**Dates to Remember**

*A reminder that Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays during February.*

**Next Week**
- Mon 13th Feb. Prep Health Questionnaires Due
- Wed 15th Feb. Student Leadership Group speeches, 9am
- Thurs 16th Feb. School Nurse Visit—Prep Health Checks
- Fri 17th Feb. MARC Library
  - School Council nominations close, 4pm

**Term One**
- Mon 20th Feb. School Council
- Wed 1st Mar. Preps first Wednesday at school
- Thurs 2nd Mar. MARC Library
- Fri 3rd Mar. Campaspe Cluster Swimming Carnival,
  (Grade Three-Six, Rochester)
- Mon 13th Mar. Labour Day Public Holiday
- Fri 17th Mar. MARC Library
- Mon 20th Mar. School Council AGM
- Mon 27th Mar. Gr. 6 Leadership Excursion to Melbourne
- Tues 28th Mar. School Photos
- Fri 31st Mar. MARC Library
  - Last day of Term One, 2.15pm dismissal

**2017 Term Dates**
- Tues 31st Jan.— Fri 31st March Term One
- Tues 18th April—Fri 30th June Term Two
- Mon 17th July—Fri 22nd Sept. Term Three
- Mon 9th Oct.—Fri 22nd Dec. Term Four

**Weekly Awards**

P-2: Values Award– Charlie
Literacy– Beau & Daniel
Maths– Flynn

3-6: Values Award– Mitchell
Literacy– Jimmy
Maths– Bailey

Awards are presented each Friday at assembly at 3.00pm.

**Food Allergies**

We wish to inform parents that this year we have a number of students enrolled at our school with nut allergies. Whilst there is no specific ban on particular food items we encourage all parents to be thoughtful about the sandwich fillings and snack products packed in lunchboxes.

Peanuts and peanut additives have the potential to cause severe and life-threatening anaphylactic reactions in allergic students. Even mild allergic reactions can cause swelling of the face, vomiting and hives.

Parents should be aware that allergic reactions can be brought on through skin contact (such as leaning in peanut butter that is on the table), not just through ingestion.

We ask parents to be mindful of this when packing their child’s lunchbox.

We also wish to make parents aware that the sharing of food is not permitted at school and that students should only eat food items provided from their home—please do not send along food to be shared with other students!

We thank parents for their support with this.
POSITIVE START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

I wish to congratulate all students for their efforts and positive attitude over the first two weeks of the school year. It can be challenging getting back into the routine of school after the summer holidays, but the teachers and I have been very impressed with all students’ enthusiasm and readiness to learn. Thanks also to our parents for their efforts supporting their children to get back into the school routine.

SCHOOL PICK-UP

A big thank you to those parents, particularly of Prep students, who have met their child at the front entrance and walked with them if needing to cross the road at the end of the school day. Grant Street is very busy at the end of school and your vigilance ensures that everyone gets home safely after school.

PREP HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

The Prep Health Questionnaire was given to all Prep parents this week. This is a questionnaire that is conducted annually with parents of Prep students prior to the Education Department’s school nurse conducting health checks. Further information about the health checks is attached with the questionnaire. We ask that the questionnaires please be returned to the school by Monday 13th February. The School Nurse will be visiting our school to conduct the health checks with the Prep students on Thursday 16th February—please make every attempt to ensure your child is at school on this day. If you are the parent of a student in Prep and did not receive your health questionnaire or have any questions please see Mrs Wickham at the school.

GRADE FIVE-SIX SOMERS CAMP 2017

Attached to today’s newsletter is information regarding the Somers Camp opportunity for Grade Five-Sixes.

FORMER STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

We wish to congratulate one of our former students, John Varker, who last weekend was selected to goal umpire the AFL Women’s match between the Bulldogs and Fremantle in Melbourne. John is currently part of the AFL Umpires Development Squad and is completing Year 12 at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. John completed all of his primary schooling at Goornong PS. Well done and all the best John!

We would love to share more success stories from former students. Please contact me if you have something to share.
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

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

All school staff such as teachers, relief teachers and support staff are required to have a Working with Children Check as part of their employment and our school maintains a register to ensure that staff WWCCs are up to date.

There are also instances where volunteers such as parent and community helpers are required to have a WWCC. These include situations where volunteers have direct contact with students from our school and where there may not be a teacher present. As such, we require parents/volunteers attending camps or excursions to have a WWCC. Please note that parents helping with morning reading are not required to have a WWCC.

