### Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7th February</td>
<td>Commemoration of Black Saturday, Sport at Metung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th February</td>
<td>Active After School Care (Metung PS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th February</td>
<td>No Preps, Active After School Care (Metung PS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th February</td>
<td>Japanese, Bookclub due, Active After School Care (Metung PS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th February</td>
<td>Extra MARC day (am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17th February</td>
<td>MARC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th February</td>
<td>School Council, Active After School Care (Metung PS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th February</td>
<td>No Preps, MARC, Active After School Care (Metung PS)</td>
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### Welcome to 2014

Welcome to 2014! We have made a great start to the year, and although it will take a little while to completely adjust to the new timetable, all is going well so far. All the children have grown, and many have lost teeth over the holidays, keeping the tooth fairy very busy! It has been wonderful to hear of their adventures over the holidays...cricket, the beach, family and friends.

We welcome one new person to our staff this year; Emma Steele will be facilitating playgroup. Emma is a teacher at Lakes Entrance PS, currently on family leave. You will see Emma, and her two boys, Tom and Oliver at school on Wednesday mornings so please say hi.

It is good to be back at school with our enthusiastic band of students. The preps are full of eagerness to learn and are enjoying being part of our school. It is especially interesting to note how well all the students are interacting at recess and lunchtime, with the children forming active and cohesive friendship groups across all levels of the school.

I look forward to yet another pleasant, busy year at Nungurner.

Lynne Brehaut.

Our 6 new preps are a very special bunch! They have started their school careers with loads of enthusiasm and have bonded as a friendship group to grow and develop together throughout their primary school years. What an adventure they have ahead!

They have taken to school life enthusiastically, but it is a period of many adjustments and they do get tired. Let me know how they are going and if they need a break occasionally while they are settling to the new routine then we can support them.

We are having loads of fun together already!
What the preps think of their first days at school.

“It’s really, really, really, really fun!”.....Tahlia
“We have lots of fun playing together.”.....Sarah
“The best thing is playing on the playground.”.....Scarlett
“It’s interesting, looking at books.”.....Amara
“I like playing tennis.”.....Jackson
“I like playing on the yellow slide.”.....Trinity
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Classroom:</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Ms V (preps am), Mrs Brehaut &amp; Tanya (2-6)</td>
<td>MARC fortnightly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Ms V (preps am), Mrs Brehaut &amp; Tanya or Tim (2-6)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Ms V (preps am, whole school pm), Mrs Brehaut &amp; Tim (2-6 am)</td>
<td>MARC fortnightly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Ms V &amp; Tim</td>
<td>Japanese Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Ms V &amp; Tim</td>
<td>Sport at Metung</td>
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</tbody>
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The timetable is a little complex this year as we accommodate our new preps. Ms V will be teaching them until lunchtime on Mon/ Tues & Wed while Mrs Brehaut has gdes 2-6. Ms V will have the whole school on Wed afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays, with specialist teachers coming on the days listed above. Mrs Severs will be here with the MARC van on Monday and Wednesday afternoons every second week. There will be an aid in the classroom each day until lunchtime (Tanya on Mondays and every second Tuesday, Tim the rest of the week). Vicki is here on Tues/Wed/Thurs the same as last year.
I know it’s complicated….any questions please ask!!
Ps...Mrs Brehaut is here on Thursdays until the preps are at school full-time at the end of February.

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**...from the classroom**

This term we are learning all about Aquatic Environments. We are painting a coral reef and yesterday did some reading from a book called, “I didn’t know that sharks keep losing teeth...and other amazing facts about sharks.”

*We are learning about Aquatic environments. We read about sharks that lived before the dinosaurs. One of the facts we learned was that the Goblin shark has a sensitive snout. The Cookie Cutter shark has elongated eyes to see in the dark, murky depths and he glows in the dark.*

_Alistar and Holly._

_(I was really pleased with the way Holly and Alistar worked together on this task. Well done! Ms V)_
Japanese Sister School

Following our first very successful video conference with the children from Amami PS in Japan we sent off some drawings and greetings with our best wishes. During the holidays I received this response via email, which shows how pleased the school was to receive our messages. We are really looking forward to continuing our communication with the Amami PS and improving our video conferences. To this end, the staff will be doing some Professional development on using the polycom unit with other teachers in the TUBBS cluster towards the end of this month. Japanese lessons with Tomomi will again be on Thursday mornings and will start next week...Feb 13th.

