Welcome back for a fantastic 2017 school year.
Welcome back to everyone. I am certainly looking forward to a positive year of learning and continued development of our school grounds. I would like to say a big Poowong welcome to Jack and Andy who have started with us this year. We love new faces and the children have very much welcomed them.

Absences - It is not ok to be away! It is not great to be late!
We have been contacted by the Department of Education due to the number of unexplained and regular days off recorded for students in 2016. Our numbers were excessively high for absences last year. I would like to remind you that if your child is absent from school, for any reason, you MUST send a note to the school and/or call the office. Picking children up early, or when children are late to school means that your child misses out on vital learning time and very much affects the progress of your child if this occurs on a regular basis. Please try to schedule appointments before or after school, rather than during school time, where at all possible. Regular unnecessary or unexplained absences can also cause people receiving Centrelink payments to have these suspended or cancelled. It is not acceptable for students to be kept at home because they are tired, they didn't feel like coming to school, you wanted to take them shopping with you or for any other similar reason. Please make a commitment to getting your children to school each day.

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). Lyne 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 or let it accrue!

Asthma Management Plans
It is important, if your child has asthma, that we have an updated management plan, and that medication and spacers are checked and replaced if out of date. Now is the perfect time to do this. Please drop any management plans and medication at the office in a zip-lock bag with your child’s name and grade written clearly on this.

Thanks to the Flemings
In January, the Flemings family finished with our school as our garden and lawn maintenance providers. We would like to sincerely thank Heather and Greg as well as their daughters, who have done an amazing job over a very long period of time to keep our school looking fantastic. The lawn/mowing contract was tendered out and the successful tender went to Clint Newcombe. Clint has made sure our school lawns have been pristine for a great start to our school year.

School Canteen/ Monday Lunch Orders
We will be having a meeting next week to discuss the canteen menu for 2017 and to organise a volunteer roster. We would love for you to come along to this meeting if you are available. Hard-copy notes will be going out as soon as we have a date and time for the meeting. A huge thank you to Wendy Nieuwerth and Karyn Hill for their work in Term 4 last year. We would certainly appreciate some more help, if you have the time - no experience needed! Monday lunches will hopefully start on Monday 13th February.

Friday Milkbars Lunch Orders
This Friday, the Poowong Take Away resumed Friday lunch orders. Hard-copy menus were sent out in children’s bags. Orders should be written on a paper bag or placed in the canteen wallets and put in the basket outside the classroom PRIOR TO 9.30am. The Poowong Take Away then collect these and return the baskets in time for the children’s eating time at lunch.

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.

What’s on:
School Lunches 13th Feb.
Swimming Carnival 15th Feb.
School Council 15th Feb.
Working Bee 23rd Feb.
Help Needed
At the end of last year the children worked on their personal totem on fence palings. We now need to attach these to the wire fence along Gardner Lane. We would love the help of some people to drill holes and wire these to the existing fence. 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.

Assembly
Assembly will take place each Friday afternoon at 3pm for a trial period. We hope to see you there!

Swimming
Swimming started today! A huge thank you to Kirra Moon-Curry, from Travel Managers for her generous sponsorship of our swimming program this year. Kirra’s donation has enabled us to ensure we have a qualified AUSTSWIM instructor available for all sessions, making sure our program is valuable for the children. Lots of organisation happens behind the scenes to make this happen. A big thank you to Geoff Warriner for helping to source some qualified instructors to supervise and run the program, thank you also to Belynda Drew and Jason Horton for all their work grouping students. We look forward to our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 15\textsuperscript{th} Feb- we hope to see you there for the fun and the sausages!! We are looking for two parents to send along to complete their AUSTSWIM accreditation to assist with our swimming program for next year and beyond. If you are interested, please let the school know- the school is more than willing to pay for two parents to complete the program.

Have a great weekend!!

Cate

Your journey starts here

“Hello, I’m Kirra, your local personal travel manager. I’m mobile which means I can come to you at a time and place that’s convenient to discuss your travel plans and tailor make your holiday of a lifetime.”

For every family holiday booking made with me, the following amounts will be donated back to Poowong Consolidated School:
- $25 for any domestic family holiday
- $50 for any international family holiday under $5,000
- $75 for any international booking over $5,000

To find out more call:
Kirra Moon-Curry
Your personal travel manager

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Karate and Self Defence for all ages

Class Times

Monday & Wednesday
Little Warriors (Ages 4-6) 5.15 - 5.45 pm
White-Orange/White Belts 5.55 - 6.55 pm
Orange Belts and Seniors 7.00 - 8.00 pm

Contact

Sensei Robert
Mobile: 0410 014 540
Home: 5659 6575
nyorakarate@gmail.com

Community Hall, Henley St
Nyora, Victoria, 3987

Benefits of Karate

- Self Esteem
- Confidence
- Discipline
- Fitness
- Personal Development
- Self Defence

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.