Dear parent/caregiver Term 2 Week 3

All of a sudden the weather has become quite cold. We remind parents to label their child’s winter clothing with their first and last name, as well as their class, so that lost items can be returned. We have a HUGE number of lost items of clothing in our lost property basket. Parents are urged to check this regularly for missing clothing. Each term, unclaimed items are checked for names, returned if possible and then any unidentified piece is washed and sold at our pre-loved clothing stall. Please take this opportunity to search for any lost items before winter really sets in.

District Cross Country
Owing to inclement weather the district carnival has been postponed until Monday 16 May. Information about the change has been sent home to competitors.

Mothers’ Day Stall
The P&C held a highly successful Mothers’ Day stall on Wednesday 4 May. Students were able to purchase a variety of gifts for the special ladies in their lives. Your support has allowed the P&C to raise over $1200 for the school. Congratulations to the members of the P&C and their wonderful helpers who wrapped gifts ready for the stall.

NAPLAN Testing
The NAPLAN 2010 Tests for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were held this week. The results of the tests will be sent to schools at the beginning of Term 4. We will then contact you to find out if you want to collect them in person or if you wish your child to bring them home to you.

Voluntary Contributions
Thank you to those parents who have paid their voluntary contribution of $30 per student. Those families who have not paid the contribution yet are still able to do so at any time during the year. Money can be placed in an envelope and labelled with the student’s name and class and the words ‘Voluntary Contribution’ written on the front. These can then be posted in the mailbox in the office.

P&C Meeting
The first meeting for Term 2 was held on Wednesday 11 May. During the meeting we discussed school photographs, quotes for new sound equipment in the hall and under the COLA, scripture classes, students experiencing learning or behaviour difficulties, PSSA competition results and access to the library at play times. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 June at 7.00pm in the staffroom. We would love parents to attend the meetings, as this is a way to bring up areas of interest, clarify what is happening in the school and bring up any concerns. Everyone is welcome.

Information Afternoon K – 4 Parents
If you are interested in helping your child learn to read by developing some useful strategies to use at home or when you volunteer to help in classrooms, then you may wish to attend the information session on Monday afternoon, 16 May at 3.30pm in KV classroom.

Athletics Carnival
Students in Years 3 to 6 will participate in the annual athletics carnival on Wednesday 18 May at Charlie Bali Reserve (Aquilina Reserve) at Doonside. Students will compete in track and field events. Transport to the event will be by bus at a cost of $10.00. Permission notes and information have already been sent home. The last date for payment is Friday 13 May.

Walk Safely to School Day
Friday 20 May 2011 is Walk Safely to School Day. On this day the Pedestrian Council of Australia is encouraging all primary school students to walk with their parents and carers to school to promote road safety, and individual and environmental health. Key road safety messages that this event promotes are:

• Hold a grown up’s hand when crossing the road.
• Hold a grown up’s hand when you’re on the footpath.
• Use a safe place to cross the road.
• Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road.

Walk Safely to School Day also enables the promotion of walking as a regular form of physical activity and an opportunity to raise awareness about the benefits of reduced traffic on our roads, particularly around schools.

Closing Date for OC Applications
Parents of students in Year 4 wishing to apply for Opportunity Class (OC) placement for Year 5 in 2012 need to have completed the forms on-line by Friday 20 May. These places are limited and are filled through a written examination later in the year. The classes are at selected schools in the area and are for students who are gifted and/or talented.

Year 5 Science and Technology Day
Students in Year 5 will be attending a Science and Technology Day at Rooty Hill HS on Monday 23 May. The day is free to all students and they will be transported to the high school by bus. The high school will be providing students with a valuable opportunity to participate in a variety of science and computer-based experiments that are not available in primary schools. Permission notes need to be returned by Thursday 19 May.

Computer Competition
The University of NSW Computer competition will be held on Tuesday 24 May for all students who have previously paid to participate. Results will be available later in the year. Reports and certificates will be presented to students when they arrive at school.
Life Education
Once again the Life Education van will be visiting our school. The Life Education team work with teachers and students to deliver programs which are part of the PDHPE curriculum. The focus is on health and personal development. Classes will be rostered to visit the mobile centre from Wednesday 25 May to Thursday 2 June. The cost of attending the program is $10. Please note that students who paid for the Dance Nova program that was cancelled, will have their money transferred automatically to the Life Education activity. These students still need to complete the permission note and return it to school. All other students will need to bring in both their permission note and money by Friday 20 May.

Definitions

English
Perfect Form of Tense: tells us that the event, action or process is completed, was completed or will be completed. The perfect tenses use the verb to have with the past participle.

Present Perfect Tense
He has helped many people.

Past Continuous Tense
He had helped a lot of people.

Future Perfect Tense
He will have helped many people this year.

Maths
Decrease: to make smaller

The cake decreased in size.

Technology
Browser: A program used to browse files. A Web browser browses Internet files. Both Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer are Web browsers.

Brain Bender
Why do the inhabitants of Antarctica not hunt Polar Bear as a food source?
Answer next issue.

Last issue's question:
How many times can you multiply 7 by 7?
Answer: Once. After multiplying once, 77 will become 539.

Useful Websites for Parents

http://gamequarium.com/
A portal to 2000+ free online learning games and activities for Preschool - Grade 6 students. Readquarium, a section of Gamequarium, will help your child learn to read.
Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We come prepared for school!’

We continue our focus of being prepared for school as we often find poor mums and dads being blamed for students not having notes returned to school, homework ready for handing in, library bags for borrowing or lunch order being placed.

It is good to assist your child in packing their bag ready for school but, as a part of learning independence, they need to see packing their bag as part of their responsibility. You can start with asking your child to check the bag with you and to get missing items that they can place in their bag. When they are doing this easily, you can start decreasing your involvement and giving your child greater opportunity to take over the task. Perhaps a bag checklist on the fridge could help to remind your child of the items needed for the day.

Food for Thought
A family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold. ~Ogden Nash

Pauline Baker 12.5.11
Principal