Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

Congratulations to all of the students who were inducted as School Leaders during Monday’s Assembly. Photographs of our 2013 leaders are on our website.

Good luck to all students competing in our Annual Swimming Carnival this Friday!

Our Breakfast Club continues to operate daily. Students can come to the canteen for a free breakfast of fruit, cereal and/or toast from 8.30am.

Principal’s Awards: Congratulations to Alex and Charlie. Both students received Principal’s Awards at Monday’s Assembly. Please remind your child to send in 5 Merit Awards when they receive them. These awards can be from previous years also. Your child’s class teacher will sign the back of them and arrange for a Principal’s Award to be handed out at the next Assembly.

P&C Meeting: Thank you to all of the parents and caregivers who attended last night’s P&C Meeting. It was great to see some new faces! New members are always welcome. We love to hear new ideas!

On March 6 at 7.00pm in the school staffroom, the P&C will be holding its Annual General Meeting to nominate position holders for 2013. The AGM will be followed by our monthly meeting. If you have any ideas or want to get involved with the school out of working hours, please come along.

Parent Teacher Information Evenings: Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend our Parent Information Evenings in the coming weeks to find out more about 2013 programs, initiatives and events. *Please note that Kindergarten and Stage 2 times have changed. We apologise for any inconvenience. Information evenings will be held on the following days:

- Kindergarten Welcome BBQ and Information Evening: Tuesday, February 19 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm *.
- Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) Information Evening: Tuesday, February 12 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm.
- Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) Information Evening: Thursday, February 21 – 5.30pm – 7.00pm *.
- Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) Information Evening: Thursday, February 14 – 5.30pm-7.30pm.

Tea Towel Fundraiser: Over the coming weeks, students are completing a range of art works to brighten up their classrooms. Another artwork they will be creating is a small portrait of themselves. The pictures will be arranged into the Stage’s commemorative design and will be screen printed in blue onto high quality white tea towels. Kindergarten students will create a tea towel design, Years 1 and 2 students will have their own design, Years 3 and 4 students will have a design and Years 5 and 6 students will have one. We chose this project because it involves the children, produces a wonderful memento and meaningful gift for parents, relatives and special friends.

The tea towels can be ordered by parents, caregivers and friends at a cost of $12.50. Each tea towel sold will raise money for home readers as well as guided readers for each grade. Please complete the enclosed order form by March 22 and return payment to school if you would like to order one of these commemorative tea towels.

I hope that you enjoy reading more about our great school within this newsletter.

Michelle Hulme - Principal
Yellow Emergency Forms: In the case of an emergency we need to have CURRENT contact information including work and mobile phone numbers. Please send back to school ASAP. Only one card required per family.

Walking Notes: These were handed out last week. If you did not receive this note please get one from the office. Please return to class teacher ASAP.


Smart Foods to Boost Learning: Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/smart-foods-to-boost-learning

Swim and Survive Program: Lessons are for beginners through to confident swimmers keen to practise their technique (from infants to 12 years). See the map to find the pools where friendly swim teachers with AUSTSWIM accreditation teach across NSW. Find out more: http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive/about.asp

Schoolkids Bonus: The Schoolkids Bonus can help lighten the financial load. It replaces the old Education Tax Refund and it’s simple: there’s no need to collect receipts or claim it through your tax. Eligible families need to register by 31 December. Find out more: http://www.fahsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/schoolkids-bonus

Swimming Carnival: All permission notes for Friday’s swimming carnival should be returned by tomorrow. Every child in years 3-6 is expected to attend the carnival whether they are participating or not. Children competing in the 100m races need to ensure that they are outside the canteen at 9am ready to depart on the first bus. In the event of inclement weather, only competitors will be attending. This will be announced on local radio stations.

Kinder News

Smooth Start to School: It is very exciting to see all the children settling so well into school and making new friends. They are keen to learn and are having fun in the classroom. It is going to be such a great year.

Fruit Break: Thank you so much to everyone for providing some fruit and or vegetables for our Kindergarten’s ‘Fruit Break’. This happens in each class every day and is so important as it fuels their brain and body for optimal learning.

Change of Going Home Routine: Please let your child’s teacher know if there is a change to the way your child is going home. Please put your child’s name on the appropriate bus list in the KB/KS wet area when your child commences bus travel or goes to MOOSH. It is also very helpful for all of us if you write the number of the child’s bus on their hand or write the word MOOSH.

Best Start Assessment: The Best Start Assessment for all Kinder children will occur over the next two weeks. Your child’s class teacher will individually assess your child’s literacy and numeracy skills over the next two weeks while the rest of the children enjoy activities with another teacher. A separate note regarding Best Start will be sent home today with the newsletter. If you didn’t receive one, please contact your child’s teacher or download it from the school website.

