PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all those parents/carers who returned interview notes. Confirmation notes have been sent to all those parents/carers concerned. If you have not received a confirmation time for your interview please contact the class teacher concerned.

CROSS COUNTRY

The School X-Country will be held on Thursday 3rd April, any parents/carers who would like to come along and support the students are most welcome. The course will be similar to last years and will be totally within the school grounds. Those students who qualify to compete at the Small Schools X-Country will receive a permission note on the day. The Small Schools event is set down for Monday 7th April at Westward Park (netball fields).

PERMISSION NOTES

As we draw nearer to the end of term our calendar is extremely full with a number of sporting and cultural events. It is important that if students are participating in any school based event that permission notes are returned on time not only for organisational purposes but for roll marking procedures as well. As these events involve students in extra curricula activities it is important to remember that behaviour and attendance expectations need to be met.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Thank you to all those students, parents, carers, community members and staff who supported the Cancer Council’s, “Relay for Life”, last Saturday. Special mention must go to the following students Justin Snow, Angela Cooper, Connor O’Brien, Ruby West, Samantha Lennard, Alyssa Chalker, Miah Bell, Ashleigh Bowling, Jesse Ross, Tylah Connor, Elisa Allen, Chloe Mc Cafferty, Jamie Lowe and Jordan Hartmann. Thank you to Miss Watters and Ms Edwards who also gave up part of their weekend to support this very worthwhile community event. Congratulations also to Mandawuy and Miah Bell who did an excellent job presenting “The Welcome to Country” address along with other Aboriginal students from surrounding schools.

GETTING ALONG - KEYS TO SUCCESS

This week all families will receive a laminated “Getting Along Sheet”. Getting Along is on the five Keys to Success in the “You Can Do it” program. The sheet outlines how families can support and encourage students to “Get Along”. It provides examples of what Getting Along behaviour looks like and phrases that parents/carers can use to encourage “Getting Along” Behaviour. Please keep a look out for these sheets and we hope they prove useful. We encourage families to display them in a prominent place and refer to them as often as needed.
otherwise students will not be eligible to participate.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Further to our Water Wise lessons we have undertaken, here are a few more Water Wise tips that we can use in our homes to help conserve and protect our water supply.

• Use native plants species in our gardens as they require less watering.
• Water gardens in the evening to avoid evaporation.
• Use water saving shower heads.
• When purchasing house hold water use devices check the water rating sticker. The more stars to more water efficient it is and hence better for the environment.
• Refrain from putting paints, grease, detergents and solvents into storm water drains.

Still on a conservation note, Earth Hour is coming up on Saturday 29th March at 8:30pm. All families are encouraged to join in with other cities across the world to turn off their lights for one hour. The target this year is to reach more than 1 billion people in 1,000 cities throughout the world. If you like to part of this historic event Turn out lights at 8:30pm Saturday 29 March 2014.

ATTENDANCE AND UNIFORM

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have been ensuring that students arrive at school on time and in their uniform. It has been great to see throughout the term the number of students who are wearing the correct uniform every day of the week. We understand that sometimes there may be issues that prevent this from happening and we would ask that you please notify the teacher concerned with a note or simple phone call to the front office.

The school target in regards to attendance for this year is for all children to achieve a 90% or better attendance rate. To reward students and families who have been working hard to meet this target all students who have been at school for 49 days or more will go into a draw for a chance to win a family movie pass to the Saraton Theatre. Our overall attendance rates have been quite good throughout this term but we still have an issue with partial attendance and lateness. It is important that students are at school on time this gives them opportunities to socialise with their friends before going into class. Morning assembly is an important part of the day as it is where most reminders and information is given to students about up-coming events. The structure of the school day begins with an intensive two hour Literacy session which includes the essential skills of Reading and Writing that all children need to develop, so it is important that your child arrives on time every day to help maximise their learning opportunities.
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We often wonder what the future will hold for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren and beyond, the answer is quite simple we don't know. Some may say that is a blessing, others may disagree. The one thing that we can concern ourselves with is the here and now and what we control and influence as part of our destiny. Albert Ellis says simply – “The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother/father, the ecology, or the leaders of the country. You realise that you control your own destiny”. This is a simple yet strong message and one that we often talk to students about in the sense that they are responsible for their own behaviour. The choices they make are their own.

