Apologies and Thank you
My sincere apologies for the delay in the newsletter and a big thank you to those who have reached out to make sure both me, and my family are doing well. On Thursday last week, we received a call to say that my Father-In-Law had had a heart attack whilst replacing a shower head in preparation for my Mother-In-Law to come home (finally) from hospital after her lung-transplant. Unfortunately not long after the call regarding my father-in-law came a call saying that Brett’s mum had been rushed to ICU and had been placed on life-support, not expected to make it through the night. I am pleased to report that both are doing much better and Brett’s mum is now off life-support and Brett’s dad is having an angiogram today in preparation for a stent or bypass surgery. It is our belief that he might have been a bit fed up with cooking for himself while Brett’s mum was in hospital!! (lol). As you can imagine, everything and everyone had to just stop and wait while we, as a family, got through the worst of it. We are very lucky. Medical science is truly amazing. Let’s hope that things continue on a positive and both continue to get better and get home soon. Luckily they are now at the same hospital too!!

Swimming Sports
We are looking forward to Wednesday’s swimming carnival down at the Poowong Pool. We will be having a sausage sizzle and would love for some help on the day with cooking, if you are a BBQ sort of person! We are also looking for some help with marshalling and timing the races. If you are able to help, please see Mrs Drew.

Swimming Program Thank You’s
We are so lucky to have so many people who are willing to help us deliver a swimming program that can cater for the vast abilities of our students. A huge thank you to Ruth and Desirae who have volunteered their time, free of charge, to ensure that our program was able to run this year. We are still looking for a few more parents who would like to complete their AUSTSWIM qualifications to assist us in the coming years. Please let us know if you do as the school is willing to pay for you to complete the course! A massive thank you to Shelly, Caro, Mel and many others who jumped in the pool on Wednesday and Thursday to help out with our P-4 grades. You are amazing!!

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSION FUND (CSEF) – Health Care Card Holders
If you hold a valid Health Care Card, you may be eligible for the CSEF ($125 per child) to assist with payments for Camps, Excursions or Sporting days. All you need to do is collect a form from the school office (1 per family), fill it in and bring it back to school along with your health care card (we photocopy this). Lynne then puts this in the system and BINGO! The school then receives the money, which is allocated to your family and you can decide when to use this for camps, excursions or sports days or let it accrue! These need to be back to the school by Monday 27th February.

Working Bee
We will be holding a working bee on Thursday 23rd February from 2.30pm - 4pm. There are many jobs that need to be done around the school including weeding the triangular garden bed at the end of the library, whipper snipping in the chook shed so we can move it!, mulching around the orchard, removing blackberry bushes from the garden bed at the back of the main building and trimming back of bushes in that garden bed, filling in holes in the grass areas and much, much more.

We would love you to come along with a rake, a shovel, a wheelbarrow, and other gardening equipment that may help (don’t forget your gardening gloves!!). We hope to see you there!! If you are able to help with this (we have all the equipment available at the school!), please let the office know. We would love to get this up in the next few weeks.

House Captains
A big congratulations to our 2017 House and Vice House Captains, who were presented with their badges at assembly on Friday afternoon!

FLINDERS - House Captain: Tanisha, Vice House Captain: Caitlyn
McMILLAN - House Captain: Ben, Vice House Captain: Bailey
STRZELECKI - House Captain: Livinia, Vice House Captain: Robbie
BASS - House Captain: Martha , Vice House Captain: Blake

What’s on:
Swimming Carnival 15th Feb.
School Council 15th Feb.
Prep Nurse Forms back 18th Feb.
Working Bee 23rd Feb.
CSEF Forms back 27th Feb.

THE POOWONG PRATTLE
Issue 2 Friday 10th February, 2017
www.poowongcs.vic.edu.au  poowong.cs@edumail.vic.gov.au  0448 592356  5659 2356

School Council Parent Members: Andrew Holman (Pres.) 5657 2206, Geoff Warriner (Vice Pres.) 5659 9132, Karyn Hill (Sec.) 5659 2309, Leanne Lancey (Treas.) 5659 9266, Kelli Olsen 5659 7228, Melanie Wallace 5627 5668, Brad Mc Intosh 5659 7244, Royce Nieuwerth 5659 2140 & Michael Kendall 5659 0203.
Student of the Week
Congratulations to Week 1’s first Student of the Week Award recipients: Andy, Cal, Kyren, Jett, Teisha and Nicholas. Great start to the year kiddos!!
Congratulations to our first Grade Award winners for the Student of the Week Awards: Go Grade 5!!!

Congratulations to our Student of the Week Recipients from Friday (Week 2) - Olivia, Christian, Ben, Caitlyn, Taylen, Jade, Callum & Ainsley!