Parent Information Night: The teachers will be conducting an information session on Tuesday, February 19, from 5.00 – 6.30 pm. We will be talking to you about the Best Start Assessment, Kinder expectations and routines, together with ways we teach your child to read and write and how you can help your child develop these skills. Please bring your Kinder child along with you as other teachers will be looking after them. A free special BBQ for parents and children will be held at the conclusion of the information session.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who have been dropping their children off and leaving before bell time so that they can have a play with their friends before school. It makes such a difference to us at this time of year as we all settle into school that much easier.

Cares and Concerns: Please come and talk to your child’s teacher if you ever have any queries.

Stage 1 News

Stage 1 have started the year beautifully, with all classes very settled and children very keen to get into the new year. We had a planning day on Tuesday to consolidate all the exciting programs being implemented. Targeted Early Numeracy (TEN) continues across K-2 this semester and we are introducing a new targeted early reading program also. Teachers have been continuing to gather assessment data in literacy and numeracy to ensure we target children’s individual learning needs for those needing remediation to those needing extension.

Our unit of work this term is Growing and Changing where we will be exploring the growth of a range of living things and examining the cycle, that is the same in all species, of growth, change, reproduction and death. Through hands-on activities and investigations this term, Stage 1 students will compare the growth of living things under different conditions.

With the Woolworths stickers promotion last year we have been able to purchase some brilliant new puzzles, construction and science equipment which will arrive later in the term and we can’t wait!

It is great that so many children are bringing their hats, water bottles and a piece of fruit everyday. We love seeing those
healthy recesses and lunches too! There is just so much junk food out there. Stage 1 Parent Information Night is Tuesday, February 12, 5.30-7pm. Please save the date. We will fill you in on timetables and other general organisation then. There will be a handout if you can’t come but we’d love to see as many of you as possible!

Stage 2 News

The Stage 2 teach are very pleased with the way all the students are settling in to their new classes. They are enjoying learning about each other and are sharing their knowledge of our school values, care, respect, fairness and responsibility.

Thank you very much parents and caregivers for providing your child with all his/her classroom requirements. The students are busy in class making a variety of book covers.

Homework and home reading will commence in Week 4. Please provide your child with a library bag to enable your child to borrow a book from the library to enjoy at home.

Swimming Carnival: We are looking forward to the swimming carnival on Friday, joining in the fun of the novelty events and trying our best in the swimming races. If you can, wear clothes in your house colour.

Parent Information Night: We encourage parents and caregivers to attend the Stage 2 information session on Thursday, February 21 from 5.30 – 7.00 pm, where the teachers will outline class expectations, programs and routines as well as ways you can help your child at home.

Stage 3 News

Welcome to another year, for many their last year in primary school. This year we will be encouraging the children to develop the skills of responsibility, respect, caring and fairness in all areas of school life. Most children have been bringing their school supplies each day, if you are experiencing any difficulties in obtaining any supplies, please contact your child’s teacher.

A Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday February 14 to outline teaching and learning in Stage 3 this year. We encourage all parents to attend.

Children are currently completing covers for their exercise books. We will send them home when we are done and we would like parents to cover them with clear contact to protect the books, then return them to school.

We are studying Australian Identity this term and will be developing our understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultural heritage.

Homework will commence over the next couple of weeks as classes settle into their new routines. Thank you to those parents who have already supplied an A4 exercise book for this purpose. There will be weekly spelling and maths homework as well as a long term project.

Camps: Year 6 will again be heading off to Sydney in Term 4 for their camp. Year 5 will be completing a Leadership Camp at Bournda later this term. More details will follow in the next couple of weeks.

Canteen Update

Lunch order procedures:
- Please try to use correct money where possible
- Please write lunch orders on paper bags (bags available from the canteen 10 for $1.00 or just buy a bag of brown paper bags from Woolworths)
- Please ensure Childs name and class is clearly written on bag

Example

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<tr>
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School Hat and Jacket sales available from the Canteen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 8.30 and 9.15am and 2.30-3pm. Hats are now $15.00 and Jackets are $45.00.

Coming Events:
- Friday Feb 8 Swimming Carnival Years 3-6 @ a Pambula Pool
- Friday Feb 15 MUFTI DAY gold coin donation
- Wed Feb 20 PSSA Cricket Trials – Bega
- Wed Feb 20 Canberra Raiders Visit 12 noon –Jackson Hall
- Friday Feb 22 Zone Swimming @ Candelo Pool
- Wed Mar 6 SRC Disco
- TEN Information Night
- Canteen ‘RED’ day

Community News

Kids Club Uniting Church Merimbula: Due to a lack of leaders and our Pastor retiring Kids Club will not resume until we get a new Pastor. We are sorry to disappoint your children but hopefully the wait won’t be too long. Corinne Nicholson (Uniting Church Council).

Tura Beach Country Club Junior Golfers: Tura is proposing a 6 hole competition to be played at 4.30 on Fridays for children 10 years of age or older. To register your interest ring Tura Pro Shop on 64959068.

Ballet, Jazz and Tap classes with Amber Little and Janita Fernando from Bourn-da-Dance commence next week at Tura Beach. Ages 3 to adult. For all enquiries and enrolments please contact Janita on 0427298432