FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Education Week & Book Week Celebrations

It was great to see so many of our families joining with us for our Education Week activities yesterday. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our Book Parade in the morning. We were fortunate with the weather and both the students and staff looked fabulous as they dressed up in their costumes. Thank you to all the parents and students who visited the hall and bought books from the Scholastic Book Fair. Nearly $7,000 worth of books were purchased and $1,400 was raised for the school. A big thank you to Ms Grant, Mrs Harvey, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Kitchener, who organised the Book Fair and the Book Parade. Please see page 5 for photos. The Book Parade and Book Fair were followed by morning tea for parents/carers that included special performances by our School Performance Band and School Choir. Our ‘Open Day’ concluded with classroom visits. Thank you to the teachers for their wonderful efforts on the day and for your attendance and ongoing support of your children.

Parent Evening – Topic: ‘Homework’ TOMORROW NIGHT!

As part of our Education Week events, I will be running a repeat of the session on ‘Homework’ that I presented at a parent evening earlier this year. Parents are invited to attend on Thursday 31st July from 7.00 – 8.30pm in the staff room. During the workshop I will be:

- presenting the results of the parent survey in 2013
- looking at the research and the Department’s policy guidelines
- presenting and discussing the use of ‘homework grids’ at our school in 2014
- discussing parent expectations for homework

Parents who are planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the school office on 9639 8518. I am looking forward to discussing these issues about homework with parents at the workshop.

All welcome!

Parent Morning Tea – SPECIAL EVENT!

Topic: Anxiety & Building Resilience in Children

We have a special guest speaker presenting at our next Parent Morning Tea on Friday 8th August at 9.15am in the school hall. I would encourage all parents to attend and particularly any parents who have children suffering from anxiety. All welcome!

Dr Sally Fitzpatrick (PhD, M Clin Psych) is a Clinical Psychologist and researcher whose expertise lies in child anxiety and bullying. Dr Fitzpatrick will present a talk to the parents on ‘Developing Resilience in Primary School Children’. In particular, she will focus on how anxiety can affect children and provide some tips to assist parents manage anxiety in their children.

Maxelle Matthews
FROM THE DEPUTY

Thanks for a Great Day!
The Education Week Open Day and Book Week events get bigger and bigger every year. It was great to see the huge number of parents in attendance and the boundless enthusiasm shown by the kids in dressing up for the parade and displaying their work to their parents. I had many positive comments from parents who noted how these events had a refreshing community feel. It was great to be part of something so special.

A big thank you to the parents who devoted so much energy and time to making the costumes and taking time off work to attend. I would also like to recognise the efforts of our teachers who once again showed how they are an inspirational team of enthusiastic and committed professionals. A great day!

School Photo Organisation – Next Week!
Two days of photos are fast approaching. On Tuesday 5th August the children will be asked to wear their winter uniforms, with a special request to ensure that all children have their school jackets on the day. This is an attempt to have consistency in our photos in a year where we are in transition from the old to the new school uniform. On Wednesday 6th August the students will have their group photos taken. On this day students in extra-curricular and sporting groups will be having their photos taken. Parents and families will then be given an opportunity to purchase these group shots. If your child is in a PSSA sporting team, please send them to school wearing their sports uniform with their school uniform in their bag. Rugby League and Soccer players are asked to bring their jerseys in their bag to wear when needed. Sport and technology leaders as well as the debating team are asked to wear their full school uniform, unless they are in a sporting team, in which case they are requested to wear their sports uniform and then change into their school uniform at lunchtime.

Road Safety
Following our Walk Safely to School program, many families have opted to walk to school, encouraged by the unseasonably warm weather. Parents are reminded though that research has shown that until the age of 8-9 children do not have the maturity or the sensory capability to cross roads safely by themselves. Until that age children should be holding an adult’s hand and should be accompanied by an adult until the age of 10. Pamphlets outlining the reasoning behind these facts are available in the office.

