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

Register to get your electronic copy of the newsletter via the 'Document' tab on our website. Make our webpage your homepage.

‘Creating, Nurturing & Expanding Learning Opportunities through Quality Education.‘

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<td>14“ Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>21” School Council AGM 6:30pm</td>
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<td>24” End of Term Dismissal at 2:30pm Easter Hat Parade 9:15am Out of Uniform Day</td>
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<td>11” April Term 2 Commences</td>
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<td>18”</td>
<td>19” Interschool Athletics</td>
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TOMORROW!
Grades 3-6 House Athletics Sports at Boardman Reserve.

PUPIL FREE DAY:
On Monday this week at the Pupil Free Day, the staff eagerly participated in a professional development session on how to engage students to write in a creative style. The day was spent unpackaging the ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success.’ It was a very effective activity.

How many times have students begun stories with –
‘Once upon a time….’
‘In the morning I woke up and had breakfast and ….’

These stories are then usually full of ‘and then I did…. and then I did ….. and then etc etc. And they usually finish with everything working out fine …. and they all lived happily ever after.

When you have read a class full of this type of approach to story writing, they all start to sound the same.
It has been interesting to observe that only with a few days of refocusing students to a more interesting and engaging style of writing, the ‘Sizzling Starts’ have begun to surface.

Here are a few examples –

**Boom!! Boom! “Where’s that noise coming from” said Miss Floppy Ears. “Could it be coconut? The noise is coming over here”**

“Come on we’re going to be late” said Mum. Panicking and bringing suitcases to the front door.

**Splat splat went the water. “Aaagh” I screamed as I went sliding down the slippery slide. My brother pushed me down that slide.**

Splash! The waves splashing on my skin while I’m on my surfboard. I fell off and I couldn’t see the surface and just when I thought I was going to be o.k. I saw a shark.

**Crunch crunch went the caterpillar getting out of her egg.**

Aaagh I can’t take it anymore! Rumble, whoosh, bang boulders went flying. Do you want to have fun with your family? If you said yes then Melbourne is the place for you.

**UNIFORM SHOP CHANGES:**
The current arrangement is that a full range of school uniforms will be available from the Primary School Wear shop in Gap Road close to Aldi as from the first day of Term Two.

The stock we still have at school will continue to be sold from school – even into Term Two, until it is all sold. The stock will begin to dwindle fairly rapidly. A list of items available at school will be published at the start of Term Two.

If the item you require is not on the list, then you will need to visit the PSW shop.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS:**
The time line for nominations for positions on School Council is now finished.

Thank you to those members of our school community who offered their time and skills to be part of the Council. Congratulations to Shawn Hindmarsh, Jing Li, Peta Hoiles and Jane Alexander who will all join Michelle Bowerman as the parent representatives on School Council. There are still two more positions vacant which will be filled by co-opting other parents to join. This process will begin at the first meeting of the year. Contact the office if you are interested or would like to know what is involved in the role.

Our School Council comprises 7 parent representatives, 3 staff members and the Principal plus 1 Parents & Friends member. The full list of School Council members plus their various portfolios will be published following the Annual General Meeting on Monday 21st March, commencing at 6.30pm in the staff room. All parents are welcome to attend.

**NEW AIR CONDITIONERS IN MORE CLASSROOMS:**
All the classrooms in the main building have evaporative coolers in the ceilings. These units are nearly 20 years old and are becoming very noisy and disruptive to the learning environment. In the cold, frosty mornings the required exposed water pipes on the roof have, on many occasions sprung leaks and caused water damage.

In light of this ongoing problem, School Council has taken the decision to replace the evaporative units with split system air conditioners. Because the new units can heat as well as cool, the 30 year old gas furnaces, which require constant repairs, can be turned off.

The new units will mean that each classroom will be able to control the temperature they desire throughout the whole year.

This will be another great step forward for Goonawarra!

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:**
Question – How many days off school has your child had this Term?
There are many reasons why students are away from school.

Across Victoria the average number of days off school per child for each Term is …… 3!
This equates to 12 for the whole year.

**How does your child’s absences measure up so far this year? And there is still 2½ weeks to go!**

**FIRST AID AT SCHOOL:**
On an average day 8 to 12 report to the sick bay for treatment. Some of these are for extremely minor situations and some are more serious and require a visit to the doctor or for ambulance attendance and hospitalisation.

All staff are trained to at least Level 2 first aid.

To clarify our current First Aid Policy, following a recent review process the following statement applies:

An attempt will be made to contact parents and or carers when a child suffers from a head or facial injury or any other ailment that staff are concerned about which may require medical attention.

For minor injuries, appropriate treatment will be administered and a form sent home outlining the incident and the treatment applied.

**SCHOOL ATHLETICS COMPETITION:**
Tomorrow Grade 3 -6 students will be participating in the annual athletic competition at Boardman Reserve in Sunbury. Events will commence from 9:30am until approximately 2:30pm.
All parents are welcome to attend and cheers on all the athletes.
Successful students will go on to represent Goonawarra at the Sunbury District Athletic Carnival on 19th April at Boardman Reserve.
All the best to all competitors.

