WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION ‘HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON’—Arena Spectacular to be held at HISENSE ARENA in Melbourne—TOMORROW. Children must be at the train station by 8.30am. The train will be arriving back at the station at 4.00pm. We will talk to students and staff about safe travel on trains and expectations this week. We are all very excited!

We will be walking from Richmond station to the Arena and then after the event we will visit Federation Square on the way back to Flinders Street Station.

LUNCHES—Bring food in plastic bag—disposable bag—no need for school bags or lunch boxes. No pocket money please. The school will have four cameras to take lots of photos—Students will be able to access these photos from school. If your child brings camera—it is his/her responsibility to take care of it. 0407 231 804 Emergency mobile contact for excursion.

SCIENCE—As part of our science program—Mrs Formby organised Baw Baw Shire Council Staff—Carol Ferguson and Tyson Dennis to visit school and talk to the students about Native Plants and weed control.

As a final investigation into plants next week we will look at a local excursion to a neighbouring farm to identify some weeds. More information to follow. Thanks Mrs Formby.

SCHOOL NURSE
Cheryl Fernandez our School Nurse will be visiting prep students next week on Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th March

PREPS
All preps are required to attend School on Wednesday 14th March.

NO SCHOOL
THIS MONDAY 12th March
R.E.A.L STUDENTS @ NILMA

Student of the Week

Recognitions

Homegroup 1 / Prep

Eloise Warenycia
For working really well in class and having a go at writing on her own.

Homegroup 3/2

LACHLAN AXFORD
For challenging himself daily and helping others.

Homegroup 4/3

BLAKE WITNEY
For being willing to take responsibility for his learning, challenge himself and always “have a go”.

Homegroup 6/5

SAVANNA MAUNDER
For doing fantastic in reading and writing. She has been a great learner and always on task.

R. E. A. L STUDENTS @ NILMA

L.A.U.G.H

NIGHTLY READING

Recognition certificates

25 nights

Daniel Axford          Aiden Olsson
Mitch Chesterfield    Justin Axford
Max Chesterfield      Jessica Gilbertson
Angus Mulconry        Jack Hall
Harrison Perry         McKayla Lindsay
Dominick Johnstone-Witney  Olivia Quinn
Savanna mauder        Ryan Young

CAMP NEWS

The Mt Worth Cluster Camp to Ballarat will be held from Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd May 2012. Cost of camp—approximately $235. Payment plans will be sent out next week. Students from Bona Vista, Ellinbank, Nilma and Darnum will be attending camp together to build relationships and friendships across the schools.

Expressions of Interest on newsletter page 6

SCIENCE   p7

To help students learn more about plants, some family LAUGH (Learning Activities Under Guidance of Home) called “Science Share” have been designed for you to do at home as a family. See page 7 of newsletter.

Discuss with your child/en what has happened in the experiment. Let them bring the experiment to school to share with the class.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

CRAZY HAIR DAY

Friday the 9th of March is Crazy Hair Day so go a little wild and create a weird and wacky hairstyle. Support the Leukaemia foundation by having a bit of fun and making a Gold Coin Donation. Both students and staff are invited to take part in the day and show off their hair.

The Leukaemia Foundation supports the people with Cystic Fibrosis. CF is a chronic illness that affects the lungs and digestive system of young people in Australia today. Treatment is relentless, day in and day out.

Students from Bona Vista, Ellinbank, Nilma and Darnum will be attending camp together to build relationships and friendships across the schools.
Today is World Maths Day and we did Maths questions against other people all over the world. By Daniel

I made an Acrostic poem using my first name and last name. For the letter D I had Daddy’s girl. By Meg

We are going to see How to Train Your Dragon tomorrow. I reckon it will be better than the Dinosaur one. By Ashton

We have MARC Van with Mr. Bucknall today instead of tomorrow. By Aiden

I got to come to school today. I was the only Prep. I got to go on the computer and play Mathletics against other people from different schools. By Eloise

Marc Van was great today. We sang songs. By Jessica

Tomorrow we are going to watch How to Train your Dragon in Melbourne. We are going to catch the train. We have to be at the train station by 8:30am. By Kiara and Ella Perry

Angus and I looked for our spelling words in the newspaper. It was hard because the words were very small. It was good fun and we want to do it again. By Lachlan Axford and Angus Mulconry

Yesterday the grade 2s were learning about money. I made three different groups of $1.20. I liked it. I want to learn about money because it’s important that we know how much we can spend and how much change we should get. By Mitch Chesterfield

Yesterday the Grade 3s did a hard maths test on the laptops. I got to use Miss Watts’ laptop and I was the first one finished. Then I put my spelling words in alphabetical order. By Shelby McGrath

We have a writing ideas book now. We picked a picture and then we created a character profile. My character is a lizard who sometimes goes crazy. His name is Scales and he is 29 years old. By Tahlia Whitney

Baw Baw Shire visit

Yesterday two people from the Baw Baw Plant Control came to the school to talk about plants, noxious weeds and native animals. Their names were Carolyn and Tyson, first they showed us native plants. Then they showed us gum trees, wattle trees and tree ferns. Then they showed us noxious weeds like Ragwort, Hawthorn, Agapanthus, Blackberries, Cape Ivy, Tobacco Tree, English Ivy and Californian Thistles. At the end they gave us three booklets each and they also showed us a tree planter and guards for the new plants.

