



Goonawarra Primary School Newsletter

2 - 6 Gullane Drive, Sunbury Vic 3429

email: goonawarra.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au / website: www.goonawarra.vic.edu.au

Telephone: 9744 7137 / Fax Number: 9744-7284

No: 3916

Thursday, 8th December, 2016

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.'

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
12 th Ashleigh McConnell 'Olympic Gold Medallist'	13 th Student Reports sent home	14 th Grade 6 Graduation Book pack sales 9am-4pm	15 th Grades 3/4 Excursion to Maddingley Park	16 th School Choir Sunbury Community Performance	17 th	18 th	
19 th	20 th END OF TERM 1.30PM DISMISSAL	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS COMMENCE! 					
30 th January 2017 Teachers return. Book Packs available for purchase.	31 st Grade 1 to Grade 6 start school at 9am.	1 st February	2 nd Preps start school 9.15am - 1.15pm	3 rd Preps 9.15am-1.15pm	4 th	5 th	

TUESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER - END OF TERM DISMISSAL 1.30PM FROM GYM!

Payments & Reminders:

Goon-a-warrior sponsorship money: Due NOW!

WHOLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CONCERT:

As a school we are always interested in feedback to celebrate what went well but also to look for ways of improvement.

If you would like to share some thoughts on the recent concert, then please email the school goonawarra.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au, phone the school office or talk to your child's teacher or myself.

Success is built on improvements!

BOOK PACKS FOR 2017:

The individual Book Packs for all students will be available for purchase for \$155.00 per student on -

- Wednesday 14th December - all grades
- Monday 30th January - all grades

This amount will cover areas such as -

- All student classroom requisites - consumable items such as exercise books, pencils, pens, folders, coloured paper etc
- Visual & Performing Arts materials
- Physical Education equipment and Library resources.
- Photocopying
- Access to Athletics and Sunshine online for the year
- Support for the Welfare and Chaplaincy programs

In order for the school Budget to be effective, it is anticipated that all families will contribute their share to cover the cost of the consumables and other resources which children will have access. Over recent years it is very encouraging to note, on average, that 97% of Student Contributions are paid.

If it is not possible for families to pay the full amount at once, an instalment plan can be arranged throughout Term One only. Where Student Contributions are not paid by families, funds need to be redirected from other areas of the Budget to meet the deficit. This has the potential to effect curriculum resources, computer equipment, grounds development etc.

40 % of families have already purchased their book packs.

The remaining days for book pack sales are:

- Wednesday 14th December – all grades
- Monday 30th January – all grades

THE GOON-A-WARRIOR!

All students who raised over \$50 for the Goon-A-Warrior event, were given a \$5 voucher from the canteen. The canteen is open on just three more occasions this year - tomorrow and next Monday and Friday. The vouchers need to be used before the canteen closes.

The canteen will not be open on Monday 19th December.

The Scholastic book vouchers can be redeemed early next year with the first Scholastic catalogue that we receive.

TRANSITION DAY:

Last Tuesday, all students who will be attending Goonawarra next year spent time in their new grades with their 2017 teacher. This included all our current students (except the Grade Six students who were at their Secondary Schools), all our 60 new Preps and 7 students commencing from Grades 1 – 6.

It was a great two hour session of discussion, finding out about new areas of the school, new processes, new expectations and lots of fun activities.

All students were able to take home a class photo to go on the refrigerator to show everyone as well as remember who will be in their grade.

The staff thoroughly enjoyed meeting the students who they will be caring for and nurturing and guiding throughout next year. It was a great morning for everyone!

THE NEW DRESS HAS ARRIVED!

Following much discussion and debate, a new summer dress has been chosen and is available on the racks at the Primary School Wear shop in Sunbury.

The need for a new dress (different pattern and design) became necessary when the material used to make the previous dresses was not available. Many parents were consulted as a whole range of dresses were sampled.

