CELEBRATION OF LEARNING
The Year 1 and Foundation students are learning with technology, and using the I-Pads and technology in cooperative learning groups.

EDUCATION GRANT SUCCESS
Late last year, Nilma and Buln Buln PS applied for a grant to work in partnership to build teaching and learning practices across the schools and within each home group, we were successful! The $20,000 received will support staff from both schools to participate in a ‘Co-Coaching’ Course and cross school coaching sessions. There will be two school closure days next term to allow all staff members to be trained in this course. More details at end of term.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
The next School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th March at 6.00pm at the school.

NEW Family
We welcome the Brown family to our school. Charlotte is in Year 4 and Lachlan is in Year 6.

PARENT COMMUNICATION
Thank you to families for being willing to give feedback to the school on various new policies or raising any concerns to be discussed and worked through. Some of our policies will now go to the school Council for ratification next week.

PARENT CLUB RAFFLE
The Parent Club have decided to hold an Easter Raffle. The raffle tickets will be going out with the newsletter today. Could parents please donate a gift for our raffle. All donations can be made at the office.

ATTENDANCE — ‘Every Day counts’
We are very fortunate at Nilma Primary School to have a very high attendance rate at school. In 2013 Nilma had an average of 95% attendance, higher than the State Average. Schools are required to distribute information to parents with regard to the Legislation changes.

- Legislation was passed in 2013 to provide a clearer process for escalating attendance issues and non-enrolment.
- In certain circumstances principals can now refer attendance matters to School Attendance Officers (Regional Directors) who may issue a School Attendance Notice.
- Failure to comply with this Notice could result in a School Attendance Officer issuing an Infringement Notice. The infringement penalty is approx. $70. Issuing a fine is a last resort.
- The focus of resources available online is on the promotion of school attendance. ‘It’s not ok to be away’ materials have been refreshed and rebadged as “Every Day Counts.’ Refer to page 5 for parent information poster.

Please donate a gift for our Easter Raffle
R.E.A.L STUDENTS@NILMA

Student of the Week

Recognitions

Homegroup 1/F Red

Larissa Hamilton-Burnett
For working so hard at your learning and being such a fantastic listener. Even working with your opposite hand you are setting high standards! We’ll done Larissa

Homegroup 3/2/1 Green

Rieley Gunton
For putting a fantastic effort into his work this week. Well Done!!

Homegroup 5/4/3 Blue

Carolyn Dungey
For your conscientious and responsible approach to all aspect of your learning and school life and willingness to pursue the R.E.A.L. values. An amazing effort Carolyn!

Homegroup 6/5 Yellow

Shakira Kimm
Outstanding ability to explain and justify solution strategies in mathematics.

L.A.U.G.H Program

Learning Activities Under Guidance of Home
NIGHTLY READING

25 nights
Tahlia Witney Andrew Burdett
Shelley Brown Kylie Griggs
Lachlan Axford Angus Mulconry
Zavier Allsopp Ty Ward
Daniel Axford Jessie Mc Cabe
Oliver Turner Cody Ward
Beth Axford Sine Salt
Larissa Hamilton-Burnett
Sheree Casey Wilson
Jade Mammolito

ART AWARDS
- Larissa Hamilton-Burnett
- Nataly Santo
- Carolyn Dungey, Rose-Ann Scott
- James Dungey

Happy Birthday

No birthdays this week.........
**HOMEGROUP HAPPENINGS!**

**IPad Excitement**

This week we introduced the school iPads into the red classroom. We explored 3 apps called Ladybug Math, Monkey Math and School Writing. The students got to explore the math apps for counting and number relationships. They used the School Writing for practising their letter formation and were doing a fantastic job!

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**Walhalla**

Walhalla was good fun. I really liked going on the train. You got to put you head out the window. We got a star and threw it out the window and make a wish. The post office had heaps of old telephones. It was a very old house. At the cemetery I ran up the big hill. I ran to the top. Then it was time to leave. Everyone was down the bottom of the hill except for me because the hill was steep. It was a fantastic day and I really enjoyed myself. By Bailey

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The best day of my life was when we went to Walhalla. I got to school at 10 minutes past eight. Kiara and Teagan were my partners. It took ages to get to Walhalla. I was sitting next to Kiara. When we finally got there the first thing we did was hop off the bus. Then we had something to eat and walked to the train station.

We went on the train ride and on the way I got a good view of all the creeks and rivers.

