach with Mrs Patton and Miss Mac teaching the class. We plan to begin moving the Grade Prep-two classroom during the last week of school.

Mrs Wickham will continue to be the Grade Prep-Two teacher and Art teacher.

The Grade Three-Six class will continue to be separated into groups for much of the week, including in Literacy & Maths and the specialist subjects, including MARC Library, Garden Science, Art, Music and Chinese.

We welcome Mrs Shannon Tyler to Goornong PS who will be working in the Grade Prep-Two learning space on a part-time basis as an integration aide.

Team Goornong PS 2018

- ◆ Jason Cox—Principal and Teacher.
- ◆ Elaine Wickham—Grade Prep-Two Teacher & Art Teacher.
- ◆ Sheridan Patton—Grade Three-Six Teacher.
- ◆ Jane McAdam—Grade Three-Six Teacher.
- ◆ Shannon Tyler—Integration Aide.
- ◆ Tymika Weppner—Business Manager.
- ◆ Felicity Johnson—Garden Science Program.
- ◆ Sue Gentry—MARC Library Teacher.
- ◆ Les Varker—Cleaner & Groundskeeper.
- ◆ Jason Carty—Bus Driver.

Quote of the Week

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"

- Dr Seuss.

**Jason Cox
Principal**

Grade Six Graduation

Thank you to all those parents and family members who attended Tuesday evening's Grade Six Graduation. It was very exciting to have so many people attend, making the night very special for our graduating Grade Six students.

Well done also to the students who were able to deliver their entertaining Graduation speeches so successfully in front of the large audience.

A big thank you to our staff team for their efforts preparing for the night; and to Wes and Monique at the Drovers' Arms Hotel for hosting this special event.



Welcome to our 2018 Preps

Welcome to our 2018 Preps, Lucy, Jackson and Marli, who completed their final Little Learner's session on Orientation Day.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

A reminder of our school's new policy regarding Working with Children Checks.

At the School Council meeting on Monday 16th October councillors reviewed our school's Working with Children Check Policy and Procedures. This review came about as a result of recent changes to the *Working with Children Act (2005)*. At Goornong PS we are very fortunate to have parents help out in a range of classroom activities and special events throughout the year. Whilst this is one of the special aspects of our school, it does require that our school's Working with Children Check Policy and Procedures are robust and cater for a range of possible circumstances.

As a result of this review, from 2018 Goornong Primary School asks that all parents have a valid WWCC card. This is to maximise the safety for all students, eliminate any confusion regarding activities that a non-cardholder can and cannot engage in; and to ensure that our school meets the legislation with regards to the *Working with Children Act (2005)*.

The process to apply for a Working with Children Check card is not arduous and the school is able to support parents if necessary. We strongly encourage parents who do not currently have a WWCC card to now begin the process of applying for one in readiness for the start of the 2018 school year. Parents who already hold a valid WWCC card do not need to apply for a new card.

Currently, 22 parents have provided the school with a copy of their WWCC card.

Please feel free to contact the school if you require support or have any questions regarding Working with Children Checks.

We thank our school community for their support!



CFA FIRE POSTERS

Thank you to the Goornong CFA for their continued support of the Fire Posters and well done to all students for their efforts creating a poster that shared a fire-safety message. At a special assembly last Friday Felicity Johnson & Jason Carty from the Goornong CFA attended our assembly to present award winners.

- Grade P-2—Daniel J

Highly commended—Charlie A, Luke P, Jesse C & Lillie M.

- Grade 3-4—Thomas E

Highly commended—Tess D, Bailey A & Charlie C.

- Grade 5-6—Ruby A

Highly commended—Rhylee C.

Some of our new families have been looking for second hand uniforms. We are mainly seeking some t-shirts if anyone has any they no longer need. Please drop them into the school by Wednesday 20th December.

FOTS News

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to those who have sold and returned raffle tickets—your support is much anticipated! A reminder that raffle tickets and money are due back at the school by Tuesday 19th December.

**GOORNONG PRIMARY SCHOOL
2017 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

TICKETS \$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5
DRAWN AT THE CONCERT ON **21ST DECEMBER**

CHECK OUT OUR PRIZES



<p>1ST PRIZE Dewalt Impact Drill Set Valued at \$399.</p>	<p>2ND PRIZE Makita Tool Bag Tool pack \$20 Coles Myer gift card</p>	<p>3RD PRIZE METAL SCREEN \$50 WOOLWORTH GIFT CARD</p>
<p>4TH PRIZE \$100 Bendigo Animal Hospital Voucher</p>	<p>5TH PRIZE \$100 BUNNINGS VOUCHERS</p>	<p>6TH PRIZE BRIDGEWARD GROVE HAMPER \$40 GALICIA SPANISH RESTAURANT MEAL VOUCHER</p>
<p>7TH PRIZE Smiggles Glow in the Dark Headphones & 2 Star Cinemas vouchers</p>	<p>8TH PRIZE GRIT SCOOTER</p>	<p>9TH PRIZE 20Kg Bag Working Dog Food \$20 Coles Myer Gift Card</p>

PLEASE SELL BOTH SIDES OF TICKET BOOK & INCLUDE PHONE NUMBER SO WE CAN NOTIFY THE WINNERS. PLEASE RETURN TICKETS & MONEY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Thank you to everyone that donated to this raffle

Bunnings BBQ

A big thank you to those who have put their name on the roster for tomorrow's Bunnings BBQ; and to Melinda Smith for her efforts coordinating this fundraiser.

Garden Science Program

With great excitement the grade 3 to 6 students headed over to the School Plantation at the Goornong Recreation Reserve to survey the area for bugs. The students then compared this data (abundance and diversity) with data from the school gardens. The BugBlitz data has been put up on display opposite the office. Felicity Johnson



