Dear Parents, Teachers & Students,

WELFARE POSITION:
I am delighted to inform you that the school has received funding for a Primary Welfare Officer for the next two years.

The Primary Welfare Officer Initiative provides schools with an additional resource to improve the coordinated and collaborative whole school approach to promoting health and wellbeing within the school community. Broadly, the Primary Welfare Officer will undertake, amongst other tasks, the following roles -

- Promoting the development and implementation of wellbeing in the school
- Developing a whole school approach to student attendance
- Facilitating the delivery of intervention programs for students and families
- Coordinating access and timely service delivery to students and families
- Participating in student wellbeing professional networks
- Fostering relationships with community based service providers
- Implementing the Allanah & Madeline Foundation 'Better Buddies' program for the Prep and Grade six students.

Our PWO is Mrs Michele Pinti. Michele is dedicating two days a week specifically to this role. She is spending time across the whole school sitting, talking and building relationships with students, chatting with parents as well as discussing issues with staff that they have observed within the classroom and yard. It is an extremely worthwhile position, one that has the potential to really assist students, parents and staff. Please feel free to contact Michele, via the office, if you would like to arrange a time to meet with her.

PARENTS & FRIENDS:
The P & F had a very productive meeting this week. There are many activities planned across the year. There is something for everyone! There will be many of the regular events such as stalls for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Christmas as well as Bunnings BBQs (1st one is Saturday, 23rd March). There will also be a BBQ for the Federal election on Saturday, 14th September. In Term One all students will be given the chance to draw a self-portrait. These will be positioned on a whole school tea towel, which will be available for purchase around the time of Mother’s Day.

A healthy alternative to the Chocolate Drive (for this year) is a Lap-a-thon where all students will be encouraged to seek financial support from family and friends as...
they attempt to walk / jog / run as far as they can in a set time. Incentive prizes will be available to students who raise certain targets eg $100, $50, $20 and for those that cover the greatest distances. More information will be available soon. Start getting fit now! Parents will be invited to seek their own sponsorship and join in the fun!

One of the major improvements to the school that the P & F will be working to fund is the replacement of the Prep – Gr 2 shade sail over the play equipment. The current one is worn and damaged and is not repairable. It will cost $7,000 to replace. This is an unbudgeted item in the school’s budget for 2013. If all families can actively support the P & F events, the shade sail can be replaced.

**AEU STOP WORK ACTION:**
The AEU (Teacher’s Union) and DEECD (Education Department) are currently in negotiation over a log of claims. At this stage these matters are unresolved and a stop work meeting is planned for next Thursday, 14th February. A notice will be sent home on Tuesday night indicating the effect that this Stop Work meeting will have on Goonawarra PS.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL:**
The first School Council meeting of this year will be held on Monday, 18th February at 6.30pm in the Staff Room. School Council meetings are open to the school community. The ACM and elections will be conducted in March.

Alan Fairweather  
Principal  
fairweather.alan.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

**UNIFORM SHOP:**
The new regular time for the Uniform Shop to be open will be **TUESDAYS** (no longer Thursdays) between 8.45am – 9.30am.

**NEW WEBSITE!**
You are encouraged to log on to www.goonawarra.vic.edu.au and view our website.

**TERM DATES FOR 2013:**
Term 1: 29 Jan to 28 March  
Term 2: 15 April to 28 June  
Term 3: 15 July to 20 Sept  
Term 4: 7 Oct to 20 Dec

**OUT OF UNIFORM DAY:**
Our next out of uniform day will be held on **FRIDAY, 22nd February**. As part of our school’s commitment to Social Service our students have the opportunity to wear casual clothes. For this privilege a **gold coin** is required. Donations will be forwarded to the “Royal Children’s Hospital”. Please note that singlet and/or midriff tops, and sandals/open toed or backless shoes are not permitted. Thank you for your support of this Social Service event.

**STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013:**
Thank you to all families who have made a financial contribution towards student consumable items, mathletics and specialist supplies. It is very encouraging to note that **99.3% of school families have made this contribution.**

**THE WANTED COLUMN:**
At various times throughout the year there are tasks that need to be undertaken around the school. In an attempt to increase parental support within the school, I encourage anyone who has time, to consider volunteering to help us out.

Currently there are several tasks needing attention –
- Painting some external doors.
- Scraping paint off some windows.
- Removing the brackets off the windows (they just pull off!)
- Spreading topsoil around the edge of some of the paths.
- Levelling (grinding) some uneven concrete paths (trip hazards).
- Painting notice boards within some classrooms.
- Gardening and mowing are ongoing requests.

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE:**
This program is now operating in ROOM 7 – opposite the computer lab. The room can be accessed from its external door – see the ‘EXTEND’ signs on the door.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
Birthday celebrations for the week of (2nd February - 10th February). Congratulations to: Sarah Black, Mitchell DeHaan, Aden Buglar, Charmaine Hooter, Cody Bramble.
Welcome back!
Welcome back to another school year! The Extend team at Goonawarra Primary School are looking forward to another exciting and fun year at OSHC. Watch this space for regular updates.

Have you secured your bookings?
As you would be aware, all enrolments from last year have been rolled over to 2013, including any permanent bookings from Term 4. If you need to change these bookings you can via our website or by calling our office.
ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au
CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437

CHRISTMAS CARDS
Please don’t throw away used Christmas cards….simply tear off the back and deposit the front of the card into the red tub outside the art room passage door. Thank you – Sonja - Arts Teacher.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION:
The whole school production this year is “Outback”. I am on the lookout for a wooden bucket to assist in the scrubbing of the deck. Reward offered! Thank you, Sonja - Arts Teacher.

SHELLS
The Art room would very much appreciate a LOAN of some unusually shaped shells for the study of “lines in drawing”. Children will be handling them for lessons.

SUNFEST:
I am pleased to announce that our school choir will perform on 16th March at Sunfest. We will take part in “Battle of the Choirs” with two songs – potentially being eligible for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize Bunning voucher to be put to great use in our school. If you would like your child to enter Sunbury Idol or Sunbury’s Got Talent, contact Graham Hanley-Smith on 0147 337 976 OR go to info@sunfest.org.au for more information.

Welcome back to School Banking for 2013.
TUESDAY is our Banking Day.

RUPERTSWOOD NETBALL CLUB
We are welcoming netball players in all age groups, U11, U13, U15, U18 to play on Saturday mornings in the Gisborne Netball Association Competition at Gisborne Secondary College. Please contact Allison on 0425 842 546 for more information.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scce@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Sunbury Mobile Blood Service Visit
Memorial Hall, Barkley Street, Sunbury
Monday, 4th March 1:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday, 5th March 1:30pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday, 6th March 1:30pm – 7:30pm
Thursday, 7th March 2:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday, 8th March 9:30am – 3:30pm

Before giving blood:
- drink up - in the 24hrs before donation, especially in warm weather, and have at least 3 good sized glasses of water/juice in the 3 hours prior to your visit.
- eat up - make sure you eat something in the 3 hours before donating.
- bring ID - please bring at least form of photo identification

To secure your appointment - Call 13 14 95
Or email dpallen@redcrossblood.org.au