Principal's Message

Week 6 is upon us already. This week students are focussed on class learning units. Students had the chance to share some of their learning at last week’s Assembly and classrooms displays are showcasing learning from the first weeks of term. Be sure to check in and see what your child is up to at school.

Reading is our focus this week. Explicit teaching has started and our students are encouraged to practice at home and at school what they are learning in class. Parents play a vital role in developing students’ reading skills and their love of reading. As significant people in their lives, your support, response and attitude to reading will have a strong influence on your children. Teachers can give you a range of ideas for how to help your child with reading at home. Our school’s Reading brochure and an article in our Parent Newsletter this week give lots of ideas for how to help your child learn to read.

Last Friday, six of our students participated in District AFL & Netball Trials in Barham. