Pathways to the future

Wednesday 17th February, 2016

Hi Everyone
As usual we have had a very busy start to the year. It was great to see so many ‘old’ and ‘new’ families at the bbq. The weather was great, food delicious and the company very friendly. Thankyou for a very successful start to the year.
Attached to this week’s newsletter is your ballot papers to elect our new members to school council for this year. We are very fortunate to have so many people interested in joining school council.

School Council Elections
Please make a clear mark beside your preferred candidates and place this ballot paper in the small envelope provided. Place this small envelope in the bigger one with your name on it. Please send back to school by 4pm next Wednesday 24th February. Vote counting will take place later that week and the declaration of ballot will be Friday (25th February) afternoon.
I hope this isn’t too confusing – any questions please don’t hesitate to ask.
Have a great fortnight!
Wendy

BBQ
We had a fabulous turn up for our welcome back BBQ. Lots of new families were welcomed into our school community.

We took the opportunity to plant a crepe myrtle and erect a friendship seat around it. This was the result of the bequeath from Mrs Sloane. It has been very popular this week with all the students.
Thankyou to Simone for organising this.

CSEF
The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) helps ensure that no student will miss out on educational activities. If you currently hold a concession card, you may be eligible to receive this funding. If applicable, please complete the form provided in the last newsletter and return to school. Leanne would like all forms returned by the end of February.

Fees/Payments for 2016
Thankyou to those families who have paid their 2016 school fees. Fees are the same as last year and the year before. $185 ($140 for fees and $45 for swimming). These can be paid at any time (preferably on Wednesdays when Leanne is in the office) or straight into the school’s bank account (details above – please include your name). Fees can be paid in a lump sum or we can arrange instalments if you prefer. Please contact the school and discuss.

Playgroup
We will once again offer playgroup for the Springhurst community. We anticipate this taking place once again on a fortnightly basis every Monday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.30 at the school but it is entirely up to the mums to decide when best suits the majority. Playgroup will begin on the 29th February. If you know of any new families to our community, please let them know.
Cluster Day and Cross Country
Attached to this newsletter is a permission form for our first cluster day for the year on Tuesday 1st March at Whorouly Primary School. (Everton hall is being refurbished) The performance is called ‘You Can Do It Too’ – and covers the areas of self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline, self-determination, and encourages the development of motor skills.
Also on this day, we are taking the opportunity to complete our cross country run. As in previous years, the children will run the course applicable to their age. You are most welcome to come and watch.
The cost for the performance and bus is included in the school fees. Please return your permission form asap.

Junior Room
Thankyou to those parents who are able to assist in hearing junior students read. We really appreciate your support. Each Monday we would like parents to help their child change their readers before school so that it doesn’t interfere with their learning time.
Foundation students are currently learning/consolidating the letter/sounds ‘t’ and ‘b’ this week. Sometimes we make edible letters that are stuck on with icing sugar. No glue is used and so they are able to eat them! Foundation students will now have a list of high-frequency words in their reader-covers to learn to read.
By now all students will have taken home their ‘Reading Eggs’ login details so that they can access activities at home as well as school. Within the next two weeks we will also be sending home personal spelling words again for students to learn.
Our focus in writing is learning to write a recount. We will be having Show and Tell on Mondays and Thursdays so that students can either bring something to show or talk about. Speaking confidently in front of their peers is an important skill that we would like to encourage.
In Number we are focusing on counting and skip-counting forwards and backwards. Years 1 and 2 are learning place value using tens-frames and bundles of tens and ones. We are also learning about geometric shapes.

Pancake Day
Last Tuesday we enjoyed Pancakes made by the senior students as a part of writing procedural texts. The students brought along various toppings to share. Thankyou to all who contributed.

Senior Room
In the senior classroom, we have almost finished all our testing and groups are almost established. We operate ‘fluid’ groupings where students are grouped to their learning needs and not their grade level.
We have been studying the reading strategy ‘Finding the Main Idea’ and will move on to ‘Recalling Facts and Details.’
In Maths we are concentrating on number – in particular place value.
We had a few students who did not complete their homework this week – could you please encourage your child to complete this each week?
We are still busy learning the Australian states and their capitals – hopefully by the end of term all students will know these automatically.

Resilience
This year a part of my role is teaching resilience. Last year we were successful in receiving funding to take part in “Resilience - Youth Australia” - led by Andrew Fuller. The 2015 senior room were involved in a survey and we have received our results and now we begin an
"Action Plan" with senior students. The concept of this is to build their resilience through initiating and implementing an authentic project that will in turn give them a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose, and empowerment. The pre-work we have been focusing on in readiness to begin our project includes defining and understanding "bullying", persuasive writing re: "Zero Tolerance for bullying" and we have drawn a map of the school identifying where bullying may occur. As parents it is important to understand that Bullying is something we have zero tolerance for at Springhurst Primary School and we pride ourselves on ensuring all of our students are in an environment where they feel safe, happy and can learn.

Bullying Definition
The students came up with this definition of 'Bullying.' Bullying is when someone repeatedly hurts you and makes you feel unsafe or unhappy. A bully can use physical actions or body language. If someone hurts you once, it is not classified as bullying.

Kid's Council News
Zooper Doopers
The cost is 30cents each and they are on sale Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Remember to wear your hats in term 1

Athletics Sports
This year's athletics sports will be held on Tuesday 15th March at the Appin Street Athletics Complex in Wangaratta. We have been busy practising for these with Mr Pod. It is a great day and we would love to see as many parents there as possible.
**HIGHLAND DANCING CLASSES IN WANGARATTA**

When: Mondays  
Where: Girl Guide Hall, Ryan Avenue  
Time: 4.30-5.30pm  
Cost: $7.50  
Contact: Suzanne 0408 005 584  
Thanking you in advance,  
Jan Meloury  
Teacher  
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society Inc

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**Rutherglen Cats Under 12 Football**  
Training will commence on Wednesday March 2nd 2016 4:30pm at Barkly Park Rutherglen  
Players be Under 12 on 1/1/2016 and the minimum age players must be turning before or during the season to be eligible to play  
For more information please phone coach Wayne Cooper on 0439494027

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**Give Guides a Go!**

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**Photographic Competition**

- Landscape
- Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)
- Human Interest

Human Interest: Photos of farming, people enjoying the outdoors etc

- Nature/Flora
- Wildlife
- Aquatic life

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**Community Drivers & Access Spot**

Support your local community by providing Community Transport Services or essential Transport and Access Information in Wangaratta.

Phone Rikki on 1300 704 530

Info@gettingthere.net.au  
www.communityaccesslifeline.com