Dear Parents and Friends,

STAFFING:
It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Sarah Lamanna at the end of this week as she commences Maternity Leave. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to wish Sarah the best of luck with the birth of her second child and I look forward to informing you all of the safe arrival of a baby brother or sister for Sarah’s first born son, Tyson. Taking Sarah’s maternity leave position is Ken Miller. Ken is a very enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who is looking forward to joining the team here at Nar Nar Goon Primary School. Welcome Ken! I know you will find our school is very friendly, with respectful, well behaved students and one that is highly regarded within the Cardinia Network of schools.

SCHOOL MOTTO:
In accordance with our Strategic Plan for the 2015-2018 period and as a result of our School Review, our staff have identified that Excellence in Education is something that we are all striving towards. This is not only in reference to our academic performance, but also our endeavours to develop “the whole child” socially and emotionally to ensure all members of our school community can achieve their potential. It is for this reason that we added Excellence as a fifth value that we embrace in our Values Education. As a direct result of this new emphasis on Excellence, staff have suggested that we adopt a motto for our school and have proposed the following: Nar Nar Goon Primary School – Excellence in Education. We would like to invite the community to have input into this motto and/or suggest any other ideas that could be used as a motto for our school that captures our whole school intent. Please feel free to speak to any member of staff or myself if you would like some input into our new motto or if you have any other ideas for us to consider.

CROSS COUNTRY:
Well done to all the children from Foundation to Year 6 who participated in the Cross Country event on Friday. I would especially like to acknowledge Steve Laforet for all his hard work and organisation both leading up to the event, and on the day. Being a Specialist Physical Education Teacher is a particularly complex responsibility and I applaud Steve in all his efforts to ensure that the children are encouraged to participate and to strive for their personal best regardless of whether they were placed first or last. Thank you to all the wonderful parents and supporters who came along to cheer from the sidelines.

Congratulations to all students who have made it through to the District event and to the overall winners Tahlia P and Sam H, (Senior girl and boy champions) and Toby C and Bella K (Junior boy and girl champions) pictured below.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS:
It is a Department of Education requirement that all volunteers and helpers who come into our classes hold a current Working with Children Check. A record of all WWCC card holders is kept in the office and we are audited to ensure that they are always kept up to date. If you have not already done so, please ensure that Annette in the office has a photocopy of your Working with Children Check and also ask her for a personal lanyard to keep your card in so that you can wear it at all times while on school property. If you need help to apply for a WWCC please don’t hesitate to ask a member of staff or if you need to use one of our computers to access the internet.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAHILIA AND LILY P:
In the school holidays Tahlia and Lily P represented Nar Nar Goon Primary School at the 2016 Interschool State Championships at Werribee. With over 600 competitors taking part both girls and their ponies did a wonderful job. Tahlia and her pony, Charlie, did particularly well in the show jumping coming home with 3rd place.

Kind Regards, Mrs Fran Van Lambaart
Congratulations to these children for receiving this week's awards.

E4 EXCELLENCE

Callum G
Kalarni B
Keisha M
Hayley C
Tahlia B
Brayden H
Toby K
Tayla V
Sami B
Cheyenne S

DIARY DATES

APRIL
Friday 22nd Y5/6 Interschool Sport Away
Monday 25th ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday 26th Science Incursion
Wednesday 27th Science Incursion
Friday 29th Y5/6 Sport Away
Book Club Closes

MAY
Wednesday 4th Prep 2017 Open Evening 6pm-7pm
Start Smart Program 1/2’s

Thursday 5th High Tea 2pm-3.20pm

Friday 6th District Cross Country
Friday 13th Y5/6 Sport Away
Monday 16th - Friday 20th Education Week
Monday 16th School Council 7pm
Tuesday 17th Grandparent’s Day 10am-11.40am (info to follow)
Friday 20th Y5/6 Interschool Sport Home
Friday 27th Y5/6 Interschool Sport Home

JUNE
Monday 6th PAFA Meeting 9.15am

Payments Overdue
Science Incursion
YS/6 Sport
Wednesday 20th April

BOOK CLUB LOOP PROGRAM
Final date for Book Club Loop Program is next Friday 29/4/16.

A huge thank you to the person who left a very generous donation at the school recently. You know who you are and your generosity is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Thank you
to Jason Hoghton for removing the tree during the holidays.
**CANTEEN THIS FRIDAY**

Dims Sims, Popcorn, Icy Poles and Zooper Doopers
50cents each

**Mother’s Day Afternoon High Tea**
On Thursday 5th May at 2pm we will be hosting an afternoon High Tea in celebration of Mother’s Day.

We are inviting any Mums within the school who would be interested in promoting their own business or Party Plan e.g. Tupperware, Natures Direct, by setting up a small display/stall on the day. Please contact Erin Butler on Facebook if this would be you! Thank you.

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY 2ND MAY

SUNSMART POLICY
Our School’s Sunsmart Policy for wearing hats was amended to be in line with the Cancer Council’s regulations.
Hats must now be worn from September 1st until May 1st.
Sunscreen is also available for children who request it.

Hats must be either wide brimmed or the ‘bucket’ type for proper protection.

