Term 2 Week 4

Monday 11th May, 2015

Dates to Remember

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>11th May</td>
<td>Athletics Program</td>
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<td>12th May to 14th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing for Yr 3 and Year 5</td>
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<td>15th May</td>
<td>Back up date for Small Schools Cross Country</td>
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<td>15th May</td>
<td>Application for Opportunity Class Placement</td>
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<td>2015 closes</td>
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<td>18th May</td>
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<td>3rd June</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Program for K - 3</td>
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<td>8th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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School Cross Country Champions

We would like to congratulate our school Cross Country Champions for 2015. They are:

- Juvenile Girl Champion: Abby
- Juvenile Boy Champion: Dion
- Junior Girl Champion: Mali
- Junior Boy Champion: Jack H
- 11 Yrs Girl Champion: Laura
- 11 Yrs Boy Champion: Kaid
- Senior Boy Champion: Jack I

Small Schools Cross Country Carnival

This week will see the third attempt at holding the Small Schools Cross Country Carnival. We hope the weather holds out to ensure the day takes place. We wish all of our runners the very best of luck and know they will represent us proudly.

I would like to thank Mr Hynds for all of his hard work in the lead up to running this event and the countless trips to Woodbury Reserve to check on the conditions for the carnival over the past few weeks. I would also like to thank Mick Pattison for the work he has done to improve the conditions of the grounds for the students.

Thank you also to the P & C in anticipation for the work they will do running the canteen.

TomahROMA and Back to Back

On Saturday 2nd March the P&C had a Soup and Cake stall at the TomahROMA Autumn Festival and Back to Back Challenge at the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens, Mt Tomah. A huge thank you to all the parents and teachers who baked cakes, slices and cookies for us to sell, all nicely presented in the cake boxes. Thanks to Darryl and Deb Carle who donated the 3 different variety of soups which were a great hit on such a cold day. I would like to thank the P & C for their organisation of the stall, particularly Nicole McEvoy and Angie Pirie as I know how much time and effort went into the event, particularly with all the trouble shooting around the weather.

Community Involvement

In the next newsletter a parent expression of interest will be attached with an outline of our school projects. We ask that you kindly 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!
A special thank you also to Karambi Orchard for the very popular Pink Lady apples, Hanlons Hardware, Kurrajong Bakehouse, Bilpin Resort and Hillibilly Cider for their generous support. On a wet and overcast day we were able to raise $895 for the school, a fantastic effort. Special thanks to students, parents and staff who helped set up and serve in the bleak conditions. The Back to Back is a major fundraising event for Cancer Research and the P&C will be making a donation toward this from our takings.

Pie Bake Off

Congratulations to our very clever cooks in 4/5/6 who won prizes for their delicious apple pies in the bake off at TomahRoma; Aisling 1st, Leah 3rd and Clara 4th! We are very proud of you girls, well done!

Voluntary School Contributions

Have you paid your voluntary school contribution? Contributions are set at $30 per child or $60 per family for each year with funds used to purchase photocopying paper to reproduce work for classes and materials needed in the classrooms. If you are unsure whether you have paid, please contact Mrs Chapman in the school office.

Insurance work

We are still waiting for confirmation on when insurance work will begin on the library and the trees around it. During the first week of term, many schools in the region sustained damage, therefore the process is a little slower than it might normally be. The tree loppers are waiting for the ground around the library to dry out enough for their heavy machinery to manoeuvre around the area. We will notify the community as soon as we have been informed of a start date.

Tennis Court works

Contractors visited the school this morning to determine whether or not the work on the tennis court can begin. They have decided that work may commence tomorrow or by the end of this week, weather permitting. Please keep the area near the gate clear for construction vehicles.

Parking in the afternoons

During the year there have been occasions where the large bus has had difficulty getting past the school due to where cars have parked. The bus company has requested that parents only park on the school side of the road if they are doing a quick ‘kiss and drop’. For those parents who are likely to stay longer than this, the bus company has requested that parents please park on the opposite side of the road to the school. Please ensure that whichever side of the road you are parking on that you are parked as close to the curb as possible to ensure the buses can meet their schedules. Please also be mindful of existing parking signs near the school gates.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

First Aid Course

Surf Lifesaving NSW will be running First Aid Courses at the school on Monday 13th July. There are places available for the full course, the refresher and CPR update. The full course includes completing a workbook BEFORE attendance on the day and costs $110.00. The refresher course is $100.00 and the CPR update $30.00. Bookings MUST be finalised with Mrs Chapman at the school office by Friday 5th June. Payment must be made on the day of the course by cash or cheques made payable to Surf Lifesaving NSW.

Canteen

Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to assist in the school canteen.

Kind regards,
Melanie Mackie
Principal

CLASS NEWS

Kindergarten/Year 1 News

K/1 will now have their library lesson on Fridays at 9.25 am so reading groups will now be at 10.25 am on Fridays only.

