Goonawarra is G.R.E.A.T!
At Goonawarra we all aim to be -
Generous  Responsible  Enthusiastic  Ambitious  Trustworthy

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Dear Parents, Teachers & Students

GRADE 3/4 CAMP:
For the first three days this week I had the privilege of attending the Grade 3 & 4 camp at Arrabri Lodge. The camp site is nestled in the beautiful Yarra Ranges in Warburton close to the foot hills of Mt Donna Buang. With tall gum trees, rain forest areas, the flowing Yarra River, abundant native bird life and undulating hills, it was the perfect location for the camp. Sixty eight students, four staff and five parents thoroughly enjoyed the vast array of experiences which were offered. Some of these included –

- a low, but challenging ropes course
- flying fox
- archery
- orienteering
- and a terrifying GIANT swing!

Other incidental activities around the camp included an 18 hole mini golf course, a trampoline, tennis court, indoor basketball hall, a fully equipped games room, a sensory trail and a 50 metre wide rock climbing wall.

Two night highlights were the Bush Dance session run by a member of the bush band Bushwhazze and the Red Faces concert in which the students were the stars!

The students also had the ‘never to be forgotten’ experience of hearing about, looking at and touching frogs, turtles, lizards, goannas, snakes and a crocodile! This session was conducted by Black Snake Productions. The students responded extremely well to all aspects of the camp. The food was sensational (!!) and the accommodation very suitable.

I thoroughly enjoyed being with the students and sharing these experiences with them. I commend them for their willingness to ‘have a go’ at some of the challenges presented to them (such as the giant swing and touching a snake). They worked extremely well together in a spirit of cooperation.

A special thanks to the parents who became part of the team for the three days – Sandi Jinnette, Tania Sultana, Justin Newitt, Peter Abdilla and Doug McLeod. Their willingness to do all they could to make the camp the best possible experience for the students, was greatly appreciated.

To the professional staff members who attended, namely Kate Haysom, Marita Ryan, Vanessa Draper and Alison Atherton, a huge thank you for all your organisation and meticulous care (in so many ways) of all the students in your care.

A thank you to Mrs Hargrave, Mrs Howard, Mrs Hornby and Mrs McEwen for their planning and organisation leading up to the camp. Good planning is the recipe for success!
School camps have the potential to be wonderful and unique experiences. Students can go to the same places with their families, but it is not the same as sharing it with your friends and school mates. Thank you for letting your child attend the camp and have this lifelong memorable experience.

CHILDREN’S WEEK:
Next week is Children’s Week. The Preps – Gr 2 will be inviting parents to their ‘Beach Party’ on Wednesday. Other classes will inform parents of their planned activities. Parents, grandparents & friends are welcome to visit the school and grades throughout the week.

PREP 2013 TRANSITION DAY:
On Friday next week - Friday, 26th October, our 2013 Preps will be attending school for their third Transition Day. The first two visits were focused on time in the classroom and in the library. This time they will be spending a session in the Visual Arts room creating wonderful master pieces. Enrolments are still being accepted at all grade levels for next year. Please pass this information on to your friends or neighbours who may be looking for a suitable school for their children.

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 footpath and road, using school crossings, wearing helmets and being sensible at all times.

CONGRATULATIONS:
The following students Joselyn Jones, Felicity Dunmill, Tasma Nikolic & Erin Stannard recently competed at the Regional Athletics Carnival. In the 4 X 100 metre Girls 12 / 13 year old relay the girls finished 9th.

12 / 13 year old Girls Discus - Erin Stannard threw a personal best of 31.83 metres to achieve 1st place and will now go on to compete at State level in a few weeks’ time!

12 / 13 year old Girls High Jump
Erin Stannard jumped a personal best height of 1.35 metres and achieved 4th position.

Congratulations to all the girls for their wonderful achievements! We all wish Erin all the best at the State Carnival.

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.

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE:
As previously advised, changes have been made to the way the EMA will be paid to families in 2013. Parents will be able to choose between three options in 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 excursions/camp. 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:
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:
Thank you to Gary Uwland for continuing to mow the school lawns. He would love to hear from others who could assist him.

REFRIDGERATOR:
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.

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.

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.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
THANK YOU:
Our thanks to Brian and Raewyn Ross for their very generous donation of $500 to our school. The money donated will be put towards the purchase of bench seating. I spoke to Brian to thank him personally and he said it was good to give something back to the school which his boys attended during their primary years.

A message from the Team Leader:
“Hello everyone and Term 4! This year has been flying past us and everyone here at Extend hope you had a great holiday and feel well rested for the last Term of the school year.

Last week we had a relaxed week getting back into the flow of being at OSHC, flexing our colouring in muscles and added our colourful cars to the road on our mural. I will be here in the mornings for the rest of Term as Cristin is working really hard at university. Here at Extend we love suggestions and I am excited to say I am in the process of getting hold of an Xbox for us to use. We will need parents to sign a permission slip so keep an eye out for it near the sign in/out sheet.” Amber

STAR of the week...Taryn D. for helping out around the room, caring for others and doing the right thing.

What’s on next week...
Monday, 22nd October: Human body - mapping the circulatory system, finding veins and why are they blue?
Tuesday, 23rd October: Animals - If I were an animal, where would I live? What would I eat? Activity.
Wednesday, 24th October: Water experiments - bursting bubble bonanza.
Thursday, 25th October: Plants - leaves and energy factories, grey led rubbings.
Friday, 26th October: Famous Scientists - Venn Diagram of two scientists. 


This year thanks to the support of all our families, we redeemed 54,440 points in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Reward Scheme. We decided that the points would be spent on developmental play equipment and furniture for Room 12, which is set to become our “developmental playroom”.

Here shown is some of the equipment we were able to purchase with our points earned.

Further purchases made can be seen in posters displayed in the school foyer.
CANTEEN
ROSTER:

Friday, 19th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and Amanda McDougall
Wednesday, 24th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and Hanaa Arafa.
Friday, 26th October: Pat Oliver, Lynn Paton and Andrew/Vanessa Ouston.

PLEASE NOTE:
A NEW Price List takes effect this term and has been sent out with this week’s Newsletter.

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.

Sunbury Cricket Club is looking for players to play under 11 cricket and to participate in the Milo In2Cricket program. Under 11’s play Friday nights from 5.00 pm and Milo In2Cricket is on Wednesday nights from 6.00 pm. Registration for both will be at Clarke Oval - Riddell Road Sunbury on Wednesday, 17th October from 5.00pm to 6.30 pm. Cost Milo In2Cricket - $75 Under 11 - $140 (includes Club shirt and hat). Contact: Jim Pearson on 0402292371