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

Next Week
Mon 16th Feb  LOTE Chinese Program begins.
Mon 16th Feb.  School Captain Speeches, 9am
              School Council Meeting
Tues 17th Feb. Swimming Program Session One
Thurs 19th Feb. Swimming Program Session Two
Fri 20th Feb.  Swimming Program Session Three

Term One
Tues 24th Feb. Swimming Program Session Four
Thurs 26th Feb. Swimming Program Session Five
Fri 27th Feb.  Cluster Swimming Sports @ Rochester
              (Grades Three-Six)
              Prep Health Questionnaires Due
Mon 2nd March MARC Library
              Prep Health Checks with School Nurse
Wed 4th March Preps First Wednesday at school
Mon 9th March Labour Day Public Holiday
Fri 13th March MARC Library
Fri 13th March Young Leaders Excursion to Melbourne
              (Grade Six students)
Mon 16th March School Council AGM
17th—25th Mar. Somers Camp
              (selected Grade Five-Six students only)
Fri 27th March MARC Library
Fri 27th March Last day of Term One, 2.15pm dismissal

2015 Term Dates
29th Jan—27th Mar. Term One
13th Apr—26th June. Term Two
13th July—18th Sept. Term Three

Weekly Awards
P-2: Values Award— Bree
     Literacy— Ella B
     Maths— Tess
3-6: Values Award - Jai
     Literacy— Keira
     Maths— Declan

A reminder that awards are now presented on Tuesday afternoon at 3.00pm

Prep 1/2 News Day
This year to enhance our Oral Language program we are having a BRING NEWS DAY every Tuesday instead of allotted times during the week. Students may bring along an object to show such as a book, toy, photo or a recent experience they wish to share. Students will share their ‘items’ in small groups with the emphasis on improving speaking skills, listening skills and effective questioning.

Our first BRING NEWS DAY will be next Tuesday 17th Feb.

Any students wishing to share pets may do so on Friday afternoons at 3.00pm. Please contact your child’s teacher if you wish to bring a pet to school.

Elaine
STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP ELECTIONS
Each year our Grade Six students are able to
nominate for the position of School Captain. At
Goornong PS we have a boy School Captain and a girl
School Captain who are elected through a vote by
the other students. Those candidates not elected
School Captain become members of our Student
Leadership Group.
This year’s candidates will be presenting their
speeches at assembly at 9.00am this Monday 16th
February. Parents are welcome to attend!

LOTE PROGRAM
I am pleased to announce that our LOTE (Languages
Other Than English) Program will begin this Monday
16th February. Our Chinese teacher, Changhui Li, will
be visiting our school on a fortnightly basis for the
remainder of Term One. It is anticipated that LOTE
classes will be on a weekly basis from Term Two.
Changui Li teaches Chinese at many primary schools
in the Bendigo area and we welcome her to the
Goornong Primary School community.

GRADE THREE-SIX SWIMMING SPORTS
The Campaspe Cluster Grade Three-Six Swimming
Sports are on Friday 27th February at the Rochester
Swimming Pool. This day will see our students
compete in various events against students from the
other Cluster Schools. Swimming Sports day is always
great day and parents are encouraged to come
along and support. The first events are at 10am with
the day usually finished by
2.30pm
Please find attached to
today’s newsletter a
permission form for your
child to attend the Swimming Sports and a lunch or-
der order form.

PREP HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE
The Prep Health Questionnaire has been sent home with
today’s newsletter for families with a student in Prep. This
is a questionnaire that is conducted annually with par-
ents 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 Friday 27th February. The
School Nurse will be visiting our school to conduct the
health checks with the Prep students on Monday 2nd
March—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
please see Mrs Wickham at the school.

HOME READING
Well done to those families who have supported our
efforts to encourage reading at home. It has been
very pleasing to see many students reading aloud to
an adult on a regular basis at home.
The students in Grade Three-Six have been given
new pouches to keep their readers and Home
Reading Diaries in. These will help
to protect the books when
travelling to and from school in
the students’ school bags.
A reminder that we ask parents to
fill in and sign their child’s Home Reading Diary only
when the child has read aloud. We ask that students
do not fill in or sign their diaries as this has the
potential to encourage dishonest recordkeeping of
reading activities.

KITCHEN PROJECT
Last year our school embarked on a project to
upgrade the existing kitchen into an authentic class-
room. The project involved installing extra bench
and cupboard space, a cooktop and oven so that we
are able to offer cooking lessons to the students.
Much of this work was completed over the school
holidays and first few weeks of this term. Barring a
couple of minor tasks which need to be finished off
the project is now complete. Last Monday the Grade
Three-Six class had their first lesson in the new
kitchen - making choc-chip muffins (see photos in
today’s newsletter).
I wish to thank all involved in our school’s fundrais-
ing efforts throughout 2014—your efforts have
ensured that we now have a wonderful space to
provide our students with an authentic cooking
experience. Please feel free to come in a have a look
at our new kitchen next time you are at the school!
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our first School Council meeting for 2015 is on Monday 16th February, beginning at 7pm. The Finance Committee will meet at 6.30pm.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
School Council Elections take place in Term One every year. This year, we seek nominations for Parent Representative positions. If you would like to nominate yourself or another parent, please see Jason at the school for a nomination form. Nominations close at 4pm this Friday 13th February.

