



Goonawarra Primary School Newsletter

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Telephone: 9744 7137 / Fax Number: 9744-7284

No: 1717

Thursday, 8th June, 2017

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 school newsletter by clicking on [subscribe](#) on our school website: www.goonawarra.vic.edu.au



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

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Sunbury Schools Winter Lightning Premiership - Boardman Stadium TOMMORROW					10 th	11 th
12 th QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	13 th	14 th	15 th Grade 6 Health & Human Relations Incursion	16 th	17 th	18 th
19 th	20 th Grade 6 Personal Presentation Evening	21 st	22 nd Grade 6 Health & Human Relations Incursion	23 rd Sunbury Schools Winter Lightning Premiership Back up Day	24 th	25 th
26 th	27 th START SMART Grades 1-6	28 th START SMART Grades 1-6 Parent/Teacher Discussion Dismiss 1.30pm	29 th START SMART Grades 1-6	30 th Gnome Hunt END OF TERM 2.30pm DISMISSAL	1 st July	2 nd
 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Gnome Hunt Begins! 						
July 17 th TERM 3 COMMENCES	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd

WHAT DO I HEAR?

I have been interviewing many prospective school families throughout this year with quite a few in the last few weeks. For your information, I thought I would share with you some of the observations and comments that are shared with me which make me very proud of this school and the supportive community.

- According to the 'myschool' website the school has very encouraging academic results.
- The presentation of the school grounds is very attractive.
- The school webpage is very informative and well maintained.
- The tone in all classrooms is one of students focussed on their learning.
- Staff are very involved with their students.
- There is a sense of the school being a friendly and welcoming environment.
- Classrooms are clean and attractive.
- The school looks well resourced.

- *There are many pleasant and polite students.*
- *The office staff are very friendly and helpful.*
- *There seems to be a very strong and effective support network for students and families through the full time Wellbeing Coordinator and the School Chaplain.*
- *Parents are visible around the school and seem to be very involved at many levels.*
- *There is a variety of activities available to students.*
- *The 'gut feel' expressed by visitors is that this is a well organised, effective, efficient, caring and support environment in which students are nurtured and challenged in order to learn.*

Overall, after conducting 100's of interviews over the years, prospective families are searching for a school at which their child will be **safe**, will be **happy** and will be **taught at an appropriate level for their needs**.

I trust that current school families have a similar opinion of the school and all that it offers. I am always available for a discussion if there are aspects you would like to discuss.

It is anticipated our school population will reach 400 before the end of this year. There has been a 42% increase in the number of students over the last five years. Given the substantial growth, it is encouraging that the average class sizes have been able to be kept at an average of 21.5 students per class.

Another interesting fact is that 62% of staff have commenced at the school during this same time.

THANK YOU!!!

A BIG THANK YOU to Janine & Sue.

Janine and Sue, who work in the school office, not only are the smiling faces that greet all the visitors to our school, but they do an amazing job with a lot of important tasks, often behind the scenes, that ensure that our school functions well.

Especially at this time of year when we have so many visitors to our school coming to have a look around and decide about where to send their children for Prep next year, it is such a privilege to have such warm and welcoming people like Janine and Sue to greet them.

Both Janine and Sue are so helpful and resourceful for visitors, but also for staff, parents and students too.

Janine does a fantastic job of keeping our school going by looking after the administration and finances that go with running a school (and there is lots of it!). Sue also does a wonderful job in the office, as well looking after the library and first aid.

Making sure that our school functions well ensures that it is a place where great teaching and learning happens and the staff, students and parents who are part of it enjoy being there.

Thank you Janine and Sue for all that you do to ensure that our school runs smoothly every day. We'd be lost without you!

GREETINGS FROM THE ART ROOM!

We have been very busy over the last few weeks. There are big projects on the go for grades 3/4/5 as well as the grade 6 mosaic mural that has been featured in previous newsletters.

The students in grades 3, 4 and 5 have all created their own 3D, abstract sculpture. They started with some wire, a block of wood and a stocking foot. They sanded the block of wood, attached the wire, put the stocking foot over the wire and wood, and then shaped the wire into an interesting shape.

Once they had their shape, they have patiently added layers of PVA to harden and prepare the stocking and wire for painting and they have all just added the first layer of paint. They will be super colourful and fun when they are completed.

Whilst all this has been happening, these grades have also been designing and painting the new playground bins. They have each decided on an overall design as a grade and then they have carefully, and cooperatively, painted these designs on their class bin. Very shortly, there will be some wonderfully colourful bins in the school yard for our rubbish to go in. Maybe the bins will get so much attention that there will be no rubbish on the ground!



