Dates to Remember

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

Next Week
Thurs 12th Feb.  FOTS Meeting, 2.30pm
Fri 13th Feb.  MARC Library (First session for 2015)

Term One
Mon 16th Feb.  School Captain Speeches
              School Council Meeting
Tues 17th Feb.  Swimming Program Session One
Thurs 19th Feb.  Swimming Program Session Two
Fri 20th Feb.  Swimming Program Session Three
Tues 24th Feb.  Swimming Program Session Four
Thurs 26th Feb.  Swimming Program Session Five
Fri 27th Feb.  Cluster Swimming Sports @ Rochester
              (Grades Three-Six)

Mon 2nd March  MARC Library
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

Weekly Awards

P-2: Values Award—Natalie
     Literacy—Daniel & Savannah
     Maths—Mitchell

3-6: Values Award—Morgan
     Literacy—Bella
     Maths—Jimmy

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

MARC Library Borrowing

The MARC Library Van visits our school fortnightly and students have the opportunity to borrow a book. Our first session with the MARC Library is next Friday 13th February. We ask that parents please ensure that their child has a library bag in order to borrow from the Library. Calico bags with the Goornong PS logo are available from the office for $5 if you require a library bag.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
It has been wonderful to see all students proudly wearing the Goornong PS uniform over the first few days of the new school year. Thank you to all parents and students who have supported our uniform policy.
A copy of our Uniform Policy is available on our website or from the school office.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL—EVERY DAY COUNTS
Every Day Counts as there is strong link between consistent attendance at school and a child’s social & academic development.
We understand that there are times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill.
Attendance patterns are established early—a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school creates habits which can be very difficult to break.
At our school, we encourage parents to return an Absent Note (these are attached to today’s newsletter) or contact their child’s teacher when an absence occurs.
We also encourage parents to meet with their child’s teacher if they are having attendance issues so we can work together to get your child to school each day.

2015 SCHOOL CAMPS
School camps provide a wonderful opportunity for students to gain new experiences, as well as building resilience and teamwork. Our school combines with schools from the Campaspe Cluster for all camps. This gives our students the opportunity to meet and make friends with students from other schools. The following camps will be offered in 2015.
This Year our Grade Three-Four camp is to Billabong Ranch in Echuca. The camp runs from Wednesday 5th—Friday 7th August. The cost will be approximately $175.
The Grade Five-Six camp is to Canberra, running from Monday 23rd—Friday 27th November. The cost of this camp will be approximately $420.
We will send home an Expression of Interest Form and further details closer to the date of each camp.

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 next 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 Tuohy and Felicity Nicholls.
If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Jason or one of our current school councillors.

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 on Monday 16th February. Parents are welcome to attend!

FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL
On Tuesday of this week envelopes were sent home to each family containing information and forms relevant to the 2015 school year. We ask that parents please familiarise themselves with the information and return the necessary forms to the school.
Thank you for your support with this!
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. Grant Street is very busy at the end of school and your vigilance ensures that everyone gets home safely after school.

BIKES AT SCHOOL
It is wonderful to see so many students riding their bikes to and from school. For the safety of others, we do ask that students walk their bike when on school grounds.

BUSHFIRE AT RISK REGISTER—CODE RED DAYS
With some hot weather on the way, I remind parents that our school is included on the Bushfire At Risk Register, as set by the Education Department, for the 2014-2015 Summer. This means that our school is required to close on days declared as Code Red in the Northern Country Bureau of Meteorology district. Code Red days are generally announced by 1.00pm on the day preceding the Code Red day. Once a Code Red day is announced, our school will endeavour to notify all families that the school will be closed.

HIGH FIVE
A couple of high fives this week.
Firstly, to all students and parents for their support of our SunSmart policy and ensuring that everyone has a wide-brimmed hat to wear outside—great work!
Secondly, to Mrs Patton and Mrs Mulqueen who organised some skipping activities for the students on Wednesday afternoon—nice work! It was great to see the students so excited about learning new skills and practicing these into lunchtime.

Quote of the Week
"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go."
— Dr. Seuss, 'I Can Read With My Eyes Shut'

Jason Cox
Principal

FOTS Planning Meeting
The first FOTS (Friends Of The School) meeting of 2015 will be held on Thursday 12th February, 2.30pm at the school.
The meeting is open to everyone and we encourage you to come along to help us plan for 2015.
For those of you who are new to Goornong Primary School, Friends of the School is a small team of volunteers who work together to coordinate events throughout the year and help to raise money for the school.

Food Allergy
A reminder that we have a student enrolled at our school with a nut allergy. 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. 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.
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

We had a great start to the year learning about food groups and healthy eating. We did a few fun activities to discuss and share thoughts about types of food in food pyramids. We then talked about "sometimes" foods and "everyday" foods. The lesson ended in a visit to the orchard to munch on blood plums and a quick talk about advantages of organics and fresh food.

Felicity Nicholls

Yoga and Meditation

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At Elmore with Leanne Holmberg

Holistic Yoga classes during school terms.
$13 per 75 minute class. 10% discount for those who pay for full term upfront.

BYO mat or blanket & cushion/pillow for relaxation

Elmore: Mon 9.30 - 10.45 am Chevalier Centre at OLSH School - enter via Childers St.

Please note - venue impacts class size - bookings preferred

Contact: Leanne Holmberg
Mob: 0429 978310
email: gregulea@hotmail.com

Yoga Dates: 2-2.15 - 23.3.15 inclusive (not 9.3.15)
13.4.15 - 22.6.15 inclusive (not 8.6.15)
13.7.15 - 14.9.15 inclusive
5.10.15 - 7.12.15 inclusive (not 2.11.15)

Mini Roos

Soccer is the game everyone can play,
join Epsom FC to become a MiniRoo today!

Come to the Epsom FC Family Welcome Day at Epsom Huntly Reserve:

Tue 17 Feb 4:30-6:30pm OR
Wed 18 Feb 4:30-6:30pm

Find out more about soccer at Epsom FC
Chat to club coaches and officials
Kick a soccer ball around
Meet other players and parents

Season starts mid April for U6 through seniors

Registration preferred by 27 Feb, otherwise contact us

What is MiniRoos?

MiniRoos is a version of soccer that gives a fun introduction to the world game for boys and girls aged under 6 to under 13. It involves mixed teams, kid-friendly rules and Saturday morning matches played on local grounds.

Epsom FC
admin@epsomsfc.com.au
Cam: 0438 742 447
Online registration available
Student Banking at Goornong PS

Goornong Primary School offers student banking through the Elmore and District Bendigo Bank branch. Student banking is a great way to teach children about saving money. Parents are able to open an account for their child at the Elmore Branch. Once the child’s account is open families are able to follow the instructions below to make deposits into their child’s account.

1. When you wish to make a deposit, simply insert the money and your passbook, into a clearly labelled and sealed envelope.

2. Place the envelope into the School Banking box at the reception desk at school.

On the last Tuesday of each month the school will take the deposits from the box and deposit them into each student’s bank account.

3. Passbooks will be returned to students on the Friday following Tuesday collection.

The first collection of student banking deposits will be on Tuesday 24th February.