Nomination and Election Time Frame
Friday February 6th Call for nominations.
Friday February 13th Nominations close 4pm.
If an election is needed:
Friday February 20th Ballot papers sent out.
Friday February 27th Election closes 4pm.
Tuesday March 3rd Declaration of election results.

Monday 16th March School Council AGM & first meeting of new school council.

We encourage parents to consider nominating for School Council. It is a great way to make a contribution to the development and direction of our school. We meet in the evening on the third Monday of each month at the school. Current School Councillors include Tim McCrohan, Danielle Donnelly, Jamie Tuohey and Felicity Nicholls.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Jason or one of our current School Councillors.

FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL
Thank you to those families who have returned the ‘Beginning of Year’ forms that were sent home in week one. We ask that parents please familiarise themselves with the information and return the necessary forms to the school. Please see Tymika if you require new copies.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
A reminder that our Swimming Program begins this Tuesday 17th February. Details are attached to today’s newsletter.

HIGH FIVE
I wish to give a high five to all parents who have been able to come into the learning spaces prior to 9am and help with morning reading. It has been wonderful to see so many parents, particularly in the Prep-Two learning space, listening to the students read—your support is appreciated by the teachers and students!

Morning reading happens in the Prep-Two learning space from 8.30am and the Three-Six space from 8.50am. Parents are welcome to come into both learning spaces of a morning.

A high five also to Daron Donnelly for building a security cage to house the gas bottles which will supply gas to the new cooktop in the kitchen—thanks heaps Daron!

Thanks also to Tania McKinstry who has offered to put contact on the new books in the Three-Six learning space—your help is much appreciated Tania!

Quote of the Week
“Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!”
— Dr. Seuss
Jason Cox
Principal
Home Reading

Research shows that children who are regular readers achieve higher Literacy outcomes than those who are not. Regular readers are exposed to a greater range of vocabulary and develop the fluency and expression necessary to take meaning from what they are reading.

At Goornong Primary School, we encourage students to read to an adult at home for 10-15 minutes four-five times per week. We understand that this can be difficult for families as households can be busy places. If parents are not able to listen to their child read perhaps grandparents, aunties, older siblings or family friends may be available.

We also recognise that many students enjoy reading quietly to themselves at home which is fantastic! In this instance, we encourage the child to read one or two pages aloud to an adult and then continue with some quiet reading.

This year we are going to reward students who regularly read to an adult at home through the certificates in their Home Reading Diaries. We ask that parents please fill in and sign their child’s Home Reading Diary each time they listen to their child read aloud.

Some ideas for reading at home with your child.

- Establish a routine for home reading—perhaps for 10-15 minutes before bedtime each night.
- Share the reading with your child. It helps a child’s reading to hear a fluent adult read aloud. Perhaps take it in turns to read a page.
- Understanding what you’ve read is the goal of reading. Support your child to understand by:
  - Looking at the cover and asking what they think the book is about.
  - Discussing what is happening in the story.
  - Asking questions about the story such as “Why did the character act in that way?” or “What do you think will happen next?”
  - Give children time to sound out a difficult word before giving them assistance.
- Have fun!

It is very important that children are reading a text that provides a challenge but is not too difficult. At Goornong PS we encourage the students to use the Five Finger Rule when choosing a text. A text that is too difficult can impact on a child’s ability to develop their fluency. In the Prep-Two room the students have book boxes to ensure they are reading a text at the right level.

The students have enjoyed reading some of the new books that we have purchased.
Home Economics/Gardening

This week the Prep to 2 class reinforced their knowledge on healthy eating choices by creating plates showing a balanced diet. Their plates had to include vegetables and fruit on half the plate as well as whole grains, protein and dairy. The 3 to 6 class made full use of the new kitchen and baked chocolate chip muffins. Delicious!

Felicity Nicholls

CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS

Mix flour, sugar, cocoa and choc chips together.
In a separate bowl, mix vanilla, milk, melted butter and egg until smooth.
Pour wet mix into dry mix.
Spoon into muffin cases. Put onto baking trays.
Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Runnymede Junior Football Club
Under 12 and Under 14 Registration Night

When – Friday 13th February 2015
Where – Colbinabbin Swimming Pool
Time – 5.00pm – 7.00pm
BBQ tea will be provided – All boys and girls welcome to come along.
Any queries please contact;
Dea Brown 0418 333 177 or David Trewick 0425 710 481