**Principal Notes**

**PARENT OPINION SURVEY**
Parent Opinion Surveys were attached to last week’s newsletter. These surveys will provide the school with valuable information in relation to communication, procedures and practices at Nilma PS. Please take time to review questions relating to student learning, home activities and expectations, extracurricular opportunities for students (including things like sporting activities, camps, group days, select groups participating in musical events etc), transition and social learning. Last year we received 90%. This year we hope for 100%.

We would appreciate your feedback to develop a school culture that we all have input into. We value your ideas. The survey is confidential and results are used to further develop the goals of the school.

Please take time to complete the survey and support Nilma Primary School to build an exciting and stimulating school.

Parents will need to return these surveys by tomorrow please. Thank you to parents who have returned surveys to date.

**CURRICULUM CORNER**
This year we have had a strategic focus on both mathematics and writing at Nilma. We have incorporated a new section in the newsletter to provide parents with an insight into our learning programs. Each week in the newsletter we will provide some information. If any parent has a question or enquiry about learning at Nilma—please let us know—a note in diary or letter and we will include in the curriculum corner for all parents.

Over the next few weeks we will focus on ‘Writing. More information on page 6.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF**
August is nominated as Education Support Staff Recognition month. Any staff member other than a teacher is known as an Education Support Staff member. Rachel Hammond, Belinda Smythe, Marg Debyl, Sharon Salt, Sharon Faulds, Barb Vagg and Leanne Hodge. All do a fantastic job to support learning programs at Nilma. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled staff. A school would find it very difficult to function without these staff. We will be having a morning tea to recognise these staff members next Tuesday 7th August—parents are welcome to come in for a cuppa to say thank you to the ES Staff.

**GARDENS & GROUNDS**
During the week we have been fortunate enough to receive some donations to commence some of the garden plans for the school. Murray Build Pro Bricks have donated many bricks and pavers for projects, and Dahlsens will provide some plants and seedlings for us to start our garden. Tuesday afternoons will be dedicated to starting some of the works so if any parents would like to assist with this program—please let me know. More information page 5.

**PARENT CLUB PIE DRIVE**
All orders are due back today.

**JEANS FOR GENES DAY**
Wear your Jeans to School
Tomorrow
Friday the 3rd of August.

Jeans for Genes Day is more than an excuse to wear your favorite pair of jeans. It’s an initiative to raise much-needed funds for children’s medical research. Students bring a gold coin donation to wear jeans to school for the day.

**YEAR 3 and 4 HOOPTIME BASKETBALL COMPETITION**
Tomorrow—Bellbird Park
Ms Berkelmans will be at the stadium to meet students.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!
R.E.A.L STUDENTS @ NILMA

Student of the Week

Recognitions

Homegroup 1 / Prep
Ashton Kimm
For great work in Science and always willing to share his fantastic knowledge with his peers.

Homegroup 3/2
Kiara Perry
For always being happy to share her ideas and her learning challenges with her peers.

Homegroup 4/3
Shakira Kimm
For always being willing to challenge herself in her learning and being a great mentor to our new student Hayley.

Homegroup 6/5
Laura Young
For being such a great learner and role model for others. Your positive attitude to learning is something you should be very proud of.

R.E.A.L STUDENTS @ NILMA

NIGHTLY READING

Recognition certificates

25 nights
Tayla Lawry
Rachael Lawry

75 Nights
Michael Farnham
Anthony Scott

100 nights
Lane Ward
Jack Hall
Andrew Burdett

125 nights
McKayla Lindsay

175 Nights
Kiara Warenycia

Premier Reader’s Challenge

Congratulations
Students who have completed the Premier Reading Challenge
Jack Chesterfield    Lachlan Axford
Kylie Griggs          James Dungey
Megan Griggs         Jack McGrath
Patrick Smythe      Harrison Perry
Andrew Burdett     Justin Axford
Savanna Maunder

COLES VOUCHERS-2012
Our tally to date is: 12000
WOOLWORTHS
EARN AND LEARN STICKERS
8800 Vouchers so far

