THANK YOU - SCHOOL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY
Thank you to all the families that supported our latest fundraiser at the Warragul Rodeo. It was fantastic to see the support from these people and also the team work displayed throughout the evening. Thank you all once again, your support of these events which helps support the school’s programs is of great value to the school. The new gazebo purchased by Parent Club came in quite handy during the heat of the day!

MORNING TEA FOR FOUNDATION PARENTS
Thank you to parents that attended the morning tea at school on Tuesday 4th. Your input and feedback are appreciated to assist with the transition to school for students and families.

PARENT TEACHER DISCUSSIONS
‘Get to Know’ parent–teacher discussions will be held early this term. Thursday 20th February has been set aside for this. Childcare is available to families.

FOUNDATION STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Foundation students are not required to attend school on Wednesdays for the month of February. The first full week that Foundation students will attend is the week beginning Monday 3rd March.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Tuesday 25th February has been chosen as our school photo day. Information packages are attached to the newsletter. Envelopes and payments must be returned to the school either before or on photo day. For family photo envelopes and further information please contact the office.

SCHOOL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
Our student diary is a fantastic tool for communication between school and home. Recording important dates and upcoming events along with sharing your child’s achievements. The diary can be used to make a time with the teacher for a conversation. Keeping in mind that it is the students own diary and they view the content.

SCHOOL SAFETY—CAR PARK
Could parents please not park in designated staff car parks. These car parks are the 5 parks in the new car park area and the 3 car parks located above the school crossing. On some days there will be extra staff cars at school which will take up places in the middle parking area. The car park becomes quite congested so please take care when driving through the car park and when reversing and parking cars. Parents can demonstrate correct use of the car park by using the designated walkways and crossing in a safe manner.

NILMA PRIMARY SCHOOL MASTERCHEFS
It is fabulous to see the rewards reaped from our school garden when students harvest the produce. Excited to see the plants grow and then the fruits of their labour, the students and staff enjoy seeing our students make something from it.

‘Using zucchinis and onions grown in our garden at school, a group of us made some zucchini slice. We cut up the slice into small pieces and took it around to all the grades for everyone to try.’
Kael, Astrid & Jamie

‘Today we made zucchini slice.’
Larissa

‘I helped make zucchini slice.’
Jaycob

ENJOYING THE WEATHER AND A CRICKET MATCH
Back at school and carrying on the summer tradition of a friendly cricket match. All students are to be congratulated on their choice of activities for recess and lunch times. Including others in their games and taking the time to explain the rules to new players to the game. Terrific sportsmanship!!

TOMORROW
Friday 7 February 2014 marks the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires that claimed the lives of 173 people.
To mark this anniversary, and to honour all those affected by the Victorian bushfires in February 2009, the Australian National Flag will be flown at half-mast all day tomorrow. This will occur in all Victorian government schools.
R.E.A.L STUDENTS@NILMA

Student of the Week

Homegroup Red
Blake Hanmer
For a fantastic start to your Foundation year. You have worked hard in writing your name and working on your I CAN book.
Well done Blake

Homegroup Green
Matilda Dent
For challenging herself in her learning, especially with mathematics.

Homegroup Blue
Kael Mason
For making such a positive start to your learning in 2014 and being willing to challenge yourself to do your best. Well done mate!

Homegroup Yellow
James Dungey
For consistently demonstrating the REAL @ Nilma expectations in all areas of his learning.

L.A.U.G.H Program
Learning Activities Under Guidance of Home
NIGHTLY READING

Students will be bringing home books for nightly reading as part of their LAUGH (Learning Activities Under the Guidance of Home) program. Please support your child with their reading by sharing these books at home. Your child has already been introduced to the texts being sent home and are encouraged to discuss the pictures and think about what is happening in the book. Praise your child’s attempts at reading the words and sharing their thinking. Sounding out the words and looking at the pictures for support, are both good strategies for effective readers.

Once read, the title of the book needs to be recorded in the student diary provided and signed, (on the day read).

Books are to be returned to school the following day in the school satchel.

Further information was provided in the last newsletter, under the ‘Curriculum Corner’, with suggestions and ideas listed to support the program.

Congratulations Kael Mason for completing 20 days of reading in January as part of Warragul Library’s Reading Challenge!

Happy Birthday

Aiden Smythe
Mrs Buckler
**HOMEGROUP HAPPENINGS!**

**My Favourite Activity at School so far….**

I like playing with Ty and Daniel in the playground.

By Shakira Kimm.

**At school I like doing the Reading Eggs. I love the art.**

I have been playing the games on Reading Eggs. I made a peek-a-boo apple.

Reading Eggs is fun.

This week we looked at the letter Aa. We made peek-a-boo apples with a worm that pops up and down to represent the letter Aa.

By Kylie Griggs.

**Yay! It was Christmas. Guess what my uncle gave me? A rabbit! She is a girl, she is light brown and her name is Rosie Barb Devlin. She is very cute and cuddly. Rosie Barb is also very active and playful. I also got three other pets, one is a stick insect and the other two are leaf insects.**

At school in my writing group we are doing an Autobiography about ourselves.

By Meg.D

**I like my holiday I had a lot of fun. I’d like to have more holidays. We went to Dargo to the farm. I like it when Pop takes the jeep to Dargo.**

By Mitchell

**On the holidays I went to The Pines up in Mansfield. We got bogged in the mud and made a big hole. We set up camp waiting for someone to come and tow us out. When Dave came to tow us out my dog Chucky got so scared he ran off because he has had bad experiences with bogged cars.**

By Megan G.

**On the weekend I went to the zoo. We saw elephants and platypus. I went with my family. It was lots of fun.**

By Ashley.

**On the weekend I went to the rodeo. I played with my friends. I saw horses and bulls there. People were riding the bull. The best part was watching the motorbikes.**

By Ashton

**On the weekend I went to the beach. I played in the water. It was a great day.**

By Holly

**Week 2 has been awesome! A great start to the year. I can’t wait until tomorrow afternoon as Mum is picking me up at lunch time to go up to Mansfield, to go horse riding. Yay! I’m going with my Mum, my friend Bailey and her Mum Jess. I have been there before and it’s awesome!**

By Shakira Kimm.

**This year Grades 5 and 6 get Miss Matarczyk. In Writing Groups I have Mrs Buckler and we are doing biographies. I’m doing my biography on Mrs Buckler.**

By Kylie Griggs.

**This week in Whole School Writing we are doing biographies and we are interviewing people. We have been playing cricket all week at school. We have even made a pitch on the oval.**

By Patrick Smythe.
As part of our Whole School Literacy program, this term, students will become familiar with autobiographies and biographies, their features and text structure. Some students will create an autobiography, sharing information about themselves, from their favourite colour, to the members of their family. Students may have some questions that you can support them with at home, helping them to recall significant childhood events and memories. Students may be asked to bring along a photo to support their writing. Autobiographies will mostly be presented in a booklet format, utilising Publisher and Word.

Some students will be preparing a biography on a member of the local community. This process requires the students to obtain permission from an individual to be interviewed, with the student having written a set of questions tailored to that person. Research skills and interview techniques will be developed to source accurate and interesting information to be included in the biography. The lucky person chosen to be interviewed will receive a letter outlining the purpose of the learning task. The letter will also seek the individual’s permission to use the information obtained to write and publish their biography. Students writing a biography may need to use some time outside of school to interview their subject, or invite their interviewee into the school, with visitors signing the register in the office (times need to be organised with home group teachers).

Students have discussed their task within their learning groups and are already planning and composing their autobiography or biography.

Encourage your child to share what they are going to include in their autobiography or alternately ask them who they would like to interview and the types of questions they may ask.
To Parents,

Students have returned to school with a positive attitude and are already forming new friendship and reuniting with their peers. Within our home groups learning expectations have been setup, in line with our school ‘REAL @ Nilma’ values.

As a school we continue to celebrate and acknowledge students achievements through the ‘REAL rewards’, student designed stickers, within both the classrooms and outside learning environments.

Nilma’s Whole School Learning Programs are also up and running with students grouped based on the skills they display and future learning needs. Collectively teachers plan the content and learning activities while monitoring student achievements. Students are moved into different groups when they need to develop a different skill at their point of need. Fortnightly teachers discuss students placement in groups and make informed decisions on student learning groups.

As mentioned in the Curriculum Corner, in Whole School Writing Groups, students are investigating autobiographies and biographies, planning for and composing their own. Currently students reading and comprehension skills are being assessed to enable the planning of focused teaching lessons and the setting of individual learning goals for students literacy learning.

This term, Number and Place value are the focus within our Whole School Maths sessions. Students will be grouped once their pre-assessment is completed early next week.

Our proposed excursion this term is to Walhalla, with the 5th of March in mind, with details to be confirmed. At this stage the day will include a train ride and picnic lunch, with exploration of the towns historical buildings and heritage listed locations; the old post office, fire station, band rotunda, mining relics and grave sites. The focus is around family history and local history, change in the communities, looking at comparing and contrast to todays living.

