Hello everyone,

It would be fair enough to assume that as a school, things must be slowing down for the year. Not so! We still have many highlights yet to go! Firstly, as our lead article states, we have the leadership election being prepared for. Students in year 5 who would like to be voted in as school leaders (school or house captains) are to present a persuasive speech to their peers next Wednesday afternoon at 1:40pm. The target audience is obviously other students, but parents are welcome to sit in for moral support. We will be meeting in the parade area.

Plans are also afoot for our Annual Presentation Night, on Wednesday 10 December, with our evening focused on the children, and their achievements. Family and friends are all invited. Our special evening starts at 6:30pm, but as students will need to be organized prior to that time, we ask that they arrive at the Bob Wood Cultural Hall by 6:00pm. Each class has a presentation to give, and this will also be the night where next year’s student leaders are announced.

Each family is requested to bring a plate of finger food that can be shared while waiting for the evening to start. This helps us all, but especially families with younger kids to manage that awkward juggle around work, meal and bedtimes. The evening’s program will be sent home with our final newsletter for the year.

Teachers are strongly focused on pulling assessment and reports together in preparation for their distribution on the Thursday of the last week of school. This is also our Rewards Day. Students who are absent at this time, will have their report cards mailed to their home address.

Then there is the swimming carnival next Friday, …… and the 6/7 graduation dinner …..

-- Mrs Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS?

Year 4/5 have been very busy researching the characteristics of a place so they might present a short speech to the class. This is a combined English and Geography task where students undertake research, compose a report, rehearsal, using visual aids and culminating in the presentation.

Public speaking can be a daunting prospect yet is an important skill to be taught. Children have displayed a conscientious attitude towards the task. They are aware that the skills they’re learning will stand them in good stead when they present their speeches for school leader positions.

Important Dates:
3 Dec – Year 6 Orientation Day to High School
4 Dec – Year 7 Orientation Day to High School
5 Dec – Swimming Carnival
5 Dec – Graduation Dinner for the year 6 and 7
10 Dec – Presentation Night @ 6:30pm
11 Dec – Rewards Day + Report Cards
12 Dec – Final day of term.
RSVPs and payments for the year 6/7 Graduation Dinner are now due. Planning for the dinner is also well underway thanks to the support of several grade 6/7 parents. If you have a few minutes spare around 4pm on the Friday, we would love a hand with the final set up. PS: Don’t forget the special mail delivery to the office.

Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival takes place next Friday 5th December 2014. It is the culmination of 7 weeks of swimming lessons the students have been undertaking this term. The carnival will be divided into a junior (P – 3) and senior (4-7) carnival. Juniors will swim the width of the pool whereas seniors will swim the length of the pool (25m) in a variety of swimming and novelty events. Juniors will compete from 10 – 11:30am then we’ll have a 30min lunch break, where the P&C will be selling sausages on bread and cakes, before the P – 3 classes return to school for the afternoon session. Seniors will compete after lunch from 12 – 2:30pm. The bus will take the first group of students (P-3 and Yr 7 leaders) at 9:30am then return to take the second group of students (4 – 7) to the pool at 10:30am. The bus will return students to school.

We encourage all families to attend and cheer on students as they put their swimming skills to the test and try and win points for their house – Jackson or Donohue. The winners will be announced at the conclusion of senior races. Donohue were the 2013 winners. Let’s see if they can hold onto their title!

Lunch will be catered for – please see attached menu. Pre-ordering is essential.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

VOUCHERS/PRIZES VALUED AT $3000
First prize - $1200
Second prize - $1150
Third Prize - $700

$2.00 per ticket or 3 for $5
(available in school office)

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Mrs Dohl – You are a legend!

Congratulations to our LOTE teacher, Mrs Dohl, was has been successful in winning a small grant to support the resourcing of our Japanese LOTE program.

Our thanks also goes to The Japan Foundation for their support.

Our Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!

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Use Echo Reading to Build Successful Engaged Reading of Books & Texts (Part Two)

by Dr S. Galletly

“The aim of book reading is to enjoy reading the book, and to want to read another one!”

Word reading strategies are used as the child’s primary word reading strategy, supported by the strong meaning supports provided by the continuous flow of meaningful text.

- Word reading development is encouraged, with focus on moving relatively new word reading skills through into reading of meaningful text.
- When the child is becoming relatively skilled with a particular group of words, the adult pauses longer on those words, or waits till the child says the word.
- It is not expected that the child will be able to read word types which are only just being mastered as single words in word games. This is because the cognitive load demands of text reading are much higher than reading single words in supportive games.

Use Echo reading as part of building independent reading skills.

- Encourage children to reread books which have been read, by themselves eg. Bedtime stories. Repeated reading of texts build stronger reading skills.
- As skill and confidence build, entice children to read to themselves books of independent reading live.

Learning to read English words has a very high cognitive load, and beginning readers and children with weaker word reading skills have difficulty reading many of the words in books they’d like to read. They need careful scaffolding (building) to become confident fluent readers. Always keep in mind that the aim of the book reading really is for the child to enjoy reading the book, so much so that they are keen to read books next time. Unfortunately, many children with weak Word Reading skills become reluctant readers, keen to avoid reading books wherever possible. Often this is because too much reading time has been spent focusing on words which they’ve found difficult. This then also becomes time focused fully on the child’s area of low success.

Children learn best when they are both successful (getting words right most of the time) and engaged (motivated, thinking actively, and enjoying what they are doing). They learn least well when they are unsuccessful (lots of words not able to be read correctly), and become increasingly disengaged (bored, unmotivated and reluctant), particularly if lots of time is spent talking about the words they are struggling on. We all thrive and work best when encouraged, with time and attention focused on strengths and building them. We learn less and are less motivated when time is focused on weakness. Successful engaged reading is an important aim.

Word reading skills build quickly and effectively using games where children read single words, with lots of successful engaged learning. Real words and pseudowords (like real words) can be used to build word reading skills to an increasingly automatic level. Children then need help to generalize their word reading skills from reading of single words to reading of meaningful texts. Echo reading is a powerful way to move word reading skills into meaningful reading. And reading books is independently a powerful means of improving reading. Children who become confident independent readers win in many ways. Echo reading is a powerful means of building children’s confidence and skill at reading.

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