

Scone Public School Newsletter

Success for all

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TERM 4 WEEK 5

Tuesday 8 November 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week our students are participating in various transition programs. Today we have the 3rd Kindergarten transition afternoon where our 2017 Kinders come and spend time in the classroom becoming familiar with their surroundings. Later in the week Year 6 will be having their final Orientation visit to Scone High School and some of our students will participate in additional sessions at the high school to allow them to feel more comfortable with the changes that are taking place as they move to high school.

Many students deal with change quite happily whilst for others it can cause anxiety and worry. We help to reduce this anxiety by talking about the changes that they may experience and by asking them what they would like to know about the class that they will be going into next year.

Parents can also help by talking positively about these class changes and also by letting the teacher know if there are any concerns that their child may have.

Deborah Fisher -Relieving Principal

*Value for the week:
Responsibility*

KINDERGARTEN'S ANIMAL ENCOUNTER!

Early on a Friday morning a group of bright eyed kindergarten students boarded a bus for an exciting adventure to Oakvale Farm and Fauna World. We were greeted by a group of very noisy and hungry baby animals that we got to feed. It didn't stop there. We went over to milk a cow who stood there quietly as all of the children had their turn. Next was a talk about farm animals and the produce they give to us. During this talk we got to pat little cute baby chicks. They were a huge hit. It was then time to fill our own bellies with our yummy homemade lunches.



Harlem KN

After lunch we went and listened to a Koala talk. This is where we learnt that baby koalas need to eat some very yucky and smelly 'mud' so that they can build up a tolerance to gum leaves! YUCK! This was followed by a close encounter with a soft koala in a tree. Our next close encounter was with an animal that was not so soft and cuddly... This did not worry the children though as they lined up to pat a long slippery snake!

We got to go for a walk around the farm and pat and play with lots of our furry friends. Kangaroos, ponies, alpacas, camels, goats, lambs and cows all lined up for a pat from a bunch of very excited children. We were also lucky enough to have our own private performance by a cockatoo who sang and danced as we walked by.

All too soon it was time to head back to school. We had an amazing day and the staff of Oakvale Farm was very impressed by our students – well done everyone! A special thank you to our wonderful parent helpers who supervised small groups (some would say noisy, energetic groups) of students for the day. Your help was invaluable.

Miss Newling, Mrs Hughes and Mr Wells

COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 4 2016

| Date | Event |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 Nov 2016 | Kinder Transition 2.15pm – 3.00pm |
| 10 Nov 2016 | Year 6 Orientation Day at SHS |
| 11 Nov 2016 | Stroke Correction Remembrance Day |
| 14 Nov 2016 | House Captain Speeches |

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM 'LIONS HEARING DOGS'

In an earlier newsletter we informed you of an amazing sound system that was donated from the Lions Hearing Dogs group. On Friday Ms Maria Musumeci kindly attended our infants assembly to formally present this wonderful gift. All classroom students will benefit from the 'FrontRow ToGo Sound Field System' however it has special benefits for children who are hearing impaired or suffering from various attention deficit disorders.



Miss Newling, Mrs Maria Musumeci and our new 'FrontRow ToGo Sound Field System'

'DANDELIONS' BOOK ORDER

A few weeks ago students from SPS travelled to St Mary's to meet an author and illustrator, it was a great experience. There was an opportunity to order their book 'Dandelions' and have it signed for your child. These have arrived and have been given to the respective students. One order did not include the child's name or class. If this was for your child please see Mrs Marshall in the Library.

Thank you
Mrs Karen Marshall
Teacher Librarian

HOUSE CAPTAIN SPEECHES

A reminder that Sports House Captain speeches are to be on next Monday (14 November). Any students wishing to run for this position should have their speech prepared to deliver during the house meetings.

MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

The school does give special medications to students at selected times each day. Where possible, we encourage parents not to send medicines with their children if it can be avoided. Special procedures and precautions are taken with all S8 drugs. Indemnity forms need to be completed by parents prior to any school personnel giving medications. Parents must bring necessary medication to the school office before it can be administered by staff. Procedures are in place for asthmatic children. Children using Ventolin puffers can keep the spray with them so that they have immediate access to their medication.

If your child has a special medication need, please speak to the Principal who will make suitable arrangements. When an emergency arises, if we are in doubt about any injury or sickness, we ring both the parent and ambulance for support.

