Yesterday was Shrove Tuesday and to mark this event, the students made some delicious pancakes which were promptly eaten by Kayden, Jayden and the rest of the hungry horde, for morning tea. Luckily we had swimming in the afternoon, to wash off all that sticky mess!
Thursday At Gunny

Our first Thursday at Gunbower was last week. We were warmly welcomed by the staff, students and parents. The Welton kiddies settled in very quickly and did themselves and the Welton community proud, with many of them achieving positive behaviour points, lots of compliments and praise for their work ethic, behaviour and all round happy dispositions. All students participated in reading and writing lessons in the morning, numeracy before lunch and water awareness in the afternoon. It was so wonderful seeing the students from the two schools interact in such positive ways. Our students are very fortunate to be given this opportunity to experience being part of larger classes and a larger school environment. A reminder that students need to bring their blue reader folders containing book/s to read, morning snacks, lunch and a drinker. At this stage iPads are not to be taken to Gunbower. They must stay at Welton or at home. Swimming gear is required for next Thursday.

Life Education

On Thursday February 18th, the Life Education Van will be visiting Gunbower Primary School. This service provides students with valuable knowledge and skills in the areas of Personal Safety, Health and the Human Body. Our students will be given the opportunity to access this program whilst at Gunbower and will attend sessions with the Gunbower students. The cost to attend this program is covered in our school fees. Please sign the attached permission slip and return to school before next Thursday. Those families who have not paid at least first term's fees by the end of term will have the cost of the program $9 per child added to their account.

We’re Onto It

No doubt you have all been hearing about the threatening automated telephone calls that have been made to schools across Australia that have forced evacuations, not to mention caused disruption and distress to students, staff, parents and the wider community. We have not received any such calls but our Emergency Management Plan is kept up to date and all necessary safety drills and practices remain in place to deal with threats such as these. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this or any other matter, please contact us at the school.

Open Water

Today our Year 4-6 students attended the Open Water Session run by Life Saving Victoria. They travelled to Maiden’s Inn Caravan Park where they learnt about river safety, including currents, water hazards, CPR and rescues. A big thank you to Sharon Flight for transporting and supervising the students.
Parent/Teacher Chats

Next week, we invite all families to take the opportunity to come along to have ‘chat’ with the teaching staff (aka Lisa and Sharon) about their child/ren’s learning. This provides parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss expectations, set student goals and ensure that we are all ‘on the same page’. The ‘chats’ should not take more than 10–15 minutes per student. Attached to this week’s newsletter are some suggested time slots, please fill in your preferences and Lisa will text you to confirm a meeting time. Should you be unable to attend at these times please ring Lisa to arrange an alternative day/time.

Inspect the Gadget

Our theme for the first part of this term is Gadgets and Gizmos. This theme is being studied as part of our Humanities cycle and aligns beautifully with our Science and Technology Studies. Students will be learning about levers, pulleys, cogs, wheels, axles and how many everyday and extra-ordinary objects with moving parts work.

It’s Maths Mate

Our students in Years 4-6 have begun the Maths Mate Program. Each Friday they receive a homework sheet that has a range of mathematical problems for them to work through. This work is not designed to teach new skills, but rather, consolidate previous learning, expose any misunderstandings and assist students to get into the habit of completing homework. The last two-three questions on each sheet are always of a problem solving nature, students are encouraged to work through these problems, often with concrete materials or pen and paper. Parents are more than welcome to assist with these problems when required.

Outdoor Education

Yes, we are continuing our unique Outdoor Education program this year. Sessions will commence on a Tuesday afternoon, after our swimming program has finished. For safety reasons we do not use the bush area surrounding the school between November and March. We are looking forward to many fun sessions where we will develop our skills of initiative and teamwork, further enhance our respect and understanding of the environment as well as applying bush skills that can be used in everyday life.

School Council

A reminder to Chrissy, Narelle, Bernie and Marty that the February School Council Meeting, for 2015 members, is on next Monday February 15th at 7pm. Packages will be forwarded this week. Please advise Lisa if you are unable to attend. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on March 21st at 7pm and this will be followed by the inaugural meeting of the 2016 Welton Primary School Council, which we hope will include new parent members.
Lawns
The next rostered family is the Levings Family. Lawns are ready and waiting. Please contact Lisa and let her know when you are available so she can send home the key for the mower shed.

Pizza Fundraising
The Caltex Torrumbarry Roadhouse are great supporters of our school. Vijay and his team have once again kindly offered to donate money from pizzas sold to assist our school. This fundraiser will run for the months 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.

COMING SOON
Water Awareness @ Leitchville............................................................Feb 11th 16th
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