Dear Parents, Teachers & Students

PARENT OPINION SURVEY:
Throughout Term 3 all families were given the opportunity to complete an Education Department opinion survey on many areas of school life. These areas were – School improvement, Approachability, Teacher morale, Parent input, Stimulating learning, Extra curricula, Behaviour Management, Reporting, Learning focus, Transitions, Homework, General satisfaction, Student safety, Classroom behaviour, Connectedness to peers, Student motivation, Social skills & School connectedness.

It is pleasing to note that there was an 11 – 12% increase in the level of parental satisfaction in 17 of these 18 areas since last year. The one area that stayed constant was the level of ‘Extra curricula’ opportunities for students. 50% of parents were satisfied and 25% were non-committal (sat on the fence).

As good as the results are we all need to continue to work together, looking for opportunities to improve in all aspects of school life - for all students, families and staff.

The full Parent Opinion Survey data will be available on the school website after it has been tabled at School Council.

BIKES AT SCHOOL:
With the warmer days in Term 4, bike riding is a more pleasurable activity. Students are encouraged (along with their parents) to ride to school. Bikes and scooters, with a safety chain, can be secured along the fence in the Prep – 2 playground area. Parents please remind your children about the safety of riding on the footpaths and roads, using school crossings, wearing helmets and being sensible at all times.

ABSENCES:
As part of the Strategic Plan for the school, we are endeavouring to limit the number of days each student, on average is away throughout the year, to 12. At the end of Term 1, the average number of days away per student was 2.8 (1/4). In Term 2, this had risen to 6.1 (1/2) and in Term 3, 8.9. So we are on track to be close to 12 by the end of the year. Please keep your children home if they are sick or unwell. You are encouraged to leave shopping days, treat days, birthdays, it’s hard to get up days etc to the weekends or holidays.

Help us to instil in students the value of education by regular attendance at school.

GOOD BYE – FOR NOW:
Mrs Linda Wilson will commence Family Leave tomorrow. We wish her all the best for the birth of her second child and look forward to her return in the future.

FUTURE EVENTS and DATES to REMEMBER:

Our CANTEEN is NOW OPEN on Wednesdays and Fridays for lunch orders and counter sales.

- Monday, 15th October: Grades 3 & 4 children commence their 3 day camp @ “Arabri Lodge” in Warburton.

- Scholastic Book Club orders CLOSE.

- Saturday, 20th October: Parents & Friends Annual Shopping Tour departs at 7:15am – see the office.

- Friday, 26th October: Prep 2013 Transition sessions 9:00- 10:00am and 10:00 - 11:00am.

- Tuesday, 30th October: Prep -2 Wild Action Incursion - cost $9.50.

STAFF CHANGES:
Ms Megan Willan has replaced Mrs Summers (recently retired) in Art & ICT for this Term.
Mrs Amy Hughes has returned from Family Leave and has replaced Mrs Linda Wilson, who has commenced Family Leave.

2013 SUBJECT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Following detailed discussions on the budget for 2013, School Council has set the Subject Contribution figure at $120 per student and the School Levy at $35 per family. Detailed forms will be sent home soon. Student material for 2013 will be ordered shortly.

EMA:
As previously advised, changes have been made to the way the Educational Maintenance Allowance will be paid to families in 2013. Parents will be able to choose between three options on how this money is accessed –
1. Paid by direct deposit into your bank account.
2. Paid by cheque to you, which you will collect from the school.
3. Paid to the school, to be held in credit, which you can use towards education expenses.

From the school point of view we would encourage all families who are entitled to EMA payments to select option 3 as the preferred method of dealing with this money.

The subject contribution and school levy can automatically come out of the credit amount. The balance can then be used for uniforms and excursions. This is a very easy method for parents to handle these accounts and the school can proceed with confidence that the budget and financial commitments are achievable.

HELP WANTED:
Concrete grinder - There are several pathways around the school which have become uneven at the joins due to ground movement. If you can assist with this task or know someone who could, then please let me know. I will organise a contractor next week if there is no response to this request.