A Point of Clarification – As from now, there are two summer dresses available – the current style and the new one. The new one is the only one that can now be purchased at PSW.

Families now have a choice. Both summer dresses are acceptable at school. The current dress can be worn for as long as families want them to be. They are not being phased out by a required date.

The current dress may still be around in ten years as they are passed from child to child. This will be totally acceptable.

However, when a new dress is required, there will only be the one choice – the one PSW is supplying and selling. The current price, depending on size is \$46 - \$50.

Refund – If you purchased a dress from the supplies that were being sold at school over recent months and it has not been worn and you would like to return it so that you can purchase the new dress, then please do so. Bring the dress back to the office, receive the refund (most were sold for \$25) and then go to the PSW shop and purchase the new dress.

The choice is yours. Stay with the current dress or move to the new one. Both are acceptable at school.



NEW FURNITURE ARRIVES TOMORROW:

Throughout the last few months over half the classrooms have been supplied with new tables and chairs for the students. The rest of the classrooms will get their new furniture before the commencement of next year. The funds for this improvement have come from school resources.

The excess tables and chairs, as before, will be made available to all school families, community groups, friends, relations etc. Families can take as many as required – for free! They are great for playing school at home, playrooms, study tables, cubby houses, BBQ tables etc.

Some of the excess furniture will be available as from TOMORROW. First in!

LEAVING FAMILIES:

At the commencement of next year we will be welcoming 28 new families into the Goonawarra school community.

At the end of this school year there will be a number of families who will be finishing their association with Goonawarra School. These families are either moving to another school (mainly due to changing houses or convenience for transport) or their last child has completed Grade Six. We wish these students all the best as they continue their education in another setting. We trust they will fondly remember their days at Goonawarra.

A big thankyou to all the families for their support and assistance over their years of involvement.

The families leaving include - Borg, Chislett, Dalli, De Haan, Galea, Grover, Hollis, Hourigan, Hrkac, Le, Marino, Maybury, Mezzatesta, Mohamud, Ouston, Reeves, Shehab, Smith, Vicary-Lovegrove, Walgers, Ziovas, Putnik, Hargrave, Irvine, Healy, Yammouni, Jakovac, Bell and McLaughlin.

STUDENT REPORTS:

Next Tuesday all students will be bringing home their end of year Report.

The staff have compiled the information in the Reports based on various testing processes, observation and from the knowledge they have developed of all the abilities of each student. They have observed the students throughout this year and have gained a real understanding of their social, emotional and academic development.

The Report has several features -

Where there is an open circle, and a dotted line followed by a black dot - it shows your child's current position as opposed to where they were 12 months ago.

In the case where there are no open circles just a black dot (especially in the Grade 5/6 Reports), it indicates several scenarios -

- That these are new assessment areas that were not part of the curriculum 12 months ago.
- In other cases, where there is no open circle beside an assessable area it may mean that the student has missed a lot of the assessment in that area or that the student has not progressed sufficiently to indicate significant progress.

Student absences are recorded on the Report. Due to the timing of collating the Reports, the absence data was taken for the Semester (Term 3 & 4) up until the 28th November.

As I read through the Reports I did observe quite a few students who were absent on a high number of days. So that parents can compare their child's absences with the 'norm,' the average absences across primary schools in Victoria for a two term semester is 6 days per student. (12 for the year). How many days was your child away? How much learning time did they miss? Some absences are necessary - illnesses, funerals, weddings etc. Some are optional - family holidays, birthday treats, shopping days, tiredness from big weekends etc. I am sure it is obvious to everyone that the more time children are at school, the greater opportunity they have of developing a well-rounded education.

If the Reports contain information you would like to discuss with a staff member, please contact them to make arrangements for a suitable time.

GRADE SIX GRADUATION:

Next Wednesday our 54 Grade Six students will celebrate their graduation from primary school. The night will consist of dinner at the Goonawarra Golf Club followed by a dance presentation, speeches, awards and supper all in the school gym. Many family members will be in attendance.