Parent Morning Tea – Friday 8th August 9.15am
On Friday 8th August we will be holding our next Parent Morning Tea. The guest speaker this term will be from Macquarie University and will be talking about child anxiety and bullying. It will also be an opportunity to hear about the school’s current and future programs related to these areas. It is also a chance to come up and have a cuppa and a chat. The information session begins at 9:15 while the morning tea will be served at 10:15am.

Hills Performing Arts Festival – Ticket Information
The tickets for the Hills Performing Arts Festival are going on sale Friday 8th August at 10:00am. This will be a sell-out performance and seats will sell quickly so please refer to the flyer included with this newsletter for the various payment options.

Ian Short

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

Important Parent Reminder
The Principal should be fully informed of any custody matters relating to your children. Please remember that the school cannot prevent access of a non-custodial parent unless we have a copy of the current court order preventing access. Relevant documentation regarding access and custody arrangements should be passed on to the Principal and school office. This will be treated in strict confidence. Please note the following important information from the Department regarding Family Law Court related issues in schools.

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that some families will be subject to family breakdown. In the absence of any notification to the contrary, it will be assumed that both parents retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children and have been involved in making any decisions regarding their children’s education. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving the school.

If any changes occur in your family relationships which have the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and your family, you are required to advise the school immediately. This includes providing copies of any court orders that may be obtained.

Maxelle Matthews
Principal

SCHOOL CAMPS – FINAL PAYMENT

The final payment for the Stage 2 and Stage 3 camp are due by Friday 8th August, 2014. Our numbers have been confirmed for both venues with the school’s payment required by this date as well.

As previously advised, the Stage 3 excursion has been supported by the Federal Government who contribute $20 per student to assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion to the national capital, as part of their ‘Civics and Citizenship’ education.

Judy Jones
School Admin Manager

Parent Session – ‘Homework’
A repeat of the session held earlier in the year during the day, will be presented in the evening for parents who could not attend. Please note that parents are asked not to bring any children to this evening session.

- Thursday 31st July
- 7.00pm - Staffroom
- Presenter – Maxelle Matthews, Principal

Parents are asked to RSVP on 9639 8518
SCHOOL NEWS

PARENTS - YEAR 3 & 4

Preventing Anxiety and Victimisation through Education

Our school has agreed to take part in PAVe, an exciting new research project taking place in NSW and WA primary schools. The purpose of the project is to evaluate two interventions that enhance students’ social and emotional learning and foster the prevention of bullying behaviours (Friendly Schools Plus and Cool Kids: Taking Control). Year 3 and 4 students are asked to participate by completing a confidential survey on four occasions over the next three years. Our school will implement Cool Kids: Taking Control.

A parent and student information letter and consent form for the project has been sent home with students in Years 3 and 4 today. Parents in these grades are asked to discuss this project with their son or daughter and return the completed consent form to their child’s teacher by Friday 8th August.

For parents receiving the newsletter online, further information can also be found at: http://www.centreforemotionalhealth.com.au/pages/PAVe.aspx

IMPORTANT: For the purposes of this important research project, it is imperative that over 80% of parent return the survey sheet. Therefore, the class with the highest number of returned surveys will receive a prize.

PLEASE NOTE: The project manager for this research is Dr Sally Fitzpatrick who is our special guest presenter at the Parent Morning Tea on Friday 8th August at 9.15 am in the new hall (see below).

Maxelle Matthews
Principal

K-2 CARNIVAL - Friday, 15th August

Where: Max Ruddock Reserve
Time: 10am to 2.30pm
Family and friends welcome to attend!
Bring:
- a rug/chair to sit on
- lunch OR order a picnic lunch from the canteen (see separate order form)

Glenda Rooke, Organiser

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

1st prize - $100 gift voucher from ‘Sports on the Run’ (Winston Hills Mall)
2nd & 3rd prize - Sports equipment from ‘Sports on the Run’

Cost - Tickets cost $1.00 each or 3 for $2.00.

