Welcome back to school! We have had a very smooth and happy start to the year; it is great to see the children enjoying being together again.

I have really enjoyed chatting with parents before and after school; please don’t hesitate to come and see me with any questions etc. Thank you to everyone (especially my grade one students for their pictures and messages) for making me feel so welcome at Nungurner!

From Mrs Brehaut

What a treat to be back at school and see all the smiling faces eager to venture in to the next part of their school journey! I enjoyed my holidays but am glad to be back and am looking forward to a great year at a great little school.
**Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Nungurner Primary School.

Nomination forms & further information may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by **4.00 pm on Monday 18th February, 2013**. The ballot will close at 4.00pm Monday 4th March 2013. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

**PARENT MEMBER**

*Terms of Office*

From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015.

*Positions Available*

3 vacancies (for 2 years)

**DEECD MEMBER**

1 vacancy (for 2 years)

I would encourage anyone interested to become involved in school council as it is vital to the effective running of the school. Please come & talk to me about it’s role if you would like to know more. There is training available & we are planning to participate sometime this year.

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**Thank you**

I’ve had a number of comments about how good the school looks so a big thanks to everyone who has helped us get ready; Wendy for spreading all the new playground mulch and looking after the gardens, Ross for his help in looking after the chooks and helping with some maintenance jobs and all those in the community who left scraps for the chooks.

**Bushfire Safety**

New procedures have been introduced to keep children safe during times of bushfire risk. On ‘code-red’ days, schools identified at the highest level of risk will be closed. Nungurner is one of these schools. Parents will be contacted directly, and once the decision to close has been made it will not change. Please read the attached information sheet carefully so that you are fully aware of the implications for your family, and of course talk to me if you have any questions.

**Sport with Metung P.S.**

There are many wonderful things about our little school, but we do not have enough children to make up teams for sports like cricket etc. To ensure our children get the opportunity to participate in team sports we will be going down to Metung PS every Friday afternoon to join in their sports sessions.

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**Nungurner Primary School—Absence Note**

Please be advised that (student name)_______________________

was absent from school on the (insert date)_______________________

due to (insert reason)__________________________________________

signed (parent name)__________________________________________

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Walking Track

The shire has recently completed (almost) the walking track along Jetty Rd giving safe access to school for bikes and walkers. Thanks to Ross for ‘overseeing’ the work to ensure we can walk or ride safely down Jetty Rd without having to use the road.

We will go for walk to familiarise the children with the track soon.

Book Club

Thank you Wendy for collating the first issue of Scholastic Book Club. Scholastic Book Club offer a variety of children’s books at very reasonable prices. We have extra catalogues at the school for community members to take home and return to the school with your order and payment. The orders for the first issue are due back on Thursday the 21st of February.

A Tribute to Mr Squiggle (and Miss Pat)

Pat Lovell or ‘Miss Pat’, Mr Squiggle’s trusty assistant passed away last week. I was surprised that some of the kids knew about Mr Squiggle.....and we had a fun time watching an excerpt and doing some squiggles of our own. Some things are timeless!!

Jack’s squiggle: ‘Carnivorous Plants’
An invite to playgroup mums & kids

The children invite you to

Morning Tea

Next Tuesday at 11:00am

Reading

As we did last year, we will be starting each day with half an hour of reading. Parents and community members are welcome to come and read with kids if they have some time!

Community

Dates to Remember

Tuesday February 5th - NCCAGS meeting 7pm at school
Monday February 25th – Nungurner Landcare group Meeting

Yoga

Tanya Garland has offered to run an evening Yoga class once a week at the school. If you are interested please complete this slip and return to school. The classes would run from 6:30-7:30

Yes, I am interested in doing Yoga.
Name: _______________________________________

Preferred: Tues Wed Thurs

Note: We are happy to include community notices in the newsletter....just let me know
From the kids

On the holidays I got a game called Skylanders Giants.

This year I am looking forward to.......Kanga Cricket!

On the holidays I got a scooter for Christmas. My sister got a new puppy. The puppy and my dog play tug-of-war with a ball. My sister’s puppy sleeps a lot. This year I am looking forward to.......playing the Bass guitar!

On the holidays I was mining for gold rocks.

This year I ......hope we make ice-cream in cooking!

When I was cleaning the unit I found my mum’s flute.

This year I am looking forward to.......going to Metung school for sports and making new friends!

On the holidays I played Assassins Creed 2 on X-box 360

This year I am looking forward to.......swimming and playing in the pool!

In the holidays I created a space shooter video game. I also created a 3D spaceship. I created them at the Vostro uni in Melbourne.

This year I am looking forward to.......sports on Fridays with Metung!

On the holidays I went to lots of beaches. We went to my grandma’s for Christmas and we are getting a dog.

This year I .....can’t wait for swimming at Lakes!!
Over the holidays I fed the Axolotl.

This year I am looking forward to......**playing the trumpet!**

On the holidays I went to the jetty and I saw a puffer fish.

This year I am looking forward to....**cricket!!**

In December we went to Sydney for 2 weeks. I saw my aunty PJ and we went shopping in Campbelltown. We got a new puppy and we called it Drags.

This year I am looking forward to....**Art and music!**
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
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<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis. Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.