Dear Parents
School Council Elections
Our 2016 School Council Elections are currently open. They close on Wednesday, February 24th. If you are interested in joining School Council you will need to complete a nomination form. These are available at the Office. Please come in for a chat if you have any questions.

Getting To Know Your Class
Thank you to everyone who came to our informative chats last week. The sessions were well attended and it was a great opportunity for all of us to share our expectations for the 2016 school year.

School Review
Our School Review is being held on Wednesday, March 9th. This is where we review our work over the period of our last School Strategic Plan (2012-2015). From this review, we will be developing our new Strategic Plan – exciting work!

Special Religious Instruction
So far we have not had many forms returned for Special Religious Instruction (SRI). The program is being conducted on Monday lunchtime for half an hour. We have attached the consent form that you need to complete for your child to participate in SRI. Can forms please be returned this week so we can commence the program as soon as possible? Thank you to everyone who has returned their forms.

Arriving before school
All students who arrive before 8:45 need to stay quietly in the checkerboard area, unless they are in before school care. Students are not supervised in the yard until 8:45am.

School Athletic Sports
Interschool Athletics Sports Day, Friday 11th March, at the Geoff Watt Track Warragul, is a BIG event on the school calendar. The day involves a number of small schools in the district called the West Gippsland Small Schools Sports Association. The schools included are Darnum, Lardner, Nilma, Buln Buln, Bona Vista Ripplebrook and Ellinbank. The children participate in age levelled events in the morning and one multi age team event in the afternoon. In the team events the children represent their school and compete for the West Gippsland Rural Schools Shield. The middle of the day has a championship 200m running race for selected senior students. The children will practice for the sports at school. If you know you will be absent on this date, or the back up date Tuesday 15th March, it would be appreciated if you could let the teachers know.

School Banking
School banking with the Bendigo Bank is on Wednesdays.

Have a great week
Nicole Ball, Acting Principal
**Working Bee**

We are holding a working bee on

**Sunday, February 21\textsuperscript{st}**

from 9am—12pm.

There is a list of jobs that need to be completed at the Office—please come in, look at the list and write your name on the job you would like to complete. We also welcome people to come and do a general tidy up. Please BYO shovels, rakes, blowers, brooms, pressure cleaners etc.

**Weekly Award Winners:**
Coen, Tanesha, Patrick, Xavier, Tyler, Toby and Jeremy.

**Congratulations to our 2016 Junior School Council:**
Lyndon, Matthew, Amy, Prell, Archie, Patrick, Charley, Indianna and Matthew.

**Parent Club**

Hi everyone. This will be my last PC report as I have officially stepped down as President of Parent Club. I have enjoyed my time as Vice President and President, and have been fortunate to have worked with many fantastic people and have made lifelong friends along the way. Thanks to everyone for your support over the years.

It’s very fortunate for PC that we are able to hand the role over to someone who is perfect for the job in Janine Sharman. Janine is a born organiser with a great work ethic to get jobs done. I wish her and all our new team all the best and would like to ask people to please try to help out wherever possible to lighten the load for everyone.

Office Bearers are:
President: Janine Sharman
Vice President: Kate Hutchison
Secretary: Tanya Holmes
Treasurer and School Council Rep: Jen Christensen

Over to you President……..

Firstly I would like to say congratulations to all of our new Parent Club elected members and a big thank you to Jan for all of her hard work as President over the years.

Our first fundraiser that will be coming home with the students this week is our very popular bulbs fundraiser of which the school gets a very generous 50% of sales. The bulbs make great presents and don’t forget to ask family, friends and neighbours. The order forms and money are due back on Friday the 4\textsuperscript{th} of March.

If there are any parents that would like to help out with Parents Club, but can’t make it to the meetings, let me know and we can put you on the email list.
My email address is sharmanjan@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Janine.
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
We held our Meeting last Tuesday night with a few things up for discussion. We endorsed several Policies; Investment, Internet Banking, Finance and Student Engagement and Inclusion. As we update our Policies they will become available on our School Website as well as being available for the Office. We co-opted in 2 new members; Matt Savage and Barry Zeldenryk. We also endorsed Parent & Friends fundraising ideas for the year. Our School Review was also discussed which is being held March 9th and Jen Christensen and myself will be in attendance. The shortage of concert ticket availability was also raised, which we will look more closely at later in the year.

LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES
I would like to introduce Parent lead lunch time activities at the school. The purpose of this is to give students more options at lunch time. It can be a way of building on our ICARE values, make students feel included who may find the school yard a social challenge and keep them active. It only needs to be simple, card games, Poison Ball, large skipping rope, gardening, etc. If a parent feels they have a skill or desire to help 1 lunchtime a week, fortnight, month that would be fantastic. You can come and speak to me (Mel Brown) about it further or let Lyn in the Office know what you would like to do and when.

GLEN CROMIE
We are inviting the whole school staff, students, parents and siblings to come along to Glen Cromie Caravan Park on Friday March 18th at 4.30pm for a Welcome get together. It is a gold coin donation to the Park. There are bbqs, undercover areas, large open lawns, bike paths and a river to swim in. Bring something for your dinner, drinks, chairs, pushbikes and bathers for the kids.

Prep Picnic
The Prep students enjoyed an opportunity to get together and meet new families at Civic Park in Warragul last Wednesday. Preps have all Wednesdays off in February. Their first full week will begin on Monday February 29th.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
This week there has been a lot of talk about love with many couples celebrating Valentine’s Day. While the focus may have been on romance all good relationships are founded on love. Love for parent and child, love for friends and community, and love for our environment put all these relationships on solid footing.

Only a few months ago, as the French nation grieved the terrible loss of life from the terrorist attacks in Paris, they gathered and listened to the lyrics below.
If we only have love
Then tomorrow will dawn
And the days of our years
Will rise on that morn
If we only have love
To embrace without fears
We will kiss with our eyes
We will sleep without tears
If we only have love
With our arms open wide
Then the young and the old
Will stand at our side
If we only have love
Love that’s falling like rain
Then the parched desert earth
Will grow green again
If we only have love
For the hymn that we shout
For the song that we sing
Then we’ll have a way out
If we only have love
We can reach those in pain
We can heal all our wounds
We can use our own names
If we only have love
We can melt all the guns
And then give the new world
To our daughters and sons
If we only have love
Then Jerusalem stands
And then death has no shadow
There are no foreign lands
If we only have love
We will never bow down
We’ll be tall as the pines
Neither heroes nor clowns
If we only have love
Then we’ll only be men
And we’ll drink from the Grail
To be born once again
Then with nothing at all
But the little we are
We’ll have conquered all time
All space, the sun, and the stars.

The refrain is very poignant. ‘If we only have love’ so much can be put right. In displaying loving kindness towards each other we make ourselves fully human but at the same time vulnerable. Caring and loving can be risky. However without love we cannot relate well to others or experience the wonder of the world around us.

The book in my display this week is “The Heart and the Bottle” by Oliver Jeffers. It tells the story of a young girl who tries to avoid the sadness associated with losing a friend by putting
her heart in a bottle. Over time she grows into an adult and realizes that locking her heart away makes her feel empty. It also means that she is no longer as curious and creative as before. Then one day a small child helps her to put her heart back where it belongs. The story fits nicely with our ICARE of confidence in friendships. When we care for others we begin to develop communities built on love and mutual respect. The type of love that wants what is best for the other and makes us good listeners. Part of the role of parents is to help children begin to understand their “negative” emotions such as anger, frustration and sadness and to work out some helpful strategies on how to cope with them. As we take up the challenges of parenting we can learn from our children just as the adult in the story gains insight from a child.

Barbara Kingwill – Chaplain BBPS

NEERIM SOUTH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB PLAYERS WANTED

Under 10’s, Under 12’s, Under 14’s.
Contact Glen Ramm 0409 874 903
# 86th Ellinbank Twilight Sports

Presented by Ellinbank Hall Committee

Friday February 26th 2016 at the Ellinbank Recreation Reserve

Sausage Sizzle available from 6:00pm. Events starting 6:30pm sharp.

Entry: Gold coin donation

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Age is calculated as at the day of the sports. Events may change on the night.
A warm welcome is extended to newcomers in the district.

We would like to thank our major sponsors:

**Warragul Lean & Green**

**Gladstone Street Medical Clinic**