Hi everyone,

We’ve had a lovely beginning to the year. Our students have settled back into routines happily and are getting along well with each other. Our focus on good manners (whilst recognising that the vast majority of our students already had lovely manners) has prompted children to demonstrate positive behaviours beyond just “please” and “thank you.” Happy greetings in the morning and cheerful farewells in the afternoon make the day even more pleasant for us as teachers.

We announced our school captains for term one at assembly last week and we are very proud that Charlotte Mitchell and Mitchell McMillan will be leading our school. Both students are positive role models and will do an outstanding job.

We had a great day in Albury last Tuesday and the photos show the learning which took place. In particular the open water activity was very appropriate given the water lifestyle of many of our students. Thanks to parents who came along to Noreuil park and a huge thank you to Tracey and Simone who assisted me (including the carrying of bags when some of our little people were a bit weary) with the F-2 group at the museum.

Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday and we will have a pancake breakfast from 8.10am in the staffroom/art room restaurant. All money donated (gold coin per pancake) will be sent to Uniting Care for their work with the homeless. This is traditionally a wonderful activity and we urge you to bring along friends, neighbours and grandparents. Please send along the tear off form with anticipated numbers by Friday so we can cater sufficiently.

On Saturday, Adam Ladanay sprayed weeds and around fence lines and sheds for us. This will keep long grass at bay. Thanks so much Adam!

Succulents for the tyre garden can be sent to school from Thursday. We would still appreciate help with finishing off the garden and if you are able to assist, please contact one of us or leave a message with Jen.

One of our families is desperately seeking a 3 or 4 bedroom home to rent in the local area so they can continue to send their children to us rather than move into Wodonga. If you can help please phone 60264638.

Included with this newsletter is information about the Albury Wodonga Cancer Ride. I will dust off my bike and do the horseshoe lagoon ride - please come along. It starts at 9.30am and children under 12 are free if they are with a registered adult.

Please don’t forget the reading session I am running on Wednesday from 2.30-3.30pm. It is designed for reading helpers in the F-3 classrooms and also for our Prep parents. I also plan to run an evening session so if you can’t make it on Wednesday then let us know via the slip and I’ll add you to the follow up session.

Kind regards,
School Council Elections: Please consider nominating yourself for a position on School Council. This is a great way to have your input into the decision making process at our wonderful school. To be a member of School Council all you need is 2 hours twice a term to attend meetings, an interest in the school and an ability to talk with other parents and community members about the many wonderful things that happen at Bethanga Primary School. Nominations for the 4 x 2 year vacancies and the 2 x 1 year vacancies close at 4pm on Monday 23 February 2015. If there are more nominations than positions vacant we will then run an election where all families are eligible to vote.

- All excursion levies and ground levy (optional) is due by the 27th February
- Hot Food Friday (obviously on Fridays) from the Bethanga Store:
  - Ham and salad wrap $4; 3 steamed dim sims $3; 4 steamed dim sims $4, fish fingers and salad $4
- Hats must be worn from September 1st to April 30th. Sunscreen is available for students to apply each day but it is advisable to apply sunscreen before coming to school. We are also encouraging students to wear sunglasses to school to protect their eyes and request that parents check to make sure the sunglasses are approved by the Skin Cancer Council.
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle which can be topped up from our new filtered and chilled water dispenser (located in the art room.)
- On very hot days - the art room will be open for students to play quiet board games in the cool.
- Tissues - please donate a box of tissues if you can. Whilst colds are not yet upon us, we like to have a supply ready and waiting

Please don't forget that our school is nut free!

- Currently in Victoria there is a Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) which lists early childhood and educational settings at high risk on a CODE RED (catastrophic) fire rating day. Bethanga Primary was included back in 2009 but then removed in 2010. Given our location (hills, winding roads, limited access) and the environmental conditions (dry vegetation, long grass, bush etc.) we wrote a letter to the Department of Education requesting a review of our omission from the list. As such we are now back on it. This means that on a CODE RED day (catastrophic fire risk) our school will be closed. Usually, weather forecasts enable catastrophic days to be predicted (on average) three days prior. The safety of our students is paramount on all days but especially on a catastrophic fire risk day hence the pre-emptive closure. We have included an information sheet about the register and a FAQ sheet also. Please phone if you have questions.

A reminder to all children to please wash your hands after breakfast to prevent the chance of nut residue coming to school or getting on bus rails/seats. We greatly appreciate your assistance with this!

- Achievement Program: The next meeting for sharing of information and making an action plan for our school to become accredited in this program (which promotes health and wellbeing for our school) will be held at the Berringa Kinder on Wednesday 18th February at 6pm. Sue Reid is assisting us with the program and we are working in conjunction with Berringa Kinder and Talgarno Primary Schools. We would love a small group of parents to be involved so please contact Bert if you are interested.
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<td>Bluearth</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Pancake breakfast to raise funds for Uniting Care</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival for stronger swimmers in Years 3 - 6</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>SEED Day at Yackandandah football oval for years 3-6.</td>
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<td>Term 2 wk.1 Prior to wk.3</td>
<td>Saturday 25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC Service at Bethanga Hall</td>
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<td>Wk. 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th—Thurs. 14th</td>
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BETHANGA AUTOMOTIVE
& SMALL ENGINE REPAIRS
Mick Childs
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(Please leave message if not answered–landline preferred)
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Please ring through all orders on 02 6026 4215
Open: 6.30am-7pm Monday-Saturday
8.00am-7pm Sunday

ADVERTISING SPACES FOR SALE

If you would like to advertise on this page of our newsletter please email your advertisement to bethanga.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au as soon as possible and we will send you an invoice. If you do not have email facilities, please drop your advertisement into the office.