Dear Parents and Friends,

PAFA (Parents and Friends Association):
I would like to share with you the 2016 Presidents Report prepared by Erin Butler as follows (presented at the PAFA AGM on Monday morning):
2016 was another fantastic year for PAFA. Not only with the amount we fundraised—which was amazing with over $12,500—but with being able to provide a range of activities and events that engaged not only the students but their families as well.
With the fundraising efforts from last year, we purchased for the school: a new BBQ, 5 outdoor shelters in the house colours, a set of new footy jumpers and 100 polo t-shirts for interschool sports. We also helped with the whole school excursion to the movies, contributed to the Grade 6 End of Year Activities and Graduation and to other areas within the school.
It is when we can do purchases like these that it makes our hard work worthwhile. It will be great to see the students go off to interschool sports looking “professional” – and all in the same uniform.

Last year we had a lot of successful fundraising activities but particularly the introduction of a Mother’s Day event was a highlight. The Afternoon High Tea was very well received with over 100 in attendance. The afternoon was supported so well by the teachers across the school with portraits being done in the art room and poems written in the classrooms. It was a lovely afternoon with a fantastic array of food, great raffle prizes and topped off by some of the students reading their poems.

With lots of exciting times ahead for the school with the new area becoming available, it will be great to have a focus for our fundraising efforts.

On a personal level, I would like to thank Fran, the teachers, the ES staff and you all for your support during the year – I thoroughly enjoyed the role. I would like to encourage everyone who is thinking about taking on something this year – it is really worthwhile. We only get a small window of opportunity to be a part of our child’s school life (before we become uncool!) and you can see that what we can provide for our school is really invaluable – not only by being able to purchase items but by creating a fun and positive learning environment. And there is the added bonus of meeting a really great group of parents!

I would like to thank Erin and her team for a great 2016 and for their continued support for the year to come. PAFA were able to fill all their vacated executive positions and on behalf of all the staff we are very grateful for your continued support and involvement in our school!

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM:
I would like to thank all those who nominated for School Council for 2017. We still have one vacancy to fill, so if this is something you would be interested in, please let me know. The AGM is scheduled to occur on 27th February.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to Steve Laforet and the senior school for holding a very successful Swimming Carnival on Friday. We had so many parents in attendance and helping out, for which we are all very grateful. Without your support the carnival would not have been such a success. Congratulations to all students for their outstanding behaviour and to the following students who received awards:
Junior Boy Champion: Cameron J
Junior Girl Champion: Katelyn D
Senior Boy Champion: Bailey D
Senior Girl Champion: Echo F

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS:
I hope all parents who took advantage of the parent teacher interviews on Tuesday evening were able to discuss any concerns and/or relay important information to their child’s classroom teacher that was needed. This is the first step in establishing a really strong home/school partnership for the year, where teachers and parents can work together for the benefit of the children. Please make sure that whenever you have a concern or a problem, no matter how small, that you speak to the classroom teachers at your earliest convenience. Often large problems can be avoided if we nip small issues in the bud.
Some of our classroom programs will have been discussed with you at the interview ie: Lexiles, CAFÉ, Open Learning, Soundwaves, Play is the Way. If you would like to find out a little more about them, Chris Riley has created a display in the front foyer with some further information. In future newsletters, we will feature one curriculum program at a time with explanations as to how they operate in our classrooms for your interest.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Fran Van Lambaart

****DON’T FORGET****
Curriculum Day Friday NEXT WEEK, 24th February. STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED AT SCHOOL
A reminder that Foundation students do not attend on Wednesdays for the first 4 weeks. Their first Wednesday is March 1st.