Mrs Formby organised the visit for us. In Science with Mrs Formby we have been studying plants. We all had a great time.

By Lachlan Crook, Harrison Perry and Patrick Smythe

On Friday the 9th it is CRAZY HAIR DAY. It is a gold coin donation. The money will be raised for the Leukaemia Foundation for the people with Cystic Fibrosis. On the day kids are allowed to come in wigs or crazy hair stuff like coloured hair. IT WILL BE AWESOME!!!!!!

By Dominick Johnstone

We have Crazy Hair Day on Friday. It should be funny. By Kirsty Wooster

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By Dominick Johnstone
Thank you to the Young family who have kindly donated hay bales for our Sports Day. We are in need of someone to pickup & drop off the bales to the Geoff Watt track on Wednesday 21st March as the Young Family are unavailable to transport them for us. If anyone can help with pickup and drop off please contact or let Annette know.

Thank you.

School Organisation

Japanese Intern
Our new intern, Miss Arisa Kawamura will arrive soon after the holidays and should start in the second week of Term 2. She will be at Nilma on Wednesdays. We are asking if any parents are interested in hosting our Japanese Intern during Term 2 or Term 3, please see Annette.

Darnum and Nilma Primary Schools are due to return to Japan in November 2012. We do not have much information as yet, but if you are interested, please let Annette know.
The cost for this trip will be approx $2,000 per student. The trip will last 12-14 days, and students will be staying with host families. This is a trip of a lifetime if your child would like to attend.

School Attendance - Absence Procedures
In line with Department guidelines, we are updating our school procedures. Documented records of student absence is compulsory.
Attendance slips are attached with today's newsletter for your convenience.
A slip will need to be filled out and signed when a student is absent.
We do appreciate a phone call—but a document of absence is necessary for new school procedures. Thank you for your attention to this. We will endeavour to place some extra copies of the absence notes in student diaries for your convenience too.

Instrumental Music Lessons
Could all accounts be paid this Friday 9th March 2012. Thank you—Norm Cottrell.

Viewing Video/DVD for Educational Purposes
Parental permission is needed for schools to view PG DVD for educational purposes.
Permission form is attached to newsletter - please return by Tuesday 13th March
Thank you—Amanda Buckler

Parent Club / School Council News

Easter Raffle: This will be drawn the last day of Term 1. Donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be made at the office. Raffle books will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Hot Lunch day: On Friday 16th March the parents will be holding a Hot Lunch Day. Students may order a hot dog and flavoured drink (chocolate or strawberry) for $5.00. For catering purposes, all orders must be in by Wednesday 14th March.

School Council
The next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th March at 1.45pm at the school.
Premier’s Reading Challenge 2012
This year our school will again be participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students from grade Prep to 6 are able to participate in the challenge which involves students reading a set number of books by 31st August. Last year approximately 40 students from Nilma successfully completed the challenge. This year we expect ALL students to participate in the Challenge as part of our classroom reading and literature enrichment program. Grade 3-6 will read a total of 15 books, at least 10 of which must be from the titles on the Challenge booklist and 5 of their own choice. Grade Prep -2 will read or “experience” 30 books with 20 or more coming from the Challenge list and the remaining can be their own choice. “Experiencing” a book for Prep -2 can include a range of class or home activities such as sharing of a Big Book, shared reading at school and home, reading along with a text and being read to with parents, siblings and others.

To participate in the Reader’s Challenge students will need to have parents complete the Registration and Consent form and return to school. A copy of this form and an invitation from the Premier to participate in the challenge is attached to this newsletter. Upon completion of the Premier’s Reading Challenge students will receive a certificate from the Premier and have their names published in “The Age” in September. We will also be recognizing the achievement of participating students through the construction of a “Reading Challenge” giant bookworm that will be displayed outside the office, each segment of which will feature the name of a student who has successfully completed the Reading Challenge.

Students will be able to begin to borrow many of the titles on the Challenge list from the library in the coming weeks as they register. The Warragul Library will also be an excellent source of books for the Challenge.

The Challenge provides students with a great opportunity to read a range of literature and a real focus for their own reading for pleasure. Thanks for your support. Good reading!
Thanks for your support,
Kerry Williams

BOOKCLUB
Attached to the newsletter last week were Bookclub orders. Please ensure that all money and orders are returned to the school by Tuesday 13th March.

LONG WEEKEND
Just a reminder that there will be no school on Monday 12th March, due to the Labour Day Long Weekend.

SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS
The School Athletic Sports will be held at the Geoff Watt Track in Warragul on Wednesday 21st March. The back up day is Friday 23rd March. Permission forms and other information regarding the sports will be attached to today’s newsletter.

