Dates to Remember

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

Next Week
- Tues 3rd Feb.: Music Classes begin

Term One
- Fri 13th Feb.: MARC Library (First session for 2015)
- Mon 9th Feb.: Chinese LOTE Program begins
- Mon 16th Feb.: 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

2015 Term Dates
- 29th Jan—27th Mar.: Term One
- 13th Apr—26th June.: Term Two
- 13th July—18th Sept.: Term Three
- 5th Oct—18th Dec.: Term Four

Change to Assembly

There are two assemblies each week at Goornong PS. The first is at 9.00am on Monday mornings where the students and teachers sing the National Anthem and are filled in on upcoming events for the week.

This year we have changed the day of the Awards Assembly to Tuesday afternoons. There will no longer be an assembly on Monday afternoons. This is to ensure that Gardening time for the Prep-Two class is maximised.

Parents are most welcome to attend both assemblies! Please note the first Tuesday afternoon assembly will be on 10th Feb!

Food Allergy

We wish to inform parents 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.
Welcome to the 2015 school year! I trust that all students, staff, parents and members of our school community enjoyed a safe and relaxing Christmas holidays.

Welcome to our new Prep students who began on Thursday. We wish Daniel, Hagan, Beau, Alliera, Kahlia, Savannah and Lillie all the best as they begin their journey through primary school.

Welcome also to Teagan (Grade Two) and Jazmin (Grade Three) who are beginning at our school this year.

Term One promises to be a very busy and exciting time at our school. Over the first few weeks of the year the teachers will spend time with their class establishing the routines and expectations for their Learning Space; as well as conducting assessments in Literacy and Numeracy to establish where each student is at and what their learning needs are.

In weeks four and five of the term we have our Swimming Program. This will involve the students walking across to the Goornong Pool to participate in swimming lessons with trained instructors from the Bendigo Aquatic Centre. More details to come soon!

Our Grade Six students will attend the National Young Leaders Day in Melbourne in week seven; as well as presenting their Leadership Speeches prior to the School Captain and Leadership Group elections. More information in next week’s newsletter!

I wish all students and staff all the best for a successful and rewarding 2015 school year!

**2015 SCHOOL STAFF**

- Mr Jason Cox—Principal & Grade Three-Six Teacher.
- Mrs Elaine Wickham—Grade Prep-Two Teacher.
- Miss Ali Lowe—Grade Three-Six Teacher.
- Mrs Sheridan Patton—Integration Aide.
- Mrs Georgia Mulqueen—Integration Aide.
- Mrs Tymika Weppner—Business Manager, Tues & Fri
- Miss Felicity Nicholls—Garden Science Coordinator.
- Miss Penelope Somerville—Music Teacher.
- Miss Keira Haddow—MARC Library Teacher.
- Mr Les Varker—Cleaner.

**SCHOOL FEES AND COLLECTION OF SUPPLIES**

A big thank you to those parents and students who came into the school on Tuesday to collect the school supplies and pay a portion of the fees—your support with this is greatly appreciated!

For those families who are yet to pay the initial portion of fees, we ask that you please make arrangements with Tymika, who works on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**MORNING READING**

Morning reading occurs in both the Prep-Two and Three-Six Learning Spaces on a daily basis. In the Prep-Two Class students are expected to read to an adult and then they have their choice of an activity, such as playing with the Lego. This occurs between 8.30am and 9.00am.

In the Three-Six class, students are expected to participate in quiet independent reading between 8.50am and 9.15am. During this time, the teachers listen to students read aloud. For those students who arrive prior to 8.50am, the expectation is that they are getting organised for the school day and then participating in a quiet activity in the classroom.

Parents are welcome to come into both the junior and senior Learning Spaces in the morning to listen to their own and other children read. This support is appreciated by the staff.

**TIMETABLE**

Our school’s timetable has been developed to maximise the teaching and learning time allocated to the core subjects of Literacy and Numeracy. On a typical day at school we aim to complete an uninterrupted two-hour Literacy Block of reading, writing, spelling and language between 9.00am-11.00am. After recess we aim to complete a one-hour uninterrupted Numeracy block between 11.30am-12.30pm. The remainder of the school day is allocated to subjects such as Art, Physical Education, ICT and Humanities. We also have specialist subjects such as Garden Science and Chinese on Mondays, Music on Tuesdays and MARC Library on Fridays.