SRC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



The SRC is seeking donations of items to go towards a Christmas Raffle. If every family picked up one extra item with their shopping we would be able to make up some wonderful hampers. Anything that you think your family would like to win could be sent in, such as FOOD (tinned food, Christmas treats, and any other suitable non-perishable items), Christmas Decorations (fairy lights, table decorations, tree ornaments, etc.) or Presents (Board Games, Books, School Essentials, Small toys).

Please do not send in anything old, Out of Date or second hand, they will not be included.

All items can be left at the Library; students can choose to bring in their goodies on their Library day. Mrs Marshall will give everyone a Book Mark for contributing to this SRC initiative. The SRC will commence selling Raffle Tickets on 14 November and the Raffle

will be drawn at the Year 6 Assembly on 12 December. The tickets will be 50 cents each.

Mrs Marshall for
The SRC

| CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 4 WEEK 5 2016 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mon, 7 Nov | Racheal J |
| Tues, 8 Nov | Wendy P |
| Wed, 9 Nov | Racheal J |
| Thurs, 10 Nov | Wendy P |
| Fri, 11 Nov | Wendy P Kim Mackay |

SAVE THE DATE

Scone Public School will be holding its 2016 Presentation Day on Friday 9 December. It will commence at 10.00am with K – 2 Awards followed by the year 3 – 6 Awards. Our 2017 School Leaders will be announced during the year 3 – 6 section. As in previous years all students K – 6 will be recognised for the success during the year at Scone Public School. We look forward to our school community joining us on this very special day.

Students need to:

- wear clean, full summer uniform
- have navy blue hair accessories
- wear clean black shoes
- Grey socks for boys and navy socks for girls

If you need assistance with uniform requirements please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or the office.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES *ONE FINAL COLLECTION*

There will be one last collection for the filled Christmas shoeboxes. Please return any filled boxes to the office by 18 November 2016.

This year most of the boxes are going to Vietnam, Cambodia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Details for what to put in the boxes are on the leaflet that comes with the box. You can follow your box and where it goes by registering it on the website:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/operation-christmas-child/>

The shoeboxes are available at the school office. Thank you to all those families who have already returned their shoeboxes. For

any more information call Jenny Sylvester 0409 818977.

ASSEMBLY TIMES
9.15AM Years 3-6
12.10PM Kinder –Year 2
(KH to host)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Kids for Jesus Come along to the new Kids group during school terms. We meet weekly to enjoy fun activities, singing and other inspirational ideas. Weekly: Mondays Venue: The Scone SDA (Seventh Day Adventist) home church Where: 164 Susan St, Scone. Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Contact: Stanley on 0409 078 105 for more info and to register for Kids 4 Jesus. A parent or guardian needs to attend with your child/ren. – this is a family event.

Term 3 Kids Club & Explorers are on Mondays!

What is it? Kids Club four afternoons of fun – games, craft, activities, food & finding out more about Jesus. Explorers for older children: exploring questions and what the Bible really says, activities, food & fun.

Who is it for? Kids Club is for children in Years K-3.

Explorers is for children in Years 4-6.

When is it? 3.30pm – 5pm on Mondays 7, 14, 21 and 28 November. (Four weeks)

Where is it? St Luke's Hall, Scone. Kids Club and Explorers have afternoon tea together and may share some activities but will be in separate groups both at St Luke's Hall.

Children from Scone Primary School can be met at the school by a kid's club leader and walked to the hall. Please state clearly arrangements on registration form. These are attached to the flyer. Flyers are available at the school office, there are limited places. These are allocated in date order when completed forms are received. All children must be registered by Thursday 3 November. To find out more phone Jenny on: 0409 818 977.

Cinema under the stars Willy Wonka and the chocolate factory. Free family movie Highbrook Park, Muswellbrook. 2 December 2016 Starts at 5.30PM Movie starts at sundown. Games consoles, craft activities, toybox, face painting, \$1 cold drinks, free sausage sizzle. Dress as your favourite story book character.



Get involved in the School Banking program.

Scone Public School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a silver Dollarmites token, and once they've collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

These 2016 rewards are currently available:

- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).



Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. To open an account for your child, you can visit your local branch. All you need to bring is your current personal identification as well as your child's birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account for your child online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is wednesday. Each week you need to drop the yellow bank book into the box in front office, it will then be returned to your child's class in the afternoon.

If you would like to know more about the School Banking program, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program parent pack from the school office.

READING FOR PLEASURE BOOSTS CHILDREN ACADEMICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY

With many online distractions, and many after-school activities, fewer children are reading for pleasure but research shows sinking into a book has academic and emotional benefits for young people.

