Term 1 Week 4  Monday 18th February, 2013

Dates to Remember

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th February</td>
<td>1st School Assembly 2.45pm</td>
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<td>22nd February</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>1st March</td>
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<td>5th March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7.30pm - AGM</td>
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<td>6th March</td>
<td>McDonald’s Camp Quality Puppets 2pm</td>
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<td>8th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd March</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>1st April</td>
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<td>2nd April</td>
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<td>5th April</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
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<td>21st March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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School Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the competitors at our swimming carnival. Despite the cold and wet conditions we had a wonderful time with students supporting and encouraging each other in every race.

Thank you to the parents who came along to support our competitors and offered assistance during our events.

This year's champions are:

- **Junior Girl Champion** - Laura
- **Junior Boy Champion** - Xavier
- **11 Years Girl Champion** - Chloe
- **11 Years Boy Champion** - No competitors
- **Senior Girl Champion** - Lexie
- **Senior Boy Champion** - Ashley

We will be presenting their trophies at our first assembly this week.

Classroom Assistance

Classes would very much appreciate the help of parents, grandparents or community members with reading programs. By having parents help us we can offer greater ability to have the children read to someone and assist them with their reading skills. The more helpers we have the greater number of students who will benefit. You may be asked to assist students individually or in groups that may or may not have your own child in the group. We sometimes have to prioritise what is the students greatest need. If you can help, please fill in the attached note and return it to the class teacher by this Wednesday 20th February so we can organise our reading helper roster.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our 18 representatives at the Small Schools Carnival for their excellent participation and behaviour. We have not yet received the official results so we will put them in the next newsletter. A special thank you to the parents who assisted and supported our students on the day. Yours assistance is very much appreciated by students and staff.

Class Reorganisation

This week sees the reorganisation of our classes. We will be having a K/1, 2/3, 4/5 and 6. The 2/3 class will be working in the Library until a demountable classroom is installed. Mrs Oram (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Mrs Pearson (Thursday, Friday) will be sharing the class.

Canteen News

The canteen roster for the rest of term 1 is as follows:-

- Thursday 21st February - Angie Pirie
- Monday 25th February - VACANT
- Thursday 28th February - Michelle Leer
- Monday 4th March - Louise Saarinen
- Thursday 7th March - Sabine Koch
- Monday 11th March - Helen Newman
- Thursday 14th March - Christine Plew
- Monday 18th March - VACANT
- Thursday 21st March - Heidi Wilson & Fiona Graham
- Monday 25th March - VACANT
- Thursday 28th March - Michelle Leer
- Monday 1st April - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- Thursday 4th April - Cheryl Bair
- Monday 8th April - Helen Newman
- Thursday 11th April - Kelly Haines & Sam Craigie

P & C Meeting

- 5th March
- The Staff Room 7.30pm

Bilpin Public School P & C Committee are as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Darryl Carle</td>
<td>4567 1018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Heidi Wilson</td>
<td>4567 0070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Nicole McEvoy</td>
<td>4567 1351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Nikki Wheen</td>
<td>4567 1154</td>
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Please feel free to contact any of these representatives if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.
If you are able to help on the dates marked VACANT, please ring Angie Pirie on 4567 7469 otherwise we will notify students and families that the Canteen will be closed on those dates (25th February, 18th and 25th March).

The weekly specials for Mondays and Thursdays are Mini Pizza - 20c each and on Thursdays only - Fruit Kebabs - 80c each. Just a reminder that Chocolate Sippah Straws with milk are available for $1 each.

In the coming weeks a new security roller door will be installed on the front of the Canteen. This has been necessary as during the vacation period the Canteen building was broken into twice. We are very disappointed that these measures need to take place in our lovely area of Bilpin but it is necessary to prevent this happening again.

Angie Pirie

Class News

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

Kindergarten pupils are settling in to their new routines well!

They have commenced their sounds. We use the Jolly Phonics program. For each sound we have a story, an action and a sound. We send the sound sheet home as we introduce the sound. At the bottom of the sheet the action is given for that sound. The sound booklet sent home last week contains all the sounds and actions. We introduce a sound each day for the first week and then revise those sounds the following week. The sound cards sent home last week are so that the pupils can practise those sounds at home.

We have started reading and would appreciate if the children could practise reading these short books daily if possible. Next week we will send home some sight words for them to practise.

Please send in a photo for Star of the Week. They will be returned later in the year.

The pupils are working well with their sounds. Kindergarten’s new sounds this week are - ‘m’, ‘d’, ‘g’, ‘o’ and ‘u’. Continued revision of these sounds, both at home and school, helps promote instant recognition which in turn should make the blending of these sounds easier later. As we complete each set of sounds we will send home the sound cards. These can be used to practise the sounds and also to begin to blend these sounds together to make simple words e.g. s-i-t, c-a-t.