Key considerations for School Council in establishing our WWCC policy are to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students who attend our school; and to ensure that our school’s procedures continue to meet the current legislation.

The process to obtain a Working with Children Check is quite simple and there is no cost to applicants. It involves completing an online form and then attending an Australia Post outlet to lodge the form.

We encourage parents who may wish to help out with excursions (such as the Prep-Two excursion later in the year) to contact Tymika who will be happy to help with the application process. Tymika is able to sit with parents at a school computer and complete the process.

A copy of our WWCC policy is available on the school website or from the office on request.

Please feel free to come and see Jason if you have any further questions.
**Bring News Day**

At present Prep 1/2 students will again have their news day on Tuesday. Students are encouraged to bring along an item to share or have something to speak about. This is a component of our Oral Language program. It encourages and promotes speaking before an audience in an audible voice as well as developing and strengthening questioning and listening skills.

**ART**

Just a friendly reminder that all students need an Art smock to use during Art, this can simply be an old oversized shirt or a more protective smock which is available for purchase at school. Thank you to the families that have already done this.

**COOKING CLASS**

With much excitement the students gathered in the school kitchen to commence cooking class. Term 1 is devoted to cooking and healthy eating while in Term 2 to 4 the students will be out and about in the food garden! In the first lesson, we talked about health and safety including hand washing and safe use of equipment. We then talked about healthy eating and the various food groups that we eat. Students were reminded that healthy eating and being active, results in a healthy body. At the end of the day the students visited the school orchard to munch on delicious blood plums. The Preps also helped to collect eggs from our school chooks. Occasionally we will be cooking dishes that can be eaten as a lunch meal (Grade 3 to 6) and I will let parents know in the newsletter when this will occur. The Prep to 2 class is at the end of the day and they will get to take their food creations home.

Felicity Johnson

---

**Community News**

**Is your child in Grade Three or above and wants to play footy??**

Runnymede Junior Football Club

**Under 12 and Under 14 Registration Night**

When – Friday 24th February 2017
Where – Colbinabbin Swimming Pool
Time – 5.00pm – 7.00pm

BBQ tea will be provided – All boys and girls welcome to come along.

The Runnymede Junior Football Club is made up of kids from the Colbinabbin, Elmore, Goornong and surrounding areas. This year we will enter teams in the under 12 & the under 14 competition to play in the Goulburn Campaspe Junior Football League. Training will take place in both Elmore and Colbinabbin and majority of the games are played on Friday night. All are welcome.

Any queries please contact;
Dea Brown 0418 333 177 or David Trewick 0425 710 481
Community News cont...

**IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING THIS FIRE SEASON**

Speak to CFA Thursday 16th February in GOORNONG

What: Free Fire Ready Safety Information Session
Where: Fire Station – 32 Bagshot Street, Goornong
When: 7:00PM to 8:00PM Thursday 16th February 2017
Find out: Must-have fire information for this season

For more information:
Contact CFA Office (1800 820 118)

Don’t understand English?
Require an AUSLAN interpreter?
Need assistance to access the venue?
Let us know and we’ll do our best to help.

Please note that CFA postpone all community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe.

If you belong to a community group or club, talk to us about arranging a customised session.

cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings

---

**Seeking Primary Grade Netball Players!**

We are looking for primary age netballers grades 4 to 6 to join our team at Elmore Football Netball Club.

- We encourage a strong sense of belonging and team work, children will make friends for life.
- We aim to help children develop their netball skills in a positive and fun learning environment.

First training on Wednesday 22nd of March at 4.30pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For registration or any questions please contact Primary Grade Coach, Sherryn McCormick on 0437322452

Keep Kids Healthy, Active and Happy!

---

**Family Fun Day in Goornong**

Saturday March 4, 4pm – 8pm
Goornong Recreation Reserve

This is a FREE event covered by the funds from the Goornong and District Community Group closure.

Lots of fun activities will be held. Pool will be open until 7pm. Roast and salads provided.

For catering purpose please RSVP by February 20 to goornongcommunity@outlook.com or phone or text Narelle on 0414 446 646.

For more information please contact Lyn Talbot at the City of Greater Bendigo on 5434 6028 or StrategyUnit@bendigo.vic.gov.au