We still have lots to squeeze in this year. Our last Newsletter for the year will be next week.

So I have today and next week to both warn and to celebrate.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a section on “Four Common Computer Myths”. Read my feedback to parents and see what you think. I am not trying to offend anybody but we all should test our beliefs from time to time.

Also in this newsletter you will see a list of SOME of the highlights for our school year. Of course, many of the highlights are the learning achievements of so many individual students. As I read and signed the end-of-year reports, I was delighted at the standard of achievement evident in all classes. Some of the reading achievements in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 are truly outstanding and a credit to the students, their parents and our amazing team of teachers.

I look forward to our Year 6 graduation events this week – assembly on Thursday morning and the dinner-dance on Thursday night.

On Friday morning we will have our Annual Presentation Ceremony where the achievements of so many students will be celebrated by the presentation of over 100 separate awards.

It is clear that we deliver excellence at its best across academic, sporting and social aspects of learning and participation at this school.

I also want to celebrate the contribution of volunteers to our school. So many parents pitch in around canteen, in class, in the gardens, in the library. If you’re one of our precious volunteers, come along to our Thank You morning tea at 11am this Friday (straight after the Annual Presentation Ceremony).

Four common computer MYTHS!

1. Parents buy their child a computer or iPad/Tablet for “educational reasons”.

The reality is most parents buy their child a computer because their children badger them to do so, through insincere promises that “it will be good for my school work, research projects and so on”. Parents often feel morally obliged to do so, especially when their children point out that “everyone in their class” already has a computer or a smart phone. Alternatively, sales people use “educational value” as a selling point.

The other truth is that most children use computers at home every morning and night and they hardly ever do anything but play games. How do I know? I ask them and they tell me directly.

2. The games my children play are “educational”

A lot of educational material can be packaged up in a computer game BUT the reality is that most children are spending their screen time in front of a computer game of limited educational value. Many are spending time in front of inappropriate M and MA rated games.

Continued on next page
3. Parents supervise what their children do on computers and so their children are safe.

The truth is parents don’t supervise what their children and teenagers are doing on the computers. They say they “trust them”. There are girls and boys at this school who are illegal users of social media. Many are signed up to Facebook (must be 13) and a number are purposely using software and sites that can be hidden from parent supervision. There are boys and girls at this school who are cyber bullies or victims of cyberbullying. There are boys and girls at this school who are communicating with strangers and even being asked to supply photos. How do I know? They tell us through anonymous surveys. Or we find out from shocked parents.

4. Computers are a necessary and valuable part of a child’s life.

The reality is that too much “screen time” of any kind, TV, Video, iPad/tablet, computer is really bad for your child. The British Medical Journal recently published an article that recommends NO “screen time” for children under 2 years and very little for children under 5 years and less than 1 hour per day for older children. Too much screen time is associated with brain dysfunction, developmental delay and metabolic disease – diabetes and obesity. Too much screen time narrows life experience and may reduce life expectancy.


Some of the co-curricular highlights of our school year…..

Swimming Carnival, the February Storm event, Meet the Teacher, Sydney Swans visit, Harmony Day celebration Easter Hat Parade, Sea Week, Education Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations, Year 3 Arrawarra excursion, Kinder families BBQ/dance, Woolgoolga Excursion Stage 1, Dance Spectacular at CEX, National Literacy & Numeracy testing. Book Fair, Book Character Parade, the Great Crunch Off, a new Frog Pond, The Toads Show, the Winter Carnival, the trial of ABC Reading Eggs, National Simultaneous Reading “The Wrong Book” Makakuhan Indonesian Music performance, Mr K retires, Mrs Hearn begins, Athletics Carnival, our students visit Preschools, our Preschools visit us, Peer Support, Drama Festival, Softball/T-ball Carnival, Footy development workshops, tennis lessons, establishment of an additional support program, Jacana performance, netball workshops, the NSW Primary Concert Band visit, Diamond status in Premier’s Sporting Challenge, Interschool debating, Year 6-7 Transition to High School events, Premier’s Spelling Bee, the Bike Safety Day and Wheelathon, Surf Safety visit, Major overnight excursions in Years 4, 5 and 6, the Green Machine, National Simultaneous Song, Titans visit, Intensive Swimming program

The gold coin donations on our Mufti Day raised $370. Thank you very much.

Online Parent Payment Facility Available on our Website from next year.

From Monday 3rd February next year it will be possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can then be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card only. We will not have a Direct Deposit facility at this point.