Mr Rechsteiner
Many students at school didn’t know Mr Rechsteiner, but those who did loved him as a school principal and teacher. We were sad to hear that he passed away 3 years ago. By Shakira
**HOMEGROUP HAPPENINGS!**

We had Japanese today. We learnt the colours and played a game of 'Colour Tiggy' in the playground. We played it at lunch too. By Daniel

We got a new puppy. It is a American Bulldog and its name is Ace. By Matilda

In Music we learnt new songs. One was about an elephant and a fox. By Meg

In Science we learnt about bones and muscles. We looked at a big animal bone. I drew a picture of the human body as well as labelled one. By Ashton

In Gymnastics we learnt how to slide along the mat like an army person. We also did exercises and somersaults. By Eloise

In Science, we are learning about bodies. We have learnt about blood cells and skeletons.

In Art we are learning about how to make Paper-Mache puppets. I am doing a dingo puppet.

In ICT, we are learning about the Olympics. We are all doing an assignment on a sport. I’m researching basketball.

In Maths we are learning about multiplication, addition, subtraction and division. We are learning about how they are all connected.

We have got a whole class R.E.A.L chart. We just have to get one Respect and Responsibility ticket and one Environment ticket and we get a Free Dress Day. I’m so exited.

In class, we are doing a biography on a famous Australian. I’m doing a biography on Dr. Fiona Wood, it is hard. We are also doing some online activities, they can be hard too.

By Megan Griggs

The premier’s reading challenge was a really big and hard challenge. One of the books I read was “Big Al” and I’m so proud of myself to finish 1st again.

by Jack.C

I have one more book to go for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The last book I am reading is called “The Wrong Book”. My favourite book that I read was “The Terrible Plop”. It is about an apple that splashes into the water. All the forest animals sprint out of the forest.

Lachy Crook

I finished the Premier’s Reading Challenge for the first time. It’s not that big of an achievement is it? I had to read 15 books...it didn’t take too long. It only took 4 days even though I don’t exactly like reading but it’s not that bad.

Jack McGrath

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**Biography**

Katy Perry’s real name is Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson. Katy Perry was born in Santa Barbara, October the 25th 1984. Katy Perry is an American singer. Katy Perry is 27 but turning 28 this year! Katy Perry was raised by Christian pastor parents. Katy Perry lives Burton way Beverly Hills. I chose Katy Perry because I love her songs. The names of some of her songs are Last Friday Night, fireworks, California dreams, Fireworks.

By Rachael

Bear Grylls

He was born on the 7th June 1974, he is aged 37. He was born in the United Kingdom. He got the nickname ‘Bear’ at only one week old. His wife’s name is Shara and he has three sons. There names are Jessie, Marmaduke and Huckleberry. He married Shara in the year 2000. Bear Grills is a star in movie making and survival.

By Jack
Mt Worth Cluster

GROUP DAY INFORMATION

The Mt Worth Cluster Day will be held on Friday 10th August. This is the first group day for the year. (Most schools have had building works in progress so it has been difficult to coordinate a day.) Nilma, Darnum, Ellinbank, Bona Vista and Yarragon will participate on the day.

The group days are a great way for students to meet and develop relationships with other students across the cluster.

The theme for this day will be:

OLYMPICS

Grade P, 1 & 2 will be attending Darnum PS with Ms Uren, Sharon F and Ms Watts. Staff will be waiting at Darnum Primary school to welcome students.

Grade 3, 4 students will be attending Nilma PS with Ms Sutherland, Sharon S and Mr Williams.

Grade 5, 6 students will be attending Warragul Regional College, with Ms Berkelmans and Barb V.

Parents are to drive students to the correct venue 9.00am and pick up at 3.00pm.

Have a great day!

See page 6 for DETAILS

Active After School Communities

Just a reminder to all parents that there is a new sign out procedure for AASC, all students must remain in the undercover area until they have been signed out by a parent or guardian. This makes the car park area safer for the students and parents and also gives a chance for communication between parents, students and myself.

Also, if students miss 2 sessions without notifying the school or myself, they will lose their place in the sessions and it will be filled by someone else as the program is very popular.

