“Nungurner the Small School with a Big Heart.”

**Dates to Remember**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>Bookclub due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>Emergency Evacuation Drill</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2nd March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>Ms V &amp; Emma at Maths PD Swifts Creek</td>
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<td>Monday 7th March</td>
<td>Nexus Arts - Dion Drummond - Indigenous Artist</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9th March</td>
<td>School Council Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Open Water Swim for Grade 4&amp;5</td>
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<td>Sunday 13th March</td>
<td>Odd Ball Film Night</td>
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<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday/ Newsletter this week</td>
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<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Friday 24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 – Picnic Lunch and Easter activities at Nyerimilang. Dismissal at 2:00pm</td>
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**School Council Members**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bronwyn van der Velden</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Bell</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Emma Steele</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Vacancy</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Fiona draeger</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross Monteith</td>
<td>Community Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Kleinitz</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Jo van Dam</td>
<td>Member</td>
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**District Swimming Sports**

It was a real thrill to have Nungurner students Blair, Ethan and Lara competing for the Tubbs team in the East District Swimming Sports in Orbost recently. Ethan and Blair competed in the 11yr boys freestyle team, which placed 2nd and Lara was part of the 10yr girls freestyle relay team, which came 4th. Well done kids!!

**Monday Morning Assembly**

What's happening here?
Building a Pirate ship of course!

Our Monday morning assemblies are a good way to start the week together. Parents and friends are welcome to stay for:

- Presentation of student awards
- Reports about our learning

PUPIL FREE DAY: Monday March 21st
Dear Parents,

The grade 2-5s have been working hard and have been having just a little bit of fun along the way. We have established some great new routines and the grade is working very well together.

We have been identifying our personal strengths. Each child has written their own business card ‘selling’ their strengths to their classmates. We have a broad range of talents in the class and when we work together we can share our talents with one another so that we can all achieve. Whilst most children were selling their strengths to one another, William took a slightly different tack and offered his talents to parents! See if William can help you by taking a look at his business card below!

Over the last couple of weeks we have been setting some goals for some personal strengths / characteristics we would like to focus on. Children will choose from the following characteristics and will try to focus on developing one or two of them. Perhaps parents could talk with their children about some of the characteristics that they have had to work on when they were kids, or even as adults. (Goodness knows I could’ve been a bit braver when I’ve hit the ski slopes!)

Emma

The Personal Characteristics:

- Kind, Brave, Forgiving, Leadership,
- Funny, Fair, Determined,
- Generous, Hard-working, Honest,

The Arts & Gardening

In literature, Nungurner students are learning how to be pesky pirates! We’re talking about pirate sayings, the crew and their duties, the meaning of different pirate vocabulary and playing games such as toss the cannon balls, hook the pretzels and pin the patch on the pirate. In gardening, we’ve looked at, smelt, felt and tasted various herbs (parsley, chives, lemon grass, sage, rosemary, thyme and basil) and planted some seedlings. We’ve also started to make a flowerpot man. For Art, we’ve made flowers and butterflies to decorate boards to be attached to our garden shed and we’ve begun making papier mache ‘creatures’. It has been a good beginning to the year.

Helen Nink

Grade Prep/One

The children in grades P/1 are settling into routines, although it is still a bit tricky at times remembering everything! We have read some big books together (‘Crunchy Munchy’, ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’, ‘The New Baby Calf’) and while we are doing this we are learning lots about print. We change our Take Home Books every day and it is great to see the preps beginning to point to words as they read, which helps them to understand what a word is. Grade ones are really moving along with their reading now and are becoming increasingly independent.

We have also been looking at particular letters, the sounds they make in words and learning to write them. We are starting with ‘the heavy duty letters’, the ones that occur more frequently, and so far have learned about Bb and Ll.

In maths we have been counting by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.
Wish list for gardening programme

Jars of any size, with or without lids
Plastic lids 8-12 cms
Polystyrene boxes
Terracotta pots, any size
Plastic pots, any size
Seeds
Straw/hay
Pillow case, hat, gloves, any condition
Long bamboo stakes
Empty tines, any size, non-sharp lip
Old gumboots, shoes, boots, preferably adult size
Twisted willow
Egg shells
Coffee grounds

If any families have old tiles we could use for mosaic projects in the classroom, we would gratefully appreciate them. Please bring them in and give them to Ninky.

