From The Principal

Thank you to those who attended the P&C meeting on Wednesday. I apologise that I did not advertise this in last week’s newsletter. The meeting was still productive. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, 18 November, 2015 (week 7).

I would like to thank Rena for rejuvenating the old garden bed located behind the school house. Rena worked with each class on Monday to map out a maze before turning the soil on Tuesday using a rotary hoe. The students will be planting some corn seeds in the coming weeks to create a maize maze. Any corn harvested will be sold back to the community by the students with the money going back into the garden.

The community partnerships will conclude this week. The program was extremely successful last term with approximately 15 students attending the afternoon sessions. The addition and success of the new bus has resulted in a decline in students attending the after school programs. I have discussed the program with David, JJ and Dennis, as well as the staff and P&C, and I have decided to conclude the after school program next week. David and JJ will run their final sessions on Monday, 19 October and Tuesday, 20 October, 2015. I would like to thank these three community members for supporting the school and providing the students with an alternative activity of an afternoon while they wait to be picked up. I am in discussions with David, JJ and Dennis in the hope to utilise their knowledge and skills within school hours. Dennis will be coming in each Friday after lunch to work with the year 6 students. They are designing and making a feature for our school yard.

We have commenced the first few weeks of the term with very few changes to our timetabling. I have enjoyed teaching guitar to the K/1/2 and 3/4 students. In two lessons they have learned six notes over two strings. The aim is to get both groups to learn a song or melody line to present at the end of year concert. The students will be given the opportunity in the coming weeks to each take a guitar home to practice with. The year 5/6 group have been learning a song from the ‘Lion King’ on the marimbas.

Finally, the 4/5/6 Lake Ainsworth excursion is only 24 days away. Forms need to be completed by next Friday, 23 October, 2015.

Stephen Manser
Principal with a Vision
**Lake Ainsworth Excursion**

The 4/5/6 excursion is only 24 days away. It is vital that all necessary forms are completed by parents of students who will be attending the Sport and Recreation school camp at Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre from Monday, 9 November until Friday, 13 November, 2015.

Please complete the Medical and Consent Form by next Friday, 23 October, 2015.

The information that Sport and Recreation needs about your child includes:

- medical conditions
- food related allergies
- special diets
- medication
- emergency contact details.

Sport and Recreation needs you to complete this form on behalf of your child. The form is available online and is easy to complete. Once you submit the form it is sent directly to the Centre so the staff can prepare for your child's visit.

It is vital that you enter the following details to complete the online form:

- Booking Number 0464394
- Booking Start Date 8/11/2015
- Booking Venue Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre

Please complete the Medical and Consent Form at sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/facilities/schools/medicalandconsentform by 19/10/2015.

Parents please note if you do not have access to the internet see Mr Manser at school and we will help you submit information from school.

The cost of this excursion is $195.00 per student or $300.00 per family. Payments need to be finalised by Friday, 6 November 2015. A reminder will be sent home a week prior to this date for outstanding payments.

**Kindergarten 2016 Transition Program**

We will be starting our Kindergarten 2016 Transition Program on Friday, 30th October from 9am until 1.30pm. The pre-school students will need to bring crunch and sip, recess and lunch. They are also welcome to order from the shop.

We will be holding a Parent Information Session on Thursday, 29th October from 2pm—3pm (week 4). Please let this information be made available throughout the community. If you have any queries please contact Mr Manser at school on 66886236.
The Lismore Show

The whole school will be travelling by bus to the Lismore Show next Friday, 23 October, 2015. The cost is $9.70 per student which covers bus and entry. This should be a wonderful day for the students where they will be viewing the 4 Pavilions, Reptile Display, Ashtons Circus and seeing the animals. All students need to be at school by 9am as the bus will be leaving by 9.15am. Parents please note there will be no supervision at school whilst on this excursion.

Students need to be in full school uniform, wear covered footwear and school hat. They will need to bring fruit, recess, lunch and a water bottle. Parents please note that no money is to be taken to the show by students. The bus will return by 3pm. Please return the permission note with money by Wednesday 21, October 2015.

From Mrs Cantrell

I am so impressed with how well all students in K/1/2 are working! This week in Maths we have been practising our times tables every day. We are up to our 6 times tables and getting better all the time. We have also been learning about measuring in centimetres. We are learning about and creating a food chain, so that we can understand the importance all living creatures have in the great scheme of things, even if they aren’t cute and cuddly. No one finds maggots very attractive, but they are vitally important in their role as decomposers. We are working hard in our reading groups and I have been so delighted with some of the imaginative and creative writing I’m seeing. Well done K/1/2!

