Dates to Remember

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**Term 1 2016**

School Swimming

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Thank you to the parents who supported our competitors and offered assistance during our events.

This year’s champions are:

- Junior Girl Champion - Abby
- Junior Boy Champion - Jahvis, Kye (tie)
- 11 Years Girl Champion - Mali
- 11 Years Boy Champion - Jack
- Senior Girl Champion - Laura
- Senior Boy Champion - Kaid

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The following students were placed in events and if times qualify will be attending the district carnival.

- Laura
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Arborist Report

Last week we received our tree report which details work to be undertaken. There are 2 trees requiring removal, one of which is a tree on council land. Neither tree is targeted for immediate removal, however we will be having the work undertaken as soon as possible. There are 5 trees requiring aerial inspection and a number of trees requiring dead wooding. Updates will be communicated regularly via the newsletter.

Chicken Enclosure

Our chicken enclosure is completed and looks fantastic! The students have been paying many visits to the chennels to feed and study them.

On behalf of all of the students, staff and parent community, I would like to thank Garth Baird, David Hazeltine and Jimmy Newton for the many weeks they have devoted to creating the best chicken enclosure in the Hawkesbury! We are very lucky to have such dedicated parent helpers.

I would also like to thank Monaghan’s Timber and Building Supplies and C & N Trading for their donations of materials for the enclosure. We are truly grateful for your generosity and kindness.

Year 6 Leadership Camp

Last Thursday and Friday I attended Leadership Camp with Clara, Mali and Patrick. Our 3 students represented our school very admirably. Over the 2 days the students of the Hawkesbury participated in a variety of activities to help them develop effective leadership skills to undertake their leadership duties to the best of their abilities. Activities included; public speaking, leadership skills, team initiatives and a number of physical challenges. By attending camp, our 3 leaders were also able to meet leaders from other schools, share their experiences and develop friendships for the future. I was very proud of how Clara, Mali and Patrick conducted themselves over the 2 days and I look forward to seeing them grow into amazing student leaders.

Parent Assemblies

Today was our first parent assembly for the year. Thank you to those parents who were able to make it.

Our next parent assembly will be in Week 8, 14th March where Bronze Awards will be handed out as well as our new ‘Personal Best Medallion’. This award will be presented to one student in the school who has demonstrated exemplary effort, consistency and behaviour. We look forward to presenting this award to a very deserving student.

Library News - Mrs Carroll

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and read plenty of books.

This term class library days are as follows:

K/1 and 2/3 - Thursday
4/5/6 - Friday

I have handed out permission notes to those children who are interested in participating in the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Please return the notes as soon as possible so that I have a register of your child and I am able to get their reading record folder ready. The challenge begins on 7th March and runs until 19th August.

Choir 2016 - Mr Oram

This year we will be having choir rehearsals on Friday mornings before school from 8.45am - 9.25am. This is to make sure our choir continues to have the large numbers we had last year.

We are trailling this time as many of the students want to come to choir, however are missing out on a lot of lunch play times with their friends. I am hoping this time will be convenient for families and keep the students fresh and excited about participating in the choir.

If you have other children at the school who do not wish to be in the choir, they are welcome to arrive at school at this time and sit under the weather shed until morning play at 8.55 am.

If your child would like to be in the choir and you are not able to make it to school at this time, please let me know. I am more than happy to also do a lunchtime rehearsal for anyone who cannot make it to the early morning.

We have some great opportunities for choir members this year, including the Hawkesbury Music Festival and some students having the chance to sing at the Sydney Opera House….plus many more.

Thank you for your continued support of our school choir.

Canteen News - Mrs Michelle Coe

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers. Due to your generosity the canteen will be open all term. I have taken over from Angie who did an amazing job for the past 6 years, Thankyou Angie!

Parents rostered on for the next fortnight are as follows:-

Thursday 18th Feb - Michelle Leer
Monday 22nd Feb - Louise Saarinen
Thursday 25th Feb - Michelle Leer
Monday 29th Feb - Rebecca & Margaret Tadrosse

Red Week this term will start 21st of March for Easter, and there will be special Easter treats available. There are a few small changes to the menu, so you will receive a new price list within the next couple of weeks.

If any of your children have any special dietary requirements or you have any suggestions for the canteen please don’t hesitate to contact me on 4567 2200 or mkcoe@hotmail.com.

Thank you

Martin and Fiona Graham would like to thank the Bilpin Public School Community for their help in raising funds in Term 4 last year for the Warburg Micro Syndrome Charity. There are 40 children in the world with WMS. Pippa is one of 2 Children in the Southern Hemisphere. Your generosity ($253.70) will go towards research into WMS. We would like to thank you all and make special mention of Leah and Mali, who came up with the idea, cooked all the cakes, and managed to pull it off with no help from their parents.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthdays during the month of February.

