Dear Parents and Students,

We hope you enjoyed the Melbourne Cup long weekend - some great weather for getting away for a few days. On Monday our staff completed a full day of level two first aid training which also proved very informative and valuable.

**BANDANNA & WALK TO SCHOOL DAY:**
Thank you for taking part in the special events last Friday. We certainly had terrific weather and there were lots of happy people meeting up for a walk. Special thank you to Warragul Safeway and Armours Orchard for donating the fruit.

**WRITERS CAFÉ:**
Only a week to go until this big event. The Writers Café welcomes everyone to our school and is a great day for grandparents, parents, other relatives and friends to come along to celebrate the student’s writing activities throughout 2015. Please ensure you have returned your catering form by next Wednesday and check the information about times etc below. Parking will be limited so please consider parking away from the school, i.e. the hall /side roads etc and walking up!

**2016:**
Classes for 2016 - Attached to this newsletter is an information sheet about our classes for next year. There are a number of exciting changes including new staff and a new class for 2016. Whilst most classes and teachers remain the same, all final information regarding 2016 composites and staff will be sent home on December 8th (Orientation Day).

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**
Official Opening of new Darnum memorial.
This Sunday, 8th November, the RSL and government representatives are officially dedicating the new war memorial in the front of the Darnum Hall. We need lots of Darnum families to attend the students are requested to sing the National anthem as part of the ceremony. This new memorial was built at the request of our school so that our students can take part in ANZAC and Remembrance day ceremonies in a safe place away from the noise/danger of the highway. If you can help, be there at 10.50am. Students should wear school uniform if possible.

**CUP CAKE SALE:**
One of our grade one students, Leilah Melrose is baking cup cakes to sell tomorrow Friday 6th November. They are $2.00 each and proceeds go to a registered charity to help sick horses.

**RSL POPPIES:**
Once again we are supporting the RSL by selling Remembrance Day poppies for 20cents at the office.

*Regards Chris & Staff*
Students of the Week
JACK WINDUSS
DYLAN FINGER
HALLE WOUTERS
LARA STEENHOLDT
CHLOE DAVIS
SOAH POTTS
ELLA MACDONALD

WRITERS CAFÉ 2015
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13TH

Family Name: ______________________________________________________________

Number of adults attending ______

Yes, I can make 1/2 dozen plain scones for the day  □

Yes, I can help at 9am     □
Thank you all so much for buying a Bandanna! As a school we beat a record for this school by raising around about $1000! WOW! From the School Captains.

On Wednesday the 4th of November the grade 5/6 went to Buln Buln to play cricket. We had two Darnum teams a boys’ team and a girls’ team, we had so much fun. In the boys team we lost 2 games against Buln Buln and Jindivick but we won 2 games against Saint Josephs. A ginormous thank you to Mr Eeles for coaching our team. Now to hand it to Ruby to tell us the scores of her team. By Jaxson Smith

What a fabulous day the grade 5/6 had when we went to Buln Buln rec. reserve to play cricket for our school. In the girls we lost our first 2 games by 2 runs and our last game by 30 runs. Overall we had a terrific day and had a crack at it. Thank you very very much to the parents who transported the kids, and a huge thank you to Mr. Fergy for coaching our team. We appreciate it. By Ruby Davie
### November 2015

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#### 30 P-2 Excursion

### December 2015

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KEEP VOTING WE ARE CURRENTLY 2ND IN VICTORIA.

www.greatbakesale.com.au
Please vote for our school via this website, or follow the link on Facebook. Some of our Darnum parents have shared this link already.

Nov 6th
Cupcakes
for $2
a
snack
and
Lunch
for sick
horses
Leilah

WAKABA JAPANESE GROUP PRESENTS:

2015

Wakaba
Japanese
Festival

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER
10am until 3pm
At: Bona Vista Primary School

Japanese Taiko Drumming  Food and Market
Face Painting  Games  Manga - Workshop
Bonsai Display  Japanese Puppet Comedy
Kimono & Doll Display  Cosplay Comp
Ikebana - Flower Arrangement
Jumping Castle  ...and more!!

DIRECTIONS:
Ikm south-east of Warragul freeway roundabout

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 0431 148 754
PREP BIG WRITE
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The animal's keepers are feeding the animals. It was Halloween so they are carrying spooky pumpkins. One was feeding one of the animals. Suddenly a hippo grabbed the pumpkin. The girl put her hands out and her hands fell off and she went to hospital. She got needles and x-rays and a bandage.

Daisy Martel

The hippo is eating the pumpkin. The lady is getting the pumpkin back.

Tom Ford

On Halloween I am going out in the bush and I brought my bike out camping. The hippo ate the pumpkin and the girl was grumpy the hippo ate it.

Brody Walsh

Lucy was walking down the path with a pumpkin in her hands. Then a breeze took the pumpkin into a hippo’s mouth. Oh no said Lucy. That's mine she cried.

Matthew Mynard

The hippopotamus is getting some pumpkin and it is going to eat the pumpkin. And the girl's name was Lisa and I love her name and she ate one bite. And then the hippo got the pumpkin and the hippo ate all of the pumpkin and it ate her hand. The hippo's name was Lisa and I love it and I love you.

Ella Macdonald

I think there was a wizard and she made a spell on the hippopotamus. She made a pumpkin spell. When the hippo ate the pumpkin she turned into a pumpkin.

Ruby Munro

This is a hippopotamus. “No” hippo that is mine said the girl. Come back. The hippo never came back.

Jorgie Webb

The hippo ate the pumpkin and swallowed it and the other people looked at the pumpkin. And the sun was bright. And hippo had sharp teeth and the person got it back and took it home.

Brock Parke

What is going to happen tomorrow. “I better get one of my pumpkins.” Mrs. B quickly got ready for tomorrow. Tomorrow was Halloween. Mrs. B woke up really quickly to celebrate Halloween. She got her pumpkin that she got ready yesterday. She dug some eyes on the pumpkin and a mouth. Mrs. B went out to the garden to hang her pumpkin. When she was about to go back inside a hippo sneaked got the pumpkin. She quickly got a net and got the pumpkin but it was gooey. When she got it out she washed it.

Mackenzie Mills

The girl is trying to get the pumpkin out of the hippo’s mouth because the hippo stole it off her and she had that first. And then she got it back and the pumpkin is sloppy.

Matty Corwall

A while ago on Halloween Lisa the lady walked down with a surprise. But a hippopotamus ate the surprise and she said give it back!!! But he ate it and everybody looked at her and laughed at her. So she broke him and got it out and gave it to her mum.

Keirly Higgs

I am going to my cousin's house for trick or treating and I am so excited. My cousins will be excited too. I will see my cousins when I get there and I will hug them when I see them. We might go to the zoo and see the hippo and see if the pumpkin is eaten.

Leah Straatman

One scary Halloween day everyone stayed inside. Grace was setting her decorations up. She put a pumpkin somewhere. Grace didn’t know that it was magical. The pumpkin grew legs. The pumpkin could talk. The pumpkin said na na na na na. Then a hippo opened his mouth when the pumpkin turned back. Grace put her hand out and tried to get the pumpkin. The hippopotamus shut his mouth.

Caitlyn Beale
Classes for 2016

Information for parents.

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you about the classes and structures for Darnum Primary School in 2016. With an expected enrolment of approx. 140 in next year, we will now run **SEVEN** homerooms and keep our numbers in each room/class as small as possible.

In summary, these are:

- Increasing to seven homerooms.
- All students from Prep to Grade three will continue to operate from the main building.
- Grade 4 students (2016) will move into the new classroom next to the art room.
- The senior school will operate two classes, both composite, of a 5/6 and a 5/6 split. Please read following the details of how this is decided.
- All classes in 2016 will have additional support staff, such as teacher aides and part time fully trained teachers, working with the various teachers and children through the week. This will be a great bonus for our school next year!

