Dear parents, family and friends of our school,

This week our teachers are completing their mid-year reports to parents/caregivers. The reports will be issued next week.

Consistent with departmental policy, our reports use a 5 point scale around academic performance.

Our teachers judge your child’s performance against the syllabus standards. They don’t report your child’s performance against that of other students in the class.

If your child’s report indicates SOUND for achievement in any key learning area (KLA), then you can be assured that the teacher has assessed your child as meeting the expected level of performance for a student at their grade, at the mid-year point.

The vast majority of students in this school will achieve SOUND. Some students will achieve at a HIGH level, some will achieve at a BASIC level. Very few students across the whole school will be assessed as performing at the OUTSTANDING or LIMITED levels of achievement. This is because the syllabus expectations are already pretty demanding – our Australian standards are internationally competitive (despite what you may read in the media from time to time).

Achieving at OUTSTANDING means that a child is performing above/ahead of the Stage level.

LIMITED achievement means that the child needs individual support because they are well below the expected standard, possibly because of a disability or learning disorder.

So, to reiterate, SOUND means solid achievement of syllabus outcomes as expected. Therefore, seeing SOUND on your child’s report should be reassuring.

If you see SOUND around your child’s Effort, then again, be reassured that the teacher is observing the effort expected from your child.

Our reports also indicate student absences for the semester, calculated up until this coming Friday.

Did you know that your child’s attendance needs to exceed 94% to meet the average NSW attendance rate?

Therefore, if your child has had less than 6 days off this semester (< 12 days per year), they are attending as expected. If your child has had more than 6 days off, they are attending less than most students in NSW schools.

If your child has had more than 15 days (below 85%) off this semester, they are not attending satisfactorily.

Hopefully, the only thing keeping your child away from school is genuine illness and any leave approved in advance by the principal.

Our school reports also show how well your child is participating in a range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and how well they are applying themselves to learning. We also comment on learning and social skills and attitudes too!

By now most, if not all, parents and carers have taken up the opportunity to have an interview with their child’s teacher. As you know, at this school we offer parent-teacher interviews on a negotiated basis anytime during terms 1 or 2.

I am finding that the vast majority of reports are a delight to read. I hope that is your experience too!

Regards    Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal
Congratulations to Jack Dudgeon who also competed at the Mid North Coast Zone Cross Country, last Friday week ago. Jack ran very well and did a personal best. Well done Jack.

We would also like to congratulate Will Gromadski who came 2nd in North Coast Cross Country last Friday and will now progress to contest the State titles.

Well done Will and the other four students (Zavia King, Katie Hodgson, Dayne Peel and Levi Woods) who represented Mid North Coast Zone on their effort at the Regional carnival.

**MAJOR EXCURSIONS**

_Year 5 & 6 students._

Parents please don’t forget you are most welcome to start paying off the amount you owe. You can pay directly to the school (cash or cheque only) or online using the Payment on Line facility.

**TRISTAN BANCKS VISIT**—last week our school was lucky enough to have author, Tristan Bancks visit. Not only is he a children’s author, but also an actor, director, TV researcher and screen writer. He kept Years 1-6 captivated with his retelling of stories from his books. Tristan inspires children to write great stories based on their own real life experiences and to add some exaggeration to make the stories humorous. His “My Life” series of books has some very funny and at times gross stories (in the same vein as Paul Jennings) that the students loved to hear about. Currently his book titled “Two Wolves” is on the Children’s Book Council Short List for 2015. We have several copies of his books in our library which I’m sure will be in great demand.

Edwina Reynolds—Teacher/Librarian

**OTITIS AWARENESS DAY 2015**

Will be held on Thursday 18th June at Park Beach Plaza from 10.00am—5.00pm.

Children can have a free ear health check and no appointment is necessary.

**NEWS FROM THE SNACK SHACK**

Thanks to all our volunteers who have been in to help—Pete, Karen, Emily, Cheryl, Katrina and Phil. Our Meal Deal is on tomorrow, all orders were due in today—no late orders will be accepted and no lunch orders are taken on this day. If your child forgets and they bring in an order they will be supplied with a piece of fruit and a vege-mite sandwich. Due to the amount of orders and only the use of two ovens I am sorry but we cannot fulfil any extra orders on this day. Thank you for your co-operation.

Jody Phillis — Canteen Supervisor

**GOOD LUCK**

Good luck to our Year 4 students on their overnight excursion to the ‘rainforest in winter’ (Cascades Environmental Education Centre, near Dorrigo), later this week.

Good luck to students in Years 3,5 & 6 who will be participating in the northern beaches schools Winter Carnival this Friday.