Mulch Spreaders – Two piles of mulch have been delivered and placed in the gardens near the school carpark. If anyone is available to assist in spreading it, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Mowing – The school lawns have taken off! If anyone has time on the weekend to mow a section of it (BYO mower), please feel free to pick a section and go for it!!! Thank you.

CAMP!!!!
Most of Grade 3 & 4 students will be attending their 3 day camp next week at Arrabri Lodge at Warburton. It promises to be a wonderful experience for everyone! While I am attending the camp, Mrs Reilly will be Acting Principal.

REFRIGERATOR:
The school is in need of a fridge in the Before & After School Care room. If you have a spare one at home that is in good working order, we would be happy to take it off your hands. Think of the free space! Contact the office if you can assist.

CHICKENPOX:
We have been notified that we have a reported case of chickenpox in the Grade 1 / 2 area. Chickenpox is an illness that comes on suddenly. Symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, fatigue and a general rash. Chickenpox is spread by coughing and contact with the moist rash. Use medicines containing paracetamol to lower children’s temperatures or relieve discomfort. Chickenpox is highly contagious and children with chickenpox, must be excluded from school until fully recovered or for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears.

BOOK CLUB: Each child will have received Scholastic catalogues this week. If you would like to place an order, please complete the form on the back of each catalogue. Please ensure that your child’s name and grade is included and return to the school with your payment. Cheques should be made payable to Scholastic Australia. Orders CLOSE Thursday, 18th October, 2012. For further information, please see Sue Lavars in the Library.

A DATE FOR THE DIARY:
Goonawarra PS is turning 25!!!! Keep Saturday, 8th December free to join in the celebrations! The Parents & Friends Group has opened a FaceBook page to advertise and inform the community about the 25th Celebrations events. Check it out!

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

Welcome to Term 4!
We would like to welcome back all parents and children back to Term 4. We wish you all had a well-rested and enjoyable holiday break. Extend have been busy planning an exciting program with new

HATS TERM 4:
A reminder to all students that hats are required to be worn during the warmer months starting from the commencement of Term 4. Hats are available to purchase from the office for $10.00 each.
activities and look forward to sharing them with the children. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our friendly Head Office staff on 1300 366 437 or check out our new look website at www.extend.com.au See you at Extend!

CANTEEN

ROSTER:

Friday, 12th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and
Wednesday, 17th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and
Friday, 19th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and

Due to an error on the price list – please note that Cookies are a $1.20 NOT $1.00. Thank you.
Sunbury Agricultural Show
9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday, 13th October
Sunbury Recreation Reserve, Riddell Road, SUNBURY
Thomas the train, Wild Action Zoo, The Great Aussie Bush Show, Beaut Ute Competition, Arts & Crafts, Children’s Animal Farm, Amusements & Rides, Clan of the West Highlands Pipe Band, Food Stalls, Ballet Display, Netball

Exhibition, Show Bags, Young Farmers, Horse Events, Goats, Aplacas and Cattle Judging plus much more.

Admission: Adults - $15, children 6 – 12 - $5, Under 5 – FREE, Family (2 adults & up to 4 children) - $30, student/pension (ID required) - $10.
More details at the office or www.sunburyshow.org.au

MMDS – Melbourne Medical Deputising Service Pty. Ltd.
Did you know if families have an urgent medical problem after hours, a doctor is available to visit them at home every night, weekends and on public holidays when local GP’s are closed and is bulk billed. The home Visiting Doctor will provide the same quality of care anyone would expect from their own GP. It is an award winning service that has been operating for over 38 years.

When can families access the Home Visiting Doctor service? Weekdays – 4:00pm to 8:00am, Weekends from 10:00am Saturday until 8:00am Monday and Public Holidays we operate a 24 hour service.
When local GP’s are closed, our service is just a phone call away and available to everyone in your local community.
Bulk billed, there are no out of pocket expenses for patients. Contact 9429-5677.