FROM THE FRONT DESK

Principal's Report

Three weeks down and the students are flying. It’s great to see the effort in all the classes and the quality of the discussions from Kindergarten to Year 6.

We had an excellent Forensic Science experience last Monday where students from years 3 to 6 had to solve the case of the missing boy. The students examined fingerprints, clues from UV lighting, animal tracks, using electronic microscopes and so much more. The hands on experience was great in itself but the collaboration of all the students together to figure out the clues was great to watch. In the end they found the fictional boy and all was well.

We also had Panthers on the Prowl start the term long Healthy Active Lifestyle Program. This program involves a teacher from Panthers and some under 20 players looking at fitness and healthy choices. The first week was great and the students are looking forward to what comes next.

It is wonderful to see what the Kindergartens have accomplished already especially when we hear some other schools Kindergartens only started last Monday. There have been a few tears every now and again but all the students are ploughing through their new learning experiences. The students completed their Best Start assessment last week and in the next few weeks a parent report will go home.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had parents approach students about matters at school. It is never acceptable to approach a student about any issue. Although as adults we feel we are calm, we feel we are not intimidating and we are just wanting a peaceful outcome, students tend to get defensive and can feel that they are being accused of things they feel might not of happened that way. It is important that any issue you or your child may have is resolved by seeing the child’s teacher or the office. If a parent intimidates or threatens another student or approaches another student they can be served an Inclosed Lands Act which means a ban from the school grounds. Think about how you would feel about another parent telling your child how they should act.
Remember to always check your child’s bag. Recently we had a student who had used their bag for an activity on the weekend and forgotten to take out an item that is prohibited in schools. Although this was an innocent mistake, policies have to be followed and mandatory action had to be taken.

If you are ordering your child’s recess or lunch please remember a few things. They don’t need to be next to you if classes have started while you fill out the order. If your child has gone to class and you order their recess or lunch they need to know you have ordered. We have had a lot of orders coming to the office as students are unaware they have an order. Our new Canteen Managers name is Amanda. Also we have had a number of lunches being dropped off late to the office by parents. Please have your child’s lunch organised early, as once they get on the playground it is difficult to find them to get their lunch.

We have noticed in the first few weeks that some students are not using the crossing at Ellsworth Drive and some parents are dropping their students off in the bus zone. Both these practices are dangerous. Also on Wilkes Crescent there are a number of cars picking up and dropping off students in the no stopping zone or even sometimes on the actual crossing. Local police patrols do a roster of schools to make sure parents are doing the right thing. This means that every so often the rangers or police are there looking for people performing dangerous acts.

Richard Ford
Principal

Year 6 Shirts
A note has gone home regarding the Year 6 shirts. Numbers are required by Friday 20th February. Please ensure you return your child’s note with a $15.00 deposit to the school office by Friday 20th August as no orders will be placed after this date. All year 6 students have been sized, if you wish to double check sizes please see Mrs Ali.

Vision Screening
It is important to identify eye problems early before children start school. If your child is 4 years of age or older and not yet in school or in Kindergarten or Year 1, Vision Screening will be held on Tuesday 3rd March. Please get a form from your child’s Teacher.

P&C
The P&C will be holding their first Meeting for the year tomorrow at 9.30am in the Community Room. To become a Member of the P&C there is a $3.00 fee for the year. To be a Voting Member at next months AGM you need to be a Financial Member by the end of tomorrows meeting. In the meeting we will discuss what role the P&C has in the school, the new structure of the State P&C and the Code Of Conduct for volunteers in schools. We will also get an update about what is happening in the school and what is coming up.

Awards
Congratulations to the following students who have earned Principal Awards in the last 2 weeks:
Stage 1:
Tyliarah Ropati Mamea, Karhan Calay, Anika Young, Chelsea Cooper & Ceasar-John Bonnar-Rawhit
Stage 2:
Taylor Hogan & Lama Afu
Stage 3:
Charlie Palmer & Ella Evans
Support:
Jack Mularvey

Jargon Buster
Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters

Avoiding Injuries
Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/ways-to-keep-your-children-back-and-posture-healthy

Maths Questions
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child’s maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/math-monkey-s-quest

Helping Your Child With Homework
How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework

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16th February to 6th March

Meal Deal 1 - $4.50
Egg & Lettuce Sandwich, Juice Popper & Frozen Juice Cup

Meal Deal 2 - $4.50
8 Chicken Fingers, Juice Popper & Zooper Dooper