Principal’s Messages ~ How much is your child reading at home? Reading is the proven key to learning success.

P&C Committee
The P&C Annual General Meeting for 2016, and the first general meeting for the year, was held last Wednesday. Thank-you to those who attended. There were the usual productive and positive discussions, with the P&C keen to continue the excellent support for our school.

Thank-you to our committee and regular members who supported the P&C throughout 2015.

Thank-you to our 2016 executive for accepting their nominations:

President ~ Vacant  Vice-President ~ Glenda George Secretary  ~ Cathy Simpson Treasurer  ~ Vanessa Hart

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 March, when we will have more discussion about major fundraisers and activities for 2016. We are yet to have a President for our group. Please contact us if you are interested.

Student Leaders Investiture
Congratulations to newly-elected student leaders for 2016, Destinee Lythall-Webb and Jacob Donald (School Captains), Chloe Gathercole and Lewis Douglas (School Vice-Captains), and House Captains Carlos Olsen (Beasley), Kelly Lowe (Gibson), and Holly Myers (Thompson).

Our Student Leaders investiture will be held this coming Thursday morning at our weekly assembly. All parents are welcome to attend.

Interhouse Cross Country
Training starts this week for our interhouse cross country event which will be held on the last day of term.

Students wear a t-shirt in their house colours at the interhouse cross country (Thurs 24 March) and on Sports Day, which is held in June.

After School Program
This term’s After School Program commenced this afternoon. Students can still be registered for ‘Modified Games’ if you send along the completed registration form which was sent home last week.

Swimming
This Friday, 19 Feb, students in Year 1, 2/3 and 3/4 will commence their swimming program. A note has been sent home today with these students regarding arrangements.

Excursions
Early in the year, we normally let families know about end-of-year excursions and camps, particularly to do with the tentative estimate of costs. These are listed below.

This year, we will provide the option to pay excursion fees in instalments to help families manage payments. More information, soon.

Anaphylaxis and Food Allergies
Parents, please refer to this information included in this week’s newsletter (over the page) regarding this very important issue.

Bus Committee Meeting this afternoon
A reminder that this meeting (including Annual General Meeting) is being held this afternoon at 4.15 in the library. All parents are welcome to attend particularly if you have any queries about bus routes or arrangements.

Class News
This week, we hear about what’s happening in Year 4/5.

Thank-you, students and teachers.

Head Lice Information

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Weekly Assembly
Assembly this Thursday at 9.00am will largely involve badge presentations to our Student Leaders. All parents are welcome!
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING ANAPHYLAXIS – FOOD ALLERGIES

Research indicates that 1 in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention.

Anaphylaxis is a generalised allergic reaction, which often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and cardiovascular).

Parents advise us of children at our school who suffer from allergic reactions to different foods. In some cases, the level of reaction has been classified as anaphylaxis.

We’ve also been advised of cases, in other schools, where parents discover that their child suffers from a food allergy from an incident at school. The biggest contributor to these incidents is food sharing.

As a school, we’ve sought advice on the most effective way to keep children, (including those who don’t yet know they have an allergy), safe at school. The message has been clear, simple and consistent from different sources.

1. Don’t Share Food Sharing food can expose known and unknown food allergy sufferers to foods they might have a reaction to. Food that their parents have assumed they did not touch – let alone eat. Children, fearing they might “get into trouble”, are sometimes reluctant to inform teachers, parents and/or medical help that they have shared food with the sufferer after the reaction takes place.

2. Wash Hands After Eating Minute particles of food can remain on hands after eating time. Physical contact with a food allergy sufferer is enough to cause a reaction. Washing hands will significantly reduce this risk.

Can’t we just ban all foods that cause a reaction?

No, we can’t. It simply isn’t practical. Eggs and nuts are but two examples of the many foods that can cause allergic reactions.

“Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia” encourage people with young children to minimise the allergen as part of an overall management plan. However they also advise us to:

“Beware of ‘banning’ of food from a school environment. Implementing this may not be realistic. Can we say peanut is ‘banned’ if so much food ‘May contain traces of peanut’? Some schools state they have ‘banned’ egg. Is this real or is it creating a false sense of security? Can we ever really completely remove nuts, or egg or wheat from a school or childcare environment? There is no such thing as ‘allergen free’.

How often do places that have a ban find the allergen has inadvertently ‘slipped’ in?

We certainly promote minimisation of allergens in primary schools and childcare facilities but we must not assume that a food has ever really been eradicated.”

Thus, the advice is not to share food and to wash hands after eating. Please help us by taking the time to discuss and explain these rules with your children. Thank-you for your support in the interests of our students’ well-being.

HISTORY by Zeke

This term in History, we have been discussing secondary settlements and penal colonies in Australia. We have discussed the social, political and economic reasons for settling.

We looked at a map that showed us where free settlers and colonies established in Australia.

SCIENCE by Ryder

This term in Science, we’ve been looking at adaptation for plants and animals in deserts. We’re doing an investigation to see which cloth (representing leaves) dries up the fastest or holds water the longest.

To eliminate variables, and to make it a fair test, everything is the same except for one thing: the surface area of the cloth (leaf). We will soon know which cloth holds water the longest and therefore know how the surface area of the leaf affects...