



GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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PRINCIPAL: Mrs Kris Porker

## NEWSLETTER January 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

### Dates for your Diary

<b>FEB</b>	Mon	2	Art continues fortnightly
	Wed	4	Cooking Grade 3-6 continues fortnightly
	Thu	5	Prep information night 6.30pm
	Fri	6	Swimming Benalla Aquatic Centre continues weekly Term 1
	Wed	11	Library continues fortnightly
	Tue	17	School Council meeting 6.30pm
	Mon 23-Fri 27		Grade 6 Cluster Sailing Camp at Rye
<b>MAR</b>	Mon	9	Labour Day Long Weekend
	Tue 10-Fri 13		Grade 3-4 Cluster camp to The Outdoor School 15 Mile Creek Camp Campus
<b>PREP REST DAY WEDNESDAY EACH WEEK</b>			
<b>OCT</b>	Wed	14	The Lion King Melbourne

	VACUUM ROSTER	TOILET ROSTER
<b>JAN</b>	30 Frederick	Manning
<b>FEB</b>	6 Fullerton	Matkovich-Allan
	13 Hilton	Montgomery
	20 Leadbetter	Murphy
	27 Mackey	Northey

#### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SECURITY SYSTEM

**NEW PARENTS PLEASE COME TO SCHOOL TO SEE HOW OUR SECURITY SYSTEM IS DEACTIVATED FOR VACUUMING DUTIES**

**NOTE** If you can't clean on your rostered time, swap with another family. A list of family numbers is in your handbook. Thank you.

#### MOWING ROSTER

**Tim Northey**  
Rose Bailey  
David Boonzaayer  
Shannon Murphy  
Peter Paccagnan  
Rob Carlesso

Return the key to school when mowing is done. Thankyou

**WELCOME BACK TO GRETA VALLEY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE CHILDREN WELL RESTED AND READY FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF LEARNING. A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES STARTING IN 2015.**



**REMEMBER THOSE HATS! TERM 1 IS A SUN SMART TERM**

#### GARDEN WATERING ROSTER THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

A very big thank you to the people who watered and tended the garden and grounds over the summer holidays and Rob Carlesso for mowing in time for the return of the kids. The grounds look great.

Thankyou Elsie and Tim for looking after the chooks.

Thankyou Pete Paccagnan for helping out on Wednesday afternoon preparing our courts for new line marking.

## THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

- This year our 2 classes remain. We will have Howard Gibson teaching Grades 2-6 and Lisa Buckley teaching the Prep-Grade 1 class.
- Sue Cooper and Janis Delaney are back as integration aids.
- Every second Monday is our Art day with Cate Geard beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Every second Wednesday is Grade 3-6 cooking at Edi Upper Primary School, commencing next Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- On alternate Wednesdays commencing on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have Library with Anthony Lawler.
- We have Leonie Brien back with us for Music every Thursday
- LOTE Italian class are on Friday each week before we head off swimming.

## SWIMMING

Our swimming lessons at the Benalla Aquatic Centre commence next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February and are each Friday for the rest of Term 1. Students will need to bring along bathers, towel and goggles if required. A plastic bag for the wet bathers is a good idea. Lessons are conducted indoors from 1.45pm to 2.45pm. An invoice will be sent when lessons are finished and we can calculate how much is owed. Please sign the attached permission note and return by next Monday.

## PREP INFORMATION NIGHT

Next Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Lisa will host a Prep information evening. The parents of all our children are welcome as you may like to hear about the teaching of literacy and numeracy at Greta Valley Primary School. It is particularly relevant for our new Prep families.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first school council meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm. Details about our school council elections will be published in next week's Newsletter. All welcome to attend the meetings

## PARENT HELPERS

We are looking for a couple of parents who can help out with our cooking program. The first session starts next Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. We leave Greta Valley at 10.50am and travel by bus. All grade 3-6 children participate in this fantastic program which relies heavily on parent support. If you can help out, please let Howard know.

Lisa would like to hear from anyone who can help with reading in the mornings commencing the second week of term.

If you have a skill or interest you would like to share with our school, please let us know. We love having adults working with our children.

## KEEPING FOOD COOL

Could you help us by reminding your children to bring their lunch into the school, and not leave it in the bag room, which gets very hot.

The fridge is also available for any children who would like to make use of it, particularly if they have meat in their lunches.

## CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS AT 3.30PM DISMISSAL

Parents must let us know when collecting children from the school when their child is normally a bus traveller. We must account for all students at the end of the day and have a record on the bus on which they travel.

If you have made arrangements **with another parent for your child to go to their home for a party or play etc, either by bus or car, it is vital that you notify us.** We will not let your child go with another parent or on a different bus unless we have been notified. It is NOT OK for the children to tell us "Mum said", we must hear from the parents ourselves.

## FIRE PLANS FOR GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been placed back on the Bush Fire Code Red Day Register. This means our school will be closed on a Code Red Day.

Please carefully read the following information and if you have any questions or concerns, please phone Kris. This information was published last year but we have several new families who will be interested in the following. This information is also available on our website.

### School procedures for the bushfire season

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires is being constantly revised.

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk have been included on the Bushfire-At Risk Register (BARR) and will be closed on days determined by fire authorities to be Code Red. **Our school** has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days’ notice of a planned closure following the issue of a Code Red warning by the CFA. We will contact you directly by letter sent home with your child or a phone call if the timeline is short, with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.



**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

- No staff will be on site on days when the school is closed by the risk of fire.
- Out-of-school care will be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk.
- There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire-prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared may be to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire we have updated our emergency management plan; reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our school grounds and gutters.

#### **What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements for your children in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency plans.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You can access more information about school closures on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/emergencies.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season and Bushfire Survival Planning, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.