Have a wonderful week, Cate

Preps

The preps have made a wonderful start to the school year! We will continue to work on school rules and routines, particularly after the swimming program finishes and when we have more structure to our days.

The children have already started working on our spelling program, Soundwaves. Last week we worked with the sound ‘b’ and this week we have focussed on ‘k’. We aim to cover a different sound every day once the swimming program has finished.

Reader bags were handed out to the children on Tuesday during our buddy session. Readers will not be sent home for a few more weeks, however it would be great for the preps to get into the routine of bringing their reader bag every day, for notes and other items to go home. The children will continue to bring readers home that they make themselves in class. They love being able to ‘read’ readers they make themselves. Just a reminder we have library on Monday afternoons, children must have their library bag to borrow books. Swimming finishes next Tuesday for the preps, a huge thank you to the wonderful parents and grand parents who have helped with changing and walking to the pool, your help is greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or questions please come and see me.

Have a great week, Mrs Hallyburton

Grade One

Literacy/ Soundwaves focus: Our soundwaves sound for this week is b, bb. Words include bat, bell, rubbing and cubby.

The students have been working really hard this week on learning and recognising words with the b, bb sound.

Writing focus: We are doing recount writing this week and focussing on retelling events and stories.

Maths focus: This week our maths focus is counting to and beyond 20 and recognising number patterns.

Integrated Unit focus: This term we are focussing upon our local community, festivals and celebrations and incorporating a focus of our Indigenous Australian history.

Other things to know: Swimming has been going really well and it has been fantastic to see everyone so enthusiastic!
CLASSROOM NEWS

Grade 2 News

Grade 2 have had a good start to the school year.

**Literacy/ Soundwaves focus:** b as in bell and ribbon is our grapheme and handwriting focus. We are enjoying reading to a partner.

**Writing focus:** Our writing focus is recounts. We are trying to remember to include our 5 w’s (what, who, when, where and why)

**Maths focus:** Counting on. We are counting on by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s from any number. Ask your child to show you how we have been counting along with hand actions.

**Integrated Studies focus:** This term our topic is Me and my community. Over the next few weeks the children will be sharing about their families, learning about our school and local community. We will link this with learning about our local indigenous history.

**Other things to know:** Readers have already gone home. They are at an easier level and over the next week, your child should have their correct level sent home. Where possible, please read with your child and record it in their reading log book. The reading log and book must come into the class every day. Mrs. Lacanaria

Grade 3

**Literacy/ Soundwaves focus:** We have started our Getting Started Soundwaves unit. There are no soundwaves spelling words so I have given them a list of 25 common words to practise this week. Our focus has been understanding graphemes (the letters) and phonemes (the sounds).

**Writing focus:** We have started our unit on recounts with a Holiday Switch Up. Students wrote about four events that happened on the holidays and then had to think of questions to write for other students.

**Maths focus:** We are working on Place Value. The focus this week has been that all numbers are made up of digits and place value. We have introduced our warm up games.

**Integrated Unit focus:** Our Topic is Australia this term. We are working closely with the grade four class to explore what makes Australia special.

**Other things to know:** We have established our classroom rules and routine responsibilities. These are displayed in the classroom and all children can use them to check they have everything to start the day and to go home. Reading diaries are now being taken home to establish routine. We are testing for reading levels and once we have them we will set up each child with appropriate levelled reading material for their home reading. In the mean time you can encourage your child to read books you may already have at home. In Grade 3 we encourage students to write in their reading diary and for parents to check them at least twice a week. Homework tasks and routines will be set up in the next two weeks. This will include some spelling and maths.

Grade 3 is a big year in terms of independence and personal responsibility and so far everyone is adjusting to these

**Volunteer/s Needed**

We are needing a volunteer/s to put out and bring in the children crossing flags. They need to be out at 8.00 am and in at 9.30 am. and out again at 2.30 pm and in again at 4.00 pm. If you are interested please contact Cate Mc Kenzie at the school. 5659 2356. Thank you.
Grade Four

Welcome to Grade 4 everyone! It has been a fabulous start to the year getting to know each other so far. We have been establishing rules, setting up our classroom routine and making goals for the first term.

**Literacy/ Soundwaves focus:** This week we have been exploring the benefits of reading and how it is important to read a variety of books. We are learning how to choose a ‘just right’ book and are working on reading quietly and independently. We are starting our ‘getting started’ unit of Soundwaves and discussing what a grapheme and phoneme is.

**Writing focus:** We have been writing recounts and working on how to up level and edit our writing pieces to make them more amazing.

**Maths focus:** This week has been a focus on place value. The students have been engaging in really fun games and using dice to make and expand large numbers to the millions.

**Integrated Unit focus:** This term we are focusing on Australia and what makes it special. We are working closely with the grade 3 class. We have been brainstorming what we already know about Australia and discussing what we would like to know more about. The students have come up with some great questions to look into.

