Welcome back to all parents and students to what is a very busy Term 2.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of our parents and community members for your patience last week during the storms. As most of you would be aware a large tree came down on Bells Line of Road preventing staff from getting to school on Tuesday. I would like to thank Mrs Carroll and Miss Carroll for heading up to school to meet students and parents and inform them of the situation.

During the school closures I am aware that it was at times difficult to receive accurate information about the status of the school. I would like to thank all the parents who were involved in getting the message out when people were unable to access phones and the internet. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the RFS members who watched over our school during this period and monitored the tree that came down at school. The tree has been cut to the point where it will not roll and large branches removed from nearby trees, to ensure the safety of students whilst the insurance process is finalised. The area around the library which has been damaged will be out of bounds until all work has been completed. I will keep the community informed throughout each stage of this process. We will be getting further inspections of trees completed to ensure the safety of our students. I would like to thank all of the staff for all their hard work during what was a challenging week.

TomahRoma Festival and Back to Back

This Saturday 2nd May our school will be running our usual stall at TomahRoma. This year Back to Back is also being held on the same day. The P & C are seeking as many volunteers as possible to make small cakes, muffins, slices and other tasty treats to sell on the day to support our main fundraising event of the year.

Cake boxes will be available for parents to utilise. These are available from the school office. You can either deliver your cakes/slices etc to the school office on Friday (1st May) in the morning or afternoon, whichever is convenient to you. We intend to sell a slice of cake or a muffin for $1.00 each so please bake to the larger size. The event runs from 7.30am till 3pm and the stall will be operating all day. If you are able to assist on the day please contact Nicole McEvoy 4567 1351.

I would like to thank the P & C for their excellent organisation in the lead up to this event, especially when the first 3 major fundraising events are so close together. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible visiting our stall on the day. I am hoping that this year may prove to be a warmer one!

The Great Bilpin Apple Pie Bake-Off

The Great Bilpin Apple Pie Bake-Off will take place again this year, in conjunction with the International Back to Back Wool Challenge on Saturday 2nd May. There are several entry categories available, including one for primary school students. An entry form and details concerning the event can be obtained from the school office. Students, parents and community members are encouraged to participate in this charity event.

Mother’s Day Stall

Our Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Thursday 7th May (Week 3). Thank you to our families who have already donated gifts for our Mother’s Day Stall. Donations can be left in the basket outside the school office. It would be appreciated if only new items be donated. Items are gift wrapped and sold from $2 - $5 so students will need to bring enough money on the day. All money raised is part of the Year 6 fundraising.

We also require volunteers to wrap the gifts on Wednesday morning and assist on the day. If you are able to help or require further information about this event, please contact Nicole McEvoy on 4567 1351.
Anzac Service

This year we remember 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli. The students have been learning about the sacrifices our soldiers made for us then and now. Our Anzac Service was held today, with our choir performing and students reading a poem titled 'Heroes’. We would like to thank Flight Sergeant David Henry from the RAAF Base at Richmond who came along to participate in our service as a representative of our brave armed forces. We would also like to thank Robert Campbell for playing moving renditions of the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' on the bugle, as a special tribute to all who have fought for our freedom during the last 100 years. We thank all parents who sent along flowers for the students to lay during this solemn occasion.

Kurrajong Dawn Service

I would like to thank Jack for representing our school so proudly at the Dawn Service at Kurrajong on Saturday. I would also like to thank Nikki Wheen who attended as our staff representative.

Reports and Interviews

As mentioned last term, we have undertaken a review of our reporting processes to ensure our report is in line with new curriculum content. We are in the process of purchasing a new system which includes a reporting component which will not be ready before the end of the term. For this reason, we have developed an interim report that will be sent home at the end of Week 9. Interviews will take place in Week 10 (please see dates in attached calendar).

From next year, interviews will be offered at the end of Term 1, then again at the end of Term 2 after reports. Interviews in Semester 2 will be at the request of parents or teachers as the need arises.

Interview request forms will be sent out later this term. Further information about the software system which includes a parent portal, will be provided in the next newsletter.

I know that interviews have been taking place earlier in previous years. If you require an interview with your child’s class teacher before reports are sent home, please contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Tennis Court Upgrade

Last year the school received a grant to have the surface of the tennis court replaced and re-marked. Work was due to begin on Tuesday of this week. However, due to the inclement whether we believe this work will be delayed.

