Hi everyone,

Last Sunday 8th February, the Ladanay family welcomed the arrival of Zach William Ladanay at 4.30pm (weighing 8.2 pounds—52 cm long). Congratulations to Tracey, Adam and proud and adoring big sisters Charlotte and Marnie. We wish you all the very best!

Tomorrow 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 come along if you can—if you have forgotten to return your order, not to worry as we have plenty of pancakes to go around.

We had our own “backyard blitz,” on Friday which saw Bert, Ross, Jo and the year 2-6 classes complete the tyre and mosaic garden. It looks fantastic and there is a special article later in the newsletter. Thanks to everyone involved, especially Jo for giving up her Friday and to all who donated the succulents. The rain came at the perfect time!

Each Monday after assembly, our whole school will come together to work on an aspect of our social skills program. Last week we revisited the golden rule (treat others the way you wish to be treated) and in cross age groups our students came up with examples of how our school looks when the golden rule is in place, We then posed the question “Does the golden rule mean that you treat others the way they treat you?” Have a talk to your children and ask them what they think.

As mentioned last week, one of our families is desperately seeking a 3 or 4 bedroom home to rent in the local area. Jennoah, Brooke and Alex have settled into our school in such a positive way and we will be incredibly disappointed if they have to leave us to move into Wodonga. If you can help please phone 60264638.

School Council Elections - We have only had one nomination so far. We have 4 x 2 year vacancies and 2 x 1 year vacancies. 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. Nominations 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. Nomination forms are attached to the newsletter.

Kind regards,
A FEW MORE IMPORTANT THINGS......

😊 Over the course of each week, our students are exposed to a wonderful and extensive curriculum. Music, Indonesian and Bluearth are three of the extras which are greatly enhancing the “experience” of school for our children and providing opportunities which cater for a wide range of learning styles and interests. Ibu Tutti has now had two weeks of Indonesian with our students and has been working on basic greetings as well as exposing our students to some cultural knowledge. If you do have the internet at home then please have a look at www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline and you will see some of the little activities and songs which our children have been working on. All the basic greetings are there too.

😊 Miss Briggs has started music and there have been a lot of “Ta and Ti Ti’s” coming from the music room.

😊 Bluearth is loved by all of our students. Our two year program finishes at the end of this year and we are extremely keen to seek further funding and sponsorship so we can again access the program for 2016 and 2017. I have already spoken with Cathryn and next term we will start to plan how we can manage this. Budget wise—Bluearth costs us about $700 a term with MILSPEC kindly paying the same for us.

😊 Budgets at school are a constant juggling act for Jen and I. Many of you might be surprised to know that we are only provided with $12,000 a term to completely run our school (excluding staffing). This year, we really need to seek out grants which we can apply for and also come up with a fundraising strategy with some novel ideas. If you are interested in helping with this, please come and see me.

😊 Miss Watson arrived with the MARC van last Thursday. Students have borrowed books from the MARC van and they are stamped with Tawonga Primary School. Each class has a tub for MARC books so they can be returned to the box when you have finished reading them at home. Our 2/3 and 4/5/6 students are able to borrow from the mobile library. There is a white basket for returns to the mobile service (located in the office area.)

😊 Whilst on the topic of online activities, last Wednesday, Ross and I spent most of our lunch break talking with a group of students who had had a problem whilst playing an online game called “Clash of the Clans,” the night before. The issue online then led to some tension between a group of students at school who normally get along extremely well. We urge parents to check in to see what their children are playing or experiencing online and to make sure that the computer, iPad, iPod etc is located in a high traffic area with adult supervision. We have stressed to our students that if anyone is mean to them or abusive online then they need to shut the game down and tell an adult. Please note that students are not accessing these particular games at school and that all use of technology online at school is subject to department filters. cybersmart.gov.au has some excellent resources for parents

