Dear parents, carers and friends of our school,

Last week we sent home surveys to parents for feedback on the progress of our school over the last few years and ideas for school development for the next few years. NONE back yet!!

We would really appreciate YOUR feedback. Remember, if you don’t create your own future, you will get the future someone else designs!

One of the planned areas listed for development in 2011 for our 2012-2014 School Plan was to have a more inviting “front of school”. We had already seen success in this area with the removal of the broken bitumen surface & replacement with a new concrete area. On the weekend the surrounding gardens got a revamp courtesy of some families that generously gave of their time to improve the appearance of our school. On top of that I was surprised & delighted at the Snack Shack makeover masterminded and executed by Charmaine Hall (mother of Ziggy & Arley). It looks fantastic and sets us up beautifully with a first instalment of a marine themed school. (Check out our website & Facebook for pictures).

Thanks to all of the families who contributed to the School Gardens Working Bee. Your efforts were a great example to your children and worth $$$ of labour that we would otherwise have had to spend to get our gardens done so beautifully.

As I visit classes I am increasingly impressed with the evidence of differentiation of teaching and learning. It is now a rare thing to see a classroom where everybody is doing the same thing, the same way and the same time.

More often I see small groups, inquiry and problem solving of real world issues, students taking charge of their own learning pathways, students demonstrating their learning to others, students using different types of technology for finding information, for organising and explaining information and for sharing their understanding.

I see the skills and talents of some students being developed individually. I see support staff working with children who require individual attention and I see students engaged in enrichment and extension activities across grades.

When I talk to students it is pleasing to hear more of them being able to explain why they are learning as well as what they are learning about. Our students are far more aware of the ways they are learning about learning than in my generation and so I think that their learning (knowledge, skills, values and understandings) has much more relevance today and sets them up to be effective learners for life, not just for the next test.

While the outside of our classrooms are beautiful, I know that what is happening in them is even more beautiful. Our classrooms look amazing and the work done in them by the teachers and the children is even better! (But do check out the seedlings planted in our vegie garden for a winter crop too!)

I take this opportunity to thank our staff (teaching and non-teaching) for their work with your children this term. I am sure that if you see them at the Cross Country Carnival on Wednesday or the Easter Hat Parade on Friday, that you too, will thank them for helping you to grow the future.

Have a safe and restful and much needed Autumn holiday in preparation for a short but very intense nine week Term 2.

P.S. After the holidays we will only have 9 school days before our fete!

Cheers!
Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal
Did You Know?
There are grass ticks everywhere at the moment. Please check your child for these tiny, itchy critters.

Did You Know?
We are a KidsMatter school. We work for the good mental health of our children, e.g. Interrelate have been providing positive relationship lessons in Stage 3 and the students are loving it.

Did You Know?
Each of our classes are working on Garden Art sculptures in the lead up to our School Fete on the 9th May. Are you helping out at the fete???

Did You Know?
We are already looking to plan our school’s priorities for the next few years to 2017+. Please complete the survey that was sent home last week. It’s also available on the school website in the Newsletter section.

Did You Know?
We have a major refurbishment of the lower level of our Resource Centre (old library) happening next term. This will result in a brand new, extra large, classroom space. The builders will have to take over a fenced off section of our top quadrangle as their work site. Work is due to start on the 12th May for 6 weeks.

The SNACK SHACK will be having a RED DAY this coming Friday 11th April.

We will be selling “Easter Treats” at recess and lunch time with lollies and Cola Slushies being sold at lunntime only.

We will also have tea, coffee, slices and cakes for the parents to enjoy while they’re watching the Easter Hat Parade.

We will be having a Sausage Sizzle tomorrow at the Cross Country Carnival. They will cost $2.00 for a sausage on a piece of bread with sauce. Tea, coffee, cakes and slices will also be available.

Jody Phillis  Canteen Supervisor

Don’t forget our CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL will be held tomorrow (weather permitting), all students should wear their house colours and suitable footwear.

The program— 12.45  12 Years  1.00   11 Years  
1.15  5 Years  1.30   6 Years  
1.45  7 Years  2.00   8 Years  
2.15  9 Years  2.30   10 Years

All parents and friends of the school are welcome to join us.

CURRYFEST will be held on Saturday 26th April along Beach St and the Beach Reserve from 9.30am - 4.30pm. Entry is $3 adults or $5 for a couple or an entire family.

There will be a special kids zone with jumping castle, petting zoo, “chair-o-planes” ride, tea cup ride plus other attractions for them to enjoy.

We will have lots of food stalls including, pizza, Mexican, pancake & Indian plus ice cream vans & lolly stalls & coffee.

We also have a great raffle—tickets can be purchased at the Woolgoolga Newsagency, Om Namah Grocery store in Coffs or phone Pam on 66 54 7700.

Check out the details on www.curryfest.com.au.

EASTER HAT PARADE will be held on Friday 11th April. You are invited to visit your child’s class on this day to help make a hat. There will be a supply of glue, tape and some odds and ends. You will need to bring in any special needs. It’s a good idea to have a basic shape then just add to it at school. If you are unable to come and help your child please send some hat making gear in a plastic bag. Hat making will happen from 10.30—11.15am, followed by recess then the parade in our COLA which will commence from 11.45am. At the conclusion we will draw our Raffle. Please make sure you’ve returned your tickets sold or unsold by Friday morning so they can be included in the draw. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special day.

To celebrate the event there will be a raffle with entries from the schools on display and a number of prizes to be won. There will also be a bouncy castle, pony ride and a tea cup ride. Entry is $5 per person and children under the age of 4 are free. There will be a variety of stalls on the day including food and beverages, living stones, plants and flowers. We would like to thank the local businesses who have donated the above items and activities.

P&C News please make sure you go onto the Facebook page with liking it and check the website regularly for updates throughout the holidays.

Diane Della P&C President