Events program and canteen menu will be sent out next week.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES
AASC is going well, students are enjoying this terms activities and learning lots of new skills. Students participating in Triathlon are able to bring along their scooters again to our next session and also their helmets. Please also remember that even if you don’t have a scooter still bring along your helmet to be able to join in. Please note that students are not allowed to share helmets, each student must have their own.

Just a reminder that AASC sessions finish at 4.30pm. If you are running late or someone else is collecting your child please ring the school to advise us of this, if students haven’t been collected by 4.45pm a reminder phone call will be made to parents as some students find this situation to be a stressful and anxious time.

Expression of interest forms for Term 2’s programs will be in next week’s newsletter. Participant lists will be in the last newsletter of Term 1.
**COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS**

**BBCCFR**
(Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief—Neerim South)
Is a voluntary organisation providing food and support to low income earners, pension card holders and those who require assistance on a short term basis.
We also provide a community lunch each week and everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and a laugh. A book swap library is also available.
Monetary Donations or edible supplies are always gratefully received.
We are open every Thursday from 11.00am until 2.30pm
And are located at the rear of Algie Hall Neerim South
Any enquiries please phone Judy on 0400791325

**The Neerim district Lions Club is having a Membership Drive**
If you would like to join a group of dedicated volunteers, please come along to our meeting on Tuesday 10th April 7.30pm in the Algie Hall Neerim South.
For more information phone Secretary Judy on 0400791325

**LIBRARY HELP NEEDED**
Can you cover some books for our school Library?
Please call in and see BARB VAGG to get a pile of books—you can take them home if that suits!

**GRADES 4, 5 & 6 - BALLARAT CAMP 2012**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Name of Student ___________________________ Grade __________________

Name of Student ___________________________ Grade __________________

Name of Student ___________________________ Grade __________________

My child/ren would like to attend the Cluster Camp to Ballarat from Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd May 2012. Cost of camp—approximately $235. Payment plans will be sent out next week.

*Students from Bona Vista, Ellinbank, Nilma and Darnum will be attending camp together.*

PARENT SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE ________________

Please detach & return expression of interest slip to the School by Thursday 15th March

Expression of interest with numbers of students attending the camp are needed for organisation reasons. Darnum PS is coordinating the Cluster camp this year.
Problem
Do we always need seeds to produce plants?
Can we produce plants in other ways?

You will need

Digging fork
Plants
Saucer
Cotton wool
Clear plastic containers so the root growth can be seen
Water
Scissors
Soil or potting mix

What to do

1. *Dandelion from a root cutting:*
   - Let children find a dandelion plant and dig it up, making sure that they have some root.
   - Using scissors, cut a piece of root 3 cm long.
   - Put it on cotton wool in a container. Keep the cotton wool moist.
   - Record what happens to the piece of root by drawing what they observe over a period of time.
   - Share it with their class at school.

2. *Impatiens (also known as Busy Lizzie, Patients) from a stem cutting:*
   - Cut a stem 10cm long.
   - Put it in a clear plastic container, add water. In the next few days.
   - Record what happens and share it with your class.

3. *African violet from a leaf:*
   - Cut a leaf from an African violet.
   - Stand it in 2cm of water in a clear plastic container.
   - Record what happens and share it with your class.

Hints for parents
Rooted specimens can be planted in the garden.
Discuss with your child what has happened, help them record the results to share with their class.
Try some other plants and see if they will grow.
# SCHOOL CALENDAR
## DATES 2012
### MARCH 2012

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<td>World Maths Day</td>
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### APRIL 2012

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## A flight of fire-breathing fantasy

### BY LYNN DWYER

FORGET the puppy.A small-nosed cuttlefish dragon with jet-black scales, a flashing metal-looked gill in his eye is about to become every child's dream yet. That is what laser beams out of his mouth and flaps higher, faster and longer than any other dragon just heightens the appeal.

How to Train Your Dragon, the latest series spectacular from the folks who created the prehistoric smash hit Walking with Dinosaurs, opened in Melbourne last night starring Toothless, a huge black creature with yellow eyes and, unusually, gleaming teeth.

The show brings to life the magical world of Vikings and dragons from the book by Cressida Cowell and turned into a boxed-up hit film by Dream Works. Now, animatronics whistles Global Creatures has enhanced the fantasy. And with 24 fire-breathing beasts flying over the heads of audiences, some with wingspans of 14 metres, lasers, pyrotechnics and massive fight scenes, bees are on the way it will surpass Walking with Dinosaurs as a crowd-puller (and that marketed in more than $200 million in the past two years, making Global Creatures Australia's highest-earning entertainers).

Visionary director Nigel Jamieson has pulled together all the pieces of this intricately complex production. Jamieson has directed everything from across blockbusters to award-winning theatre and opera but even he finds the show challenging. "This show pushes technologies to their limits across so many fields," he says.

"To get all that working and yet maintain the kind of quality you find in a...human drama is challenging. There are scenes of massive spectacle — flying bodies, gas explosions, smoke swirling through the air — and colourful projections splashed across a curved movable floor and a 60-meter screen backdrop. "We just want people to enjoy the wonder," Jamieson says.