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23 July 2015

Associate Principal's Column

Student Attendance Reminder

Please be mindful that a good level of school attendance is vital to the future of your children, and this includes students arriving on time every day. Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to fulfil their academic potential, and there is a legal requirement for parents/caregivers to ensure their children regularly attend an appropriately approved program of education. All parents/caregivers need to be aware of the following requirements for authorising student absences and late arrivals:

- All student absences must be authorised by a parent/caregiver. This can be done by sending a note in with the student on his/her return to school, by phoning the school office or by speaking to the relevant teacher in person. (If you know your child will be away for 3 or more consecutive days, you need to contact the office by the third day.)
- All late arrivals must be authorised by a parent/caregiver. Students who do not arrive at their classroom by 8.50am are required to report to the office on arrival at school. If students who arrive late are not accompanied to the office by a parent/caregiver, they will need to have a note from a parent/caregiver or the student's parent/caregiver will need to phone the office prior to the student's arrival.

For a small number of students regular absenteeism is a problem. It is recognised that some students do suffer serious or recurring illnesses, and, occasionally, pressing family matters or crises can stop some students from coming to school. Such absences are quite understandable, but some students seem to have regular absences, a day here and a day there, over the school year, and often it is possible to see a pattern in these absences.

Some students are regularly late to class without any genuine reason. Even if they are only a few minutes late, it is disruptive to their own learning and the learning of other students in the class, as teachers have to constantly restart their lessons for students who arrive late. Parents/carers who do not ensure their children are on time for class also need to be aware of the unspoken messages they may be sending their children.

Children may start to think that it doesn't really matter if they are late, and that the rules that apply to everyone else don't apply to them. The development of such attitudes in young children could have serious ramifications for them as they grow older.

Frequent absences and/or late arrivals make it difficult for students to keep pace with classwork and can make it difficult for teachers to properly assess students. Maximising attendance at school enhances students' academic progress, and it helps prepare them for the expectations they will be required to meet later in life when they join the workforce.

Please don't let your children down by allowing them to regularly arrive late to school or by letting them stay at home when they should be at school.

2015 School Opinion Survey

Last week, information about the 2015 School Opinion Survey was sent home with the eldest child in each family. The survey allows parents/carers to have their say about what the school does well and how it can improve. This information is extremely important to us. The online survey is open until 31 July 2015. Participation is anonymous and all information that you provide will be treated confidentially.

While participation in the survey is purely voluntary, the validity of the survey can obviously be affected if we only have a small number of responses, so we would encourage all families to complete the survey. Last year we received approximately 180 responses and it would be great if this year we could even improve on our response rate.

Murray Leak, Associate Principal Years 3 & 4

Bastille Day at Caningeraba

French National Day was proudly celebrated by our students by wearing tricolore costumes depicting French icons.

Over 60 students were involved to uphold the French National Motto "Liberty, Fraternity & Equality" arising from the French revolution in 1789. Prizes were given to all participants. 5 were selected for their elaborate French costumes.

Congratulations to all students involved. Special recognition to our French Leaders, Isabella, Rachel, Eden, Destan and Maya for supporting this special event with Madame Wada. Our finalists were:

Eden 6G dressed as Marie-Antoinette
 Ruby 5P dressed as a French artist and
 Tia 3S, Cloe 4S and Stevie 4S dressed as French girls.

In class students built a 3D Eiffel Tower constructed in 1889 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution.

Vive la France!
Madame Wada

Music is a Science

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics.

A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music Class Of The Week

Prep White for brilliant hand signs for "so" and "mi".
 1S for the game "Ickle Ockle".
 2O for remembering a 16 beat rhythmic pattern from beat 1.
 3S for the many "Blackbelt Recorder" yellow belt recipients.
 4S for neat and organised bookwork.
 5P for excellent behaviour first day back.

