PRINCIPAL’S NEWS - Kirsty Squires

Welcome Back Everyone!

I’m sure all families have had a wonderful break, with all students returning to school ready for hard work, enthusiastic and very settled.

I would like to welcome two new students to our school, Blake in Year 2 and Racquel in Year 4. I know that you will enjoy your new school community.

I would also like to welcome Miss Liz Ebert to the teaching staff. Liz will be teaching the Year 3/4 class on Wednesdays for my Principal’s release.

This term’s calendar is filling up very fast and already it promises to be an extremely busy 9 weeks for all. There are many planned activities, including the Cross Country, the NAPLAN Assessment for Years 3 and 5 and the Stage 2 Zoo Snooze excursion.

Please make sure that you read our newsletters each week to keep up to date.

School Development Day

Yesterday our teaching staff joined others from local primary schools to work on the new English syllabus. It was a very productive day with the new syllabus being mandatory this year.

NAPLAN

Year 3 and 5 children will sit for the National Assessment tests on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (13th, 14th and 15th of May). As the name implies the NAPLAN tests will be administered Australia wide in all educational settings. Please ensure that your child is at school for all of Week 3 so that they can participate in this test plan. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Dance/Soccer Sessions

Beginning next week there is the opportunity for your children to participate in dance and soccer lessons after school. There will be a dance session held on Wednesday afternoons from 3–4pm and soccer on Thursday from 3–4pm. Students will be collected from the COLA directly after school with parents required to collect children from the school at 4pm.

If you have not registered your child and would like to, please use the form sent home last term or register online on the Big 5 Sports Website www.big5sports.com.au. Spare forms are also available from the office.
K/1/2
Welcome back to term two. I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and are ready for an action packed term.

Literacy Groups
We will be starting literacy groups with parent helpers from next week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am - approx. 10.15am. Thank you to those parents who have let me know when they are available. On Monday 5th May at 3.30pm I will be running a literacy group information session for those who are interested in helping in the classroom and for those who would just like to see how things work in our room. Our literacy session will run a little differently than last year, so even if you’ve been in to help before, come along for some afternoon tea and a chat. If you are interested in attending, please let me know by Friday 2nd May.

Miss Dickinson
We welcome Miss Dickinson to our classroom for the first four weeks of this term for her university practicum. We hope she enjoys her time back at Somersby (Miss Dickinson is an ex-Somersby student) and learns lots of new and interesting things.

Environment Group
Just a reminder that we are still looking for volunteers to help us build a new 3 bay compost system for our environment area and participate in fun activities on Wednesday 7th May to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week. We are also still after some fence palings to line the bays with. If you are available to help at any stage on this day or know of any fence palings available, please contact Mrs Cranstone ASAP.

Jade Cranstone

Years 5/6
Welcome back to students for a new term. Homework will be handed out on Friday for completion in week 2.
Would parents of Year 6 students please discuss with them ideas for a gift to the school. Also don’t forget to email in baby photos for the year book. These can be emailed to kirsty.squires@det.nsw.edu.au

Cross Country
The Small Schools’ Cross Country will be held at Central Mangrove PS on Friday, 16th May. This is a whole school activity with transport by bus. A permission note will be provided when the relevant information comes to hand.

Neil Mitchell

News from the Office
Just a reminder that all absence notes, permission notes and money need to be handed in to the class teacher. The teacher will then record the transaction and forward the payment to the office.

Please advise the office ASAP of any changes to your contact details, your emergency contact details or your child’s medical/health conditions.

Julie Broome
Be Winter Wise
With the weather turning cooler it is a timely reminder to ensure your child has a jumper in their bag. Even though the days are still pleasant the mornings and afternoons, when the sun has dropped, can be quite cool. Please make sure the jumper is clearly labelled to prevent loss or accidental mix up of owners.

With the cold weather also comes coughs and colds so packing tissues in your child’s bag is also a good idea. If your child has runny eyes, continual running nose, a cough or a temperature please keep them home from school. It only takes one sick child to infect a classroom. Also please remind your child of the importance of covering their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, washing their hands thoroughly with soap and water and the blow and throw policy when using tissues.

P and C News

Splash-a-thon Update
Congratulations to our winners in the Splash-a-thon fundraiser;
Kindy—Kayden, Year 1—Emmerson, Year 2—Charles, Year 3—Alexander, Year 4—Reliey, Year 5—Sierrah, Year 6—Mackenzie.
Highly Commended—Evie, Addison, Bella, Dane, Ruby, Maddison and Ella
Major Prize Winner—Alara

This event was a huge success raising $2706.60. Well done everyone!

Easter raffle
Congratulations to our Easter Raffle winners: Scarr, Broadhead, Moxham, Hadley, Cahill, Ruane, Squires, Broome, Shenton, Huntington and Jones families.

Mother’s Day Gift Wrapping and Stall
Our Mothers Day stall will be held on Friday, 9th May. Gifts will be $4 each. These gifts will be wrapped in the library from 9am on Tuesday, 6th May. If you can spare an hour or so either morning, please consider coming along to lend a hand with the gift wrapping or working on the stall. Volunteers would be much appreciated.

Next meeting Wednesday, 7th May
The P&C will meet at 7pm in the school library. All welcome to attend.

Canteen
This week and next two weeks is Nachos with sour cream & cheese or burritos with mince, tomato, lettuce and cheese $3.50.
Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. The symptoms of influenza range from mild to severe and in severe cases can lead to death. People who have influenza typically experience some or all of the following symptoms.

- Cough, sore throat and runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle aches, joint pains, headaches and fatigue (feeling very tired)
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea (more common in children than adults)

It is important to seek immediate medical advice if the illness quickly becomes worse or if any of the following symptoms occurs:

- Shortness of breath or rapid breathing
- Chest pain
- Confusion or sudden dizziness
- Persistent vomiting

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. Any person with symptoms should remain at home until they are well. Other ways to help stop the spread of influenza are:

- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness. The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisations Unit’s vaccination page. For more information visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/schools

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Student Banking Term 2 Promotion

Any student who makes 3 or more deposits this term goes in the draw to win the major prize of:

- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet’n’Wild Gold Coast;
- Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and A $3,000 travel gift card to get them there.

Or one of 130 ToysRUs gift vouchers valued at $250 each