



August 3rd, 2017 Newsletter No. 13



Our Gaga Ball Pit is ready to go!

Over 12 months ago our Student Leadership team had the idea that we should have a Gaga Ball Pit at school. Some had seen one at Clifton Springs Primary, others had played in the one at Camp Wyuna. We considered location options and asked the Men's Shed to help with building, then with Mrs Layley's help, applied for a Community Grant from the City of Greater Geelong. At the end of term 1 we were thrilled to hear that our application had been successful.

We would like to say a big thank you to the hardworking group from the Men's Shed: Shane, Ray, John, Dave, Bruce, Kevin, Mick, Geoff and Chris, who have put in many hours since school holidays to complete the construction and to John Pace who brought his "dingo" to spread the sand.

During the next couple of weeks children will be taught how to play the game before it used at play times. Gaga Ball is a game that's fun, develops physical education skills and is easy for a large group of children to play. We will display some temporary rules of the game on the wall while a more permanent sign is made. There are also plans to make the exterior walls look attractive with some student artwork.

If you want to know more you may like to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsLqiOhzs80>

The rules are very similar to how it will be played at SLPS.

Thank You to Neighbourhood Watch

We are fortunate to live in a community that gives our school so much support in so many ways! Neighbourhood Watch have offered to keep their eye on our school on weekend and holidays. I know that many families and staff members do the same. We are happy to share our school grounds when we are not at school and most of the time people do so very respectfully

Before and After School Care.

Our recent survey indicated that, although we have several families who need Before and After School Care there are not enough to make an independent program viable at SLPS. We have asked the City of Greater Geelong to consider options for us and at the moment their best solution is to find somebody in the township who would be interested in Family Day Care. Council's Family Day Care Service:

Anyone interested in becoming a Family Day Care Educator can register their interest online via the following weblink: <http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/familydaycare/task/item/8ccf170fef8c146.aspx> or alternatively telephone: 5272 4741

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or would like more information.

Assessing Our School's Progress and Achievements

Mid-year is a time to evaluate and report on our student's progress. It is also time to evaluate how we are going as a school by reviewing our Annual Implementation Plan, and linked with this, teacher and principal Performance and Development plans. It is pleasing to report that we are well on track in our focus areas of Building Practice Excellence and Curriculum Planning and Assessment.

Next week we will have the first day of our review. I would like to thank the whole school community: staff, students and parents for all the work that has been done in preparation. A big thank you to School Council members who have put in a mammoth effort to ensure that all our policies and documentation are up to date and comply with government standards. Current documents and policies will be uploaded to the website soon.

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK

Parent Opinion Survey 2017

Our school is conducting an online survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents at each school.

It is designed to assist our school in gaining an understanding of parents' perception of school climate, student engagement and relationships with our parent community. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted **online by ORIMA Research Pty Ltd** and only takes **15 minutes** to complete. The survey can be accessed via desktop computer, laptop, tablet or mobile at any convenient time within the fieldwork period from **Monday 7th August to Sunday 27th August**.

Approximately half of our parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous.

The survey results will be reported back to our school at the end of September

For further information, please speak to your child's teacher or visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/performsurveyparent.aspx>

Enrolments for 2018

Are you planning on moving or changing schools in 2018? Do you have a child starting Prep next year, or know of friends or neighbours who do? Please let us know as we are determining enrolment numbers to plan for 2018.

Mini Lotto

\$2.00 entry, cross off 5 numbers, envelopes available from the office. Drawn at the Bowling Club each Friday at 7.30 pm. Jackpot is \$5202 Last week's numbers were 00, 07, 08, 10 & 18.

Lions Club Raffle

We are fortunate to again have the opportunity to participate in the Portarlington/Drysdale Lions Club Community Raffle. All the money from the tickets we sell goes to the school. There are lots of prizes, including a Coles voucher to the value of \$1000, accommodation packages, gift vouchers, petrol vouchers and more. Tickets are \$2.00 each and are available from the office until September 10th or until sold out. Please consider collecting a book of tickets (5 tickets per book) to sell to family, friends and work colleagues. Books and tickets are available from the office.

School Fees

Thank you to those families who have already paid fees. At this stage we only have payment from about a third of families and we do rely on this income to pay for your children's learning supplies. Overdue invoices have gone home. Please make payment promptly or if you need more time talk to Janette or Jenny at the office.