Colleen Ricci

What is happening?

A key finding in the recently published literature review — The impact of reading for pleasure and empowerment — is that reading for enjoyment not only boosts educational outcomes for children, but also enhances their emotional understanding.

Many parents read to their children when they are young but the long-term academic and emotional benefits come when older children read for pleasure themselves.

The study, which was commissioned by The Reading Agency in the United Kingdom, found that reading for pleasure increases empathy, enriches social relationships, reduces symptoms of depression and instils an overall sense of wellbeing. It comes amid evidence that fewer children are reading for enjoyment, and that parents are not reading to their children often enough.

What is the purpose of the review?

The Reading Agency is a charity with a mission to inspire more people to read and to share their enjoyment of reading. The review, which collates and summarises research findings from countries including England, Canada, United States, Holland, Germany, New Zealand and Australia, is considered the first step in a larger project that aims to build understanding about the benefits of reading; broaden the reach of reading initiatives and measure the impacts of various reading programmes.

Whilst there is strong evidence that reading for pleasure improves educational outcomes, the Agency is keen to show, through its review, that broader, "non-literacy outcomes" are possible for people throughout their lives — with significant flow-on effects for society at large — when people read for pure enjoyment.

What is happening overseas?

Results from the Programme for International Student Assessment tests show that children who read for enjoyment perform better academically than children who do not.

However a "PISA in focus" study undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which drew on results in the 2000-2009 decade, recorded a steady decline in the number of young people reading for pleasure across all OECD countries. It further found that more girls than boys read for enjoyment in all countries, except Korea. In England, authorities have attempted to address this decline by implementing the requirement for schools to promote recreational reading.

A recent National Literacy Trust survey shows some improvement: 41.1 per cent of 32,000 children aged eight to 18 now report reading in their spare time; up from 32.2 per cent in 2013.

In the United States, however, a survey conducted by children's publisher Scholastic shows a 10 per cent decline in the past 4 years, particularly in children over the age of eight.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be very intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein

What about Australia?

Reading for pleasure is encouraged in Australian schools, particularly in primary schools where "independent" reading often constitutes part of the school day. However, there is some evidence that reading for enjoyment alone is promoted less once children have demonstrated the capacity to read.

According to the OECD study, Australia's results correlate closely with the OECD average: 52 per cent of 15 year-old boys and 73 per cent of girls report reading for enjoyment.

On this measure, Australia sits in 41st position — out of 65 countries — with several including Kazakhstan, China, Greece and Thailand sitting well above the average. The Reading Agency's literature review includes the 2014 Australian study: Peer Group and Friend Influences on the Social Acceptability of Adolescent Book Reading.

One key finding of this study was that although book reading was found to be "generally socially acceptable", readers experienced "low levels of encouragement" from friends to read.

What do proponents say?

Research shows that reading for pleasure promotes imagination, creativity, relaxation, improved self-esteem, intellectual pleasure, enhanced general knowledge, emotional intelligence and mental health benefits.

It has been found to enhance social interaction and personal relationships; empower children to become active citizens, to improve a sense of connectedness with the wider community and to further tolerance and understanding of other cultures.

Researchers highlight that reading for pleasure enhances self-knowledge and identity and improves empathy with others both inside and outside the confines of a story. Many say reading for pleasure should be central to teaching practice; arguing that young people will read more — and unwittingly acquire "vital" language skills — if they are able to choose their own material.

Are there concerns?

Many are concerned by the overall decline in numbers of children reading for pleasure, especially boys. However, others fear for children, often from poorer backgrounds, who never become readers at all.

English author Michael Morpurgo urges schools, teachers, parents, writers, illustrators, and publishers to do more to encourage children to read; and for education authorities to be mindful, when formulating policies, of the need for literature to "first and foremost be enjoyed", if we wish to engage more readers.

For the most part, factors including funding cuts to libraries, a shortage of appealing books in classrooms, and too much focus on school test scores are blamed for the trend away from recreational reading. Many point to the irony: that the children who perform well on tests are more likely to be those who read for pleasure.

In Conclusion

While many note that having books in the home; library memberships and "high interest" classroom collections encourage children to read, experts say it is parental attitude and involvement in children's literacy practices that has the most impact of all.

Albert Einstein is quoted as having said: "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be very intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/reading-for-pleasure-boosts-children-academically-and-emotionally-20150810-givft2.html>