K/1 have been working very hard this term, in all subject areas. In reading groups, the students are working on having a deeper knowledge of their texts, by completing a variety of comprehension activities.

In Maths, we are continuing to work on identifying numbers from 1-30, counting forwards and backwards from 30 and creating equal halves and quarters of an object.
As part of our science unit, we are participating in an ‘Amazing Ants’ interactive video conference. In the lead up to this, we will be collecting a sample of ants from different areas within the school. We then send these off to a University, where they analyse and label the ants we collected. We are very excited about the students’ participation and will have photos to glue in to their books.

The students have been learning so much in their athletic lessons with Mr Berrell. This week they were beginning to learn long jump. They had to run, jump off one foot and land on two feet, which is quite a difficult skill to master!

Homework this week—Kindergarten have 3 new sight words to learn and their reading books are in their folders. Year 1 maths homework is Unit 10 this week and Unit 11 next week. They also have their reading books and 4 new sight words in their folders. News - the students have a roster in their homework folders. Each child will present a news item to the class twice this term.

Mrs N Oram

2/3 Class News

Year 2 have been very consistent in returning their homework every day. All students are up to Unit 13 in their Mentals Book. All students are encouraged to read daily to support their participation in the Premiers Reading Challenge.

Homework for Year 3 this week will be Spelling, Mentals and set NAPLAN homework tasks on StudyLadder as a final practice in preparation for NAPLAN this week.

Students have been learning how to write persuasive texts where they are required to think about the purpose of their argument and the audience they are writing for.

Reading groups will not be held this week due to NAPLAN assessments being held during the morning sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Students are working very hard in class and I am very pleased with their positive approach to learning!

Mrs M. Mackie

4/5/6 Class News

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.

We will be completing and publishing our persuasive text writing tasks about the significance of Anzac Day this week and have begun our focus on procedural texts as our literacy focus in our Science unit.

During our Science micro organisms unit last week we completed experiments to see what happens when yeast is mixed with water and sugar. We wrote a procedure for the process of completing a fair test and recorded our observations in our books. Photos we took will be used to complete our investigation.

In Maths this week we are completing activities with number lines, fractions, different angles and views of 3D objects.

Mr A Hynds
Make sure they help at home..... without being paid

It’s best to expect children and young people to help without being paid. By all means provide them with pocket money, but avoid linking it to chores. Helping out in exchange for money develops in children a notion of ‘What’s in it for me?’, which is a self-centred view of life.

Confident kids are competent kids. Past experience has taught them that they can be successful. One way to help develop a sense of competency is to give kids opportunities to help out at home. There is no need to over burden children with jobs, but a sensible allocation of chores according to their age, study requirements and interests is not only a great help to you, but good training for them. They develop the skills of independent living when they help at home, and the notion that they are capable.

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Many parents have difficulty getting their children to help. Some spend so much time nagging children to do jobs that they often give up asking and expect little of them. Here are some ideas to encourage your children to help out at home:

1. **Keep it real:** Kids can sense when parents give them jobs to keep them busy. Make sure the jobs you apportion make a real contribution to your family’s well-being.

2. **Balance the personal chores with family jobs.** Chores are generally divided into two areas. Jobs such as keeping a bedroom tidy benefits a child and jobs such as setting the table benefit the family. By doing this kids learn to contribute positively to family life.

3. **Place the more arduous or difficult tasks on a roster.** Children can refer to it when needed, which takes the load off you and removes the need to remind them. Rotate the unpleasant tasks frequently.

4. **Use Grandma’s principle to make sure jobs are done.** Grandma’s principle means you do the less pleasant tasks first. That is, make sure jobs are finished before meal times or before starting pleasant activities such as watching television.

5. **Avoid doing jobs for children.** When children get the message that no one will do their jobs for them they will be more likely to help out.

6. **Show your appreciation for their help.** Make a fuss when they help so they know that their contribution to the family is valued. If you do it often enough they may even show their appreciation for all you do for them!

7. **Keep your standards high.** Don’t accept half-hearted efforts or half completed jobs. If you think your child is capable of putting the cat food back in the fridge and placing the spoon in the dishwasher then insist that he or she does just that, rather than leaving the cat food on the sink. A job properly done is valued in the world of work, which they will eventually enter.

8. **Rebrand the term ‘chore’ as ‘help’:** The term ‘chore’ definitely has an image problem. Use the term ‘help’ as it is easier on the ear and really does indicate what you want from your kids.

**Here’s a challenge:** Step back and assess if your children are doing enough around the house to help. Get my free **Chores & Responsibilities Guide** from my website and use this to help you work out the helping tasks that they could and should be doing. Go to www.parentingideas.com.au/parents and get your FREE Chores & Responsibilities Guide.

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