Baseball caps are not permitted.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
School camps provide children with meaningful and unique experiences in the great outdoors, helping them to become confident and independent learners. All camps are part of a healthy curriculum.
CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school camps, excursions and sport activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary resident, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for overseas student and refugee families. The obligation is held in the school for use towards assistance in terms of camp, excursion or sport activities.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $118 for primary school students
- $209 for secondary school students

HINT TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/cef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/cef
ABSENCES

It is the Department and our School’s policy that when a child is absent we must receive an explanation either verbal, a note or a phone call either on their return or at the time of absence. Why not try our online option for notifying us!

Our records show that there is a large number of unexplained absences.

We would appreciate your cooperation with this.

An Arty thought……
Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it. Robert Motherwell

STUDENT ABSENCES

We have recently added a new facility through our website to enable you to report your child’s absence. It is a proforma that prompts you to provide all the required information and then when complete, you are able to press “submit” which will send a notification through to the Nar Nar Goon Primary School email address. This proforma is available from the front page of the website under “Quick Links” - “Report an Absence”. This method of reporting your child’s absence can be used as an alternative to a written note for your child’s teacher, so please free to use this as a more user friendly and efficient method. Of course, if you prefer, a hand written note is still accepted.

**It is the Department and our School’s policy that when a child is absent we must receive an explanation either verbal, a note or a phone call either on their return or at the time of absence.**

We hope this new option is helpful to you.

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2017

If you have a sibling of a child already attending here who is starting their Prep year, please let us know as soon as possible.

Likewise, if you know of anyone who lives in the area (within our school boundary) and are thinking about enrolling their child for next year, please let us know or get them to contact the school. Information/Enrolment packs are now available.

ART EXTENSION PROGRAM

Six Year Six students are involved in the Art Extension Program this term. After brainstorming designs, they have started to construct the frame for their pictures. It is wonderful to have the assistance and guidance of Graham and Simon.
Mums, Grandmas or Special Friends

On behalf of P.A.F.A, we wish to invite you to an

Afternoon High Tea

in celebration of Mother’s Day

on

Thursday 5th May

2pm—3.20pm

We ask for a gold coin donation on entry on the day.

We will be running a special Raffle during the afternoon.

**Lucky door prizes will be drawn**

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Monday 2nd May.

Students will not be in attendance however some students will be presenting work on the day for our enjoyment!

Name ____________________________________________________________

Number of Adults:

Would love to join you for an Afternoon High Tea.

Preschool children are welcome
School Banking is improving your kid’s ‘Common Cents’.

It’s been a great start to the school year, and every week we see the students putting in a fantastic savings effort. That might be because of this year’s Grand Prize—a VIP tour of Australia Zoo to meet Robert and Bindi Irwin!

Many of our true blue Outback Savers are well on their way to reaching their 15 deposits by the end of Term 3, which will give them an automatic entry into the Grand Prize competition.

Aside from the Grand Prize, two new reward items are available this term. After making 10 School Banking deposits, students can redeem the Mud Splat Handball or the Outback Pat Bag Tag.

Learning about your child’s ‘Common Cents’

Earlier this year, CommBank released a report exploring just how clued-up about money Australian children are. They were asked to complete the ‘Common Cents’ Quiz, which looked at five key areas of financial literacy: saving, earning, budgeting and investing.

The report revealed our nation’s kids are – on average – educated earners and spenders, and children whose parents have smarter money habits recorded higher ‘Common Cents’ scores. Here are some of the statistics we’ve uncovered:

- 68% of Aussie kids like saving their money more than spending it.
- 77% of them understand they can earn extra money by doing chores around the house.
- Only 50% know what a budget is, with one in five thinking it’s a sheet of paper with numbers on it.
- Over 50% of children surveyed would take $5 now, over larger monetary sums if they have to wait.

The report also shows that 59% of primary school children in Australia receive pocket money, and 82% of those are expected to complete tasks to earn it. Pocket money is a great way for parents to teach kids the value of money and the earning process.

If you’re curious about your child’s ‘Common Cents’, we encourage you to take them through the simple Quiz that’s available at commbank.com.au/commoncentsquiz

For more tips, videos and activities to stimulate your child’s interest in money skills, head to The Beanstalk at commbank.com.au/Youthsaver

TERM DATES 2016

Term 1
Thursday 28 January to Thursday 24 March
(teachers 27 Jan)
Labour Day Monday 14 March
Good Friday 25 March

Term 2
Monday 11 April to Friday 24 June
ANZAC Day Monday 25 April
Queen’s Birthday Monday 13 June

Term 3
Monday 11 July to Friday 16 September

Term 4
Monday 3 October to Tuesday 20 December
Melbourne Cup Tuesday 1 November

School Uniform

It is our School’s policy that all students wear school uniform.

Our school uniform is:

Summer Girls: Blue check frock, navy blue shorts, pale blue or navy blue polo shirt.
Boys: Navy blue shorts, pale blue or navy blue polo shirt

Winter Girls: Navy blue track suits, navy blue windcheater with pale blue or navy blue polo shirt or skivvy.
Boys: Navy blue track suits, navy blue windcheater with pale blue or navy blue polo shirt or skivvy.

Our uniform is available from Beleza, John Street, Pakenham 5941 4989.

As a cheaper alternative we have iron on school logos in blue or white available for purchase ($1.00 each) from the office, if required.

Denim jeans and other coloured tops are not acceptable. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times—toeless shoes are not permitted.