Thank you to everyone for such a smooth start to the new year. Our Foundation students have settled in well and have now experienced a whole week of school! Today, being our Specialist day, students had the opportunity to experience Visual Arts, Digital Technologies (DT) and Environment and Sustainability (Science). The students were learning how to move around the school and experiencing learning throughout the school. All other home-groups have been very supportive to our new students.

This week’s newsletter is so big, with lots of information so please take time to sit, relax and read through. Here goes….

PARENT TEACHER DISCUSSIONS
‘Get to Know You’ parent–teacher discussions will be held early this term. Thursday 18th February has been set aside for this. Childcare is available to families. A letter outlining the discussions is attached to the newsletter. On the back is the response form, please return this to school by Wednesday 10th February. These forms will then be returned to families with confirmation of the discussion time.

SCHOOL COUNCIL—Decision Making at NPS
The culture of Nilma Primary School is to work in partnership with parents for the benefit of all students and families. There will be many opportunities for parents to have some input into decision making for the future of the students at NPS. One avenue of input is involvement at a School Council level.

School Council Elections
The School Council is looking for new members for 2016. We have 4 parent vacancies available. Self Nomination Forms are attached to the newsletter. These will need to be returned to the office by Friday 12th February.

School Council Meeting
Nilma’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 16th February 2016. Parents are welcome to the meeting.

Please consider this as an opportunity to contribute to your child’s education. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to come and talk to Annette.

HOMEGROUP NEWSLETTERS
Each home-group will send out a term newsletter outlining the curriculum focus and important information for the term—this will go out with the newsletter next week.

WHOLE SCHOOL BBQ / YEAR 6 LEADERS BADGE PRESENTATION
Tuesday 24th February at 6.00pm we will be holding our whole school BBQ and Year 6 Leaders Badge presentation evening—Place the date in your diary. Please fill out the attached form on page 5 if you are able to attend and help out on the evening.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Thursday 25th February has been chosen as our school photo day. Information packages are attached to the newsletter. All payment envelopes must be brought back by Thursday 25th or on the day. More envelopes are available at the office. If families would like to have a family photo taken on the day, a separate envelope is available from the Office.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
I am writing to reassure you in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an Emergency Management Plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their Emergency Management Plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority. Today we have revised our school Emergency management plans. Parents will receive a text message to the family nominated emergency mobile number in case of emergency. Today in the large package of information will be the STUDENT/FAMILY PERMISSION BOOKLET. Could you all please update and return to school by Friday 12th February. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me.

BURRA FOODS GRANT SUCCESS
Thank you to Paula Elliott and Brian for endorsing Nilma Primary school’s Burra Foods Grant of $500. We were successful in receiving funds to continue to support our sustainability and Environment program including the kitchen garden.
R.E.A.L Students@NILMA

Learner of the Week

Recognitions

Homegroup 1/F Red
Ruby Red Whole Class
For a fantastic start to the year. You have been accepting of each other, caring and working together. We are going to have a wonderful year. Well done Ruby Reds.

Homegroup 2/1 Green
Green Gem Homegroup
For a wonderful start to the new school year. You have all begun to demonstrate being Visible Learners. Keep it up!

Homegroup 4/3 Blue
4/3 Blue Homegroup
For making such an amazing start to the year, showing respect for each other, and taking responsibility for your learning. WOW!

Homegroup 6/5/4 Yellow
Yellow Whole Class
For doing such an amazing job of settling in to a new year.

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.

Happy Birthday
Amanda Buckler
Savannah Farmer
HOME GROUP HAPPENINGS!

Students in the Red and Green Homegroups have settled into their new class extremely well. It has been an exciting time getting to know new class members and new students. Students have adapted to the changes this year and grasped new routines very well. Students have also adapted well to our new *Literacy Rotations* structure.

This week, our group has been getting to know each other, and working towards building our positive class expectations, norms and relationships. One activity that we participated in was a team work cup stack building challenge. In teams of four or five, students needed to move a configuration of cups stacked in three towers, to be a pyramid of cups. The challenge was, that no hands were allowed to be used, only the lifting device Mrs. McMahon provided (made of a rubber band and four pieces of string)! Students used an excellent range of positive team work language and behaviours, and were further challenged by needing to build a pyramid with twice the amount of cups, and team members.

---

**Scallywag** …….a Story Map by Aiden Smythe

1. Scallywag was pet cat that belonged to many different people in the neighbourhood.
2. He went to many people’s houses so he could get fed and get could fat.
3. One day Scallywag disappeared, the people looked everywhere for him.
4. But he had a proper owner and he had gone there to get fed again!