For your information, of the 54 graduating students **36** commenced their primary school years at Goonawarra, **5** came in Gr 1, **1** in Gr 2, **2** in Gr 3, **3** in Gr 4, **4** in Gr 5 and **3** in Gr 6.

We can all be very proud of the young ladies and gentlemen that will be graduating this year.

They have shared many experiences over the years at school, on camps and excursions, with guest speakers, with students from other levels and from other schools, at sporting and cultural events, in choirs as so many more!

Many of them have held leadership positions within the school - House Captains and Vice Captains, Choir Captains, Junior School Councillors, Principal for a Day and Sport Captains.

Combined, their academic progress and results are extremely positive. On average their scores rank the school very highly across the local Region and the State.

We can all celebrate this special time with our graduating students as we wish them every success as they progress through secondary education and beyond.



BUDDY BBQ!

Today our Grade Six and Prep students celebrated their year together as Buddies with a barbecue lunch and activities.

Throughout the year they have been involved in many great maths, language and craft activities.

The Buddy concept is based around the Allannah & Madeline Foundation Buddy Bear concept.

This year's Grade Five students have been spending time with next year's Preps at their Transition Days and at the local preschool. These sessions are designed to build a relationship between both groups of students, who will all be part of the Buddy Program next year.

P & F CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!

Due to a very busy schedule, the P & F decided there was insufficient time to organise a Christmas Stall this year.

In its place, they have assembled a whole assortment of Christmas goodies to go into a large Christmas Hamper!

Over \$200 worth of goodies have been placed into an Esky which is overflowing with items for the whole family!

Each family will receive a notice with ten raffle tickets attached. Each ticket is worth \$1.00.

Please support the Parents & Friends Group by selling the ten tickets, write the person's name and contact number on the tear off part and return them with the \$10.00 to school. All money raised will go to support school projects.

The Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn at Assembly on Monday 19th December.



The Esky Christmas Hamper contains -

- 55 litre Esky on wheels with a handle, Picnic Rug, Cricket Bat and Ball, Soft Toy Doll, Trolls Doll figurine, A Family Box Set of Board Games, Britney Spears Perfume Gift Set Match Box Car Set, Soccer Ball, Wiggles Inflatable Boat, Chocolates, Chips, Lollies, Cans of Soft Drink with Cups, Christmas Fruit Cake, Christmas Cake, Olives, Sun-dried tomatoes, Pickled Onions, Savoury Biscuit Collection and more surprises!



GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

Before the recent Paralympic Games in Rio, we had a visit from Ashleigh McConnell, a former Goonawarra Primary School student. (Ashleigh’s Prep photo is on the front office counter).

Ashleigh is a limb deficient athlete who represented Australia in swimming.

Ashleigh won a gold medal at the Rio Games!

We have organised Ashleigh to come back to Goonawarra next Monday at 12.30pm in the gym to talk to the students about her Rio experiences and to show us her gold medal.

All parents are more than welcome to attend. It will be a 15 minute or so meeting.

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

Term Dates for 2016:

Term 4: 3rd October to 20th December

Term Dates for 2017

Term 1: 30th Jan (teachers start) 31st Jan (students start) to 31 March

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

SCHOOL BANKING:

A reminder to all parents that, this Tuesday 13th December will be the last day for student banking for this year. Students who are eligible for rewards will be able to submit their coupons early next year when new reward prizes become available.

CANTEEN NEWS:

The Canteen has sold out of Frozen Yogurts and Ice Teas. Blue Heaven is the only flavour left in the Quench drinks. Canteen orders on Friday 16th December must have a second choice, as stock is limited.

CANTEEN ROSTER	
Friday 9 th December	Nicole Huybers, Jamie Grant, Tricia Smillie
Monday 12 th December	Nicole Huybers, Vanessa Radclyffe
Friday 16 th December	Nicole Huybers, Andrew Ouston
Monday 19 th December	CANTEEN CLOSED