School Council

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 on Monday the 10th of February. The ballot will close at 4.00pm on 24th February 2014. 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 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016.

Positions Available
3 vacancies (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 which we can access and I’m sure current school council members would be happy to talk to you about the role if you have any questions.

Scholastic Bookclub

Scholastic Book Club offer a variety of children’s books at very reasonable prices. The orders for the first issue are due back on Thursday the 13th of February. We have extra catalogues at the school for playgroup and community members to take home and return to the school with your order and payment. The school receives vouchers from scholastic, the value is subject to the amount of books ordered. We use these vouchers to purchase extra books for the school library which children can then borrow. We are keen to hear suggestions for library book purchases from students and parents; please attach a note with your bookclub order.
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

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

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.


Our vegie garden has not only survived all that hot weather over Summer but is thriving! We are picking parsley, silver-beet, chives and tomatoes at the moment. So come and get some when you pick students up at the end of the day.

Many, many thanks to Rob, Mal, Wendy, Peter and Ross for watering over the holidays.
TELEVISION
Australian Favourite

TENNIS COACHING at
LAKES ENTRANCE TENNIS CLUB

Register now for junior tennis coaching for Term 1, 2014
Lessons on Mondays and Wednesdays after school for all standards of players
Emphasis on skills, fair play, fun and fitness
Contact Tennis Australia Qualified Club Professional Coach

NIGEL CARR – Mobile 0400 003 270
Free ‘Wilson’ Junior Tennis Racquet for each new enrolment

Opera by the Lakes 2014

featuring International flautist Jane Rutter

Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music set amongst the picturesque surround of the Gippsland Lakes at Nyerimilang Heritage Park.


Booking info:
Tickets can be purchased from Collins Booksellers/ABC Shop in Sale and Bairnsdale.
Credit card bookings can be made by contacting Andrea Ford, Friends Of Nyerimilang on (03) 5152 7155.

Dates: Sun, 23 Mar 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Creative Medium: Music
Cost: $35.00 Adults, $30.00 Seniors/Concession and $15.00 Children
Location: Nyerimilang Park, Kalimna West Road, Lakes Entrance
Website: http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/nyerimilang-park-g.l.r./events/o...
Shire Region: East Gippsland Shire
Main Contact: Friends Of Nyerimilang
Phone: (03) 5152 7155

Flowering in February
in Nungurner

Common cassinia
Cassinia aculeata

Indigenous to this area

Nungurner Landcare Group
Ph. 5156 3135
**Active after school**

Nungurner children are able to access the Active After School Program at Metung PS on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons starting next Tuesday Feb 11th. Mal Draeger will transport children to Metung at the end of the day and children can be picked up from Metung at 4:15pm. Once the program is established, Wednesday afternoons will be at Nungurner.

Watch the newsletter to see when this starts.

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**Bushfire Safety**

A reminder to everyone that Nungurner is recognised as a school with the highest level of bushfire risk. This means that the school will be closed on Code Red days. Parents and caregivers will be given as much notice as possible if this situation arises, and the decision will not change once it has been made. There will be no staff at the school on these days and families are advised to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan.

Please read the information letter attached to this newsletter.

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**Michael Grose parenting ideas.**

The TUBBS cluster of schools have subscribed to the Michael Grose website ‘Parenting Ideas’ and this enables us to include articles by Michael in our newsletters. These articles may or may not be of interest to parents, and that’s fine. Our intention is to provide support for parents, raise issues and perhaps start discussions about what is a very difficult, but the most important role there is. Let us know what you think. Are there issues you would like discussed? Perhaps we can find relevant articles for you. Remember...if you have a question or are struggling with something in your family, chances are other people are too!

*Bron*
True GRIT helps kids succeed

Developing character strengths is just as important to your child’s future success as building academic skills.

‘Talent or persistence. Which would you choose for your child?’

I often ask this question at my parenting seminars and the responses are fascinating. Parents naturally want both. Sorry, but that’s not an option.