Thank you

It would be a good idea if children could bring an old shirt for gardening!

Cooking Store Cupboard.

We are looking to build a store of basic ingredients to use in our cooking program each week and are asking families to send along something from the list below.

We know this is a long list and don’t expect everything at once but it would be great if we could build our essential items throughout the year.

Salt
Sea salt
dried yeast sachets
Plain flour
Wholemeal flour
Cornflour
Cocoa
Black pepper
Ground cumin/coriander/cinnamon/nutmeg
Long grain rice
Arborio rice
Sultanas
8 tins tomatoes
3 tins coconut milk
Jar of black olives
Egg noodles
Coconut-shredded/flakes
Brown sugar
Caster sugar
Dark chocolate
Red wine vinegar
Balsamic vinegar
Olive oil
Vegetable oil
Dishwashing liquid

Garden Groaners (from Ninky)

Where do apples take a holiday?
Fuji!

Why did the gardener quit?
Because his “salary” wasn’t high enough.
Our school councillors for 2016 are:
Bronwyn van der Velden
Emma Steele
Rachel Bell
Fiona Draeger
Jo Van Dam
Ross Monteith
Kim Kleinitz.

Thank you to those who continue to work hard for our school as school councillors.

We have one vacancy for a parent member should anyone be interested. Our first meeting will be Wednesday March 9th at 7pm. At this meeting we will elect office bearers and decide on meeting dates and times.

School Council makes and endorses school policy along with many other important decisions. Please speak to one of our council members if you have any concerns or would like council to consider an issue.

Leigh became a writer and illustrator all about the evolution of his characters and where his ideas for stories come from. Hearing an author talk about how he uses his ‘writer’s notebook’ hit home with some of the older kids and gave them a greater understanding of it’s purpose and why we want them to use one.

But the most exciting thing about the interview was the opportunity for us to send in our question during the ‘live chat’ and have it answered by Leigh during the show!! Lara and Harrison both wanted to know how long it took Leigh to write a book and were very surprised to hear that it takes him about 6 months of pretty constant work. We also learned that in his next book ‘Mr Chicken’ goes to Rome! Harrison can’t wait to see it as Mr Chicken is his favourite!

After having Leigh as their guest, ABC Splash is running a competition for children to create their own imaginary character. Entries will be displayed in an online gallery and 8 will be chosen to receive a signed copy of one of Leigh’s books! We have been busily working on our entries so stay tuned!

We have been talking about our personal strengths and special talents…..and Rusty demonstrated one of hers recently when she, very calmly and gently, caught a run away chook and returned her safely to the chook pen. An affinity with animals is a great skill to have Rusty!
Thanks to parents for letting us know about arrangements for picking up children; we always need to know if someone different is delivering or collecting children from school or if parents will be late. Our car park is a very busy place these days, particularly after school so we urge people to be extra careful. Thank you to parents for coming and collecting children from inside the gate; for safety’s sake children will not be allowed out of the gate without an adult.

In conjunction with the East Gippsland Shire and other local primary schools Nungurner will be taking part in the Vic Roads ‘Safe To School’ Program which helps schools ensure their environments are safe with regard to travel to and from school.

Also, for those in the after school care program, a reminder that the program goes until 5:30pm and children should be collected by then. It is also important that you let Audrey know if your child/ren will not be attending a session. Please talk to Audrey directly about any changes to your arrangements: 0422 172 101

Attached to this newsletter is an article by Michael Grose about developing independence in children. He gives some great advice about the benefits to children, and families, of helping children to become independent so Emma and I thought we would mention some of the ways we are trying to do this at school, so parents can help the process along. These are some of the things we encourage children to do by themselves, with only minimal assistance from us as required.

- Look after own belongings and clothing, including knowing where your hat is and putting it your locker when it isn’t being used. (Names on clothing really help!)
- Being able to handle lunch boxes and drink bottles, opening food packets, putting lunch boxes away at the end of lunchtime.
- Cleaning up table where they have been eating
- Putting own shoes on, learning to do shoelaces. (This is tricky and most children are not really able to handle this independently until about age 7)
- Putting away equipment after using it, in the classroom and in the playground.
- Helping to do a job around the school. At 3pm each day everyone has a job which they do with a buddy. These include collecting mail, checking and emptying rubbish bins, putting sandpit toys away, looking after the chooks and ducks, turning off computers, putting sports equipment away etc. As far as possible the little kids are paired with a bigger child to help them learn these tasks.
- Managing their own school bag, putting it in their locker on arrival and packing it at home time.
- Bringing their take home books each day and library books when they need to be returned.
- Handing notices to teachers
Reporting Student Progress

As teachers Emma and I are constantly evaluating children's progress and planning for the next stage in their learning. This is an ongoing process and we are always happy to talk to parents about how their child’s learning is progressing. We are also required to report to parents formally and at Nungurner this takes place as follows.

- Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of term one/early term 2. At these meetings we share with parents Individual Learning Plans that have been developed with input from teachers, students and this year also parents.
- Formal written reports at the end of Term 2
- Formal written reports at the end of Term 4

Our term 1 parent/teacher interviews will take place in the last week of this term (Tues March 22nd – Thursday March 24th).

Moonlight Cinema

Plans are well underway for our major fundraiser on Sunday March 13th. We are holding an outdoor cinema viewing of the film ‘Oddball’ and everyone is invited!

Based on a true story, it is sure to entertain families with a mixture of comedy, mystery and adventure, with a touching story about doing things differently and learning from life. The movie screens at 8pm, and is presented on a large inflatable outdoor screen.

We will need people to help out with jobs such as
- Directing people where to park
- Preparing and selling food and movie snacks
- Selling tickets
- Setting up the inflatable screen

If you are available to help please fill out the attached slip and return to school, or speak to Rachel, Jo, Kim or Bron.

Hope everyone is able to come along, help out and enjoy a great night.
Enjoy a special screening of the hit movie Oddball in a beautiful setting under the stars.

Gates open 6pm. Food, drinks, movie snacks & coffee available. Old school activities for kids to enjoy (gold coin donation).

Movie screens from 8:00 pm on 10 metre inflatable screen.

Tickets available online at Eventbrite or at the gate; adults $15.
The end game or goal for parents is **Redundancy**. Yep, you read it right. Your job is to make yourself redundant as a parent from your child’s earliest possible age. It always has been and always should be.

When redundancy is your aim most of your time, effort and energy will go into promoting independence. You’ll stop doing things for kids and start giving them opportunities to do things themselves. You’ll spend most of your active parenting time teaching, explaining and prodding your child toward independence.

When independence becomes your priority then suddenly you’ve found a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children including the key four - confidence, competence, creativity and character. Here’s how:

- **Confidence** comes from facing your fears and doing things for yourself.
- **Competence** comes from the opportunity to develop self-mastery that independence offers.
- **Creativity** is developed when kids solve problems themselves as opposed to someone solving them on their behalf, or worse, keeping kids safe. It’s amazing how resourceful kids can be when they are given the chance to resolve their own problems.
- **Character**, which is essential for success, is forged under hardship and is needed if kids are to live a sturdy life. Kids need to be exposed to disappointment, failure and conflict if character strengths such as grit and perseverance are too be forged.

**Independence takes many forms.** Adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence. And of course, independence takes many guises.

On a basic level it’s about developing children’s **autonomy**. Without realising it, many parents make choices on their children’s behalf. Kids build self-confidence when they do things for themselves, and make their own decisions.

Independence is built when children spend time in **unpredictable circumstances** and environments such as the bush, and also have the opportunity to navigate their neighbourhoods on their own. There maybe some risk involved but that is where the learning lay. **Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.**

Allowing kids to **follow their own impulses** even if they are different to their own parents is the key to gaining independence. This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that parents are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents’ wishes.

Allowing kids to take **responsibility** and own their own problems builds confidence and competence. Start by expecting kids to help at home. Look for ways to develop self-help skills and don’t take their problems on as your problems.

When your end game is redundancy and your priority is independence building then managing your kids in a visual way becomes your most obvious strategy. **Management by mouth** is a dependency strategy so talk less, use signs, lists and rosters backed up consequences to develop independence and responsibility in your children.

It can be scary and also difficult developing independence in one big step. So smart parents intuitively develop junior versions of independence by breaking up big activities into digestible bits. Want your three year old to make the bed? Then start by arranging the teddies and the pillows (a junior version of making the bed) and let them work their way up from there. Similarly, want your five year old to walk to school yet it’s currently out of his skillset? Then accompany him most of the way and let him walk the last 200 metres to school on his own. That’s a junior version of walking to school.