The grade prep, 1 and 2 students have also been hard at work. They all learnt about the artist Jackson Pollock. His paintings are created from paint splatter patterns and to emulate this, the students used marbles to make patterns with paint. They really enjoyed this activity and the artwork looked fantastic!

The grade 1 and 2 students then wove coloured strips of paper into the marble art and some of these are on display near the art room.

The prep students drew their families on newspaper, cut, and pasted these onto their marble art and some of these are displayed in or near the prep rooms.

PARENT & TEACHER DISCUSSIONS:

The next Parent & Teacher Discussions will be held on Wednesday 28th June.

On this day students will be dismissed at 1.30pm.

Discussions will be held between 2pm – 7.30pm.

Parents can book in a discussion time by logging on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au

The login details are : **ZKWVW**

So far discussions for 40% of our students have been booked.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL:

On Monday night the JSC members spent time with the School Council.

The students shared many great ideas and suggestions all aimed at improving the school facilities and resources.

Some of their thoughts included -

- Repair to drinking taps.
- More undercover areas.
- More Walk to School Days - they were fun!
- Fundraising ideas - Crazy Hair Day!
- Provide fruit for students for their Healthy Snacks.
- Improve Grade 3 - 6 basketball court surfaces.
- Repair seats near grade 5/6 basketball courts.
- Put nets (material / metal) on basketball rings.
- Fix cracks on oval surface.
- A day where students dress up as teachers.

The SC was able to enlighten the students on the progress of some of these ideas which were already identified and are being addressed.

The SC members (staff and parents) were very impressed the presentations of our young leaders.

A DAY MADE BETTER!

If you appreciate the commitment and dedication of a member of our staff, you may care to take a few minutes and express your thoughts on the following link -

<http://www adaymadebetter.com.au>

PREPS 2018 INFORMATION:

Based on information from current students who mentioned they had a brother or sister commencing school next year, enrolment forms were sent home recently.

If the information is correct, could the completed forms be returned before the end of this Term.

Contact the office if you have any questions in regard to the enrolment process.

If our information is incorrect and you do not have a child starting Preps next year, could you also notify the office.

If you know of families who are interested in the school, at any grade level, please encourage them to phone the school on 9744 7137 to arrange an individual tour.

MID YEAR STUDENT REPORTS:

Student mid year reports are currently being compiled. They will be distributed to parents on **Friday 23rd June**. Please make sure you have read them before coming to the Parent & Teacher Discussions in the following week.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS - THE GNOMES ARE COMING!

The excitement is building - the Gnomes are on their way - will you be able to find them!

In the next few weeks the Gnome Passports will be available to purchase for \$10 each. The Great Sunbury Gnome Hunt in 25 local shops will be happening during the next school holidays.

30TH ANNIVERSARY TWILIGHT FAIR:

As part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations, a Twilight Fair has been organised for Friday 20th October. It will commence at 3.30pm and go through to around 8.30pm. There will be rides, food, drink, activities and entertainment for all! Put the date in the diary now!

Alan Fairweather

Principal

fairweather.alan.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Term Dates for 2017

Term 2: 18th April (Tuesday) to 30th June

Term 3: 17th July to 22nd September

Term 4: 9th October to 22nd 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

UNIFORM SALE!

There will be a sale of the remaining school uniforms at the Office on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th June from 9am. All items will be \$5. Limited sizes are still available.

Be early to get a bargain!



NEW APP!

So far 200 parents have signed up to use the app!

Some android phones are having difficulty connecting to the app. This should be rectified by Monday.

The app has the potential to be used to inform families of special days at school, excursions, students returning from camps and a whole range of other reasons including evacuations and emergency situations.

The app, which is called 'updat-ed' is supported by 'sponsor-ed' which is the company who provide the infrastructure for our home page.

For maximum efficiency, our aim is to have every family registered on the app. Please see the attached flyer for instructions.

When you are entering your child/ren details please do not write their name - just put which year level they are in eg (You will need to add the name of your oldest school child on the next line).

Prep is 0 Grade One is 1 Grade Two is 2 Grade Six is 6
 Grade Three is 3 Grade Four is 4 Grade Five is 5