SCHOOL P&C

The Mother’s Day stall will be held shortly after the holidays. Donations of any items for the Mothers Day stall would be much appreciated. They can be left at the front office.

FINGER BUN DAY

The next finger bun day will be on Monday 31st March. $1.50 for a full bun or $0.80 for a half bun.

WIN 10 IPADS FOR OUR SCHOOL

Coupons will appear in the Daily Examiner from 22 February to 31 March 2014. Collect as many coupons as you can and bring them to school for our chance to win 10 I pads for our school. Look out for days that have double tokens.

SCHOOL BANKING

Only 3 weeks left to go for your chance to win $50 and for our school to win a Commbank Marquee. The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of Term 1 will win the marquee. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their school banking account.

$1 FOR DROUGHT

If you would like to donate just $1 this money will be sent off to the $1 for Drought fundraiser to help our farmers. Donations can be made to the front office.
COMMUNITY NEWS
Grant Collins is performing on Friday 28th March at 7pm at the Clarence Valley Conservatorium, 8 Villiers Street, Grafton. Tickets are $25 for adults and $10 for students. Grant is one of the forerunners in the music industry, leading cutting edge, creative and unconventional drumming. There is a 2 day drum clinic for $20 on Saturday and Sunday 29th & 30th March for children and adults. Registrations are available from the Conservatorium office.

Fundraiser for the Bala Family: Saturday 5th April at South Grafton JJ Lawrence Park. Time: 11am-3.30pm. Sausage sizzle, cold drinks, lolly bags, games, footy, hair spray, face painting, egg & spoon race, etc. In loving memory of Kerrod Maileo Bala.

Royals Hockey Club: Players wanted U/9’s, U/11s for the 2014 season. Royals is a family friendly club with many mums, dads, boys and girls all playing for the club. New players receive a voucher to spend on equipment. All games are played at Fisher Park, Grafton. For more information phone Lisa Young 0422638658 or Paul Arnott 0423024582

LIVE LIFE WELL
A good way to fit activity into the day is to walk or cycle to school with the kids. It’s a great time to catch up and a good opportunity to get the dog out for a walk. You can even take turns with the neighbours.
Getting Along

Definition
People who Get Along work and play together thoughtfully and cooperatively. They are friendly, tell the truth and care about others. People who Get Along want to make their community clean and safe. They are able to fix problems without arguing and fighting.

What People Who Are Getting Along Look Like:
- They share and take turns.
- They ask nicely to work or play with others.
- They listen to others when they talk.
- They ask for help when they need it.
- They do what their parents/carers ask them to do.
- They make an effort to care for others who are upset.
- They help others with their work.
- They include other people in activities that they are doing.
- They use manners and tell the truth.
- They care about the feelings of others.
- They deal with problems in a caring, considerate way.

What To Say To Encourage Getting Along Behaviour:
- You are a good listener.
- You are a helpful person.
- Sharing helps you be a good friend/brother/sister.
- You really work well with others, it must feel good.
- Solving problems without fighting shows you are really getting along.
- You think before you act, that is a wonderful skill.
- I love the way you think about other people’s feelings.

What To Do To Help With Getting Along
BE TOLERANT OF OTHERS – Encourage children to be accepting of people who are “different”. Everyone is different, that is what makes us all special.

THINK FIRST – Discuss with children the possible ways they can react to a situation that upsets them and the consequences of each action so in future they can act in a way that helps everyone.

PLAY BY THE RULES – Encourage the following of important community, school and home rules. They are there to keep everyone safe, healthy and happy.