Further information will be released closer to the day.

Students have met their buddies and through structured learning opportunities they will develop their interpersonal skills. Each Friday students will work with their buddies to complete ICT tasks and Athletic Sports practice, preparing for the Rural Sports Day on Friday the 28th of March.

On Tuesday the 25th of March we will host the annual back to school BBQ, where grade six students will be presented with their leadership badges. The badges are a way of recognising and celebrating the roles students are taking on as responsible school leaders and citizens.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact your child’s home group teacher, utilising their school diary as an effective form of communication, or to arrange a time to meet.

We look forward to a terrific term and thank you for your ongoing support of your child’s/children’s learning.

Regards

Kerry Williams, Amanda Buckler, Emily Matarczyk, Monica Berkelmans & Kathryn Closter
Please keep an eye out for anyone selling or purchasing cheap Husqvarna Chainsaws. Over the holidays, 12 training Chainsaws belonging to Warragul Forest and Garden where stolen from the locked tradesman trailer at McMillian Training Campus, Warragul. Anyone who may have any information, please contact Warragul Police or Nicki and Jason from Warragul Forest and Garden on 56221944. Thank You.

What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?
If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airon or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.

Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au.
As most of you may have already heard, unfortunately our latest fundraising event, catering at the Warragul Rodeo, wasn’t quite what we had hoped it would be.

HOWEVER, as disappointing as the outcome may have been from a fundraising point of view, we need to focus on the huge positives from this event. We got out there and had a go! It was great to see the school was represented by so many willing helpers. We did have a lot of great feedback from people who asked about the school and comments that we have a great parent support group. This is fantastic to see and even better to be hearing it from members of the community.

A huge thank you goes to Kylie & Steven Crook, Kelly & Daniel Chesterfield, Belinda & Cameron Smythe, Jason Kimm, Julie & Rick Smith, Jinine Kilgour, Lisa Giblin, Alex Bundle, Leanne Perry, Kylie Bott, Nicky Mulconry, Natalie Axford, Annette Sutherland, Paul Russell and Julie Young for their fantastic efforts towards the fundraising event at the Warragul Rodeo last Saturday afternoon/evening. Your help is greatly appreciated, the night ran smoothly and efficiently, volunteers working well together as a team! It is from your help and support that we were able to purchase a new gazebo for the school to be used at events such as the school sports day and some new catering supplies with part of the money. Thank you also to all of the children who helped set up and pack up!

We will be having another meeting in March, (date to be advised) And everyone is invited to come along and discuss other fundraisers for the rest of the year and also to meet new parents. We are always happy to welcome to faces and fresh ideas. Please remember, no idea is a bad one!

Lastly I would like to say an EXTRA BIG Thank you to 2 people who worked tirelessly before the event to make it all come together. Kelly Chesterfield and Belinda Smythe. Your efforts to place all the orders, pick up all the orders and co ordinate the event were very much appreciated.

Thank You

Nicki Kimm

School Council President
Active After School Communities

Dates and days have been confirmed for term 1’s programs and as are follows;

Badminton will be on Wednesdays, 3.45pm – 4.45pm. Parents will need to transport students to and from the Warragul Badminton Hall, starting on Wednesday 19th February until 2nd April.

Hockey will be held at Nilma Primary on Tuesdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm commencing on Tuesday 18th February until 1st April.

Could you please complete the Expression of Interest Form below and return to school by Wednesday 12th February so that the lists of participants can go in the Newsletter on the following Thursday.

Consent forms will also have to be filled out before the commencement of the programs, these must be signed and returned to enable students to participate in the sessions, these consent forms will cover students for the year. If you require a form please collect one from the Office.

Active After School Communities

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking will commence on Friday 21st February and will run weekly throughout each term. Days are advertised on the school calendar. This year’s theme is deep sea savings, the Commonwealth Bank have introduced lots more prizes to collect, the more deposits you make the more tokens you can collect in order to redeem for prizes! A parent information pack was sent home on last week’s newsletter but if you would like any further information please speak to Belinda Smythe, school banking coordinator. Students will still be required to hand in their bank books on the school banking days; late books will not be processed until the following week.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Badminton Hockey

Student__________________ __________ __________

Student__________________ __________ __________

Student__________________ __________ __________

Signed by parent: ___________________________________ Date:______________

Please put down which activity you would prefer to participate in using 1 and/or 2. (1 being 1st preference) and return no later then Wednesday 12th February.
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