



**HERE WE COME**  
THURSDAYS AT GUNNY



**SWIMMING SPORTS**  
COMING SOON



**FEB-APRIL PIZZA**  
DO A ROADHOUSE RUN



**SCHOOL FEES**  
LESS THAN \$1 PER DAY

WELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Education For Country Kids

## We're Back....From The Beach!



After “the best end ever” to a school year we are refreshed and rarin’ to go in 2016. Sure we’ll be without Sharna, Angus and Darby but Zac, Brodey, Oscar, James and Daria are ready to step up and lead us into the new school year. Better hang on, it will be an exciting ride!

All students have been keen to get their learning underway. We have ten students in Years 1-6. Students will be taught by Lisa Duffy and Sharon Flight as their classroom teachers. Sharon will work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A copy of the timetable for Term 1 is attached.



## Who's In?

As you would all realise, low student numbers means we have few families. We are big believers in quality not the quantity and we are hoping you will prove us correct. Now more than ever we need all families to make every effort to contribute to keeping our great little school – great! Soon we will be calling for nominations in the Parent Category for School Council and would love to have more families join our group. Meetings are held once per month and usually run for 1-1/2 hours. It is a fantastic opportunity for parents to learn about the running of our school and have an opportunity to be involved in the decision making processes. If that is not your thing, you might consider being a reading/classroom volunteer, supervisor on camps or excursions or coming up to teach our students a skill (woodwork, craft, cooking). It is now more important than ever before that families make every effort to attend working bees, contribute to the lawn roster and attend/support special events. We understand that this is not always possible and realise that we all have busy lives away from school. However, it is vital that we do not leave all of the 'heavy lifting' to only a few, if we want our school to continue to be the best it can be.

## Thursdays At Gunny - We're Excited!

We are all looking forward to our new adventure, attending school at Gunbower Primary on Thursdays for 2016. BEGINNING TOMORROW! As explained in communications to parents last year, this decision has been made by Staff and School Council of both schools. The main reason for this is to provide our students with enhanced social opportunities, experience at being part of a larger class/school and the chance to be involved in more curriculum and extra-curricula activities. Our Year One and Year Two Students will be in the P-2 class with Mrs Jackie West and Lisa Duffy, whilst the Year 4, 5 and 6 students will be in the Year 3-6 class with Mr Jack Wardell and Andrew Blake teaching. There will be lots of opportunities for us to join with the Gunbower School Community for events; at the same time Welton will still continue to hold it's own special events. This partnership between our two schools is a positive one that has been looked upon very favourably by the Department of Education and by no means should it be viewed by anyone as a sign that Welton will close in the near future. If you have any questions or concerns about these arrangements, please speak to Lisa directly. What to Bring- students will wear their usual Welton uniform and should ensure they have their hat, they need their morning snack, lunch and drink bottle. Students should also bring along their blue reading folder and diary. They do not require their iPad at Gunbower for the time being. A reminder that for the first three Thursday's they will need their swimming gear.

## School Fees

There have been many opinion pieces in the media recently, centred around the cost of sending students to school. At Welton, we have always made every effort to ensure that we keep costs to families to a minimum, without compromising each student's education. School fees contribute towards the cost of many items and additional programs that your child receives. It is important that all families make every effort to pay their fees to ensure that we can continue to provide resources/requisites and special programs. Fees for 2016 have been set at \$120 for the year per child. These can be paid in full or in instalments. This equates to \$30 per term- a list of some of the items fees go towards is attached to the newsletter. As always, if any families are experiencing difficulty with payments, please contact Lisa and know that you will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. Thank you in advance.

## Swimming 1. Water Safety Is Our Business

We are sure that everyone realises the importance of our students learning water survival, safety and swimming skills. We all live near the water and every year we hear of tragic accidents on the river and in backyard pools that could have been prevented. Our annual swimming program focuses on educating our students on water safety and survival skills. The sessions, although including a swimming element are not designed to perfect proper stroke technique; this takes many sessions over long periods of time and is what the aquatic programs run by VicSwim are for. Staff from Welton, Gunbower and Leitchville, along with some volunteers, will run the sessions at the Leitchville Pool. We have made every effort to strike a balance between safety and time away from school. We are very fortunate to have staff from each school who have undertaken extra training to ensure that they have Austswim qualifications. Thank you to all families for returning the swimming permission forms. The cost for these sessions has been kept to a minimum and we ask that families make every effort to complete payment by the end of the program. A reminder that the dates for swimming at the Leitchville Pool are Tuesday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> (Students will be transported by car) and Thursday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (Students will travel by bus to/from Gunbower with the Gunbower students).

Students should bring along a plastic bag with a towel, bathers and a rashie or t-shirt. Students will not be permitted to swim without a sun protective top. As we do not swim until the afternoon, it is not comfortable for students to wear their bathers underneath, or instead of, their uniform. There is time for students to change at the pool.

