## Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 31st March</td>
<td>MARC, SWIMMING at 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st April</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd April</td>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt and picnic at Nyerimilang (combined School and Playgroup)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4th April</td>
<td>Last day of Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st April</td>
<td>Easter Monday—Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd April</td>
<td>1st day of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day—Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28th &amp; Tuesday 29th April</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews— 3:30-6:30</td>
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## Our Busy First Term
Our Japanese Language program has featured strongly at Nungurner lately, with our second video conference with Amami happening last Thursday. The grade 2-6 kids are becoming very comfortable and growing in confidence all the time with their knowledge and use of Japanese and it is great to see them helping each other and the preps. I was amazed when we recently received some pictures about the seasons from our friends at Amami, and our kids were able to read and understand many of the Japanese words!

The video links are just the icing on the cake in that they give our kids an opportunity and a reason to use their growing Japanese language skills; the real value in the program is in the learning they do each week with Tomomi and their increased knowledge and acceptance of another culture. The benefits of learning a second language are many, as the information here, taken from the DEECD website, indicates. Contrary to popular belief, it enhances, not hinders, the learning of English.

If you haven’t had the chance to chat to Tomomi, here is a short profile of her. Be sure to say hello when you see her...and thank her for the great work she is doing with our kids!!

Where did you grow up?
In Tokyo. 1 hour by train from the centre of the city. The area I grow up is quiet although it's in Tokyo.

Tell us a little about your family?
My parents are look forward to seeing me every Christmas holidays. I always show them some local newspaper articles and photos of my students and talk about the schools I teach in.
I have an older sister, she works as a graphic designer. My mum and sister sometimes come to visit me in Australia, and they love everything here.

Where did you study to be a teacher and why did you decide to come to Australia?
I went to Uni in Tokyo, studying economics. I found studying economics was really boring. After I graduated uni, I lived in Canada for a year, traveling, and taught Japanese language as a volunteer. The experience was great and I started hoping to be a Japanese language teacher. I studied to be a qualified Japanese teacher after I went back to Japan. Then I went to Bangkok to teach for a year and half. I loved teaching there, but my salary was not good enough to continue the job for a long time period, so I decided to move to Australia. I love teaching Australian kids and it's been great.

What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?
I sometimes go to gym and join the classes. It's fun. On the weekend, I visit my friends in Melbourne when I have time.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at Nungurner?
I love teaching at Nungurner because it's a small group of students so I can do more activities with students. Also, students, teachers and parents all know each other very well, it's nice and cozy.

It's fortunate that we have a sister school that we can have regular web conferences. We can learn and grow together. It's a great opportunity for students to find out the differences and similarities between two countries.
Swimming is going really well, with everyone doing their best and making great progress. The preps graduated to the big pool last week for some deeper water experience and whilst not everyone was keen straight off I’m sure they will all get there in the end. Big thanks to those parents who are helping with transport!!

Amara: “Awesome.”

William: “So much fun I nearly burst.”

Lucas: “It was funny when we jumped off that mat.”

Phoebe: “I liked jumping off the mat.”

Sarah: “It was fun when I went under water.”

Holly: “Swimming is spectacular.”

Information about Language learning from DEECD website.

Learning a language develops an understanding of how languages work which leads to improved literacy skills, including English literacy.

It also:

- helps students develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills
- teaches students about other peoples, their ideas and ways of thinking
- inspires interest in and respect for other cultures
- enhances employment and career prospects
- contributes to social cohesiveness through better communication and understanding
- contributes to economic, diplomatic and strategic development

Linking Languages and Literacy

Learning a language means learning about language and what it means to be literate. Research tells us that the experience of learning an additional language not only improves our knowledge of how languages work but also enhances our thinking skills. *What we learn to do in one language helps us with any other language we might encounter.* This means that our first language and other languages *work in partnership* to strengthen and enrich our repertoire of literacy practices.
“To write a good story, you have to have a good idea.”

The children’s writer Elizabeth Honey said this to a group of young writers at Lakes Entrance primary school at the beginning of a writing project...and it is so true!

But where do those ideas come from? Mostly from the experiences we have in our everyday lives and from what we know well. The purpose of our writers notebooks is to capture and experiment with those things that happen to us that we might one day turn into a piece of writing. Interesting thoughts, funny events, things people say or do, things we see...or mysteries like this one in Ms V’s writer’s notebook.

I have a working title; “The Backyard Mystery”. This may turn into the first mystery story I have ever written!

Ps...ask the kids about my mystery!