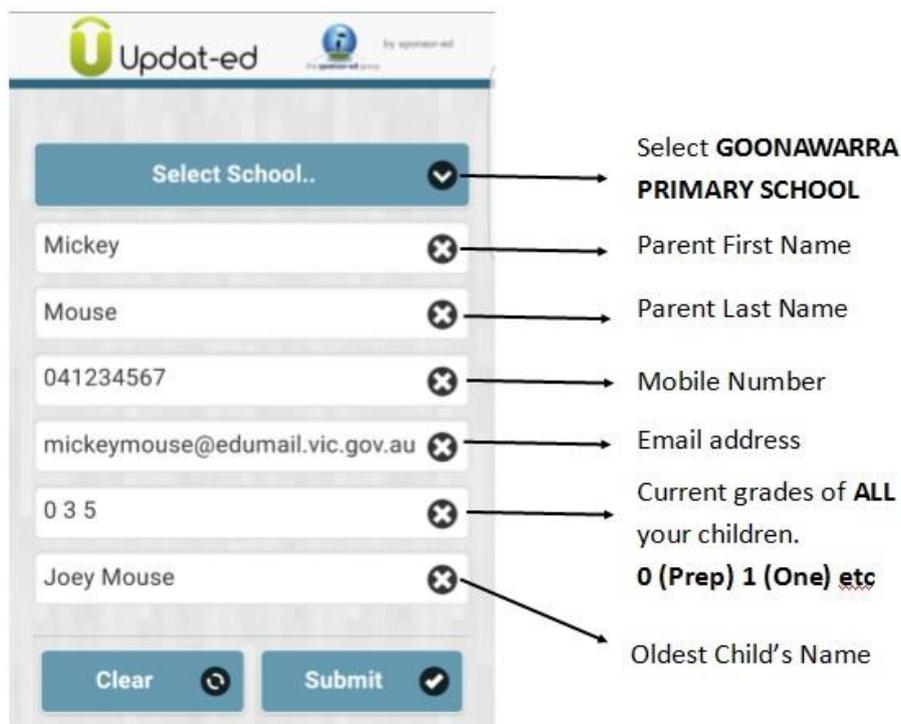
If both parents want to receive messages, they will both need to register with their own mobile number.

Once you have registered, if you do not receive any notifications, please notify the office so that we can check we have your correct details.

There will be a 'prize' for the first class to have 100% of families signed up!

Use the app to inform the school of your child's absences!

Use the app to read the school Newsletter!



Payments & Reminders:

Grades 5-6: Camp Wilkin Payments: Final balance \$225.00 due by Friday 28th August.

Grade 6: Health & Human Relations: \$10.00 due TOMORROW

CANTEEN ROSTER	
Friday 9 th June	Nicole Huybers, Regina Reid & Sue Taylor
Monday 12 th June	CANTEEN CLOSED - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Social Skills (School Group Sessions) with Paediatric OT Samantha Evans

Incorporating *Zones* and *Social Detective* - Suitable For 7 & 8 Year Olds

Why Teach Zones Of Regulation?

The **Zones of Regulation** (Zones for short) is designed to help children independently self regulate their actions by teaching them to recognize how their body is feeling. They use colours to explain the different emotions. By teaching these Zones, students can learn to increase communication initiations by sharing how they are feeling and what activities they need to do to help them stay in the green zone. Increasing communication around emotions helps decrease unwanted behaviors.

Foundation lessons include:

- Hidden Rules
- Expected and Unexpected Behaviours
- Smart Guesses
- Flexible and Stuck Thinking
- Size of the Problem
- Sharing and Imagination



Cost:
\$60 per session

Fee & Funding options include:
• HCWA • Better Start • Self Funded

Social Detective aims to define the hidden social rules for children and practice them in a safe, supportive environment.

We are good Social Detectives (a fun comic book) teaches children to use their eyes, ears and brains to figure out what others are planning to do next or are presently doing and what they mean by their words and actions. The children also learn about expected/unexpected behaviours, smart guesses, size of my problem, flexible and stuck thinking and sharing an imagination.

For all inquiries or to book a spot in the program
please contact Samantha Evans through
the contacts below:

Phone: 043 767 1755

Email: info@playhousetherapy.com.au

Visit us online: www.playhousetherapy.com.au

You Are A Social Detective (School Group Sessions) with Paediatric OT Samantha Evans Explaining Social Thinking To Kids Aged 5 and 6

Why teach Social Thinking?

In the past we have had little vocabulary for talking about social behaviour and we simply expected students to behave. **Social Thinking** aims to teach implicit social emotional information more explicitly. The program aims to define the hidden social rules of the social world which can be really confusing for children, especially kids with ASD.

Foundation lessons include:

- Hidden Rules
- Expected and Unexpected Behaviours
- Smart Guesses
- Flexible and Stuck Thinking
- Size of the Problem
- Sharing and Imagination



Cost:
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Fee & Funding options include:
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The program expands on the knowledge further with fun Superflex characters such as *Rock Brain*, *Topic Twister*, *Mean Jean* and *Glass Man*. Superflex provides a fun forum in which kids can explore their challenges and identify ways to modify their thoughts and related behaviors in different settings. Depicting behaviors as comic book characters helps students learn about their own behaviors in a non threatening way, while the superhero Superflex helps build the thinking required to regulate those behaviors.

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