Raffle draw - Thursday, 14th August, 2014

Please return raffle tickets and money by Monday 11th August.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Next Week!

TUESDAY 5TH AUGUST – CLASS PHOTOS
- wear full winter school uniform

WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST
- PSSA teams – wear sports uniform with school uniform in their bag
- Groups - wear full winter school uniform
- Siblings - wear full winter school uniform

REMEMBER – Pay on line or return envelope and cash before ‘Photo Day’
P & C NEWS

P & C

P&C Meeting - Tuesday 5 August at 7:30pm

Our P&C is a friendly forum where we discuss issues relating to the school and the work of our sub-committees involved in providing services to the school.

This will be our first meeting for Term 3. Everyone is welcome. If you have anything you would like to discuss at P&C, please email me at vincentlisa@optusnet.com.au or phone me on 0403556654.

Vincent Riordan
President

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours

Open during School term every Thursday morning’s 8.40-9.30am. 1st Thursday night of each month 6.00-7.00pm

New Uniforms

- Raincoats $17, Scarves $10

Roster

17th July: Belinda Schuster, Janine Cameron & Jane Nguyen.

Alterations

For all alterations to school uniforms, please drop your clothes off at Uniform Shop on Thursdays. Finished alterations will be available for pick up the following Thursday. Thanks to Bernice Harker for this service who is also donating 10% of sales back to the school.

Uniform Shop Contact Details

Please email Kellie Bramble at kellie_irish@live.com to place an order or for any enquiries. Email orders can be delivered to your child’s class on Thursdays only.

PARENT MORNING TEA

Special Guest Speaker – Dr Sally Fitzpatrick

Topic - 'Developing Resilience in Primary School Children'

In particular, she will focus on how anxiety can affect children and provide some tips to assist parents manage anxiety in their children.

Friday 8th August

9.15 am in the School Hall

All welcome!

PLEASE NOTE: Parents of Year 3 and 4 students are encouraged to attend as these students are currently being invited to participate in a research project that is taking place in our school.

P&C Fundraising

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

We are busy putting the final touches on a few fundraising events coming up in terms 3 & 4, more details will follow in the next newsletter.

Coming up is the Father’s Day stall, Heather Brae Slice Drive and Bargain Buys Bus Shopping trip.

BAND NEWS

NSW UNI Festival - Sunday 3rd August

- Training band arrival time 8am,
- School band arrival time 10.30am,
- Performance band arrival time 12.15pm.

Please arrive wearing your black pants, black socks, black shoes. Band shirts will be issued on the day. We encourage that you wear a black short sleeve t-shirt so that the band shirt can be worn over the top.

WHPS Education Week

Congratulations to the Performance band who sounded fantastic at the Education Week performance yesterday. Well done!

Fundraiser - AMF Bowling 6th September

Tickets are selling fast for our first fundraiser of 2014, please ensure you jump on line and purchase your tickets asap. Friends and family members of band students most welcome, remember too no bowl no ticket needed!!!

Fees

All invoices were sent via email during the holidays. Remember fees are due in Week 3 of every term! If you haven’t done so already please make payment asap.

Save the Following Dates –

More details to come closer to the event.

Training Band -

- Sunday 12th October-local community event
- Sunday 26th October-festival/competition

School Band -

- Sunday 12th October-local community event
- Sunday 26th October-festival/competition

Performance Band -

- Friday 19th September (after school) - TBC local community event
- Sunday 12th October - local community event

Sue Bryant
Band Committee
BOOK CHARACTER PARADE 2014

SCHOOL TREE DAY

Congratulations to all students who helped to make ‘School Tree Day’ a wonderful success last Friday. The gardens around the multipurpose court now have over 70 new plants which looks fantastic. After planting, many students then added mulch to the gardens to help the plants retain water. A big thank you to Bunnings Warehouse at Seven Hills and North Parramatta who donated over $800 of plants and soil to our school.

David MacSporran
5/6M
The Talented Mermaids

Tree Day

Book Character Parade

Characteratures

Robotics