Dear Parents, Teachers & Students,

The Goonawarra Primary School Community Playgroup had its second get together on Tuesday of this week. We had a terrific turnout with 15 parents and 17 children attending. The ages of the children ranged from 4 months to 4 years and parents came from various areas in Sunbury to participate. The playgroup is open to all interested parents and is not limited to those living in the Goonawarra and Rolling Meadows areas. It was great to see so many parents involved in playing games and reading stories to their children. The playgroup will run each Tuesday from 10:00am - 12:00pm. We will offer a second day and time if there is a need for this. For further details contact Sharyn Snook on 0409 028 400 or email: sharyn@snook.com.au or Erika Vonja on 0418 385 945 or email: efpatch@dodo.com.au.

2014 – WHICH SCHOOL?
The school year has just begun for our students. At the same time there are many other children in the area who have just commenced 4 year old kinder. Even at this stage, with school another 12 months away for these little ones, people will instinctively have informal discussions at kinder, at parties, in the carpark, over coffee etc about what they have heard about a particular school and where they think they should send their child.

In Term 2 most schools, including Goonawarra, will be conducting open days and information nights for prospective families. These are usually conducted around mid May to coincide with Education Week. Private and Catholic schools will conduct their information sessions earlier in the year. There are many great schools in the Sunbury area, all delivering a sound curriculum and providing many opportunities for students. There are many similarities in the schools but at the same time, many differences.

For some families the choice of school is easy – the closest school to where they live, siblings already go to a school, family friends are at a school where they are happy etc. For other families it is ‘where do I start?’ If you have friends or neighbours in the later category, I would be more than happy to show them around, discuss their options with them and outline what Goonawarra has to offer. The more informed families are, the more confident they will be that they have made the correct choice for their child. Encourage them to contact the office anytime to arrange a suitable time to meet with me.

MORNING TEA:
The next parent Morning Tea after Assembly will be on Monday, 4th March. A special invitation will be sent to all Prep parents to attend.
REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

- PARKING & STAFF CAR PARK: Parking at the front of the school in Gullane Drive is becoming a concern to parents and staff alike. We have far too many people parking in the NO STANDING and BUS ZONES. These areas are designated as no parking areas in order to make sure that the children and parents who use our school crossing can do so safely. Please observe the signs and help us keep our children safe.
- The staff car park is NOT to be used to drop off or pick up children. Parents and children MUST not walk through the staff car park as this is a dangerous practice.

SWIMMING SPORTS CHANGE OF TIME:
The Sunbury District Interschool Swimming Sports will be held during normal school hours on Thursday, 28th of February.

ATHLETIC SPORTS:
Training is well underway for the upcoming Athletic Sports events.
- Friday, 1st March – Grades 3 – 6 will participate in our own House Sports at Boardman Oval.
- Wednesday, 20th March – Some students will then go on to represent us at the Sunbury District Athletic Sports also at Boardman Oval.

HORSE RAFFLE:
Late last year the school was given a very large stuffed (bean bag) horse / donkey. It has been tried in several locations, but unfortunately there is no where in the school where we can use it. Students now have the opportunity to offer the horse a new stable (your home!)
By purchasing a raffle ticket for $1.00 from the sheet which came home recently, you could be cuddling your own horse, in your own lounge room! The raffle will be drawn on Monday, 4th March at Assembly.

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

UNIFORM SHOP:
The Uniform Shop is now open every TUESDAY between 8.45am – 9.30am.

THE WANTED COLUMN:
A big thank you to the parents who during the last week cleaned all the outside drinking taps and troughs, mowed the majority of the weeds behind the new building, installed all new toilet paper dispensers in the student toilets, cleaned windows and cleaned and organised Room 12 – the new Play Group Room. Your help has been greatly appreciated.
With such a large site there are always 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.
- 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.

FILLING A SKIP:
Thank you to the team of parents who assisted with placing unwanted items into the skip this week. It is great to have a clean-up on a regular basis.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS:
Forms for nominations to be on School Council are now available from the office. All nominations will need to be returned to school before Monday, 25th February. The AGM will be conducted on Monday, 18th March.

The following parent council members’ tenure ends at the next meeting and they are eligible for re-nomination:
Debbie Wilkins, Doug McLeod, Gwenda Griggs and Shannon Moody resigned part way through the year.

School Council Election Timeline
Monday, 18th February - Call for Nominations
Monday, 25th February - Nominations close at 4pm.
If an election is required, details will be provided in the week commencing 25th February.

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 TOMORROW - 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.

At Goonawarra PS, the following parent council members have one year to go -
Gary Hoiles, John Jinnette and Nick DeHaan

Happy Birthday!
Birthday celebrations for the week of (17th – 23rd February). Congratulations to: Lachlan Peake, Mary Hrka, Mia Comodromos, Algyn Teuma, Alivia Tellaano, Danilla Vonja and Jade Light.
Our weekly recap
We hope you are all feeling refreshed and have settled in well to the school year.
In the mornings at Before School Care you will find me (Amber) in the room all week. I will also be here at After School Care from Monday to Wednesday and Cristin will be here on Thursday and Friday. We are still in the process of setting up our new room, but we hope you enjoy the new space! - Amber

Our Extend Superstar is…
Kobe F. for always putting his dishes away without being asked.

Next week’s activities:
Monday, 25th February: Painting and mixing colours
Tuesday, 26th February: Bubbles, bubbles everywhere!
Wednesday, 27th February: Science activities
Thursday, 28th February: Paper crafts
Friday, 1st March: “Finishing off Friday” & ball games in the gym

ONLINE BOOKINGS:
extend.com.au
CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437

CANTEEN ROSTER:
Friday, 22nd February: Pat Oliver, Alison Rae, Hanaa Arafa, Vanessa/Andrew Ouston.
Wednesday, 27th February: Pat Oliver, Melissa Williamson & Nicole Huybers.
Friday, 1st March: Pat Oliver, Donna Pasternak, Gwenda Griggs and Amanda McDougall.

If you unable to make it on your rostered day, you MUST ring one of the numbers on the roster to swap your day. Thank you.

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.

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.

THE ARTS:
The challenge set to 3B was: “in the song Botany Bay – what does – “where I used to cut such a swell” actually mean. Congratulations to Rachel and Tegan of 3B who are my first challenge prize winners this year. Sonja.

Parents & Friends NEWS:
BUNNINGS BBQ: The Goonawarra P & F will be holding the Bunnings BBQ on Saturday, 23rd March. If you are able to help for an hour or two between the hours of 8:00am - 4:00pm then please email shazmc3429@yahoo.com.au with your preferred available time to help. We would love to see you there to support our school.

NEW REWARDS IN 2013 – School Banking is on Tuesdays.
Sunbury School of Calisthenics is having a ‘Come & Try’ Month in February!
Come and see what all the fun is about....
Calisthenics is a combination of dance, gymnastics, ballet, singing and acting.
A great value sport that welcomes all abilities and caters for ages 3 ½ to Adults.
Classes start week of 4th February 2013. First 2 classes are free for all new students
Contact us on 9539 4349 or
www.sunburyschoolofcalisthenics.net.au
All new participants will go into the draw to win one of 5 Calisthenics Victoria prize packs!

MASSIVE GARAGE SALE
Saturday 23rd February.
43 Canterbury Ave
Sunbury

SUNBURY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Old Sunbury Courthouse
43 Macedon Street, Sunbury
Celebrates 20 years.
Community Open Day – Sunday, 24th February from 11:00am – 2:00pm.
Free sausage sizzle, free entertainment, face painting, animal farm, wine tasting, sample local produce, enjoy a coffee, dress up as a judge and learn about the 20 year history.
Fun for all the family! Get to know what we have to offer the community and what adventures you can get up to close to home! For more information contact the volunteers at the Sunbury Visitor Information Centre on 9744-2291.

2013 Auskick Registrations are NOW OPEN
Rupo Auskick invites all Boys and Girls interested in participating in Auskick to log onto the website www.aflauskick.com.au and follow the links to register. New players welcome! Please contact Wayne on 0413 400 332 for further details and information.