We remind parents that students are not to arrive at school prior to 8.30am, as we are not able to meet our duty of care with regards to supervision prior to this time.
As outlined last year, our school will be running a Chinese Language Program in 2015 for all students. It is anticipated that this program will begin in a few weeks.

From time to time parents may have a question or concern regarding their child’s time at school. We find that effective communication between home and school and vice versa ensures that we are all on the same page with regards to any issues relating to your child. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to see their child’s teacher or the school principal if they have a question or concern. This way we can work together to clarify any issues and achieve the best outcome for your child.

We do ask that parents be aware that in the morning prior to school is a busy time with teachers getting organised for the day ahead and listening to students read. As such, this is not always the best time for an effective conversation to take place.

Mondays are lunch order day. A lunch order list is attached to today’s newsletter. To place a lunch order, write the student’s name, their order and the total cost on an envelope and place the money inside (correct change is appreciated). We collect all lunch orders at school Monday mornings and take them to the shop.

The school day can be very long for some students and as such, our school offers a short break during class time where the students may eat some fresh fruit. This break is usually at about 10am for seven minutes. In this time students are able to eat fresh fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes or carrots. We do ask that parents send only fresh fruit to be eaten in the fruit break. Other foods such as chips and processed fruits can be eaten at playtime. In the past we have found that some students have used the fruit break as an opportunity to delay returning to their schoolwork. As such, once the fruit break is finished we ask students to place any unfinished fruit in their lunchbox, which can then be finished at playtime.

Well done to those students who have been organised with their hat for the first two days of school! A reminder that hats need to be worn during Terms One and Four as part of our school’s SunSmart Policy. Please ensure that your child has a navy blue wide-brimmed hat to wear at school. Students who do not have a hat are asked to play in the shade on the veranda during playtime and lunchtime.

3.15pm can be very busy as the students head home after a day at school. To meet our duty of care to the students we allocate a staff member to be on duty at the ‘bus gate’ on Langdon Street and another staff member to be on duty at the main entrance on Grant Street.

To ensure that students are safe at this busy time, we ask that when picking their child up from school, that parents please meet their child on the school side of Grant Street at the main entrance and then walk with them if needing to cross the road. Grant Street is very busy with lots of cars taking off and this will help to ensure that everyone gets home safely after school.

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.

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who’ll decide where to go…”

— Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You’ll Go!

Jason Cox
Principal

Welcome to our new preps
White Hills Junior Football Club Registration Night

We welcome all current and new players for 2015 season. Registration night will be held at the White Hills Football Ground (Scott Street) on **Wednesday, 18th February, 4.30pm – 6.30pm**. We will be registering Teams In Under 9, 10, 12, 14 & 16 grades. Also if enough interest Youth girls (13-18 yrs) and the new Junior girls (8-12 yrs). For further information you can email the club whjfcclub@gmail.com, visit our website www.whitehillsfjc.vcfl.com.au or call Nigel Lewis on 0409022275. **As there will be limited vacancies in some age divisions, please ensure you register on this night.**

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**Bendigo Northern Flames Junior Netball Club Update.**

Dear Parents, please find the updated information in regards to payment dates and our meet the coaches day.

**Payments**

On registration day, February 8th, 2015, all players will be required to pay a minimum deposit of $80 which will allow us to order uniforms. Any remaining amounts after this date will need to be paid by the 23rd March. You are also welcome to make part payments on the day of any other fees. There will be eftpos facilities available and activities for the children.

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**Meet the Coaches**

We will be holding a ‘Meet the Coaches Day’ on Sunday 1st March 2015 at 4pm. The meeting will be held at our home courts — at the Epsom/Huntly Recreation Reserve. This will provide the opportunity to meet your child’s coach and others in the team, training dates will also be discussed at this time.

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**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: greglene@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)