When pushed most parents choose talent over persistence, which in many ways reflects the current thinking around achievement. However, intelligence, sporting prowess and ability in whatever it is we value will only get a child or young person so far. Talent is purely potential. They need more than this to achieve sustained excellence in anything they do. It is the character traits of hard work and the ability to stick at a task and see it through that make all the difference.

Malcolm Gladwell, in his book Outliers, describes twenty-something American student Renee, who took 22 minutes to work out a complicated math question. The average student gives up after THREE minutes, preferring to ask for help than work through the problem.

Renee was unusual in persisting for so long until she got the solution. The funny thing is, she doesn’t describe herself as a good math student, yet she is highly successful at maths. Grit rather than pure math talent is her forte.

Character matters

Cognitive (thinking and reasoning) skills by themselves aren’t enough for children to succeed over the long journey. Many recent studies (most notably the work of US-based Angela Duckworth) have found that character, not cognitive ability, is the single most reliable determinant of how a person’s life will turn out. The traits associated with success include the inclination to persist at a boring task (grit), the ability to delay gratification (self-control) and the tendency to follow through with a plan (conscientiousness). These are invaluable traits at school, in the workplace and in life in general.

Character works as an indicator of success when it’s seen as set of strengths and personality traits rather than personal values such as loyalty, tolerance or forgiveness.

Character is forged under difficulty

The key character traits of grit, self-control and conscientiousness are forged under hardship and duress. This makes our current propensity to over protect and over indulge kids problematic. When kids continually experience easy success we set them up for failure because when they finally face up to difficult situations many lack the capacity to push through the tough times.

Encouraging kids to step out of their comfort zones and take learning and social risks is one of the great challenges for modern parents. It’s critical that we challenge children and young people to attempt activities where failure is a real option. Overcoming setbacks and pushing through difficulties is how character is formed.
Character is malleable

The good news is that character, like intelligence, is malleable. It’s not fixed. It’s important to establish in your own mind as a parent, and also in your children’s minds, that character traits such as grit, self-control and conscientiousness can be developed.

To this end it’s important that parents steer clear of using absolute language to label behaviour and express views that traits and abilities are fixed. Comments such as ‘You’re no good at math’ become a rule that young people learn to live by, and become default thinking that’s hard to budge.

Make grit part of a family’s brand

In my book Thriving! I wrote about how every family has its own distinctive brand, which is a reflection of the strengths and traits that all members share.

For instance, if high work ethic is a common trait then it’s a fair bet that hard work is something parents focus on in their family.

Parents can actively promote grit and persistence in kids by making character part of their family’s brand. They can focus on character in conversations. They can share experiences where character paid off for them in their lives. They can discuss how character contributes to excellence and success in everyday life including at work, at school and in the sporting field. Character and its many components can become part the family narrative regardless of the age of the children.

Build proprietary language around character

Families develop their own language around what’s important to them and that needs to include the language of character if parents want to foster excellence.

Continuous messaging of terms and phrases such as ‘hang tough’ and ‘hard yakka’ help weave character traits into the family DNA.

Parents should reflect on the language and terms they already use and build key phrases and terms around the following key character strengths: grit, self-control, conscientiousness, enthusiasm, social intelligence, gratitude, optimism, and curiosity.

Character becomes the default mechanism

Habit and character go hand in hand. Conscientious young people don’t go around consciously deciding that they’ve got to delay the fun stuff until they’ve done their work. They’ve just made it their default mechanism to stick at their task, or delay gratification or jump into a task with enthusiasm.

Conscientiousness doesn’t always serve a young person well. They can sometimes place full focus on menial or unimportant tasks when a smarter option may be to cruise and save energy for the important times such as exams. That’s where parental guidance plays a part. However, in the long run conscientiousness serves a young person well when it’s their default because when the stakes are high and they really need to work hard, they will automatically make the right choice. In fact, it will be the only option they see when excellence really matters.

Parentingideas just got better! Parentingideas Club has just been launched and has all the answers you need. There are 100’s of articles, videos, guides, how to’s, book reviews and more available for members. Become a member today at parentingideasclub.com.au.