PRINCIPAL’S NEWS - Kirsty Squires

Small Schools’ Cross Country

On Friday, 16 May students from K-6 will be attending the Small Schools’ Cross Country at Central Mangrove PS. Travel will be by bus with a permission note going home today with further details. All family members are welcome to come along and cheer on your children.

Lunch orders for this day need to be returned tomorrow, unfortunately no late orders will be accepted. If a decision to postpone the day is made on or before Thursday the lunch orders will held over to the back up day, (Monday 19 May) however if the decision to postpone is made on Friday morning the lunch orders will be delivered to the school.

NAPLAN

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are the National Assessment Program for Numeracy and Literacy (NAPLAN) testing days for students in Years 3 and 5. We ask that these students come to school well rested on these days. Results from these tests are used to determine focus areas for the school and help determine the level of support the school receives in regards to its Learning Support teacher allocation.

Parents can expect students’ results later in the year. All results are kept confidential.

P&C Meeting

Come along to our P&C meeting to be held tomorrow night in the school library from 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to become more informed about what is happening at school in a nice and friendly setting.

Singleton Horse Sports

We would like to wish Lara good luck on Saturday when she represents Somersby School at the Singleton Horse Sports. We know you will do yourself and our school proud.

Year 5 Opportunity Class Placement 2015

Applications for 2015 Opportunity Classes close on Friday, 16 May 2014. If you would like your child to sit the placement test please register online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement or pick up an application form at the school office.
Dance and Soccer Lessons
We are excited to announce that The Big 5 Sports lessons will begin this week. The sessions run from 3pm to 4pm on Wednesdays (dance) and Thursdays (soccer). There are still vacancies available if you would like your child to attend. Register online at www.big5sports.com.au. If for any reasons these lessons are cancelled Big 5 Sports will contact parents directly.

Kirtsy Squires

K/1/2
A huge thank you to those parents who were able to make our literacy information session yesterday afternoon. It was great to see so many faces. I hope you found the session useful and we all look forward to seeing you in the classroom soon.

Environment Group
WE NEED PLASTIC SOFT DRINK BOTTLES (500ML, 1.25L, 2L), JUICE AND MILK CARTONS AND CARDBOARD ROLLS (NOT TOILET PAPER ROLLS PLEASE)!!!
Tomorrow we will be celebrating International Compost Awareness Week and World Environment Day by participating in some fun filled activities based around the theme REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. One of our activities is reusing items such as soft drink bottles, juice and milk cartons and cardboard rolls and making beautiful bird feeders to hang around our school. If you have any of these items at home, please send them in tomorrow to be reused.

Relay for Life
ATTENTION TEAM SOMERSBY: It's that time of year again....
The annual Mingara Relay For Life Awards night is being held on Friday 16th May, at Mingara Recreation Club.
The evening will have live entertainment, prizes and some special surprises! Tickets are on sale at the Cancer Council Office at Erina Fair and everyone is welcome. Remember your $10 ticket is then donated back to our 2014 team as part of the fundraising!
Further information please call 43364500.

Jade Cranstone

Years 5/6
Our students are to be involved in the “Painting the Hoardings Project” for the Terrigal area. An artist will be conducting the first workshop session this Wednesday at 10:00am.
Thank you to the parents of Year 6 students who have already returned their excursion permission notes. We will travelling to the Leadership Day in Newcastle on Wednesday, 21 May.

Neil Mitchell

Debating
The Premier’s Debating Challenge has started for 2014. Both teams will debate on Tuesday, 20 May at Gosford Public School. A note was sent home today with more information. Good luck, debaters.
Library
May is Scholastic’s National Family Reading Month. You could win $250 worth of book vouchers for you and your family as well as books for our school. All you have to do is read for at least 10 mins every day for 31 days. Record how many minutes you read for every day and add up the total at the end. Go online to www.scholastic.com.au/readmoreinmay and enter the competition. Recording sheets were sent home today. Good luck and happy reading.

Dance
Another big congratulations to our dancers who will be performing on Friday, 20 June at Laycock Street Theatre. Lots of notes and information will be sent home over the coming week so please be sure to check for notes to ensure no information is missed. Well done, everyone.

Laura Knight

P and C News

Mothers Day’ stall—Friday, 9 May
Our Mothers’ Day stall will be held this Friday. Gifts will be $4 each. After all children have been given the opportunity to purchase a gift, extra gifts can be purchased if children want to buy for more than one special woman in their lives. If you can spare an hour or so that morning, please consider coming along to help with the stall.

Next meeting—Wednesday, 7 May
The P&C will meet tomorrow in the school library at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. One of the items for discussion will be the results of the community survey on our fundraising ‘wishlist’.

News from the DEC Website

Kids, social media and privacy
Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (- it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- A quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.
- More than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram
- Young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

2014 Privacy Awareness Week, 4 - 10 May 2014, is a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

Is your child’s backpack damaging their spine?
A recent Australian study has shown that approximately 25% of school-aged children suffer from back and/or neck pain at any one time. It’s believed to be due to a combination of factors such as poor posture, everyday load carrying and the use of computers.

Wishing all the beautiful mothers, grandmothers and special women in our students’ lives a very Happy Mother’s Day.

TERM DATES
Term 3 2014
Monday July 14 to Friday September 19

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>All students &amp; Staff to school</td>
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<td>July 28–August 1</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Peats Ridge Naidoc Day</td>
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<td>August 8</td>
<td>Small School/athletics</td>
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<td>August 22</td>
<td>Zone Athletics</td>
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<td>September 10-12</td>
<td>Canberra Excursion</td>
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The Australian National Flag is Australia’s foremost national symbol and as such should be used with respect and dignity. The Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag and the ensigns of the Australian Defence Force are also official flags and should be treated with the same respect and dignity.

There are international protocols that must be adhered to in regards to our National Flags.

- The flag should not be allowed to fall or lie on the ground.
- The flag should not be used to cover a statue, monument of plaque for an unveiling ceremony; to cover a table or seat; or to mask boxes, barriers or the space between the floor and the ground level on a dais or platform.
- The flag should never be flown when in damaged, faded or dilapidated condition. When the material of the flag deteriorates to a point where it is no longer suitable for use, it should be destroyed privately, in a dignified way i.e. it may be cut into small unrecognisable pieces then disposed of with the normal rubbish collection.
- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- The flag should be raised no earlier than first light and lowered no later than dusk.
- When the flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried in a parade or review, everyone present should be silent and face the flag. People in uniform should salute.
- The flag should always be folded neatly and stored in a respectful way when not in use.

For more information visit: http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/flag.cfm#protocols