Parents can help this process by talking to kids about things they do, family events etc that could be potential writing topics. Things like photos, movie tickets etc can be brought to school to be included in writer’s notebooks as well.

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Bairnsdale Netball Association

Net-Set-Go:

BNA will be running it’s NetSetGo program in Term 2. The program will commence on Thursday 01/05/2014. NetSetGo is an introduction to netball where the children will participate in skills activities, minor games and generally have a good time. The program is open to boys and girls. The child must be turning 8 this year and up to 11 years of age.

Cost of the Program is $70 and registrations will accepted Thursday 27/03/14, Thursday 03/04/14 and Thursday 24/04/14 at the WORLD Netball Courts at the Timekeepers Box or we can email out a registration form should you be unable to attend either of these nights.

To register your interest and should you have any queries please email: bdale.n.a@hotmail.com
The Crazy Scientist

On Wednesday the 19th of March the whole school went to Toorloo Arm Primary School. My favourite experiment was the optical illusion which made his head big. Some other experiments were when he put a tablet into a liquid chemical and it made the bottles blow up. He also made some elephant toothpaste by combining a highly dangerous chemical with water which caused the liquid to spurt out of a tube.

Quotes from students:
William: “Crazy”
Lara: “Awesome”
Ethan: “Good”
Holly: “Amazing”

Combined Playgroup
School End of Term Celebration

Our end of term celebration will be held on Wednesday April 2nd at Nyerimilang Park. All families and friends are invited to bring a picnic lunch and join us from 11:00am -1:00pm. (We have moved our swimming session to Monday March 31st at 11am so we will have sufficient time.)
Parent / Teacher interviews will take place in the second week of term 2. The purpose of these interviews is to discuss where students are currently at with their learning and to set goals for the rest of the year. We have set aside Monday April 28th and Tuesday April 29th from 3:30-6:30 for interviews to take place. Parents can nominate a time (please select 1st and 2nd preference) that suits them and return this slip to school. Please see Bronwyn if you need to negotiate a different time.

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**Monday 28th April**

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**Tuesday 29th April**

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Our volunteers have been very busy lately with a number of projects that we are benefiting from. Rob and Mal have completed the noticeboard at the front of the school and have made great progress with the redevelopment of the chookhouse.

Wendy has been busily working away at tidying cupboards and sorting materials so we can find them easily. Fantastic job!

Of course, they continue to look after the lawns and gardens. Thanks guys!! 😊
What fun we've been having at Playgroup so far in 2014. Our little people have been busy using their imaginations, building, playing and creating.

We begin each session with some Developmental Play. The children choose from a range of activities that cater for different interests. They've had particular fun with Goo, playdough and rice pouring as well as lots of imaginative play. It has been amazing to watch how beautifully the children play and get along with one another to act out stories and games.

We usually follow our play session with morning tea, a story and a craft activity linked to the book that we have read. Have you seen our Walking Through the Jungle mural? We end our playgroup session with a play outside. Our group decided to change the start time of playgroup to 10 am, it just makes it a little bit easier to get there. We'd love to see some more families coming and have lots of great activities planned for the future including a bushwalk, Autumn and Easter activities.

Emma Steele—Playgroup Teacher
School Values

These are the values we are working on with everyone at Nungurner. (We have changed the language slightly from cooperation, perseverance, responsibility and respect to more everyday language.) They are all worthwhile values that make learning, teaching and being a part of the Nungurner community a great experience for all.

Work together
Stick at it!
Make good choices
Respect yourself, others and the environment

School Council

Our school council elections have been completed and the members of our council for 2014 are:

Parent members
Rachel Bell
Louise Gibson
Wilhelmina Rijs
Jo Cannon
Kylie Greenaway

DEECD members
Bronwyn van der Velden
Vicki Fraser

Community Members
Ross Monteith
Rhonda James

Congratulations to our new school council president, Rachel Bell. Vicki Fraser is our new secretary. Thanks to both for being willing to volunteer their time for these important roles.
Many thanks to Jo Cannon for her work as school council president over the last two years. Jo’s support and advocacy for the school was, and still is, tireless. Great job Jo!!
Lynne Brehaut has also retired from school council after many years of service. Thanks for all that extra work Lynne.....time to hand the minutes over to someone else!
THE NEW RULE EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

Have you ever heard yourself say to your children, “Don’t talk to strangers?”

An honest person will likely admit that at some time in their childhood, they were given this rule. In fact, many parents will admit they continue to pass this rule onto their own children. Yet, in the same breath, we might encourage our children to talk to the supermarket cashier, the sales person or the long lost relative. All of these people fit the definition of a stranger, but for some unknown reason it is okay for the child to talk to them. At best, this rule sends mixed messages to our kids.