Participants for AASC are:


Children participating in the Basketball sessions are able to bring along their own basketball to use during the sessions if they have one at home. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear too!

Thanks, Belinda

PARENT CLUB NOTES

Pie Drive: Orders and Money are due back today. No late orders will be accepted. Pies will be available for collection from lunchtime on Thursday 9th August. Please be aware that we have no storage facilities available to store the pies so they must be picked up by 3.30pm.

Shopping Warehouse Tour: The date for the Shopping Trip is Saturday October 20th. The cost for this day will be around $50 which will include bus travel and lunch. More details will follow at a later date.
COMMONWEALTH BANK AUSTRALIAN MATHS CHALLENGE

The Mathletics team are presenting the Commonwealth Bank Australian Maths Challenge 2012. All Australian schools and students are invited to take part in Australia’s lead up event to World Maths Day 2013.

Day 1: Tuesday 4 September - Curriculum Challenge
Day 2: Wednesday 5 September - Live Maths Challenge

Students will be able to be involved with this at home as part of the LAUGH program. Students use their Mathletics username and password which are kept in their dairy for this. The website is http://www.mathletics.com.au/challenge.

DODGEBALL

While students have been very active in establishing a new game of Dodgeball—while on the whole this has been wonderful to see groups of students actively involved in the game—we have had a few social incidents that have resulted in students establishing the set of rules for the game—while staff could have set the rules it has been a valuable learning experience for all to realise the importance of shared understanding of why it is important all students are clear on set rules to a game and ways to make it fairer for younger students to equally participate. Students suggested the rules be displayed in playground.

Gardens and Grounds

Over the next week we will be removing some older trees in order to prepare to design our vegetable garden area. We will be replanting new fruit trees in a more strategic position.

Some projects over the next few weeks

- Replacing some roses
- Cleaning up current garden beds
- Establishing our garden shed—complete with our new tools and organising for easy access.
- Clearing the bank and planting ground covers at front of the school
- Clearing areas that we will be able to commence new garden projects.

This section of the newsletter will be used to give updates and ask for support—through cuttings

How can you help

Do you have cuttings we can use for the bank area outside the school ground. We are after Gazania’s cuttings (ground cover daisies)

PLAYGROUP—revival
FRIDAY
17th August 9.00am—11.00am
Please let Ms Sutherland know if you would like to attend

AFTERSCHOOL—STUDENT PICK UP ROUTINES / AASC ROUTINES

To alleviate congestion of the car park after school—and to create smoother pickup routines—we require students to wait in the undercover area for parents (designated area) so duty teacher can support pick up of students in a safe way. Rather than having students running about in the playground and parents waiting in cars for students. While some students are picked up later than others—it becomes difficult to monitor all students with some playing in the playground—it is important for all students to be supervised for safety around the car park area at the end of each day.

While we understand it is not practical to expect all students to sit in this area—we do require students to stay in the zoned area we have discussed with all students at assembly. Students will need a bit of reminding over the next few weeks to remain in the area and refrain from ball activities too. Our intention is to provide a safe environment for all students.

Thank you for your cooperation with these changes.

This procedure also assists separating students that may attend Active After School program—two nights a week and students waiting to be picked up by parents. On Tuesday and Thursday (Active After School Community) nights—student participating in the program will now be expected to meet at the doorway to project area

PARENT HELPERS

We will contact parent helpers Tomorrow to see if they are available for programs and designate times.

If you would like to support the school in other ways—we also have books that need to have covering—please let us know if you can help with this.

Environmental Program

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How can you help

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It has been decided that this year our Group Day will have an Olympic theme. Students have been placed in ‘Country’ teams and we encourage them to dress in the colours of that country for the day (flag or national colours are fine). The students will be participating in three 1 hour activities including a mini Olympic tabloid sports so remember to wear runners. Please see the list of students and their countries below.

