Hello Everyone,

It is data collection time again, so NAPLAN is underway. At this point in time, we are approximately half way through. The first test – language conventions – was handled in stride, but the second test – writing – threw the year 3/5/7 kids somewhat. Despite lots of practise this demand writing task proved daunting for many. However teachers report most students rallied and managed to get something down. It’s a good time for us to remember that a point in time test like NAPLAN is just a point in time. While the learning and the data is important, it is not the sum total of who we are. We are proud of our kids for giving it their best shot.

The staff have been preparing a breakfast like snack for year 3, 5 and 7 students on the mornings of the tests. We really appreciate the donations of eggs! We have been going through about 8 dozen a morning.

Next week sees another of our annual events. We combine celebrations for Chappy Week and Under 8’s Week into one major event for the early phase (P-3) children. Hope you are keeping the morning of Tuesday 20 May free. The early phase teaching team have nearly 40 different activities planned. We will need that many for the number of kids we are expecting! More information on how you can help is included further into the newsletter. Parent involvement on the day (or grandparent, aunty/uncle etc) is required, as the children are free to move from activity to activity. Teachers are busy running the activities, so all children need to be supervised by an accompanying adult.

-- Mrs Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

What are we in for?

What a great way to start Term 2! Students have immersed themselves in the world of animals. We are currently looking at the lifecycle of animals and plants. It is now that we can introduce our new class pet, the Aqua Dragons. We are currently watching and seeing how the Aqua Dragons move and grow. We haven’t really seen much because they are so small (size of a pin head), but when they do start to grow we will be able to observe and learn more.

We are also learning about Australia and other countries. (……..We are doing some secret stuff too! Can’t talk too much about that yet, but it will be amazing.)
FRIDAY 23 MAY IS P&C DAY.

It’s our chance for our school community to recognise the contribution made by the hardworking volunteers on the P&C. On the behalf of the school community, I would like to congratulate and thank the parents and carers who give up their time to make a difference for the students at our school. The work that you do is absolutely vital for us to have a happy and healthy school.

The P&C is the most significant forum for parents to have input to the school, feeding into and helping to shape the direction of the school. This parent body does have a fundraising function – which directly helps each student in the school.

There are many ways to participate in school life – from home cooking, to running or working within the tuckshop, classroom help or even encouraging friends to buy Cookie Dough. 😊 It’s not all about ‘mum’ either. Dads are needed too – thanks Steven for fixing the wheels on the BBQ, Paul for the 3 dozen eggs, and the as yet un-named Dad who will fix the bolt on the 3rd picnic table!

P&C Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month after school. While is true that another person is needed for the executive, your participation is the most important. What is really needed most are your ideas and input. The next meeting is being 2nd June due to the Queen’s Birthday public holiday. Hope to see you there.

Under 8’s Day – How you can help!!!!
Please remember many hands make light work. How can your family help us to prepare for this fantastic celebration? With less than a week to go until the big day we would be grateful for your assistance in the following ways-

- Setting up.
- Mrs Arnold and Mrs Richards desperately need at least 4 adult helpers from 7am to be able to prepare for the event.
- Collecting natural items for collage - gumnuts, shells, leaves, twigs, flowers and delivering that to the school by Monday 19 May.
- Cutting up materials, stars for wizard wands and fabric items for log hammering.
- Packing away from 10:30-11:00am
- Cooking of scones please let the school know if you could bake some.

Music Stars....
have advised that lessons will not start until 23 May.
While the program will still go ahead for this term, resulting discussions have lead me to commence the search for alternative providers. We have strong interest in our instrumental music program, and these students deserve a more reliable service.

Thankyou for your patience.

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We Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!
Screen time releases 'happy chemicals' in the brain

Spending large amounts of time on tablets, smartphones, laptops and applications like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram can change our brains over time.

Psychologist Jocelyn Brewer works as a counsellor for school kids and has helped depressed children shake their screen addiction.

She says screen time stimulates happy chemicals in the brain and can leave users anxious and distracted.

"It works similar to other addictions in that there is a reward pathway that dopamine sets up. If you're doing any activity that feels really good, you would want to do more of that activity and continue to have that good feeling," she told 7.30.

"I think it comes down to not just the device necessarily, but it's what people are doing with the device. "Similarly to someone with a gambling problem, it might not be the racecourse, but it's what you do at that racecourse."

"The negatives can be the in-built addictive qualities that some of the apps have that get you to want to be in them all the time and make them really hard to put down."

Digital and real-life play 'need to be balanced'

There are now guidelines on how much screen time children as young as two should have.

Education expert Kate Highfield says it is important children balance digital and real-life play.

"It's not about children at two years of age being addicted to the media," she said.

"I'd probably just say they're having a bit too much of it and we need to revert to a balance."

Ms Highfield says while tablets, computers and mobile devices can be useful educational tools, some children are overly relying on digital media.

"Some of the concerns can be with eyesight, fine motor skills and pencil grip... and other skills [such as] posture, as children lean down to look at [tablets]," she said.

"The big issue though is the time it takes away from other play. It can displace other key skills.

"If I'm engaging with digital media, playing games and reading digital books, it might mean that I'm not building with blocks or painting with real paints or running outside and playing."

Ms Highfield says a combination of technology and tradition is the best approach for parents.

"These devices, tablets and mobile technologies have incredible benefits for parents and for children," she said.

"For parents they can give you that five minutes of free time you just need. But for children they can also bring enormous educational benefits."