CALENDAR 2016

Dates to remember...

TERM 1 DATES:
Friday 29 January – Thurs 24 March

SOMERS CAMP:
(Selected students)
Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 24 February

GRIP STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:
Wednesday 17 February

DISTRICT SWIMMING:
(Selected Students)
Thursday 18 February

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY:
Tuesday 1 March

DIVISIONAL SWIMMING:
(Selected Students)
Wednesday 2 March

FINAL DAY OF TERM 1:
(2.30PM FINISH)
Thursday 24 March

GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY:
Friday 25 March

PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

Welcome Back to School
Welcome back to the 2016 school year! We have been impressed, but not surprised, with how well everyone has settled. The stories about happy holidays and some of the adventures had by kids, families and staff have been wonderful to catch up on. I spent some time down in Mornington and then a few days on the other side of the bay at Ocean Grove relaxing and enjoying the sun with my family.

Welcome to Preps, New Staff and New Families
In addition to all our returning staff, students and families we also warmly welcome all of our new Preps, new families to our community and new staff. We hope and trust that you find our community to be welcoming, helpful and approachable.

In terms of staff, we welcome 10 new members to the team, primarily caused by our increase in enrolments over the last few years. Our new/returning staff members include:

- Miss Becky Locking teaching in Prep L
- Mrs Claire Keltie teaching in 1/2K
- Miss Lauren Iverach teaching in Year 1/2I
- Mr Drew Meede teaching in 3/4M
- Mrs Caroline Meier teaching in 5/6M
- Ms Kerryn Leister working within our Maths program across the school
- Mrs Nicola Mackey is working in the Office and First Aid
- Ms Belinda Gillie Kemmer is working as a Library Technician
- Mrs Stephanie Rodgers working in Education Support with the Preps
- Mrs Tania Marshall working in Education Support with the Year 3/4s
- Mrs Julie Dowell working in Education Support with the Year 1/2s and Year 3/4s

All of these new staff members bring with them a wealth of experience and expertise and we are very happy to have them come and work with our students and families.

Excellence:
High expectations of the whole school community

Respect:
For self and others

Resilience:
Engaging in challenges and learning from mistakes

Integrity:
Choosing a course of action that contributes to the greater good

Welcome
The Role of School (A reprint from February 2014)

There are many changes that form a part of life, and the start of a new year is often the signal or starting point. For some people it is the beginning of a new phase of their family life as they start school, for others it is an internal transition between year levels and the changing expectations or experiences that come with that and for our whole school community it is about forming new or changing relationships with the key people they will have contact with in 2016.

When I spoke at the Prep Parent Information Night late last year I tried to ‘image’ for families the way that school will work for their child and the support we will offer their family in preparing their child for life.

In doing the numbers, children spend just 13.5% of their week at school. Just 13.5%.

Some of the other 86.5% of time is spent sleeping and eating but those things too form part of a learning experience for children as they learn about routine, how to relate to people, how to use a knife and fork, how to solve problems, how to deal with disappointment when the sauce bottle runs out … the list goes on.

Too often, the media in particular promotes that schools can solve the problems of the world by including it in ‘the curriculum’. Oral Health (tooth care) and driving lessons are two recent examples.

How we would like you to think of the role of school is perhaps best put as ‘Helping families to educate their children’. Just as families look after the day to day health of their children and go to the doctor for specialist advice, support and intervention there are many aspects of a child’s education and preparation for life that is part of the joy of being a parent and here at school we provide the specialised knowledge to assist you in ensuring your children learn to read, write and understand numbers. The dedication of 13.5% of their childhood is recognition that there is a lot of specialised input that families require from schools that is beyond the expertise of most parents, but it also highlights the follow up that families can provide in putting these experiences in to a real life context.

Please be conscious that your role in your child’s preparation for life and their education is so important. You will have an opportunity to meet formally with your child’s teacher in a few weeks’ time as part of our initial Student Parent Teacher Interviews to discuss the ways in which you can maximise this partnership.

Getting Off to a Good Start

Next week I will be able to confirm the dates for our Information Night, where you will have the opportunity, after hours, to come and meet your child’s teacher and see where they spend their days at school. On this night you will be able to sign up for a Student Parent Teacher Conference where all students will set Learning Goals for the first half of the year and you will have an opportunity to talk about how your child has transitioned in to their new classroom and year level which will be summarised in an Interim Report from the teacher at the end of February.

