PRINCIPAL’S NEWS - Kirsty Squires
Mathematics
As part of the school’s evaluation program, we would like to ask the school community for its thoughts and opinions of current maths practices. Being sent home today is a survey regarding maths in a hope to gain a better understanding of how the community views maths and its importance. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and we would appreciate it if they could be returned by the end of the term, Friday 11th April.

P&C
This Wednesday is our monthly P&C meeting. We meet at 7pm in the school library. Hope to see you there.

World’s Greatest Shave
This Friday at 2:30pm Shane Britten will be participating in the ‘World’s Greatest Shave’ raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. If you would like to help, please send along a gold coin donation with your child, or come along to cheer him on.
A big thanks to Nicky Ward for organising and Janine Fischer for supplying the clippers!

Easter Raffle
The P&C are organising an Easter raffle, with prizes to be drawn on the last day of school. If you are able to donate an Easter egg, basket or Easter related product to be raffled it can be left in the collection basket in the office. Thanks for your help.

Assembly Week 11
Next Friday, the 11th of April will be our final assembly for Term 1. For this week only the assembly will be moved to 1:30pm and will involve an ANZAC Day ceremony, the Easter raffle will be drawn and Splash-a-thon prizes awarded.
Following the assembly we will be having our annual Easter egg hunt. All pre-school children are invited to join in the fun, along with parents!
Year 3/4
Huge congratulations to all students who handed in their Winter Olympian projects. There has obviously been a great deal of hard work and effort put in to these. All students have now presented their work and marks will be sent home next week.
This Thursday and Friday I will be attending the ConnectED Principals’ Conference, Miss Ebert will be teaching the class for this period.

Kirsty Squires

K/1/2
As this term quickly draws to an end, we are starting to make plans for Term 2. From Week 2 next term, we will be inviting parents/carers to come in and help with Literacy groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 10.15am. If you are available, please let me know and we can work out a roster.

A big congratulations to all of our class members who have reached 25 nights reading and a huge congratulations to those who are very close to or have reached 50 nights reading. What a great effort! Keep up the great work, everyone!

On Monday 7th April, we will be having a visit from Miss Stephanie Dickson. Miss Dickinson is a previous Somersby PS student and a third year university student who will be completing her teaching practicum with us during Term 2. We look forward to showing her how our classroom works and what a wonderful school Somersby Public School is.

Environment Group
On Wednesday, Rachel Foote from Gosford City Council will be visiting us to tell us about the 2014 Greenhouse Program. We look forward to hearing the details of the competition and look forward to working hard to retain the title of Small School of the Year!

Jade Cranstone

Year 6
Thank you to the overwhelming majority of students who managed to hand in their project on time. We have just about completed their presentations.

Our lolly guessing competition will commence tomorrow now that a sufficient number of lollies has been brought in. Thank you to those who have contributed.

Life Education
The Life Education Van and Healthy Harold will be visiting our school in Week 9 Term 2. The sessions are part of our PD/H program. This is an advance notice and the cost will be $9 per child.
Cross Country
The Small Schools’ Cross Country will be held in Week 3 Term2. Students in Years 3-6 have commenced training at school.

Neil Mitchell

Office News
All outstanding payments need to be returned to the office no later than Wednesday next week. This includes deposits for Years 3/4 Zoo Snooze and Years 5/6 Canberra excursion.

Julie Broome

Parenting Insights by Michael Grose

Parent involvement—the secret ingredient to children’s school success.
Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as holding their school in high regard.
If you want the best outcomes for your child or young person then it’s important that you become involved in as many aspects of your child’s education as practical. The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.
Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents’ views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Parent involvement takes energy
Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories. Unfortunately, finding parents who are willing to take part in these activities is increasingly difficult. Many parents find themselves worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. They find themselves with no energy left to be involved in their child’s school.

Make sure kids are school ready every day
Participating as a parent can be much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple things you can do at home that will assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child.
These include: talking with your child about their day, hearing your learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and having had plenty of sleep.
Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child’s education in positive ways.

◊ Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child’s school apart from others.
◊ Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R’s.
◊ Direct conversations through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher or the principal. Gossip or thoughtless criticism, within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.
◊ Become an *advocate* for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.
◊ **Attend** school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. **Invite** other members of the community along as well.
◊ **Consult** with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven contributor to student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school life.

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**Somersby Equestrian Team**

**For Sale**

Pony Saddle cloth, Pony Browband, Brown Tie, Size 10 Jumper

$100 for the lot!

Please phone Kylie Johnson

4374 1112 or 0419 686 071

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**RSPCA NEEDS HELP**

The RSPCA needs blankets and soft toys for the animals. If you have any old blankets, towels and or soft toys please bring them into school and give them to Sarah G. Please make sure they are not the best blankets or toys, just some old ones. Your toys can be broken, just make sure they are stuffed. It will be much appreciated. Thanks.

*Sarah G*

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**Leukaemia Foundation**

**World’s Greatest Shave**

Come and show your support, and cheer on Shane Britten, this Friday, 4th April, at 2:30 pm under the COLA at Somersby School. Please support this wonderful cause and bring along a gold coin for a donation.

Donations can also be made online at Worlds Greatest Shave website and look up SomersbySnippers or go to Shane’s page at: myleukaemiasfoundation.org.au/shanebritten.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday.

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**Jumbo Car Boot Market**

Saturday 5th April

Kariong Community Baptist Church Grounds Cnr Woy Woy and Milye4rra Roads Kariong

For further info—Please call Jenny Ward 0415 6123 538

*Worthy Daily Living*