The following questions and answers may assist parents understanding of the grade make up process.

1. In 2016, how many grades will there be?

For 2016, there will be 7 classes. We have decided to this to allow for growth and continue smaller class sizes across the whole school where possible.

2. What will the classes in 2016 be? (approx. size only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>24 students</td>
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Our specialists will be in the areas of Music, Science, MARC and Japanese. Art will be taken by classroom teachers.

3. How do you work out how many grades and how many straight or composite grades there will be for next year?

There are several factors taken into account including: the number of students exiting at year 6 or at other year levels, the number of incoming students at prep and other year levels, the required average class size for Prep to 2, the number of classroom teachers and specialist teachers at various levels of experience afforded by the staffing budget, the groups of students at different year levels and their needs (e.g. some year levels have significantly more boys or girls, or there may be several students with similar learning needs at the same grade level).

4. Why do we have some composite grades?

The main factor is the number of students at each year level balanced with the number of classroom teachers afforded by the staffing budget. Other considerations are described in answer 3. One of the main factors is to keep class sizes as small as possible within the yearly budget.

5. How do you decide which kids go into the composite classes and which kids go into a 'straight' grade?

When teachers make up new grades, they consider the number of boys and girls; siblings; students who have particular disabilities; students who have particular learning styles or needs, including those needing behaviour management plans or who have particular social issues. Students are grouped according to these needs, rather than selecting them for a straight or composite class.
6. How do teachers make sure they are teaching to the right level when there are two year levels in the one classroom (a composite class)?

Teaching has developed considerably over the last few years and is very different to what parents may have experienced at school.

Research tells us that students learn best when:
1. the learning environment is supportive & productive
2. the learning environment promotes independence, interdependence, challenge and self-motivation
3. students’ needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program
4. students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application
5. assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning
6. learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.

Through research, there is an increasing recognition of the importance and success of classrooms that can be characterised as ‘learning communities’. In these classrooms, there is an emphasis on building rich meanings for ideas rather than completing tasks. Students in these classrooms are intellectually engaged, and they feel a sense of collaborative partnership with their peers and their teachers. Classrooms like these are extremely rewarding places in which to teach and learn.

Our teachers focus the development of their teaching skills based on the above guidelines. The teachers carefully get to know each student (point 3 above), assess their knowledge and skills (point 5) and then plan and deliver a program tailored to meet those needs (points 2, 4, 6). Teachers plan and teach different skills to individuals, small groups and larger groups. The groups vary throughout the day and over the weeks, depending on the subject and teaching focus. Students in the younger year level of a composite may be grouped with students in the next year level, as long as their learning needs at that time are the same (points 1, 2 and 3 and 4). Teachers keep very detailed records of the progress each student makes so that their planning meets those needs very directly (point 5). Both straight and composite classes can have a wide range of abilities and strengths that need to be taken into account by teachers.

Finally, I believe that these additions to our structures for 2016 will provide some excellent opportunities for our students and staff to continue to provide educational excellence in a rural school setting. I am particularly excited about the chance for the staff to work together in teams and for class sizes enabling the best uses of our building spaces.

One of the highlights of our school is that all teachers work closely together in teams and take responsibility for all children, not just those in their own classroom, and many of the daily activities and lessons are undertaken with combined classes working together!

Chris Eeles
Principal

7. I was in a composite class when I went to school. Each grade had different work to do. Is it still the same?

No, in the past there was work set for a grade level. These days, teachers constantly monitor and assess learning skills and needs and plan work and activities to challenge each individual child, not a class level. Children are grouped and taught according to their individual needs, as described in the answer to question 6. The teachers assess each child, plan for each child (Individual Education Plans are an example of this) and coach or guide each child to the next level of achievement. Sometimes this does involve giving instructions to the whole class, however the teacher will then do focussed work with small groups or individuals.

10. Who is my child’s teacher next year?

This information will be sent home on the state-wide ORIENTATION DAY, December 8th 2015.