FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL
Please find the form attached regarding S.F.O. It is this form that works out our ‘S.F.O.’ which means the School Family Index. Put simply, the Education Department add up how many people are employed in our school and in which category they fall in to. From this they decide how much funding we receive per child. At the moment our S.F.O. is at 5.9, which is low for our school, we are usually above 6. On looking at where people placed themselves we can see that some people have put them self in a higher category than they actually are. We understand that people may potentially have higher qualifications, but it is important that parents indicate their current working status, so that the school benefits from funding which is a more accurate reflection of our school community. The lower parents place themselves means more funding for our students. Please fill out the attached form and send it back to school as soon as possible, to allow our funding to reflect what is really happening in our community.

Following on from this the Government has made changes to the way E.M.A. (Education Maintenance Award) is paid in 2015. The School Council decided to write you a letter, please see attached, to explain how we will deal with E.M.A. in our school. This decision is in line with schools in the Bendigo Network, of which we are part of.

Our Transition Days are over for the year and we had an excellent day on Monday and Tuesday this week. On Monday Jayden visited for the fourth time and it is delightful to be around such a vibrant, happy little person, who is looking forward to coming to school next year.

On Tuesday our Grade 6 students went off to Kyneton and by all accounts had a great day and feel happy about where they are heading and the new adventure they are up for. Meanwhile, back at school we had a look at what our school will look like next year. Students showed a great deal of maturity and decided on school captains, buddies and themes for next year.

There is only 6 days to go until our Circus! The students are very excited and preparations are going well! The students are very excited and preparations are going well! On Tuesday all of the students will be staying at school after 3.30 to get ready for the circus. We will feed them and get dressed ready for the Midway to open at 6.00pm.

We are starting to receive some community support as well! We are pleased to say the School Council are running a raffle on the night and local businesses have gotten behind us and it looks to be an excellent raffle.

ATTACHMENTS
⇒ Receipts for some families
⇒ School Family Occupation Form
⇒ EMA letter
⇒ 10 Pin Bowling Scores
⇒ Music Education information
⇒ Sausage Sizzle—Term 1 2015—calling for helpers
⇒ Statements for some families

... The Principal’s Report is continued on Page 2
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (continued)

Curriculum and Teaching  This term has been very busy and we have discussed what our students are doing in terms of the circus, however little has been said about other work that our children are doing. At Redesdale-Mia Mia P.S. we embrace e5 techniques to encourage learning. Consequently there is a term theme that children learn about. We use this them throughout our curriculum to get our students enthused and excited about learning. Consequently this term in Literacy students have read about circus’ and circus people. They have also written about circus in a variety of ways; poems, going to the circus and a speech about circus. In maths we might make the tasks related to the theme, for example; ‘Find the area of a Big Top’. In integrated studies they learnt about the History of circus before they went on to discover all of the different areas needed to put on a circus. In addition to your child putting together routines for the circus they have also been part of one of the organising groups; Back Stage Crew, Food Group (Butchers), Costume and Face painting or Marketing. In these crews students have completed many real life skills like letter writing to people, emailing, calling on the phone, working out how much of a particular thing they will need and what the cost is going to be. So whilst your child might say they have done circus all day they have, however, they are doing literacy, maths and other areas of the curriculum too.

Reports will be sent home on Monday. This gives parents time to sit and read them with your child and time to come and see your child’s teacher, if you would like clarification. Portfolio’s will come home and Friday of next week and together these form a major part of our reporting process. Please allow your child to share their learning with you. It is a great reflection tool and helps to set them up for next year.

Music Stars has changed to Music Education. However, the program remains the same. If you are interested in the program please follow their instructions and sign up for term 1.

Next year the school will have a different face with a new Principal, Joseph Sebire. Consequently Mr Sait will be teaching elsewhere. I will move back into my ongoing position of teacher, however I will be looking to move on. Chriss will still be available for CRT for two days a week. Joyce is also on leave for terms 1 and 2. Bob is also retiring at the end of the year! We recognise that there are a lot of changes and this is unsettling however, we just need a guide our students through and do the best that we can.

THANK YOU

😊 To Regina Bennett for providing the fruit for the Sausage Sizzle last Wednesday.
😊 To Sonia Vescovi for providing the fruit for the Sausage Sizzle today.

WEEKLY AWARDS

Principal’s Award: Bryce for his leadership in the circus.
Class Award: Mitchell for working hard in class.

THIS WEEK’S VIPs

Daniel and Nicholas are our V.I.P’s this week. Thank you.

FARM HANDS

Chelsey and Lachlan are the farm hands this week. Thank you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It was Chelsea’s birthday last week. We hope you had a great day Chelsea.
**MARKETING GROUP**

At our Circus there will be a silent auction for some art works done by the students. The Auction price will begin at $50.00 for these fantastic original canvases.

We will also be selling tie dye shirts for $6. Food and drinks will also be available in the midway, along with an assortment of games that will cost $1. Please come and support our school.

**FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Dear Community Members,

The Department of Education have advised us to formally announce that Mr Joseph Sebire has been provisionally appointed to the principal position at Redesdale-Mia Mia Primary School. Mr Sebire will take up this position at the beginning of Term 1 2015.

Joseph comes originally from a dairy farming background but has been a teacher since 2005 and Principal since 2012 at Nullawil Primary School which is a similar school to Redesdale-Mia Mia. Joseph brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience.

