Dear Parents and Students,

December is upon us and the next few weeks of school are sure to be hectic but fun. There are many events leading up until we finish on 21st, so please check your notices carefully.

GIPPSLAND EDUCATION AWARD:

Last night our school was presented with the Gippsland Education Excellence Award for community links. The award recognised the long history of our Japanese program. We accepted the award on behalf of Nilma, Ellinbank and our Japanese sister town in Kyushu, Japan. Congratulations to all involved over the past 16 years!

PREP - 3 MELBOURNE EXCURSION:

We are all looking forward to our excursion tomorrow. Here are the final details:

- Be at school promptly at 8.15am ready to depart
- Children MUST have a hat, DRINK BOTTLE& lunch/snacks in a small backpack.
- We will arrive back at school at approximately 5.15pm
- The emergency (only) contact numbers are Chris Eeles 0407278 273 & Kris Smitthett 0407 984 923

WORKING BEE

Last Sunday the school council held a working bee to begin the redevelopment of our grounds and gardens. Despite the occasional rain, the dedicated group of parents, staff and students did a fabulous job. We were able to spring clean the buildings, spread soil and mulch, remove broken branches and weed the garden beds. We also removed the bushes near the wooden school sign in preparation for a new garden display in 2013. Thankyou for all who attended and for especially supplying equipment.

REPORTS:

Parents will be well aware that the Australian Education Union (AEU) is still in dispute with the State Government over the current enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations. During this term teachers who are members of the AEU will continue to take action in support of better working conditions for teachers.

As part of the ongoing bans, AEU members will not be providing written comments in student end-year reports. ALL teachers at our school WILL be providing students and their families a report that shows the “dot” points of progression in each subject. We understand the concern some parents may have regarding this action however it is important that we stand behind our profession and insist that we get the best possible outcomes for Victorian schools, teachers and students.

More news over the page >>>>>>>>
REPORTS CONTINUED:
Because students will not be receiving written comments with their reports this semester we are offering you an opportunity to come in and discuss your child’s development in the last weeks of this term or in early 2013. If you would like to make a time with your teacher, please let us know so that we can arrange a suitable day and time.

“STUCK ON YOU” LABELS:
Please note that the phone number on your brochure is incorrect - please use 1800 645 849. Also when ordering, make sure you quote Darnum Primary School as we organized a reduced postage cost ($1.50). See Amanda Barton for further information.

CHRISTMAS PARTY & RAFFLE:
Great to see donations and completed books coming back so quickly. Please drop off donations for these hampers over the next two weeks. Extra ticket books are always available at the office.

We have also included information about gifts from Santa’s helpers in this newsletter - Our Christmas party is held on THURSDAY 20th December and works like this:
* 6.30 - 7.30pm: BYO picnic tea. You may also order items from the Darnum Store (see notice in newsletter). You need to bring picnic rugs/ chairs, cups/plates etc, and ALL food and drink thankyou.
* 7.30pm: Formal presentations and raffle draw
* 8.00pm: Santa and his helpers will arrive
* 8.30 ~ 9.00pm: Clean up and conclusion.
This is also a non-smoking and non-alcohol event - please respect this.
We will include final details over the next two weeks. Please ensure you have arranged a gift for your child. Note - You are welcome to also provide gifts for pre-schoolers and teenage children -again please clearly name the gift (ie Child’s name, Age/Grade).

Regards Chris & Staff

Steve Pompei (Darnum School Council President) & Chris Eeles receiving the Gippsland Education Excellence Award last night

DIARY DATES

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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<td>Tuesday 11th</td>
<td>Prep &amp; Gr 6 Orientation &amp; School Council Dinner</td>
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<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td>Raffle Tickets Due Back</td>
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<td>Thursday 20th</td>
<td>Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td>Last Day term 4.</td>
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FOR SALE
Baby stick insects are available for $5 each and make a great and easy pet. Also ready for Christmas is a 30cm enclosure set up with 2 baby stick insects and a fact sheet if required for $30.00. If interested, please call Cherryn on 0407 343 383.

Students of the Week
CHARLIE ATTWELL
KAYLAN GROGAN
REILLY MILLS
CAMERON TWEDDELE
DANIEL CAWCUTT
BAYLIN ROURKE
RUBY DAVIE
BEN CRAWFORD
EMMA ROLLINSON

AUTHOR’S CUP
Congratulations to Jarrod Grigg and Benjamin Farmer (Special Award and Outstanding Illustrations), Jaimie Pompei (Highly Commended - Most Original), Christine Lawry (1st place - Best in Grade 5) and Abbey Crawford (1st place - Best Storyline) for their terrific effort in the Marc Van ‘Author’s Cup run by Rhonda Thomas. Their prize winning books are on display in the library area of the main building.

Only 19 more sleeps till Santa comes!!
Konnichiwa (Hello)
Christmas party is nearly here so mark it in your calendars. Last Friday grade 6’s enjoyed the Summit very much because the giant swing was a big hit. There are only 13 days of school left. YAY!!!!

This week’s coloring
in competition
Dear Parents

At our Christmas Party, Thursday 20th December, we will be having a visit from Santa Claus’ helpers. If you wish your child/ren to receive a gift from Santa, could you please provide the school with a well wrapped, clearly named, including grade level, *inexpensive* present.

IT MUST BE UNDER $10.00 in value please.

Gifts can be left in the Principal’s office.

The joy is in seeing the children greet Santa and receive a gift, not the size or cost of that present!

Thank you

School Council.

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**School council reminds everyone that parents, NOT staff, are responsible for the behaviour of their children and guests. All children should remain within the school grounds throughout the night.**

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**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please bring ALL your own picnic items, chairs, rugs, card tables etc.

*IT IS A NON-ALCOHOL EVENT*...please respect this.

The Darnum Shop are offering a range of meal options, and we have included their menu with this newsletter. Please note that all items ordered through the shop must be ordered prior to 2pm.

**MENU**

- Hamburgers * Fish * Chips * Potato cakes
- * Dim Sims * Schnitzel Sandwiches
- * Schnitzel/Chips + gravy * Chicken Strips * Spring Rolls * Chiko Rolls * Seafood Basket
- * Baked Potato –Butter/ sour cream, cheese, coleslaw/ onion, bacon
- * Wedges– salsa/ sour cream
Darnum PS Students at Great Vic Bike Day

On Friday 29 November, students from Darnum, Narracan and Nilma PS provided entertainment for the Great Vic Bike ride cyclists as they rode into Yarragon from Traralgon.

Attending from Darnum was Alana, Daniel, Jerome, Jack, Abbey and Max C, Ruby, Maddy, Abby B, Sharni and Neisha. The students sang a medley of songs and played ukulele and drums.

Ruby & Maddy

Jack & Max

Sharni & Daniel

Alana, Ruby, Maddy and Abby B