😊 You may have noticed that “shops,” are starting to appear in our yard, (mostly due to the presence of many acorns.) Last year we had an amazing month (or months of cubbies) where our students created houses and shops together. It was a great activity which involved lots of sharing, negotiation and problem solving. We hope that cubbies will again occur this year but believe that it is just too hot at the moment to start them. In the meantime, if you have some pieces of timber (not too large) then put them aside at home and we will let our children know when cubbies will begin. Old brooms were very useful last year so instead of throwing them out, please keep them too. Please note that cubbies will be subject to strict OH&S guidelines by the safety police at school!!!!!!
At last we have finished our new garden thanks to the wonderful help of the students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6, Mr Hogan and Jo Mitchell. Last year we painted the tyres and this year we have planted the tyres out with lots of succulents. We then put the mosaic pavers (from many years ago) around the tyres and put some bark chips around them. It was a big job but it was worth it. The garden looks great. The students had fun working out a design to plant their tyres and some used their plants to make a picture. Now all we need to do is to hope all will grow. Many thanks to everyone who donated the plants. Also thanks to Michael Wood and Glenn Bowman for their help and giving up their time to help their wives. I nearly forgot to thank Richard Wood for getting the rocks for the border. I wonder what our next project will be? Anyone got any ideas?
Just a few things.......  

- All excursion levies and ground levy (optional) are 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
- Our chilled and filtered water was very popular last week due to the heat and I am positive that our students are now drinking much more water than they would normally do due to the new dispenser. Ask your child how much water they are drinking, I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Tissues - thanks to those families who have donated tissues. These will be greatly appreciated when colds weather begins.

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!

- 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. Please phone if you have questions.

  PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT OUR SCHOOL IS NUT FREE!

- 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 this coming Wednesday 18th February at 6.pm. 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.

Bethanga Gymkhana: Will be held on Easter Saturday. We have once again been asked to sell Lotto Tickets for the Gymkhana. The winning ticket will receive $600.00 and 4 other winning tickets will each receive a $5.00 scratchie. All proceeds from the Gymkhana are distributed evenly between all the groups who assist with the Gymkhana in some way.

As we have only received 20 raffle books, only some families will receive a book. Tickets are $3.00 each. Please return all sold and unsold tickets to school together with money by 20th March.
## Coming up at Bethanga ......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>School Council meeting 5.45pm at school</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Pancake breakfast to raise funds for Uniting Care begins at 8.10am in staffroom. Gold coin donation per pancake please.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival for stronger swimmers in Years 3 - 6 Achievement Program meeting at Berringa Kinder at 6pm. More information later this week once organising committee has met. We would love the support of parents at this meeting.</td>
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<td>Monday 23rd Feb</td>
<td>School Council Nominations close Bank day</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th Feb</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>SEED Day at Yackandandah football oval for years 3-6. Details closer to the date.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Gymkhana Raffle Tickets and money due in</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>End of Term 1                  Break up 2.30pm Bus leaves at 2.30pm</td>
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<td>Term 2 wk.1 Prior to wk.3</td>
<td>Monday 13th April</td>
<td>First day Term 2 ANZAC Service at Bethanga Hall</td>
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<td>Saturday 25th April</td>
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<td>Wk. 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th—Thurs. 14th</td>
<td>NAPLAN FOR YRS 3 AND 5</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Friday 14th August</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday October 20th to Friday 23rd</td>
<td>Year 3/4 Camp to 15 Mile Creek Please note that we are trying to organise our 5/6 camp to Canberra for the exact same week. Will be confirmed shortly.</td>
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**BETHANGA AUTOMOTIVE**

Mick Childs
Ph: 6026 4881  Mob: 0414 425 413
(Please leave message if not answered—landline preferred)
bethangaauto@bigpond.com
mazz.mick@bigpond.com

Vehicle Services and repairs to cars, tractors, trucks, small and stationery engines.
Starter ropes and Caltex oils and lubes available
Workshop facilities
Onsite repairs (when viable)
Competitive rates.

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**BETHANGA GENERAL STORE AND COFFEE SHOP**

- Takeaway food
- Coffee, tea, milkshakes
- Cold Drinks
- Groceries
- Papers and magazines
- Gas and Fuel
- EFTPOS available
- Friendly Service

Please ring through all orders on 02 6026 4215
Open: 6.30am-7pm Monday-Saturday
8.00am-7pm Sunday

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**Rumble Tumbles Indoor Play Centre & Café**

Unit 1 919 Calimo Street
North Albury
Phone: 6040 4450

Rumble Tumbles entertains the children and allow parents a place to be able to come and sit, read the paper, have a coffee and enjoy a bite to eat while the kids wear themselves out!

Party at Rumble Tumbles....... Rain, Hail or Shine, that peace of mind that your party is organised and hassle free is priceless.

**OPENING TIMES:**
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 3.00pm
Saturday & Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
NSW & VIC School Holidays
Monday to Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
Private parties available outside these hours by arrangement.
For further details Phone 6040 4450.

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smiles.on.dials@hotmail.com

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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.