School Banking News

Congratulations to the following students who have made 10 deposits and received a bronze certificate:

| | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Taylor 3R | Macie 2P | Vaughn 2W |
| Dante 1/2R | Imogen 4G | Jaive 2B |
| Summer PR | Phoenix PO | Ruby-Leigh PW |
| Slater 1O | Rocco 1O | Mateja 1/2R |

Congratulations to the following students who have made 20 deposits and received a silver certificate:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Lacey 2M | Lockie 1/2R | Kacey 3G |
| Keira PR | Logan 2B | Pepper 1G |
| Alex 5P | Frazer PO | Jake 3S |
| Aaron 1/2R | Noah PB | Jimi 4S |

There are many students who have qualified for rewards but we are unable to give these rewards unless the students continue to deposit via school banking. Please check bank books for reward notification, as there are lots of great prizes waiting for owners.

Student of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have received a student award at their assembly.

| | | | |
|------|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6G | Bayden | 6O | Ella |
| 5/6M | Austin | 4G | Simone |
| 4M | Tresna & Ty | 2M | Jack & Lena |
| 1O | Fynn | PO | Frazer |
| PR | Chad & Matilda | PW | Toby |

Diary Dates

REMINDERS:

1. Please phone our hotline on 5568 6388 for ALL up to date information on excursions, interschool sport draws, athletics and cancellations due to weather.

| Date | Year Level | Activity |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 27 – 31 July | Yr 6 | Canberra and Day Camps |
| Tuesday 4 August | PG & PS | Currumbin Farm Visit |
| Wednesday 5 August | PB & PR | Currumbin Farm Visit |
| Friday 7 August | PW & PM | Currumbin Farm Visit |
| Friday 7 August | Yrs 5 & 6 | Summer Interschool Sports Muster |
| Monday 10 August | Yr 1 | Raw Art |
| Tuesday 11 August | PO | Currumbin Farm Visit |
| Tuesday 11 August | Various | ICAS Maths Exam |
| Friday 14 August | Yrs 5 & 6 | Summer Interschool Sports Trials |
| Tuesday 25 August | All | School Photos |
| Wednesday 26 August | All | School Photos |
| Thursday 27 August | Yr 3 | Raw Art |
| Friday 28 August | All | Gold Coast Show Holiday |

Snack Shack Roster

| Date | Names |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 27 July | Tasmyn |
| Tuesday 28 July | Cheryl |
| Wednesday 29 July | Carolyn, Greta |
| Thursday 30 July | Marnee, Carolyn |
| Friday 31 July | Maureen, Keryn |

Katrina and Michelle, Tuckshop Convenors

Library news

Thank you to the Spencer family for their kind donation of books to the library.

School Chaplain news

A very special thank you once again goes to the Varsity Lakes Community Centre Knitting group for helping our school community keep warm this winter. Their wonderful donation of woollen winter clothes is available to anyone in the school community who would like something extra to help stay warm. As was the case last year a number of senior students heading to Canberra have a new beanie or hand warmers to take on their trip.

If you would like a beanie, scarf or jumper please visit myself at the school.

Josh Hinds
School Chaplain



Support Nepal

The April 2015 Nepal earthquake killed more than 9,000 people and injured more than 23,000, with a magnitude of 7.8M, its epicentre was east of the district of Lamjung, and its hypocenter was at a depth of approximately 15 km . It was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since 1934.

Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless with entire villages flattened, Centuries-old buildings were destroyed, and hundreds of schools were destroyed.

This Friday the 24th July, we are having a “day of colour” to raise funds and awareness for schools in Nepal. Our school students have the opportunity to support this endeavour by

wearing different colours to school and bringing a gold coin donation.

You may also choose to purchase a raffle ticket from the student leaders before school in the undercover area besides the tuckshop. First prize is a surf board from a professional surfer and there are some other great runner up prizes.

Mr O'toole



Community Notices

My Athletics – Afterschool Athletics Club

Mondays 3:30pm – 4:30pm, Prep to year 4 at Multi-purpose Centre. 9 week program commences 20 July. Free trial for new members. Includes running, jumping and throwing skills and fitness!. Phone Helen on 0434 061 634.

Visit Our Website

We encourage our parents, carers and family members to visit our website, to see ongoing class activities. New activities on our website are:

Sheryll Eades, Website Coordinator