Gemma (6 yrs old), Kyle (12 yrs old), Clara (12 yrs old), Nikola (9 yrs old), Kylie (12 yrs old) and Joel (8 yrs old).

Mrs M Mackie
PRINCIPAL
CLASS NEWS

KINDERGARTEN/YEAR 1  -  Mrs Oram and Mrs McCloy

Welcome to term 1! The students have all settled in well this year and are very busy already. There will be a longer class newsletter coming later in the week, with more detailed information about the organisation of the class this year.

We have started reading groups today and are always looking for any parent helpers who would like to come along. Reading Groups are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.40am.

Home readers will be coming home today. As soon as your child has mastered their book, they are able to bring it to class and swap it for another.

Thank you to everyone for bringing in the ClassDojo letters, we will be able to start posting pictures very soon.

This term on Wednesdays, we will be focusing on measurement in maths which means a lot of hands on learning activities (check out ClassDojo to see what we are up to!). We are also continuing our grammar and sentence a day programme. Kindergarten have already written their first sentences - well done!

CLASS 2/3  -  Mrs Mackie

Class 2/3 have settled in well to routines this year and have been producing some wonderful work.

Class Dojo is up and running as of last week. If you haven’t signed up yet to receive our class story and notices and need another copy of the note, please let me know. We hope that those of you who have already tuned in are enjoying the updates of our class activities.

Homework begins today. Homework will consist of Spelling, Maths and Reading to revise work being undertaken in class.

Home readers will be sent home next week with reading diaries to be signed each night. Home readers will need to be returned on the Friday of Week 6, 8 and 10 for readers to be exchanged.

Tomorrow Year 3 will be travelling to The Fruit Bowl in the morning to pick fruit as part of the Adopt-a-Tree program. We are looking forward to an exciting morning of apple picking! I would like to thank Mrs Chapman and Ms Leer for helping out with transport.

Thank you in advance to those parents who will be assisting with reading groups from next week. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Parent/teacher interviews will be held towards the end of this term, however if you wish to meet with me before this time to discuss any concerns or queries you may have, please contact the office.

CLASS 4/5/6  -  Mr Hynds

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. This also means our spelling routine will also be in full swing.

Our reading groups will commence next week. We are always happy to have parent helpers, so please let us know if you are available any week, even if it’s not every week. We would love to see you.

Maths topics will also commence this week. Topics for the next for the next fortnight are place value, fractions, addition, subtraction and length.

In Science we have commenced our unit on bushfires and have started by discussing the functions of the RFS in our community.

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

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WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

PEBBRITH OBSERVATORY

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

ASTRONOMY NIGHT – Saturday 27 February 2016 (8.00 pm – 10.00 pm)

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

Come along to listen to Dr Ann De Hart's talk on the hunt for ET. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost: $18 adult, $12 child/concession and $50 family

Bookings are essential. To book and pay for tickets visit: www.wy.edu.au/astronomy
The power of a sincere compliment

It’s amazing the impact a sincere compliment can have on the confidence and self-esteem of a child or young person.

I overheard a friend tell her eight-year-old daughter last week:

“You did such a good job helping your brother yesterday. You are such lovely big sister!”

My friend’s face lit up with a smile as she said it. She gently put her hand on her daughter’s shoulder at the same time.

The little girl beamed, then she went off to play.

It was a simple parenting moment among many that my friend would have initiated that day.

I couldn’t help thinking that it doesn’t take much to grow kids’ self esteem and create good feelings at home.

A sincerely given compliment has an enormous impact on the person who receives it. We all grow a little taller, at least inside, when we are given a compliment.

We also feel closer to the person who complimented us.

Compliments satisfy the deep craving we all have to be appreciated.

There is one problem. While compliments are easy to give, they are also easy not to give.

We forget.
We underestimate their impact.
We haven’t developed the habit of giving compliments.

Amplify the impact

There were two things my friend did that amplified the impact of her compliment.

1. She smiled as she gave the compliment.
2. She touched her daughter as well.

Touch will always amplify a compliment. It makes it personal.

Her mother’s smile told her daughter what her mum really felt. In fact, the touch and smile said it all. The words reinforced the smile and touch.

The compliment was given and received through three senses – visually, kinaesthetically and auditorily.

That’s how kids receive all our messages – they see, they feel, they hear – though we often focus on the words and forget the visual and kinaesthetic.

Next time your child does something worthwhile take the time to give a compliment.

Smile (tell your face you are happy) and add a little touch to really let them know how you feel. Watch your child’s reaction. It’ll have a significant impact.

It doesn’t take much.