We will provide further information once we have been informed of the new start date. During this time heavy machinery will be used and a high level of activity will take place. To ensure the safety of the students and community members, the play equipment will be closed.

3 Year Strategic Plan and Annual School Report

The school’s 3 Year Strategic Plan 2015—2017 and the Annual School Report for 2014 will be uploaded to the school website at the end of this week.

The 3 Year Strategic Plan outlines the school’s direction for the next 3 years. The plan has been developed in consultation with staff, the P & C and the community. Information in the Term 1 surveys are reflected in our directions.

Later this term we will be sending out a letter outlining some of the projects we will be focussing on for the next 3 years. Accompanying this will be an expression of interest for parents to complete. We ask that after reading about our projects, that you reflect on what skills and or time you may have to offer to assist us in these projects and come on this new and exciting journey with us!

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing for Year 3 and Year 5 will be conducted from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th May. Mr Hynds will be conducting the tests in the 4/5/6 room. Any students absent on a day can complete their test on Friday 15th May.

As these tests are conducted in the mornings we will not require reading helpers on these days.

Opportunity Class Placement 2015

Parents wishing their current Year 4 children to sit the placement test for the Year 5 2015 entry to opportunity classes will need to speak with Mrs Mackie. An on-line application will then need to be completed. Applications close on Friday 15th May.

P&C

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th May commencing at 3.30pm. We look forward to seeing parents who are interested in contributing ideas and assisting with our fundraising activities this year.

As our school runs this event, the P & C operates a kiosk and BBQ on the day. If your child is attending the carnival we would ask you to spend a little time helping at the kiosk as it is always very busy.

Please phone Nicole McEvoy if you can help on the day on 4567 1351.

Small Schools Cross Country

The Small Schools Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 1st May and we have 34 competitors attending. We wish all of our competitors the best of luck on the day.

As our school runs this event, the P & C operates a kiosk and BBQ on the day. If your child is attending the carnival we would ask you to spend a little time helping at the kiosk as it is always very busy.

Please phone Nicole McEvoy if you can help on the day on 4567 1351.

Athletics Program

On Monday 4th May our school Athletics Program with Richard Burrell, will begin. The students will undertake training in field events. The program will run on Mondays until the end of the term. Please ensure children are dressed in their sports uniform and appropriate footwear.

Canteen News - Angela Pirie (Canteen Co-ordinator)

Welcome back everyone. Canteen reopens on Monday 4th May. Thankyou for the volunteers who have devoted their time in helping out in the canteen:-

Monday 4th May  - Louise Saarinen & Cristina Robshaw
Thursday 7th May  - Eleanor Brand
Monday 11th May  - Rebecca & Margaret Tadrosse
Thursday 14th May - Cheryl Baird
Monday 18th May  - April Vigurs and Vanessa Smith
** We still have Thursday 25th June available to fill in. If you would like to help, just let Mrs Chapman or myself know.

Canteen Specials :-

For a short time only the canteen will be selling warm pikelets at recess sprinkled with icing sugar @ 20c or jam and cream @ 30c each.

Warm Milo is back @ $1 per cup
Hamburgers with Salad - $3.70
Instrumental Music Program

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our grant application, to start our instrumental music program. As we have had such a positive response from students wanting to participate in this program, we will endeavour to raise funds and build a supply of musical instruments so that we can begin a small band.

Happy Birthday

We would like to wish the following students a very happy birthday for the month of May.

They are Jacob (12 yrs), Bailey (6 yrs), James (6 yrs), Layla (8 yrs), Alana (9 yrs), Zak (8 yrs), Lilly (6 yrs), Kaid (11 yrs), Samuel (7 yrs), Cassie (9 yrs), Luke (6 yrs), Aliza (7 yrs) and Brianna (10 yrs).

Stewart House Donation Drive 2015

Attached to the newsletter is an envelope for each child. A donation of a $2 coin or equivalent in the envelope supports the 1,800 children who attend Steward House each year from public school across NSW and the ACT.

Please return your completed envelope by Friday 8th May to the school office to be eligible for the draw.

Kind regards,

Melanie Mackie
Principal

CLASS NEWS

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

Welcome back! We hope you have had a fantastic break. We are keen to get back into learning this year and have a lot of exciting things organised.

Our next Literacy unit is called 'Dreaming'. We will be focusing on aboriginal stories from the Dream Time.

In maths, we will be continuing to focus on counting forwards and backwards to 30. We are going to be starting work on subtraction and multiplication.