**Scallywag** by Will McGrath

Scallywag was a fat cat, he went to people’s houses to get fed.
He went missing then he got found and he was embarrassed.
The next day he went missing again
Scallywag had a proper owner but he got lost when he was with his proper owner
He lived in the alleyway The next day his real owner found him. By Will McGrath
Ready to read a text to your child? Just give your child an opportunity to see all the words on a page of the text and then read aloud. Help your child develop confidence in reading by asking questions and discussing the story before reading. Encourage your child to make predictions and ask questions. Create a story map or graphic organizer to help your child comprehend the text. Read aloud with your child and discuss the story. Use visual aids to help your child understand the text. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words. Provide opportunities for your child to read independently. Encourage your child to read for fun and to develop a love of reading. Provide a quiet, comfortable space for your child to read. Help your child develop fluency and comprehension by reading aloud and discussing the story. Encourage your child to read aloud and discuss the story. Provide opportunities for your child to read independently. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words. Provide opportunities for your child to read aloud and discuss the story.

Home Reading Help!

The following is a list of handy ideas/suggestions to support the
NMIA Primary School Home Reading Program.

1. Read aloud to your child and discuss the story.
2. Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to answer them.
3. Use visual aids to help your child understand the text.
4. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words.
5. Provide opportunities for your child to read independently.
6. Encourage your child to read aloud and discuss the story.
7. Provide opportunities for your child to read aloud and discuss the story.
8. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words.
9. Provide opportunities for your child to read independently.

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ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS
In developing the 2016 Essential Education Items (Subject Contributions), all aspects of the Schools Resource Package from the Department of Education and Training and the needs of the school in providing the necessary extras to provide a quality educational program, has been considered.

The amount for Essential Education Items for 2016 will be $140.00 per child. The excursion levy for 2016 will be $50 per child.

The amount for Essential Education Items is used to purchase all books and stationery used by each child in their classrooms for the year. It is also used to cover costs of purchasing materials for Art, English, Music, Mathematics, Technology, Science, and Health and PE, MARC Van and Sports Levies. A letter is attached to the newsletter outlining the cost breakdown for subject contributions.

Nilma Primary School would appreciate payment for all Essential Education Items and Excursion Levies by the end of first term 2016. The amount of $190.00 can be paid to the office in cash, cheque, or by bank deposit.

A payment plan can be arranged for those who wish to pay in instalments. Please speak to the office for more information.

This year families with students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will also have the additional cost of school camp. Anticipated costs of these camps are - Year 6/5 Ballarat Camp, $265 per student and Year 4/3 Mill Valley Ranch Camp approximately $150 per student. These prices may change once final numbers are confirmed with the camps and other schools in the Mt Worth cluster.

Other costs involved in the school year will include school photos, some excursions and fundraising ventures.

If families would like to know further information in regards to subject contributions, camps and excursions please speak to the Office staff or to Annette.

CSEF (Camps/Excursions) FUNDS
Attached to the newsletter are Application Forms for CSEF Funding. CSEF Funds are used to help pay for Camps and Excursions throughout the year. If your child does not attend a camp, this money will be rolled over for the next year. Eligible families must have a current Health Care Card. All forms must be returned to the office by Tuesday 23rd February 2016. Late forms cannot be accepted.

MARC VAN BOOKS
Our mobile library van (MARC Van) will begin on Thursday 18th February 2016. Students will be able to borrow books and return them every fortnight for other books. Could students please return all MARC Van books from last year.

CONVEYANCE FORMS
Private Conveyance Forms are attached to the newsletter. These forms must be returned to the office by Friday 26th February. These forms are only eligible to families who live 4.8km from the nearest school.

YEAR 6/5 BALLARAT CAMP
The Year 6/5 Camp will be held at Ballarat on Wednesday 20th until Friday 22nd April 2016. Attached to the newsletter is early notification. Could parents please fill out the forms, sign and return to the office by Friday 12th February. A payment plan is also attached for parents wishing to pay in instalments.

SOMERS CAMP
The Somers Camp is available to selected Year 5 & 6 students and will be held on Tuesday March 12th until Wednesday March 20th 2016. Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter if your child would like to attend the Somers Camp.

LAUGH @ NILMA
The Learning Activities Under the Guidance of Home program (LAUGH) will begin next week on Monday. Each student is required to borrow a game, play it at home with family and/or friends and then return it on the following Monday. Our process for overdue games is as such; if students have had a game for more than 2 weeks, a late slip will be given to the homegroup teacher who will place it in their diary to go home to parents. If students are unable to find game pieces or the whole game please send a note to the homegroup teacher explaining this so it can be followed up and a solution can be found. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep this program running smoothly.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

NPS WHOLE SCHOOL BBQ/LEADERSHIP BADGE PRESENTATION

Family Name:__________________________________________

How many attending:__________________________________________

I can/cannot (please circle) help out with the BBQ on the night.

Signed by Parent:__________________________________________
SCHOOL ORGANISATION

SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking will commence on Friday 12th February and will run weekly throughout each term. Days are advertised on the school calendar. 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 is attached to the newsletter but if you would like any further information please speak to Belinda Smythe, school banking coordinator. Students are to hand in their bank books on the school banking days in the morning, late books will not be processed until the following week.
This year’s school banking major prize is a wildlife adventure holiday! See the picture below for more information.

