Dear parents, carers and friends of our school,

Sometimes schools do a huge amount of work to improve results by just 2 or 3 percentage points. We do this because we know that we need to keep moving and improving. Then we see students who take 10 per cent or more of the school year off!

If a child takes 20 days off each year between Kinder and year 6, then they will have missed 9 months of schooling by the end of primary school – you could expect them to be a year behind. Get a year behind and it's a tough gig to catch up, academically or socially. They will likely be disadvantaged in entering the workforce and in the options they have in life.

As I’ve been reading reports I have noticed that a lot of students have had 8, 9 or 10 days off just this semester. Over a full year that’s 16, 18 or 20 days off in a year! I know as an employer, if my teachers were taking that sort of time off without a medical certificate, I’d be pretty concerned and I would let them know of my concerns.

Good school attendance is associated with good school performance which is associated with employability and better life choices.

School attendance is a legal requirement and not a parent decision. Our society values education so much that we have a law that children must attend school everyday that the school is open. There’s a good reason for that. Educated nations are wealthy nations – that wealth translates into money wealth and wellbeing wealth. Australia is one of the wealthiest nations and one of the nations with the best standard of living, probably because we value education so much.

A father challenged me recently when I asked him why he was taking his child out of the school after the Book Character Parade. He seemed to think that I was somehow being unreasonable in expecting his child to stay in school and not go home early. Dad had turned up for the parade and thought an early mark would be O.K., no questions asked. No. Not O.K. And there’s the child watching her dad letting the principal know that school is not that important.

Parents do have an obligation to send their children to school. It’s not a choice or an option only if convenient. It’s an obligation to their own child and also to society. It’s an obligation that helps us deliver excellence and high standards for your child and every child in the school.

If your child is having more than a few days off each year, look again and please do better.

Whew! Plenty still on over the next week of school. I look forward to the Annual Presentation Ceremony this coming Thursday where we can celebrate the achievements of so many students.

The children’s last school day for 2014 is next Wednesday 17th December, so I will hold off my Xmas wishes till then.

Regards

Ray Rincheval
Principal
SPECIAL AWARDS

JADE        Levi Campbell
TOPAZ       Zachary Welch
OPAL        Becky Cummings, Kayne Woodbury, Noah Woods
DIAMOND     Mia Newman-Gillespie, Sione Connor, Ty David

A CAMERA WAS FOUND AT BOOK CHARACTER PARADE LAST WEEK. IF IT BELONGS TO YOU PLEASE CONTACT MRS. AIRLIE WHO WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST.

The highly entertaining Infant’s Musical Performance “The Penguins’ Christmas Journey” will take place:-

TONIGHT—Tuesday 9th December at 6.30pm
and on Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm

BOTH OF THESE PERFORMANCES ARE FULLY SOLD OUT AND THERE IS NO STANDING ROOM.