By Shelby

On the bus I sat near Shelby. We had a good day, we went on the train and it went for an hour. At 12 O’clock we went to the cemetery. We had to find the youngest and oldest graves and the youngest was 10 weeks and the oldest was 91 years old. We went in groups, I was with Mr Williams, and we walked to the park and had lunch. Then we went into the old Post Office and the Fire Station. After that the bus picked us up and then we picked up grade 5/6 and we went home. I sat at the back. It was a great day and the thing I liked best was the train.

By Kiara

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Students have captured their audience by creating engaging Sizzling Starts to their autobiographies and biographies!

Ax, AKA, Axey, AKA, Chuck, AKA, Jack, AKA, Little Sand Witch! They all belong to one amazing man more commonly known as Little Sand Witch, given by family, fellow work mates and other people around him.

Lachlan Axford

**Paul Burdett shares the same birthday as Halloween. He was born on the 31st of October 1964.**

Andrew Burdett

Jing Jing. This nickname belongs to a wonderful lady called Jennifer Scott who was born on March 19 1974 in Santo Domingo, Bula creating joy for her parents.

Anthony Scott

Till the 12/10/2003 the world was dull with no hero. Then I, Deakin Santo was born a.k.a Super Baby.

Deakin Santo
Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge - 2014

Nilma Primary School has participated in the challenge for 5 years. With excellent participation of over 90% of students. This year we aim for 100% participation.

The tenth annual Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge (the Challenge) is now open.

The 2014 new look Challenge website is celebrating ten years of the Challenge which promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and early childhood settings.

In 2014 we once again welcome young children from birth to five years, as well all Victorian students in Years Prep to 10, to discover the magic of books. Families and parents are encouraged to be involved with their children’s reading both in and beyond school.

The 2014 Challenge booklists have been expanded and cater for all interests. Students may also read books in other languages.

This year the Challenge will soon have a dedicated Facebook page with resources for parents, and the Challenge website will be updated with weekly videos to encourage students to stay motivated and read more throughout the Challenge.

On Tuesday 11 March, a poster size countdown calendar will be inserted into the Herald Sun so parents and children can track their reading progress, count down the time left and stay motivated throughout the Challenge.

Registration for the Challenge will be distributed in the coming weeks.

PARENT CLUB

Our first fundraiser for the term is our annual Easter Raffle. Attached to this note is a book of tickets, please return with money by Wednesday 2nd April 2014. More books are available from the office. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term, Friday 4th April at 1pm.

FARM WORLD EXCURSION

Attached to the newsletter are permission forms for the Farm World excursion which will be held on Thursday 27th March.

Selected students will be travelling by car, and car forms have been sent home with the newsletter today. Could all forms please be returned to the school by Monday 24th March.

Students are asked to be at school by 8.45am, and normal 3.15pm departure time will apply.

There will be the opportunity for parents to support learning on this excursion. Please return the slip below if a parent would be interested in coming along. The cost would be $18.00 per person per entry (Parent helps must have Working With Children Check completed)

Families would need to make their own way to and from Lardner Park if attending.

Family Name:____________________________________________________________

How many family members attending: (not including students):____________________
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it's important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

**Every day counts**

Primary school attendance

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)
On Wednesday 23rd April, students will be going to the Warragul Arts Centre, to see a production based around the Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton book ‘The 13 Storey Tree House’ and visiting various community services in Warragul. As this excursion has to be booked and paid for in advance, could parents fill please fill in the form below and send back to the school by next Friday 21st March.

Please note that Monday 21st April is a public holiday, and Tuesday 22nd April is a student free day. Friday 25th April is a public holiday. This is the first week of term 2.

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**Excursion to Warragul Arts Centre—Wednesday 23rd April**

Please return slip to the office by Friday 21st March 2014.

Name of student/s: __________________________

The above mentioned student/s will be/will not be (please circle) attending the excursion on Wednesday 23rd April 2014.

Signed by parent: __________________________
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.

Participants are: Matilda Dent, Rieley Gunton, Aiden Olsson, Bailey Dent, Sine Salt, Olivia Addison, Tahlia Witney, Ashely Griggs.

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


Please remember your hats, drink bottles and appropriate footwear on these days.

There are still places available for both activities, please fill out the expression of interest form and return to the office. Please see Belinda if you require a new form.
# NILMA PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

## MARCH 2014

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<td>School Excursion Farm World</td>
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<td>End of Term 1 Early finish 1.15pm</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>Staff PD - No students at school</td>
<td>Students begin Term 2 Excursion</td>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
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