School Council Nominations

It is at this time of the year that we call for nominations of Parent Members on our School Council. School Council is the body that oversees the running of the school and members have an opportunity to look at how schools function from another perspective and be involved in some aspects of school decision making. If you would like to be involved in School Council and nominate for a two year position please come and see me (Cory) or the office and collect a nomination form. If you are unsure of what it entails as a Parent Member, I can put you in touch with an existing member who can explain a little bit more and answer any questions you may have.
Start of the Year Reminders
A couple of friendly reminders for the start of year for everyone to please be conscious/aware of:

• Send a Note for Absences
It is a legal responsibility for schools to keep track of student absences. Please remember to send a note (either via Tiqbiz or hand written) prior to the absence (if planned) or upon the students return. This will minimise the need for us to follow up with families.

• School Start Time
A reminder that, in the same way as notes for absences, school officially starts at 9.00am and students are expected to be in class at this time ready for the attendance role to be taken. After the role has been taken, students who arrive late are expected to sign in at the office so they are legally accounted for. In the same way, if a student needs to leave early they are required to be signed out at the office and a slip presented to the classroom teacher before they will be released.

• Hats
In line with our SunSmart policy students are required to wear a school hat through till April. School hats are approved as providing adequate protection and are available through the office or at the Uniform Shop. Students without a hat will be required to stay in the designated shaded area.

• Hot Weather
There is not really any such thing as unusual weather I suppose anymore (as everything seems to be unusual) but with the intermittent hot spells we are experiencing at the moment, students are being encouraged to stay adequately hydrated during the school day. This is easier if students have drink bottles that can be refilled throughout the day and kept with them in class. If your child does not routinely bring one can you please make one available.

• Attendance Awards
We will again be recognising students with the Principal’s Attendance Awards in 2016. The success of this program has seen student attendance improve significantly over the last few years. Attendance at school has a major impact both on continuity and re-enforcement of learning but also on the social connectedness students feel to their peers and teachers. Students are publicly recognised on a termly basis for perfect attendance and punctuality and at the end of the year at a special breakfast if they have managed to have no more than four days absent for the year.

In many cases of course illness is unavoidable and students do need to stay away from school, but our targets for attendance are set high as aspirational targets recognising commitment and perseverance across the term and year.

• Parent Contributions
At Ferntree Gully North we pride ourselves on being able to offer a world class education to our students based on both emerging technologies and interaction with experts who are recognised both nationally and internationally. In order for us to do this to the best of our ability we do rely on receiving Parent Contributions (often referred to as School Fees) which cover the cost of student consumables and other things which will be used by your children at school (paper, pencils, textas etc). Please contact the office if you are having financial difficulties finalising these payments or to arrange a payment plan.

• Parking Reminder
As our school numbers grow, parking at school drop off and pickup time is becoming increasingly difficult. The Department of Education does not support parent cars on school premises so there have been no plans for a school drop off zone as part of the new building project. Knox Council and Boronia Police regularly patrol school zones to monitor parking restrictions and traffic safety and so you are reminded to park legally at all times and be conscious of the fact you are in a highly congested situation with many small children with limited traffic awareness. When parking in side streets, please be conscious of the residents who live there by not blocking their driveways or bins out for collection, or parking on their property.

Over the school holidays one of the flagged School Crossings has been relocated to increase safety for our students as they come to and leave school. Please pay attention to these new areas and make use of them when teaching your kids about traffic safety.
Work in the school over the holidays
Over the school holidays we had a number of exciting projects completed so that students were not impacted and could return to some exciting new spaces:
Synthetic grass was laid around the water tanks and top of the gully which is already proving to be a hit with families and students.
Decking connecting all of the 3/4 classrooms with ramped access and usable outdoor stadium seating was constructed to create further outdoor learning spaces.
A Mini Computer Lab was established with purpose built furniture to allow mass teaching of specific and discreet skills that will enable students to work independently with confidence using ICT.
Camp Australia has been relocated to the building 50m opposite from where it was last year to enable our extra class to be more closely located to the rest of the Year 3/4 classrooms.

Assembly Times
For families new to our school, we have whole community Assemblies each Friday afternoon starting at about 2.55pm. We aim to have these Assemblies as a celebration of the week and a coming together before the weekend rather than on a Monday morning celebrating last week when we want students to be back in class making the most of their school time.
Assemblies are an open event and we regularly have about 100 parents attend. They are held ideally in the outdoor amphitheatre at the top gully outside the Red Specialist Building. If it is too wet or too hot we move undercover to the Elin-Mata Centre.
Our new Preps will not attend Assembly for the next few weeks and they will receive an official welcome when they join us once they have got used to some of the school routines and are here all day long.

Newsletter
For families new to our school, Newsletters are released on a Tuesday afternoon. Limited paper copies are available from the Office for collection but the best way to receive the Newsletter is via the Tiqbiz App on your computer or smartphone. A leaflet explaining how to get the App and sign up to our school mail boxes has been sent home to all families today. Come into the Office if you require any help.
A paper copy of the Newsletter has been sent home today to our Prep families and any other new families to the school.