**CANTEEN THIS WEDNESDAY**

**CANTEEN IS NOW ON A WEDNESDAY**

Popcorn, Zooper Doopers & Icy Poles
50 cents each

DIARY DATES

**FEBRUARY**
Friday 17th Y5/6 Interschool Sport ****NOW A BYE****
Monday 20th Fundraising Meeting
Wednesday 22nd District Swimming
Friday 24th CURRICULUM DAY
Monday 27th School Council AGM 7pm

**MARCH**
Friday 3rd Y5/6 Interschool Sport
Wednesday 8th Division Swimming
Friday 10th Y5/6 Interschool Sport
Monday 13th LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
Thursday 16th School Photos (info to follow)
Friday 17th Y5/6 Interschool Sport
Monday 20th PAFA Meeting
Friday 24th Y5/6 Interschool Sport
Monday 27th School Council 7pm
Tuesday 28th T20 Cricket
Friday 31st CSEF Applications due

LAST DAY TERM 1

STUDENT DETAIL FORMS

Student Detail forms have been sent home to every family. These also include important Occupation Code Forms, both of which must be returned to the school whether or not there are any changes. Please check all details carefully and return to the office as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

PAYMENTS DUE

District Swimming
Tuesday 21st February

LATE ARRIVALS

Alistair M
Lily M
Jade D
Corey L

Happy Birthday

LAST DAY TERM 1
Congratulations to these children for receiving this week’s awards.

E4 EXCELLENCE

The Art extension program has had a fantastic start for six Year 3 students. Their task is to make a helmet style mask. They have made plans for their project and they have worked out their self assessment process. The masks are in their initial stages and coming along well.

FROM THE ART ROOM

Dylan B
Xavier L
Callum G
Amelia M
Claire S
Forest F
Edward S
Bella A
Madeline H
Kyle F
Welcome back everyone for 2017. We are going to be running Learning Numeracy sessions on Tuesday mornings again this year, but at the earlier time of 9:05am. This program provides personalised maths instruction to students at their own individual level. As a result, our students are scattered throughout the classrooms, working on the place value concept they need the most in order to progress. All classrooms, from Foundation to the Year 6 class are involved, as are all teaching and support staff. We need many volunteers to make this program run effectively. If you can lend a hand on Tuesday mornings for an hour, have a WWC and a desire to support your school and its students, please let Jacqui Cutler, Fran Van Lambaart or your child’s teacher know.

Sessions begin Tuesday 21st February.

Thanks for your support.

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 HAVE YOUR SAY
Council regularly consult with the community to help inform our decisions in a range of areas. We encourage you to have your say.

We want our community to be informed of our operations and provide input in a balanced and appropriate way. Seeking community feedback ensures that we know what are the priorities and expectations of the community, so this can influence planning, service delivery and decision making.

Currently we are seeking feedback on the following strategies:
- 2017-21 Child, Youth and Family Strategy
- Liveability Health Plan
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy (consultation material will become available on Monday 20 February 2017)


Council will also be hosting three Open House sessions in relation to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy on Saturday 18 March to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the draft Strategy.
- 9 – 11am at the Emerald Library (400A Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald)
- 12 – 2pm at the Pakenham Library (Cnr John St & Henry St, Pakenham)
- 3 – 5pm at the Hewitt Eco House Community Room (215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup)

These drop in sessions are open to anyone and will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. Any questions please phone 1300 787 624.

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**Nar Nar Goon Netball Club**

are looking for U13 players for the 2017 Season.

Training will commence at 5.00pm on the 21st February at Arena Netball Courts, Officer. Training will be on Tuesday night’s at Officer until our new Courts at Nar Nar Goon are complete (approx. April) and will then be held at Nar Nar Goon on a Thursday night.

If you are interested in playing for Nar Nar Goon please come on the 21st February or contact Emma to discuss – 0417548805 emma.cetel@bigpond.com

Hope to see you there.
Our Swimming Stars
from the House Swimming Sports last Friday

We were very lucky to have some visitors from the Richmond Football Club come to talk to us on Monday afternoon.
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 inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

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

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;

  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

 Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2017) or term two (18 April 2017).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2017 closes on 30 June, 2017.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

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CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

Nar Nar Goon Primary School

School REF ID - 2248

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

[ ] OR

[ ] Foster parent OR [ ] Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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<th>Child’s surname</th>
<th>Child’s first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant ___________________________ Date ________ / ________ / _________