**Other things to know:** Some of the students have started to bring their diaries home. These need to be filled out when they read at home. Please feel free to write anything in these diaries that you would like me to know. I check these every morning when the students come into school. Spelling words will start to be sent every week and I will let you know when we will be starting homework in two weeks time. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at interviews in a few weeks time.

Miss Pears

Grade 5 News

The grade 5’s have had a fantastic start to the new school year.

**Literacy/Soundwaves focus:**

This week we have started on the grapheme b as in bell and ribbon. Because of swimming and completing work for the Korumburra Show we will complete this unit next week. The children will be tested on their words on a Monday and errors will be pasted into their take home diary for practise during the week.

**Writing focus:** Our writing focus this week has been recounts.

**Maths focus:** Our focus this week has been addition to 100,000’s. We have added in columns and looked at strategies to add quickly mentally. We have been working on number facts from the 6 times table and increased our automatic recall of these facts. Next week we will be looking at the 12 times table.

**Integrated Studies focus:** Asia

Australia has a lot of close and important links to Asia even though there are a lot of cultural differences. This is a statement that the children will research this term. The children have been asked about their prior knowledge of Asia. We have begun to research what countries belong to Asia and locating and labelling them on a World map. Other things to know:

The children will have a take home diary in their bag each night and this can be used by parents as a communication book. The children will have their weekly spelling words pasted in each Monday. Each child is encouraged to read for 20 minutes each night and write any jobs that they might help with around the home. We have had a fantastic start to the year and I am really looking forward to working with the grade.

Regards, Jim Leicester
Grade Six

We have had a fabulous start to grade six together, getting to know each other. We were also fortunate enough to get to read to our prep buddies this week and present them with their reader pouches.

**Literacy/ Soundwaves focus:** Our soundwaves sound for this week is b, bb as in the words balloon and ribbon.

This week we started our reading skills groups where we have been focusing on finding information in a text when it is not so obvious.

**Writing focus:** After warming up with a recount about our holidays, we are now exploring how to make our writing lively and interesting by using all our senses to describe our experiences.

**Maths focus:** This week our maths focus is on place value including numbers into the millions and decimals down to thousandths. We worked together to create a classroom chart to help us with remembering.

**Integrated Unit focus:** We have started sharing our knowledge and discovering new information about the Asia region, using online and printed atlases to discover see all the different countries.

**Other things to know:** Children now have their diaries and homework books to bring home. It would be appreciated if you could please sign off their set reading and verbal times tables practise each week.

We’re looking forward to another wonderful week together after such a great start!

Mrs. Brew

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**Music**

This week we is the first week of music lessons. The focus of our lessons will be to establish expectations and beginning to explore the beat. We will be doing a mixture of percussion with tuned and untuned instruments, music theory and singing this term.

**Preps to grade 2** will identify and move to the beat of music and will be introduced to an old school favourite that is a bit of an earworm… The whole family might end up signing to it.

**Grade 3 to 6** will be looking at how things around us influence different songs. In particular how songs can be adapted over time or have remained old favourites.

**Mr Horton**

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**Art**

Our first art lessons this week had all student completing a piece of artwork to submit to the Korumburra Art Show. Grade Prep to 2 had a ‘Friendly Monster’ theme and traced their hands, then used coloured pastels to create a friendly monster from their hand shape. A food due resist was then applied revealing beautiful patterns and colours and leaving hands purple and green!! Grade 3 &4 did a similar activity based on their ‘Dinosaur’ theme using hands and feet as a starting point for their artwork. Grades 5&6 also had a ‘Dinosaur’ theme but built templates from torn scrap paper and experimented with pastel rubbings in white, coloured and metallic pastels.

Mrs. Mandemaker
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Little Warriors (Ages 4-6) 5.15 - 5.45 pm
White-Orange/White Belts 5.55 - 6.55 pm
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Benefits of Karate

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Home: 5659 6575
nyorakarate@gmail.com

Community Hall, Henley St
Nyora, Victoria 3987

Facebook: Ishinryu Nyora Karate

For children, karate is an activity that teaches discipline, co-ordination, and helps to boost self esteem.

For adults, it can help improve or maintain fitness, physical health and personal development.
ATTENTION SINGERS!

Do you sing in the shower? Around the house? In the car on the way to school?
Singing teacher Britt Lewis will be offering private lessons once a week at Poowong Primary for anyone and everyone who would like to sing, perform and learn more about their voice.
Contact her at britterinlewis@gmail.com for more information :)

Fit To Your Core are happy to announce that we are having a grand opening WEEK!

From the 13th-19th of February come to one of our special bootcamp, HIIT, circuit or kids bootcamp classes for $10, bring 1 friend for free and every friend after that for just $5! Booking essential

**Special timetable!**

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