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of “never talk to strangers” to “never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first”. A child who has been taught to never talk to strangers may feel they have nowhere to go if they find themselves lost in a shopping centre or other public place.

As parents we need to emphasise who is a “stranger”. Your definition and your child’s may be quite different. Engage with your children to help them understand that a stranger is simply someone whom they do not know. We do not know if someone is good or bad just by looking at them. Rather, we need to teach our children about “strangeness”.

Five ways to enforce the new rule:

1. Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first
   This is the new fundamental rule to keeping kids safe. This rule must NEVER be broken. Regardless of if it is a school, public or family function, work with your children to ensure they always ask an adult for permission before going off with ANYONE.

   Classic “what if” scenarios are worth their weight in gold. “You are at school and walking back to class after snack when a man comes up to you and says he is looking for his son’s class. He asks you to go with him to show him where it is. Do you go?”

   Use tempting scenarios that are relevant to your child, such as puppies or toys, and discuss safe options and strategies in each case.
2. Your personal alarm
Children have an innate sensitive personal alarm, which we can teach them to use. This is their natural defence system. Work with them to identify and recognise the physical and environmental signals that cause their alarm to sound. Knowing that a rush of adrenalin will cause physiological changes in our bodies and activate our personal alarm is a good start. A child’s personal alarm will present the same physical and emotional cues that an adult’s will.

3. Trust your instincts
Have you ever gotten “the creeps”? Maybe it’s the idea of snakes, mice or heights that does it for your child. Encourage them to draw on how it feels when they get the creeps. Instincts are those feelings you get when something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Instincts are the physiological changes that happen to our body when our personal alarm goes off. Physiological changes include noticing that you feel scared or nervous, your tummy feels upset and your heart is racing. And you know what? Our personal alarm is right 100% of the time.

4. Personal space vs. safety zone
Most kids understand the concept of personal space. How many times have we heard, “Stop invading my personal space!” Most people feel comfortable within an arm’s length of others. However, do your kids recognise their safety zone? Teach your child to be aware of their surroundings. If a “strange” person is too close, suggest they back away and maintain their safety zone. A safety zone is much bigger than your personal space – at least three giant steps bigger.

5. Safe places, safe people
There are times when a child must ask for help quickly and instinctively. We already know that not all strangers are bad, that most strangers will help a child who is lost or upset. It is situations that are safe, not places. Talk with your child and reinforce that he or she must ALWAYS use his or her skills with ALL people, including those presumed safe. Encourage your child to tell an adult they trust when someone or something has frightened them.

As parents we need to empower our children with self-confidence and trust in their ability to sense when something is just not right. It doesn’t matter if they can articulate it; they just have to feel it.

Catherine Gerhardt, Kidproof Melbourne
Kidproof provides proactive and preventative child and family education programs. We work with schools, community groups and other child centric organisations. We provide peace of mind for parents and create safer communities for everyone.

- www.kidproofsafety.com.au
- melbourne@kidproofsafety.com
- 1 300 577 663
Hey...Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and KIDS!

FREE Family Day at EGAG

Saturday 29 March 2014 between 10am & 2pm

All welcome!

Bring the children along and join in the various activities.

Have a go at drawing, painting, cut and paste, create your own family tree or build a straw and pipe cleaner construction plus lots of other ‘stuff’.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Register with EGAG on 5153 1988 or admin@eastgippslandartgallery.org.au or call in any time during the day.
Metung Lions Seafood Festival
Easter Sunday, 20 April 2014
from 11am – 3pm
Village Green, Metung Vic

Great Family Day
(proceeds from this event are used by the Lions Club of Metung Inc to support the local community & specific Lions Projects)

Great local Seafood Lunch Menu

Local Wines
Tea/Coffee

Jumping Castle
Kids Activities &
Easter Bunny
& Easter Eggs

And lots more ....

Live Bands

Sunday
13th APRIL 2014
A fun filled day
for the family
Adults $4 /Children FREE
10.00am to 3.00pm

NYERIMILANG HERITAGE PARK
Kalimna West Rd, Lakes Entrance
PIONEER SKILLS &
COLONIAL CRAFTS DAY
Step back in time to a bygone era

Enjoy Devonshire Tea in the Homestead
Sausage sizzle
Billy Tea & Damper
Pioneer skills & old time craft demonstrations
Blacksmiths, spinning, blade shearing,
draught horses, farm animals, music.& more

Join in the family fun -
‘old time’ games for children, boomerang throwing