## Swimming 2. Sports

The Annual Murray Plains Cluster Swimming Sports will be held at the Koondrook Swimming Pool on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> commencing at 10am. Parents are welcome/encouraged to attend. For those parents who are unable to make it due to work commitments, please contact the school so we can organise transport for your child/ren. Further information will be in future newsletters.

## Swimming 3. Open Water Program For Years 4-6

Our students (Years 4-6 only) are once again participating in the Open Water Program ran by Life Saving Victoria. This program includes instruction on how to remain safe in and around open water (specifically the river). This year's session is to be held at Maiden's Inn Caravan Park, Moama on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. Our students will be transported to and from the event by Mrs Flight. Parents are most welcome to come along and watch. Please sign and return the permission form (and let us know if you are transporting your own student to or from the event). Due to us making our own transport arrangements, there is no cost for this event.



## Contacts

From time to time it is necessary to contact the school to pass on information, make an enquiry or change pick up details. If wanting to speak to a staff member or ensure we get your message immediately, it is best to ring the school landline, rather than ring/text the mobile, as service inside the building is poor and messages often do not come through in 'real time'. Joy is in the office on Wednesday mornings and all day Friday and is the best person to speak to about matters relating to finances, change of contact details or other matters relating to administration. Lisa and Sharon are happy to take/return calls both before and after school and during break times. We would ask that unless it is urgent, parents refrain from telephoning during class hours (on days that Joy is not there), to ensure that your children receive maximum face to face teacher time.

## Absences

Please ensure that if your child is absent for all or part of a day that you send along a written note, explaining the reason for the absence (ie doctor's appointment, illness etc). We do appreciate advanced notice when possible and a phone call, text or note in your child's diary serves this purpose well.

## Lunch Orders

Fridays are now our lunch order day. Students may order their lunch by writing their order on an envelope with their name, order and total written on the front. Money is to be placed with the order. Orders can be given to Merv on Friday morning or given directly to the roadhouse. Please do not place orders in reader covers or student lunch boxes as they are often not found in time to place the order. A menu and price list is attached to this week's newsletter.

\* please note- Lunch orders will not be available on the Friday before Southern 80.

## Pizza Fundraising

The Caltex Torrumbarry Roadhouse are great supporters of our school. VJ and his team have once again kindly offered to donate money from pizzas sold to assist our school. This fundraiser will run for the month of February, March and April! Our school will receive \$1 for every family sized pizza sold and 50 cents from large and regular pizzas sold. Pizzas are available on weekends. With the Southern 80, long weekend and Easter weekends included during this promotion, we are most fortunate to be offered this opportunity. We thank the Caltex Torrumbarry Roadhouse for their generosity.

## Shrove Tuesday – You're Invited

Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> is Shrove (or Pancake) Tuesday. We will be making (and eating ) pancakes as the tradition dictates. (It's dirty work, but someone has to do it). If any parents would like to join us for a pancake and a cuppa we will be serving them piping hot at 11am.

## Camps and Excursions Fund

Some of our families may be eligible to receive funds to contribute to the cost of excursions/camps. Please read the information on the sheets attached to this newsletter and if you believe you qualify- complete and return the form to school. Funds received will be credited to your family account and used to pay for excursions and camps- saving eligible families vital funds. If you have any questions please contact Joy or Lisa.



## Parent/Teacher Chats

It would be most beneficial to 'touch base' with each family during February. It is always worthwhile coming to an agreement of expectations, passing on information (including student progress) and gives both parties the opportunity to get the year off to a flying start. As Lisa and Sharon will be teaching all students, we would like to meet with parents together. We would like to meet during the week of the 15-19<sup>th</sup> of February. A sheet for parents to select suitable times will be attached to next week's newsletter.

# Family BBQ

We always have difficulties dodging the heat, not to mention the flies, when we hold our meet and greet family BBQ. Therefore, this year we will, instead have a lunch/get together at our first working bee at a date to be announced.

# School Council

The February Meeting, for 2015 members, will be held at the school on Monday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the school. After this date we will call for nominations for the vacant parent category. This the opportunity for new members to join and commence their term at the March meeting. The date for our AGM, to be held in March, will be set at the February meeting.

# Thank You

A huge thank you to Darren Woodgate for his excellent driving skills during our camp to Phillip Island. Also thank you to Darren and Tania Fleming for attending the camp to ensure that our student's were well supervised. A further thank you to these two families for attending to the watering and lawns over the holiday break. As always, we appreciate your efforts.



## COMING SOON

- Water Awareness@ Leitchville .....Feb 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th 16th
- 1st Day at Gunbower.....Thursday Feb 4th and each Thursday thereafter
- Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday .....Tuesday Feb 9th
- Open Water @ Moama ..... Wednesday Feb 10th
- School Council (2015 members).....Monday Feb 15th
- Life Education Van @ Gunbower..... Thursday Feb 18th
- Murray Plains Swimming Sports @ Koondrook..... Tuesday Feb 23rd
- Year 5/6 Urban Camp in Melbourne.....Monday March 7 - Wednesday March 9
- Labour Day Public Holiday.....Monday Mar 14th
- End of Term- Easter Themed Day @ Gunbower.....Thursday Mar 24th