We are very much looking forward to him joining us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sally Gill for her leadership and dedication whilst in the position of Acting Principal.

Regards,

School Council

**FAMILY STATEMENTS**

Thank you to all the families who have finalised their payments to the school in recent weeks.

Family statements are attached to the newsletter today. Payments can still be made to the school. Please see Joyce on a Wednesday or Thursday.

If you prefer, online payments can be made directly into the school’s bank account. If making payments to the school this way, please identify it with your family name and what the payment is for, eg, COOPER-BOOK CLUB.

The school bank account details are:

BSB: 063517
Account Number: 00903062

Regular payments can also be arranged with your bank or your employer to pay directly into the school bank account. $10.00 per student per week would adequately cover the total amount required.

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**SCHOOL LUNCH DAYS**

We continue to encourage students to have healthy lunches at school. Foods such as salad sandwiches, wraps, salads and quiche are recommended as every day foods.

Foods such as pies, sausage rolls and pizza are recommended as sometimes foods. The days for heating food for Term 2 are as follows:

- **Thursday** - Food may be heated in the oven.
- **Friday** – Toasties [School Captains will toast the children’s sandwiches].

Please do not send foods that require boiling water to be added as this is a safety issue for staff and students. We are unable to microwave any food.

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**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

The Sausage Sizzle is every Wednesday. Students can purchase a barbeque lunch for $3.00 (sausage in bread, drink and fruit). Extra sausages can be purchased for $1.00 each. There is no option to not have fruit or drink.

**Prices per student are as follows:**

| 1 sausage in bread + drink + fruit | $3.00 |
| 2 sausages in bread + drink + fruit | $4.00 |

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**WEDNESDAY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooking</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 17th</td>
<td>J. Brophy</td>
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</tbody>
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**THANK YOU**

To all those who support the weekly Sausage Sizzle.

It is hoped to continue the Sausage Sizzle next year again, but assistance is required from families to help cook and provide fruit. Everyone is invited to help out.

A blank roster is attached to the newsletter today. If you can help out during Term 1, it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill it out with your preferred dates and return it to school by next Monday please.

**Thank you again.**
Show some kindness and gratitude this festive season

Michael Grose

The festive season provides the opportunity to develop a sense of other in your children and teach them some social graces.

My wife is a formidable person.

One Christmas, annoyed by the lack of gratitude shown by some of her young relatives when gifts were distributed, she put a cunning plan in action.

The following year, instead of toys, games and assorted gifts that were ungratefully received and promptly forgotten, each of her young relatives was given a card, thanking them for their generous donation of a goat, a well, or a vegetable plot to a family in need in a developing country. A seismic shift for many of these children!

Some years later, said children know exactly what to expect from their senior relative – the only surprise will be the nature of their donation. Chicken or goat? Hoe or bag of seeds?

They also know that they should thank their senior relative for their gift, and be grateful that somewhere in another part of the world someone is benefitting from their generosity. Some children may take more convincing than others, but so be it. They don’t miss out on much!

A challenging time

It can be tricky for parents during the end of year festive and holiday season to guide children down a giving, let alone spiritual path. So much attention is placed on receiving that it can be difficult to develop a sense of ‘other’ in children. It helps to be proactive and put rituals of generosity in place, which will inevitably become part of your family’s traditions.

Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

1. Develop an action of gratitude Discuss with children the people who have been helpful, kind or gone out of their way for them during the year. Then they can write a note, make a gift or cook something that they can give to those people to say thank you. Make it personal and make it physical.

2. Make a family commitment of giving Pick a cause that’s close to your family’s heart and make a commitment to do something or give something on a regular basis throughout the coming year. One-off events can lose meaning, whereas all-year volunteering or giving has greater impact on both the giver and the receiver.

3. Involve kids in personal giving If gifts are shared as part of your tradition then do your best to involve children in the giving process. Discuss the choice of gifts: “So what do you think your cousin would like?”. Even better, get your kids to accompany you on a shopping trip, if you dare. It would be a good learning experience for them.

4. Have a clean out Approaching the festive season provides a great opportunity for kids to spring clean their toy, clothes and technology cupboards. Not only does this make room for the new, (and perhaps unfairly lift their expectations), but it provides the chance for children to pass on unwanted items to siblings, friends or others who would probably appreciate and use them more than they would.

5. Give them a social script Children usually operate on a script learnt from their parents. If you want them to be thankful for their gifts then give them the lines they should use. Be prepared for some gentle parental cueing if in all the festive excitement they forget to say thanks. And while you’re at it, I suggest that you avert potential embarrassment and give them some lines to use when they open the inevitable weird present, or receive a gift they already have. “I’ve got two of those already!” is not the sound a beaming and generous relative needs to hear!

The festive and holiday season offers many social challenges for parents. In many ways, the biggest challenge is to instil in your kids some social graces and a generous spirit that will withstand the unique challenges that the festive season throws up.

Good luck, be good and be grateful!
BENDIGO

2 Full Day Program

Thu 22, Fri 23 Jan

Full Day 9am - 3pm
Morning 9am – 11:30am
Afternoon 12:30pm – 3pm

$69 (for 2 days)  $39 (2 half days)
$39 (single day)

Girton Grammar School
105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo VIC 3550

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL CLINICS@GOLBRASILACADEMY.COM
At Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School

Free entry

B.B.Q. dinner and Food and drink for sale

Gold coin for Midway games, open at 6.00pm on December the 16th

Show begins at 6.30pm