Fire Plans and Emergency Management
Last year I was taken on a tour of the local area by a CFA representative and member of the school community, Graham. Our tour concentrated on the ‘hills side’ of Forest Road where the landscape moves very quickly from suburban streets to dense bushland. I observed the narrowness of the streets and the difficulties that may be faced during an emergency when many people may be attempting to flee at once. Thankyou for the work that Graham and the CFA Captain Seamus Smith do in and for our local community.
Parents please be assured that in the case of a fire or emergency in the local area we will continue to ensure your children are safe. We have clearly identified Emergency Management Plans to ensure all of our staff and students are safe and cared for until such time that they can be collected by a parent or guardian.
Last week in the media, you may have noted a number of schools activated their Emergency management Plans in response to a threat made to the school. We regularly have practice drills to ensure we are planned for such situations and will be having one this week with all students so they are aware of arrangements in their new classrooms.

We are very much enjoying catching up with all the students about their holidays and the new challenges this year.
Cory Pearce and Jo Stevens
Canteen Re-opening this Friday Lunch Time!

New Menu 2016

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Moosies</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<td>Plain chips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ovaltines</td>
<td>$0.50c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit strings</td>
<td>$0.50c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zooper Doopers</td>
<td>$0.50c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plain popcorn</td>
<td>$0.50c</td>
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Are you free on Fridays between 11.30am and 12.30pm? The Canteen needs your help! Volunteers are always appreciated! (completed Working With Children Check required). Please leave your details at the Office and we will be in touch!

Class Fruit Bowls for 2016:

Fruit Collector and Distributors needed each Monday morning!

As in previous years, each Monday every class receives a bowl of fruit for students, to encourage healthy eating and help keep energy levels up in the classrooms.

For 2016 we are looking for helpers to collect the fruit from our supplier (The Coolstore, FTG) and helpers to distribute the fruit to classrooms.

If you can help out with either of these tasks, please leave your details at the Office. Thank you!

Wanted: Dedicated souls to help with classroom literacy programs

Wendy Barr will be running a Classroom Helpers Course, this year, consisting of 2 sessions. Each of these will be from 7.00pm till 8.30pm and will take place on Thursday, 11th February and Thursday, 25th February in the Music room.

As you no doubt know, parents must undertake the course before helping in classrooms with literacy (and we always encourage past helpers to do a refresher course). It’s a great opportunity to share knowledge, learn how to assist in the classroom as well as help your child at home. Snacks and cold drinks will be provided!

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in attending and return it to the school Office by Wednesday, 10th February (AM).

Regards,

Wendy Barr

FTGNth Classroom Helpers Course – Thursdays 11th and 25th February 2016

Please return to the school Office by 10.00am Wednesday, 10th February.

NAME/S OF ATTENDEE/S: ______________________________________________________

NAME OF ELDEST CHILD: ____________________________________________________

ELDEST CHILD’S GRADE: _________
Happy holidays from GNPA!

WELCOME BACK!!! School is back... and so is GNPA. We all hope everyone had a great holiday and is relaxed and ready for a new year. For our new families: Welcome! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep families and the school community updated with some of the events that are running and coming up during the year for the school. We hope you will enjoy and come along to as many meetings as possible to give your opinion and add to our discussions.

Passive fundraisers

Need to know item!

"FERNTREE-GULLY-NORTH-PS"

These are the words we would love you and your family and friends to use when next shopping at one of our schools linked Fundraiser Companies.

These companies support our school by donating money or goods to the school.

Identity Direct

Identity direct are one of our passive fundraising programs, so if you need labels or any personalised items for the new year on uniforms, books, lunchboxes, bags or anything else, please have a look at their website and if you make an order please use the school's code above. These items even make great gifts for the kids; personalized items are always cherished.
Getting started - What’s on the cards!

Ready to take on 2016, we look forward to offering the school community a fantastic assortment of fundraising events & activities. Some old favorites like the Easter Raffle (yum!) and the School discos (Yes - 2 this year!!) will be on the calendar with some new exciting events added. A Cinema ‘Under the Stars’ family night held at school will kick off the year. This fun night will be in March and with your support we will make a great profit. All funds from this event will be going towards the shade sail for the junior playground. With around $6000 already raised towards this project we will certainly be getting closer to our goal!

Last Friday GNPA held the First Day ‘Cheers & Tears’ morning tea for Prep parents. Congratulations and well done to all Mums, Dads & students! We had a fantastic number of parents attend and it was great to see you all chatting and getting to know each other. Thank you to those who have also offered to help in future GNPA events.