SUNSMART SCHOOL
A reminder to all students to bring to school their Hats, a Drink Bottle (can be refilled during the day), a Healthy Lunch & Snacks and Sunglasses (optional).
PS. Don’t forget to put on sunscreen in the morning too as we no longer supply sunscreen to students at school due to allergies.
School hats can be purchased at Hip Pocket Workwear.

STUDENT PERMISSION FORMS AND MEDICATION FORMS
The 2016 Student Permission Booklets are attached to today’s newsletter. These booklets must be correctly filled out and returned to school by Friday 12th February.
This booklet contains the annual permission notices for many aspects of the school. It also contains some medical management plans if required.
Secondly if your child has ongoing medication that staff is required to administer—parents please update our Medication Request form. These are also attached to the newsletter. Specific management plans for students health and wellbeing are also attached for those students that require them to be updated annually.
If your family details have changed over the holiday period could you please provide the school—in writing any information that may need changing in our records eg. telephone numbers, contact details, addresses, emergency contacts etc.
CONVEYANCE FORMS
Private Conveyance Forms are attached to the newsletter. These forms must be returned by the end of February for those families who live further than 4.8km from their nearest school. If you are unsure if you are eligible for this, please speak to the Office.

BOOK CLUB
Attached to the newsletter are this years first Book Club forms. These orders are due back on Thursday 11th February. Unfortunately late orders cannot be accepted.

FUNDRAISING
Our first Fundraising event for this year will be a Hot Cross Bun Drive. Order forms and more information will be sent out with the newsletter next week. There will also be a Mothers’ Day Stall in Term 2 and Family photo fundraiser in Term 2.
Juice Box drinks are available for students at recess and lunchtime for $1.00 each, and Icy-poles are available for 50 cents each.
A special Thank you to Thelma, Jenny Leeson’s Aunt for donating a basket of items to our school to go towards a raffle.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC BY BAND JAM 821
SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
7.00PM
TICKETS $40 each
Finger Food Supplied
WARRAGUL SPORTING & SOCIAL CLUB
55 Victoria Street, Warragul
Ph: 5623 1520

Free household chemical collection at Morwell's Detox your Home

Proudly Supporting variety the children's charity

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT
AUCTION & RAFFLES
*Table for 10 AFL President’s Lunch
Valued @ $4000
*Kennards Equip Hire $1000
*Wine valued at $500
*Plus much more...

Doing it for the kids

Date your Home is safe, FREE and easy-to-use service to dispose of common household chemicals without harming your health or environment.
Don’t throw them in your bin and contaminate your environment and Endo your Home.
Simple setup in the day with your unwanted items and we’ll do the rest.
Consulting not permitted. Only donations up to 25L to be accepted.

Morwell’s collection
Saturday 27 February 2016
10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Latrobe City Council, Headquarters (car park)
141 Commercial Road, Morwell
For more information:
msnail@lccc.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome
5623 363 764

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Term 1 2016
Managing tough times: Suggestions for families and staff

Provide consistent and predictable routines

Change to routines and the environment can be frightening to young children who have been traumatised. They are very sensitive to changes in routines, transitions, surprises, unstructured social situations and new situations. Letting children know about changes in routine in advance and why there is a change helps children manage their fears (e.g., a new person visiting the home, going to see the doctor). Most children respond well to structured environments with clear goals, timelines and activities. Keeping familiar routines, having trusted people around, predictable routines and familiar places reduces unnecessary stress and helps children feel safe.

Some of the ways to do this are:
- having regular routines around sleeping, eating, playtimes
- telling children about what is coming up next and give them details of what to expect
- being sensitive when moving from one task or place to another, such as ending playtime or getting ready for bed.

Talk to children about the traumatic event

When a child brings up the traumatic event, take their lead and enter into a discussion. If children pick up that the adults around them don't feel comfortable to talk about events, they will be reluctant to bring it up. Children do not benefit from 'not thinking about it' or 'putting it out of their minds'. In the long run this can make the child's recovery more difficult. It is important to keep sharing thoughts and feelings and give children an opportunity to ask questions. It is also important for adults to be as honest and clear as possible about the traumatic event. Children who are not given details or explanations about traumatic events often make up stories in their head to try to understand what has happened. The way young children can understand and glue basic facts. Just as for adults, children often find the unknown is more frightening than the reality.

Some of the ways to talk with children about traumatic event include:
- calmly listening to a child's repeated retellings of events
- letting a child express their feelings through play, such as physically re-enacting the trauma
- helping a child identify their feelings such as drawing the way they feel and naming these feelings.

Information for families and early childhood staff Component 4 – Helping children who are experiencing mental health difficulties
### FEBRUARY 2016

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#### IMPORTANT DATES - SCHOOL CAMPS!

- Year 6/5 Camp at Ballarat - 20th - 22nd April 2016
- Year 6/5 Somers Camp - 12th - 20th April 2016
- Year 4/3 Camp at Mill Valley Ranch - 13th - 14th Oct 2016