The payment page will be accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting “$ Make a Payment”.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions (Resource Pack), excursions (including sport), sales to students (uniforms) and creative and practical arts activities. There will also be a category called ‘Other’ this to cover items not covered in the previous headings. ‘Other’ can be used to make a complete payment of any school invoice we might send you.

We will provide you with more information at the beginning of next year.

Regards

Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal
SPECIAL AWARDS - congratulations to the following students on attaining their award.

Emerald  
Tony Mezher, Lila Farley, Nicholas Britley, Madison Miller, Lachlan Potts

Ruby  
Navrin Connor, Levi Woods, Chloe Featherstone

Jade  
Michaela Brauman, Macy Gardner, Sam Hart, Matthew Milne, Vai Gravino, Shawn Weston-Freeman

Topaz  
Lily Robson, Kayne Woodbury

Opal  
Sienna Reeves, Melody Edwards

P&C NEWS - For any parents wishing to buy some uniforms prior to the year finishing up I will be at the school on Friday for Presentation Day & will be more than happy to help you afterwards. Just to give you a heads up our school hats will go up by $2 next year to $15 and our jackets will go up $5 to $35. I will however sell all existing jackets at $30 until I put in another order. Unfortunately the manufacturing costs in Sydney have gone up which in turns means we need to bump our prices up. Good news is our local supplier Slick Sportswear is continuing to give us great support and our t-shirts will remain at $20.

At the last meeting the P&C presented two sets of soccer shirts to the school that was requested after we discovered we needed to stand out as a school when attending sporting activities not just soccer. I will try within the next week to get a photo up on the website for you all to look at.

Attached to this newsletter you will find a Canteen Survey. The P&C would love you to take a look, fill it in and return it to either the class teacher or office by close of school next week. These are anonymous & we want you to be as frank as you need to be. It’s really important that we have everyone’s feedback so we can go forward & make changes where needed. Our canteen runs pretty tightly financially every year. We understand that our target audience are 5-12 year olds and try to structure our food & costs accordingly. However, we run like a small business where a wage/tax/super/worker’s compo and suppliers all need to be paid so please your opinion is invaluable. Please feel free to continue onto the back of the page if there’s not enough room between questions. The P&C will be looking at these surveys over the holidays with the view to implement some changes next year.

We may have found ourselves a treasurer for 2014 but are still looking for a secretary.

We are excited about 2014 with some great fundraising ideas, but especially about the implementation of our Class Parent Skippers (keeping with that Marine theme). The communication between teachers and parents and vice versa, P&C and parents and the school and parents is vital and we feel this will be a great asset, along with our great website and Facebook page. So please think about putting your hand up for your child’s class for next year. For further information please call me.

As always please feel free to contact me with any worries, problems or praise any time. Thank you all for the support through the year, it is always appreciated.

Safe holiday and I look forward to seeing smiling faces in 2014.

Diane Della P&C President.

0418 230 454/66 56 0757/ddella6@bigpond.com and the hard working P&C team.

NEWS FROM THE SNACK SHACK—This is our last newsletter for the year & I would like to thank all volunteers for without your help my job would be so much harder, my personal thanks & number one helper Tracy Bellette, Tracy does so much work behind the scenes as well as working every Monday, she’s always there to lend a hand sometimes doing some very boring tasks and never a complaint. Number two helper Diane Della always drops in for the big meal deal and Red Days plus again does a lot of work behind the scenes. Third thank you to our treasurer Karen Black who is leaving us and will be replaced by Katrina Serdiuk, a big fourth thanks to Melissa Meale who is brilliant at cooking hundreds of piklets, she comes in every Wednesday (also helps in the classroom) again never complains. Fifthly to my lovely Nans, Janet, Cheryl & Irene - such a wealth of knowledge these three always amaze me always turn up and straight into it, it’s a joy to have them on board and last but not least my dads Pete and Rob, they are both amazing go to the classrooms firstly then straight back up to help in the canteen. Again I can’t thank you enough, all of you are great I hope to see you all again next year. To all our “drop ins” and Red Day helpers thank you also.

My final thank you—recently our oven broke, Diane organised a new one and one of our dads Wayne Gardner had it up & running for us that afternoon, he refused to charge us also, thank you, thank you, thank you for being so kind and efficient.

Now I could go on but if I have forgotten to mention anyone please forgive me. The canteen will be open until the last day of school—Wednesday 18th December.

Don’t forget our Meal Deal will be held this Thursday (and yes, sauce will be given with the Sausage Roll!), all order bags to be in by tomorrow, Wednesday 11th December.

Happy holidays to everyone I look forward to seeing you all when we return in 2014.

Jody Phillis—Canteen Supervisor

PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS - URGENTLY

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