### JAPAN
- Matilda Dent
- Eloise Warenycia
- Mitch Chesterfield
- Ella Perry

### USA
- Zavier Allsopp
- Daniel Axford
- Bailey Dent
- Kiara Perry

### GREECE
- Zaic Farmer
- Meg Devlin
- Carolyn Dungey
- Kiandra Polglaze

### JAMAICA
- Holly Behncke
- Ashley Griggs
- Ashton Kimm
- Teagan George

### GERMANY
- Sheree Casey Wilson
- Rieley Gunton
- Aiden Olsson
- Riley Kleeven

### IRELAND
- Emma Crook
- Bailey Stephens
- Lane Ward
- Olivia Maunder

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The Group Day theme is ‘Olympics’ Students have been placed in ‘Country’ teams and we encourage them to dress in the colours of that country for the day (flag or national colours are fine). The students will be participating in both a mini Olympic tabloid sports and major games competitions. Students and their countries attached.

### JAPAN
- Lachlan A
- Jamie
- Anthony
- Megan

### USA
- Angus
- Kael
- Hayley
- Shakira

### GREECE
- Max C
- Aaron
- Astrid
- Bayley G

### FRANCE
- Jordan
- Jack C
- Andrew
- James

### JAMAICA
- Kylie G
- Shelby
- Holly F
- Lachlan C

### GERMANY
- Tahlia
- Patrick
- Domonick
- Sine
- Blake

### IRELAND
- Jack M
- Alan
- Kirsty
- Rose-Ann

### ENGLAND
- Harrison
- Michael
- Kiara
- Callum

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This has all the information. If you are not sure of where the school is—please see Ms Sutherland for directions.
At the beginning of this year Nilma Primary School students in year 2-6 moved into the new building and the school introduced a whole school approach to writing and mathematics. The timetable we sent home a few weeks ago had whole school literacy sessions—WRITING.

Over the next four weeks we will provide parent information on the focus on Writing @ Nilma Whole School Literacy—Writing Sessions

Students across the school have been working in small groups depending on their individual learning needs. These groups have been established through observing samples of writing.

After a particular cycle of learning teachers sit and discuss as a group in what we call Professional Learning Teams (PLT) and look at work samples and discuss what students need and where their learning needs are next. Students may then be grouped with slightly different group of students.

Amanda Buckler - has the role of the writing coach - and observes lessons and supports teachers to develop a whole school approach to writing.

It has been pleasing to see the results of the writing sessions - with our focus around building students as Authors and building the confidence to write - for example students may come home and talk of the 'sizzling starts’ or ‘dynamic dialogue' they have been working on. The intention of some lessons may be to learn how to write an exciting beginning to a story - rather than complete a whole story - or understand how to write a descriptive paragraph on a character to build the audiences connection with that character. This allows students to explore a certain element of writing and gives them the opportunity to practise in part and then apply this new skill to one of their own pieces of writing.

Students are working in smaller groups on the parts of writing that is specific to their learning needs enabling students to have a more focused understanding of the complex process of writing - while at Nilma we have a whole school approach to writing over several years - students will have built up a holistic understanding of how to structure different written text and build their knowledge and understanding across a number of years.

In recent portfolios you may have seen samples of the writing process and not always the final product - as it is though the process of writing that a lot of learning occurs - not just the end product.

Even in prep and one students’ can be great story tellers but may not have the capacity to record their ideas - so our focus is to enable all students across the school to view themselves as authors - with great ideas and not get too stuck with the secretarial role in the beginning. Once students have the confidence to record and share their ideas they experience success and become motivated in improving their writing by focussing on developing skills in different areas, including word choice, spelling, expanding sentences, building description and adding detail, rewording passages for clearer understanding, they consider text structure and include features specific to the text type used.

Some Comments about the Writing Sessions:

- "We had to describe gooey stuff—what it felt like, smelt like and looked like.”  Aaron
- "We got to write lots of stories and put a ‘sizzling’ start to make it interesting so people will listen to it.”  Kirsty
- "I liked how in writing groups we do short activities and creative writing.”  Laura
- "I liked the ‘paper fight’ activity where two people choose a character each and write in different colours what they would say. Some of us shared what we wrote.”  Bailey K
# SCHOOL CALENDAR
## DATES 2012

### JULY 2012

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