We are changing the news for this term. If your child has special news they would like to share, we are more than happy to accommodate for this. If not, we are preparing a roster where the students will have one news item this term, which will be presented in front of the class. Look out for the roster in their folders, coming soon!

Homework - This week, year 1’s maths homework is unit 8.

Kindergarten Sight Words - We will be sending 3 new sight words this week.

Mrs N Oram

2/3 Class News

Reading groups will begin again in Week 3, but will not run in Week 4 due to NAPLAN. Reading groups will then run from Week 5 until the end of the term. We welcome any parents who are able to give any time, even if it is one morning once a term.

Last week students made beautiful Anzac Day artworks depicting poppies and other significant symbols of remembrance. The students also made colourful poppies to wear at our Anzac service.

The students have returned to school settled and ready to work after a very unusual start to the term. Congratulations 2/3. Keep up the great work!

Mrs M Mackie

4/5/6 Class News

Our spelling and homework programs will be underway as normal this week. We will also be completing our Maths lessons each day as planned.

As with class 2/3 we will not be completing our usual reading routine, but will be completing some practice activities similar to NAPLAN. These will assist both Year 5 for 2015 and Year 4 and 6 when completing NAPLAN next year.

In our shortened week last week we discussed many aspects about ANZAC and its history. The students showed great interest and hopefully it helped them develop a greater understanding of the meaning of ANZAC. We have a few more ANZAC activities that we did not get the chance to complete in our short time together last week that we will complete this week.

Congratulations to my students for their fantastic art at the Hawkesbury Show. I’m sure those who saw them like myself thought they looked great!

Mr A Hynds
It’s called Mother’s Day, not Parent’s Day
Mothering is different to parenting. Being a mum is emotional, instinctive and a job for life!

I often point out to audiences in parenting presentations how being related to our kids can stop us from being great parents. We all know how our neighbour’s kids should be raised, but somehow it’s harder to raise our own. That’s because the hopes and dreams of motherhood (and fatherhood) can somehow get in the way of rational decision-making.

Mothering is emotional and instinctive

And that’s the thing. Being a mother is not always rational, as parenting is often made out to be. There is a great deal of emotion attached to the role of mother. This emotion drives you to fight hard to protect your children, work assiduously to right any wrongs on their behalf, and exhaust yourself looking after their physical and psychological well-being.

Being a mother is instinctive. In the information age we need to be careful we don’t deny the intuitive nature that mothers bring to their child-rearing. The nature of mothering infers nurturance, protectiveness and longevity. Mothering is relational rather than rational. You may grow out parenting by making yourself redundant but mothering is something you never grow out of. You are a mum for life.

Kids want their mothers, not their parents

Kids of all ages say, “That’s my mum!”

They don’t say, “That’s my parent!” (They may say that when they are annoyed or embarrassed by you, but that’s another story.)

Boys and girls of all ages generally love their mothers unconditionally, whereas they merely put up with their parents, particularly during adolescence. They can live without their parents, or so they think, but deep down they know they can’t live without the one person who has a blind spot for them, overlooking all their faults. That person, of course, is their mother.

When kids of all ages get into emotional difficulty or their life becomes too hard, they generally go looking for their mums. They only look for their ‘parent’ when they want some money, or want someone to get them out of a jam!

Raising kids is about mothering (and fathering) … rather than parenting. That’s why we have Mother’s Day (and Father’s Day) rather than Parent’s Day.

I hope you have a good one!

For ideas to help you be a great mum subscribe to Happy Kids my weekly email guide at Parentingideas.com.au.

There’s a massive difference between being a mum (or dad) and being a parent.

“Parenting” is a twentieth century term that suggests that raising kids is a gender neutral activity. It’s a managerial, almost scientific term that has given rise to a huge industry. In Western countries, millions of parenting books and magazines are sold each year, parenting columns appear in most newspapers, and new television series appear every year focused on the modern notion of parenting.

The problem is that when we refer to ‘parenting’ we tend to remove the heart and emotion from the task. We obscure the fact that it is mothers and fathers who are doing the child-rearing, rather than mere parents.

Parenting means different things to different people. For many people the term ‘parenting’ is code for behaviour management – particularly taming toddlers and their close cousins, teenagers. A broader and more thoughtful definition includes teaching kids positive values and attitudes, developing a range of skills that equips them for adulthood, and ultimately preparing kids to be parents themselves one day.