**CHAPLAINCY CONSENT FORMS:**
Attached to last week’s newsletter was a letter from our School Chaplain Ben outlining his role within the school.
In order for Ben to spend meaningful time with students, a Department of Education Parental Consent Form is required. A copy of this form is also included along with a Frequently Asked Questions document.
Please complete the Consent Form and return it to school by the end of this Term.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:**
The school is currently involved with two new community partners. Check out what they can offer you as well!

**TJM EQUIPPED:**
This 4WD business is in Horne St Sunbury. They have provided the school with a very large bull bar cardboard box. The challenge has been to convert this into a 4WD vehicle! A group of Grade Six students and Preps have been busy this week making it into a ‘Anti Bullying Van’ to fit in with the Anti Bullying Day on Friday 18th March. It is beginning to look like a hippie combi van from the 60’s!

It is being painted and constructed in the school foyer. When completed it will be taken to the TJM shop and displayed as they celebrate their 2nd birthday. Prizes are available for the best looking 4WD!

**FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE - LJ WHORLOW** in Evans St Sunbury. Their Goonawarra & Rolling Meadows specialist is Shantelle. They have developed an Easter colouring sheet competition for all students at school. Enjoy the fun!

If your child wants to enter it in a competition to win an Easter Hamper from First National, then return the completed sheet to the office as a donation. These Easter items are made up in to hampers of various sizes. Raffle tickets are then sold throughout our community. The winning tickets for the Easter Egg hampers (of which there could be ten or more) will be drawn at the conclusion of the Easter Hat Parade at school on the last day of Term.

**DATES FOR PREPS 2017:**
As the year progresses more Prep tours for 2017 are being arranged. Here are some dates which may be of assistance to those looking at schools for next year.

**Information Sessions will be held on –**
- **Tuesday 3rd May** at 9.30am and 7.00pm.
- **Thursday 5th May** at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

**Transition activities which are planned so that pre-schoolers feel welcome and comfortable within the school environment have been organised for –**
- **Thursday 4th August** (Physical Education) – two sessions at 9.15am & 10.15am.
- **Tuesday 6th September** (Art room) – two sessions – 9.15am and 10.15am.
- **Friday 21st October** (Library) – two sessions – 9.15am and 10.15am.
- **Tuesday 15th November** (Classroom) – One session – 9.15am – 10.45am.
- **Tuesday 6th December** (Orientation) – One session – 9.15am – 10.45am.

**A Parent Session will also be held on Monday 5th December at 7pm.**

The above Transition Program has proven to be very effective from a pre-schoolers, parents and staff perspective. Of course individual tours of the school are always available. Contact the office to arrange a suitable time.

**EASTER RAFFLE;**
Each year the Parents & Friends organise an Easter Raffle. Families are encouraged to send an Easter Egg, a rabbit or a basket to the office as a donation. These Easter items are made up in to hampers of various sizes. Raffle tickets are then sold throughout our community. The winning tickets for the Easter Egg hampers (of which there could be ten or more) will be drawn at the conclusion of the Easter Hat Parade at school on the last day of this Term. Winners who are not present will be called. Please put a phone number on your ticket.

The funds from every ticket that is purchased will help the P & F with their fundraising efforts for our students.

**CANT YOU ASSIST US?**

*The school has ordered ten new pinboards and whiteboards for use in classrooms. If you could assist installing these boards please contact the office. Completed - Thanks!*

Does anyone have fifteen strawberry plants in 6 inch pots to be put in the round indoor garden near the library?

The four backboards on the Grade 3 / 4 basketball courts need painting. Please see Alan if you could assist with this much needed task.

The school receives free garden mulch from a local tree lopper (The Tree Feller – Greg – Mobile: 0408 507 145). The mulch needs to be spread on the garden beds. If you can assist with this task it would be greatly appreciated. If you have access to a bob cat it would make the job a whole lot easier. Otherwise we have wheel barrows, shovels and racks available. **Lucy (a Prep parent)** is endeavouring to do as much as she can, but there are still more areas to go. Can you help her?
The school is about to commence constructing a large community vegetable garden area in the spot where the old portable classrooms once stood. The concept is to construct about 12 above the ground garden beds and enclose the area with a cyclone fence. Western Water has already provided funds for a water tank. **What is required to make it all happen is** – 12 raised garden beds (colour bond type or wooden sleepers), a small tool shed, a watering system, soil and about 30 metres of cyclone fencing approximately 3 metres high. If you have any contacts who may be able to assist with this project, please direct them to the office. **This has the potential to be a valuable learning environment for all students and the community!**

I would be interested in discussing ideas I have with a landscape designer in regard to the front entrance area of the school – around the main front entrance doors. Please see Mr Fairweather if you may be able to help think through this process.

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**Term Dates for 2016:**

**Term 1:** 28th January to Thursday 24th March.
   Easter is the first weekend of the Term holidays.

**Term 2:** 11th April to 24th June

**Term 3:** 11th July to 16th September

**Term 4:** 3rd October to 20th December

Please keep up with school events by reading the newsletter each week. It is also available in colour each Thursday afternoon on the school website at [www.goonawarra.vic.edu.au](http://www.goonawarra.vic.edu.au)

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**CSEF PAYMENT:**
For those families who were eligible to receive the CSEF Funding, please be sure to use it towards camps, sporting events and excursions for your child.