There are many ways to be involved with GNPA. We value any contribution you can give.

- GNPA Helpers are parents & grandparents who help out at events eg. Disco, Mothers/Father’s Day stalls, Tough Gully, social events & BBQs. These parents usually cannot attend meetings but are willing to help out on the day/night if they are free.
- General Committee Members are able to attend most meetings, usually available to help at events and sometimes enjoy taking part in organizing some events. They usually work together in small teams to get the job done!
- Committee Members are the parents who hold a nominated position or role. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter & School council Rep. All of these positions are open for Nomination on a yearly basis.

If you would like to be involved in GNPA please leave your contact details at the Office or come along to one of our meetings. Held once a month to co-ordinate events & fundraisers our informal meetings are a great way to get involved with your school community.

**** ALL SIBLINGS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS****

Next Meeting: Friday February 12th 9:05am. OSHC Room

GNPA President Nat
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

Ferntree Gully North P.S

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb _________________ State ________ Postcode __________

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care number (CRN)

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] OR

[ ] Foster parent* OR [ ] Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

*This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools' Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant __________________________________________ Date __/__/____
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 16 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veteran Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT’S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
Welcome back to the new school year!

We hope you enjoyed the summer break, and are ready to get back into school life. After having a fantastic holiday, we are back on board and excited to see familiar faces returning – as well as some new faces.

To help get your family back into the swing of things, here are some tips that you might find handy for easing your children into after school care.

Tips for helping children (and parents) feel comfortable in after school care:

1. Give your child as much advance warning as you can that they’ll be coming to After School Care.
2. Pop into the program with your child to meet our Camp Australia team and find out what kind of activities they can look forward to.
3. Speak with the Camp Australia Coordinator if your child is nervous, and let us know how your child felt after their first visit.
4. If there is something in particular your child would like to play when they are in our care, encourage them to let us know.
5. For Preps the first two weeks after care starts from 2:30 pm.

We’re here to make after school care visits the best experience possible – for you and your child.

If you have any questions about the program – please feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in after school care first hand.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Camp Australia Team

Program Details
We have a buddy program to welcome new faces and make friends with other children at OSHC care. The fun activity includes some art painting, origami craft, indoor games and outdoor group games.

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit www.campaustralia.com.au

Jodi Askich – Camp Australia Coordinator

OSHC Number: 0423 794 680
AQUINAS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

REGISTRATION DAY FOR 2016

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2016
9 am to 11am
At Aquinas Old Collegians Clubrooms
Aquinas College, Great Ryrie St. Ringwood
UNDER 13s and UNDER 14s
JOIN THIS NEW JUNIOR CLUB IN ITS INAUGURAL TEAMS
PLAYING AT AQUINAS COLLEGE OVALS IN RINGWOOD.
ALL WELCOME

CONTACT: BARRY JESS 0418 334849
GAVAN HARKIN 0419 117052
OR BY EMAIL: operations@aquinas.com.au

BORONIA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB Inc.
PO Box 325
Boronia 3155

BORONIA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Registration Day
Sunday 14 February
11am -1pm
Chandler Park, Chandler Road, Boronia

Free Socks and Shorts for all NEW players

All Age Groups Welcome

U8 U9 U10 U11 U12 U13 U14 U15 U17

For more information please contact Ellisa Schmidtke (BJFC Secretary) on 0417 593 884

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

For anyone aged 5 & up, we want YOU to join us @ FAIRPARK NETBALL CLUB
Corner of Manuka Drive & Scoresby Road, Ferntree Gully

Set GO!

For children from ages 5-10 we offer a NetSetGO! Program

Players wanted for all age groups:
Under 11, Under 13, Under 15, Under 17 & Open Age Groups

For all enquiries email: fairparknetballclub@hotmail.com
For more information visit: fairparknetballclub.org

111 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully 3156  P. 9758 1662 E. Ferntree.gully.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
DON’T LOSE THIS NOTICE
2016
ENROL NOW
KEYBOARD LESSONS AT SCHOOL
IN-SCHOOL TIME

YOUR CHILD DESERVES THIS CHANCE
THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY
Enrol NOW in .............
PIANO ON KEYBOARD LESSONS
$16.50 HALF HOUR lesson

* Convenient – in school time
* Inexpensive
* Learn with Friends
* All equipment provided
* INDIVIDUAL tuition

ONE FREE LESSON IF YOU ENROL NOW
Phone 9761 9058
LANELITE CONSTRUCTIONS

Fully qualified carpenters
Specializing in:
- Decks
- Pergolas
- Car Ports
- Renovations
- Extensions
- Any general carpentry

for a free quote (Former Gully North students)

~IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL~