Dear Parents, Teachers & Students,

VALUES & BEYOND:
Last year we developed the core values which we viewed as being important qualities in the development of all students. These values are based around everyone at school striving to be Generous, Responsible, Enthusiastic, Ambitious and Trustworthy.

The Positive Start program, which all classes undertook in the first week of school this year, focussed on these values. As the year unfolds, I thought it would be a good idea to encapsulate what we are focussing on, our goal, our mission statement in a meaningful phrase. There are many ways to express the great things that are occurring at school on a daily basis. School can be fun, energetic, challenging, focussed, rewarding, helpful, useful, supportive, caring etc. In order to summarize all the excellent attributes of Goonawarra, the following statement has been developed -

‘Creating Learning Opportunities through Quality Education.’

I trust that your experience as a Goonawarra family can attest to this statement. Please feel free to contact me and discuss your experiences.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS:
Nominations for positions on School Council closed on Monday. It is my pleasure to announce that the following parents have been elected for a two year period to represent you on School Council – Gwenda Griggs, Doug McLeod, Dimitra Rech & Leanne Uwland.

I can also announce that Karen Reilly & Liz Hornby will represent the staff on School Council. Due to the number of candidates nominated, no election is required. The above mentioned members of our community will join Gary Hoiles, John Jinnette, Nick DeHaan, Marita Ryan (staff member) and myself on School Council. I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we work together to make Goonawarra even ‘GREATER’.

The next meeting of School Council is Monday, 18th March at 6:30pm in the staff room. This will be the Annual General Meeting. All members of the school community are welcome to attend.

PARENT & TEACHER DISCUSSIONS:
As outlined in a letter that went home yesterday, the discussions with teachers that usually occur in the first few weeks of the year have been cancelled for 2013. Most of the information which would have been shared at these
meetings was attached to the letter – curriculum outline and proposed excursion / incursion sheet and costs. I trust that parents find this information helpful. If there are issues or concerns that you would like to raise with a staff member, then please do not hesitate in contacting them.

2014 – WHICH SCHOOL?
If you have friends or neighbours interested in looking at the school, 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 right choice for their child. Encourage them to contact the office anytime to arrange a suitable time to meet with me.

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

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

SWIMMING SPORTS:
The Sunbury District Interschool Swimming Sports was held today. A detailed report will be included in next week’s newsletter.

ATHLETIC SPORTS:
Training is well underway for the upcoming Athletic Sports events. Thursday, 7th 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.

THE WANTED COLUMN:
Currently there are several tasks needing attention –
- Someone with a chainsaw to clean up some fallen branches in the carpark. (High priority)
- Spreading mulch around the edge of some of the paths.
- Painting some external doors.
- Scraping paint off some windows.
- Levelling (grinding) some uneven concrete paths (trip hazards).
- Painting notice boards within some classrooms.
- Gardening and mowing are ongoing requests.

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.

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

Birthday celebrations for the week of (24th February – 2nd March).
Congratulations to: Ally Barnden, Dylan Hall (Oakes), Nathan Wagner, Hamish Hindmarsh, Lachlan Crump, Kobe Tseuma.
**CANTEEN ROSTER:**

*Friday, 1st March:* Pat Oliver, Donna Pasternak, Gwenda Griggs and Amanda McDougall.

*Wednesday, 6th March:* Pat Oliver, Louise Callaghan and Anneliese Gujer.

*Friday, 8th March:* Pat Oliver, Sharon Snook, Hanaa Arafa and Sharon McRae.

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

**BOOK CLUB:**

Goonawarra Primary School participates in the “SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB”. Each term Book Club magazines are sent home, giving parents the opportunity to purchase books, computer software and other items, often at well below retail costs. The school is awarded bonus points for purchases made and these points are used to buy extra resources for the library. Each child will have received the first Book Club magazine by the end of this week. If you would like to place an order, please complete the form on the back of the magazine (please ensure that your child’s name and grade is included) and return it to the school with your payment. Cheques should be made payable to Scholastic Book Club. Orders close Monday, 11th March. For further information, please see Sue Lavars in the Library.

**THE ARTS NEWS:**

**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 Saturday, 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.

**SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS NEEDED**

Do you enjoy being outdoors, working with children and giving back to the community while you get paid? We have vacancies in the Hume Municipality. Uniform provided; on call work and regular rostered shifts; multiple positions available for an immediate start. To be successful you must: be available Monday – Friday 8 – 9 am and 3-4pm; have/be willing to obtain a Working with Children’s Check; have a current Australian Drivers Licence and own a reliable car… Call Hoban Recruitment on 9325-3200 or email: Laverton@hoban.com.au.

**SUNBURY ROTARY CLUB**

*Family & Craft Market*

Sunbury Neighbourhood House & Community Centre

*Saturday, 6th April from 9am – 2pm*

There will be more than 60 stalls on the day with various activities including: Cart boot sale, plants/pottery, clothing/jewellery, woodwork – live demonstrations, live entertainment, sausage sizzle, various food stalls, face painting and jumping castle. NationalPet Register discounted micro-chipping. Dogs & cats for the discounted rate of $25. Bookings essential by phoning 1300 734 738.