Dear parents, carers and friends of our school,

**Good news!**

Our District swimming team performed beautifully at the carnival yesterday. The looked good as a team and there were some personal bests in the mix. **Samuel Moriz** won the Age Champion for his division. Congratulations to the girls and boys (see photos on our website and Facebook). Many thanks to the teachers and parents who helped organise and support our students as they represented our school with pride.

We convened a good sized P&C meeting last night with lots of energy, goodwill and ideas. The deferred AGM was held and I am pleased to advise that the following parents were elected to P&C leadership positions in 2016:

- **Nichole Bell** (president), **Casey Saban** (vice president), **Louise Peacock** (vice president), **Anita Jones** (secretary) and **Katrina Serduik** (treasurer).

Congratulations to these office holders and the other parents who turned up as parent representatives. I am sure that you will have a great year helping us to be the best that we can be! Our next P&C meeting is planned for **Monday 4th April**. See you there.

The P&C are running a **Trivia Night** on Saturday night the **12th March** (only 3 weeks away). Claim the date, organise your tables for a fun night out!

Cheers!

Our school now has **EFTPoS** installed so that you can make electronic payments across the counter for things like school fees and excursions. **Congratulations** to Karen Black the first successful user this morning!

Today we have **Dr Kirsti Abbott** from University of New England and **Mr John McQueen** from Cascades Environmental Education Centre, who are working with our Stage 3 (Years 5&6) students on a Fireant environmental science project. Thank you Kirsti and John for helping us inspire our budding environmental scientists at Sandy Beach Public School.

**We are all here to LEARN to UNDERSTAND our world, ourselves and others, to accept challenges, to create and to be the best that we can be.**

**Regards, Ray Rincheval, Proud Principal**
Did You Know?
The P&C are running a **Trivia Night** on Saturday night the **12th March** (only 3 weeks away). Claim the date, organise your tables for a fun night out! Cheers!

Did You Know?
**A number of our students play under the trees on north oval.** We have had an inspection of our trees and removed and pruned any trees or branches that were considered dangerous. None of our remaining trees are identified as dangerous. We do a visual check of our trees regularly sometimes branches fall.

> Our trees appear safe and our students just love playing cubbies amongst the trees near north oval. We currently accept the low risk associated with playing under these trees. Do you agree?

> Do you agree or disagree that our students should be allowed to play under the trees? We’d love to hear your opinion at our next P&C meeting.

Did You Know?
For health and safety reasons including allergen management, we actively **discourage students from sharing food and drink**. Can you support us by reinforcing our message with your children? Thanks.

**World Read Aloud Day – Feb 24th**
Sandy Beach Public School will be participating in World Read Aloud Day and hope that you can also find some time on Wednesday to read with your children.

“World Read Aloud Day motivates children, teens, and adults worldwide to celebrate the power of words and creates a community of readers taking action to show the world that the right to literacy belongs to all people. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries thanks to people like you who participate and spread the word across the globe!” (http://www.litworld.org/wrad) “Reading aloud to children every day puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read alouds regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background.” (Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research)

“Super Ant Day”
All stage 3 classes at Sandy Beach have registered in a program called “The Investigate: fire ants science and technology competition’. This program is an initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and it’s aim is to stimulate an interest in science, technology and agriculture in young people and to promote the teaching of these subject areas in schools.

As part of the involvement in this competition, Stage 3 students have today participated in a “Super Ant Day”. We were extremely lucky to have visiting experts, Dr Kirsti Abbott from the University of New England’s “School of Ants”, and John McQueen from Cascade Environmental Centre on site to lead us in some fantastic “ant” inspired activities.

Dr Kirsti Abbott led a collecting, identification and microscope activity, where students started learning about the species of ants in the school grounds. We collected ants by hand and also using food baits - frankfurts, scotch finger biscuits and sugar water soaked into a cotton wool ball - and marvelled at the diversity of colours, armour, spines and stings of ants in our school.

Mr McQueen led an interactive activity where students worked with iPads to “animate” various living things found in our Sandy Beach playground ecosystem.

Mrs Carpenter ran a fabulous “ant research” activity where students learnt all about the various species of ants found in Australia, while Mr Murgatroyd led an inspired art activity.

A fabulous day was had by all students and we are now really inspired to share our knowledge of all things “ant” to the wider community. Stay tuned for further details “antics” as the Term progresses.

Kylie Reedy (organising teacher)
News from The Snack Shack
Welcome back and congratulations to our new P & C President Nikki & Vice President Casey, I look forward to working with these lovely ladies.

Thanks also to our volunteers Celia, Pete, Janet, Cheryl and our newest recruit Tracy. (Canteen needs you guys as do I)

Look out for our Meal Deal at the end of the week.

Jody Phillis
Canteen Supervisor

P.S. if you would like to volunteer at canteen please contact Jody at school or drop in and have a chat.

P & C News
Our first P & C meeting was held last night with a fantastic turn out and a number of new faces. Big news with a new committee elected!
Our new committee is:
   President: Nicole McKay
   Vice President: Casey Saban
   Second Vice president: Louise Peacock
   Secretary: Anita Jones (returning)
   Treasure: Katrina Serdiuk

Heads up: School Uniforms – there will be a price rise in our uniforms as we currently are not covering our costs.

Prices will remain fixed until the end of the term.
Watch out for a pre order form for school jackets and shirts. Any orders paid for in full before the end of term will remain at the current price.
Orders will be taken also for our newly introduced tracksuit pants. Again these will only be ordered if paid for in full and if we get a minimum number. More info on the tracksuit pants to come including pictures.

Up Coming events
Trivia Night
Saturday March 12th (time to be confirmed – but probably about 5.30 or 6pm) Held at our school hall. This is a fabulous opportunity to come and meet other parents and a very fun filled social night.
Start to get your table organised NOW. Tables of about 8-10 people. Don’t worry if you can’t fill a table, come along solo and we will find a table for you.
Theme your own table for a bit of fun.
BYO food and drinks.
Reminder that this is an adult only event.
Tickets $10 a person (not limited to parents of the school- invite your friends too)
More info message Nik on 0427106490 or n.s.bell@hotmail.com