Bunnings Visit

Next Thursday, weather permitting, Bunnings will be visiting our school to put up our new sports shed. Once again there will be a barbeque lunch provided. Thank you to Peter Jackson who will be cooking the barbeque. If it rains there will be no barbeque so please send your child/ren with lunch if it looks wet in the morning.

Responsible Pet Education Talk

Next Thursday, Vicki from the Responsible Pet Education Program will be visiting our school to give a talk on ‘Responsible Pet and Dog Safety’. This talk will be presented to the K/1/2 class and will commence at 2pm. Vicki will be bringing a dog along to this talk which will be on a lead. If your child/ren is/are frightened of dogs please let Mr Manser or Mrs Cantrell know before this day.
Term 4 ART

This term we are digging into street art. The intention is to turn our playground into a dazzling sculptural installation by the end of term, and we will be having an open afternoon where everyone is welcome to come and explore our creations.

We have already discussed the legal ramifications of street art, and why it exists. Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 have created their own tags using Graffiti Creator, and this week will be looking at the amazing miniature world of the London-based artist, Slinkachu.

Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 have begun weaving on coat hangers as part of their contribution.

We are looking for donations of old cds and ribbon/lace/wool for creations still in the designing stage.

Carol Shipard
Teacher

Leaders Report

This week 3/4/5/6 have started the street art project with Mrs Shipard. We have also started practising for the end of year concert.

Mr Manser has started to give out home work to the 3/4/5/6 students to improve their spelling and handwriting skills. A special thanks to Raphael for designing our new corn maze.

3/4/5/6 have also been doing Levers in Science. Science was pretty funny because Mrs Shipard was pretending to be an elephant. Our computer room has been updated so now we have more computers to use. We hope you all have a good weekend!

Ayla-Mae & Luke

School Uniform

The shirts in sizes 14 and 16 have arrived this week. They are available to purchase from the school at a cost of $15.00 each.
3/6 Homework

This week I am trialling a structured form of homework for my class. The homework is designed to cater for each student's learning needs so that it is supportive and meaningful. The homework is revision of work taught in class for the particular week and distributed on a Wednesday meaning that the students would have learnt about the content on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, hence why it would be revision. I was going to send out a survey asking parents about homework, but I felt it would be better to send a copy home for you to look at.

Homework is not compulsory. It is a choice for the student and a discussion and decision between parents and their children. A number of parents have approached me about wanting homework, while others have voiced that they would not like their child/ren receiving homework. I would however like each family to contact me if they do not want homework sent home rather than the students telling me. Please feel free to email me, phone me, talk to me in person or send a signed note in. Please note however, there may be some times when the students may start work in class and be asked to continue or complete it at home, such as a speech or project, but this would not be weekly, e.g. I have asked that each student prepare a short 1-2 minute spoken presentation of a procedure as a news item, such as how to make fairy bread. This is a home task, but shouldn’t take too long to prepare and shouldn’t be seen as a massive task. If you would like to know more about this task, please contact me. Further details are located on the back of this week’s homework as a separate task.
School and Community Announcements

Many pounds report an increase in runaway dogs and cats after a storm or fireworks night.

Fireworks typically explode at a staggering 145-150 decibels, but to animals such as dogs, who have hearing 10 times as sensitive as humans, these explosions can be terrifyingly loud and distressing.

With many animals having a fear of fireworks and storms, they often injure themselves trying to escape the noise. In a frantic bid to flee, dogs often jump or dig under fences and find their way onto busy roads and highways and can be struck by vehicles and fatally injured.

If you can, it’s best to stay home with your pet and provide them with a comfortable environment and engage them in normal activities. If you won’t be home, make sure your pets are safe, secure and comfortable; bring them indoors, if possible.

Here are RSPCA NSW’s simple steps to minimise firework and storm stress in pets:

- If you know a storm is coming or fireworks are planned, ensure your pets are exercised and well-fed before it starts.
- Keep your animals indoors in a safe and comfortable environment.
- Securely stable horses at a location away from fireworks noise if possible.
- Leave the TV or radio on to mask out the sound.
- Wherever your pet may be, remove any sharp objects that might cause injury to a panicking animal.
- If your pet is particularly prone to fireworks or storm panic, stay at home with them.

Always make sure your pets are wearing ID tags and their microchip details are up-to-date in case they do flee the noise.
2016 KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM

Parent Information Session
Thursday, 29th October
2pm - 3pm

Transition Dates
Friday, 30th October
9am - 1:30pm

Friday, 6th November
9am - 1:30pm

Friday, 13th November
9am - 3pm

Monday, 16th November
9am - 3pm