The sight words that are sent home weekly for homework should be practised daily if possible.Tick those that are correct and dot the ones that they don’t recognise reasonably quickly. Some of these sight words can be sounded out but most are tricky words that they need to recognise by sight. Quick recognition of these sight words helps the reading process. This homework goes home on Monday and does not need to come back to school until Friday. The readers that are sent home should be practised daily, if possible and can be kept at home.

Year 1 have also started their Maths Mentals homework. Pupils should complete a set each night and return the book to school for marking. This week we will be doing Week 3 sets.

Mrs J. Shields and Mrs S. Carroll

Year 2/3/4 News

Year 2/3/4 have started the year well and have worked very hard. Soon we will be splitting the classes and I know that they will make the transition smoothly.

It has been very pleasing to see that most of the students have paid for their textbooks and we will begin to use them this week.

We will be commencing our spelling homework this week. Spelling is to be done every night, Monday to Thursday and brought back to school each day to be marked. They will write out their spelling words each night. It would be very helpful if you could give them a verbal test on their words. Our lists go for two weeks so we can do lots of activities on them in class as well as spelling rules. Our test day will be on the Thursday of the second week of the homework.

We will begin maths homework the following week. As with spelling homework maths homework is done every night, Monday to Thursday and brought back to school each day to be marked.

Maths homework is a set of mentals which include simple to quite challenging questions. We mark each day and discuss questions that the students may be finding tricky. Helpful guides are in the back of the book which we add to over time. We will begin with activities 1.1 to 1.4.

Our Reading groups will start this week and hopefully we will get some parents to help with our groups and individual programs. Our Reading groups will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10.50am and Thursdays at 9.30am. We do other reading activities on the other days such as comprehension skills, vocab, grammar and listening activities.

Miss J. Currey

Year 5/6 News

Our classroom routines are well underway and the children have settled into them well. Thank you to parents who have been assisting in getting their children organised with the required classroom equipment and also purchasing textbooks.

The children will be completing their first full weeks homework this week including mentals and have been given a timetable to help them adjust to our routine.

In Science we have commenced our topic ‘Opposites Attract’, which focuses on magnets, their properties and how we use them in everyday life. In HSIE we have been completing a unit ‘Our School’ which examines our school rules, school song and verse and also the special things about our school.

Maths topics using our textbooks will be commencing this week.

We are in great need of parent helpers for reading groups, so please check attached information for times and let us know, even if you are not available every week we would still love to see you.

Well done to the children in our class who competed at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival last week, we are very proud of your effort.

Mr A. Hynds and Miss N. Wheen
Ghost Hill Spring Water
Available from
Matt Hawkins Water
0418407994

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THE LIVING ROOM

CASTING CALL

MOTHERS DAY APPLE PIE COOK OFF WITH CELEBRITY CHEF MIGUEL MAESTRE

DO YOU COOK THE BEST APPLE PIE IN BILPIN?

The Living Room and Miguel Maestre are coming to Bilpin for a Mothers Day Apple Pie cook off.

If you are a mother and cook the best apple pie in town then we want to hear from you!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MOTHERS from the age of 25 to 55 to compete in our apple pie challenge with Miguel Maestre. If you are keen to be part of this series then please contact me on the details below.

Dates you will be required are 14th & 15th March.

Casting@wtfn.com.au
12 friendship skills every child needs

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

Kids can be picky about who they play and mix with. Popularity should not be confused with sociability. A number of studies in recent decades have shown that appearance, personality type and ability impact on a child’s popularity at school.

Good-looking, easy-going, talented kids usually win peer popularity polls but that doesn’t necessarily guarantee they will have friends.

Those children and young people who develop strong friendships have a definite set of skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with.

Here are twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends:

1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help
4. Accepting other’s mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Starting and maintaining a conversation
10. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
11. Cooperating with others
12. Giving and receiving compliments

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

In past generations ‘exposure to different situations’ meant opportunities to play with each other, with siblings and with older and younger friends.

They were reminded by parents about how they should act around others. They were also ‘taught’ from a very young age.

Arrested development

The NEW CHILD grows up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

A parenting style that promotes a high sense of individual entitlement rather than the notion of fitting in appears to be popular at the moment.

These factors can lead to delayed or arrested development in these essential friendship skills, resulting in very unhappy, self-centred children.

Here are some ideas if you think your child experiences developmental delay in any of these essential skills or just needs some help to acquire them:

1. Encourage or insist that kids play and work with each other: Allowing kids the freedom to be kids is part of the message here but parents have to be cunning with the NEW CHILD and construct situations where kids have to get on with each other. For some kids “Go outside and play” is a good place to start!!
2. Play with your kids: Interact with your kids through games and other means so you can help kids learn directly from you how to get on with others.
3. Talk about these skills: If you notice your kids need to develop some of these skills then talk about them, point out when they show them and give them some implementation ideas.

Kids are quite ego-centric and need to develop a sense of ‘other’ so they can successfully negotiate the many social situations that they find themselves in.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and can quite easily neglect the development of these vital important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and well-being.

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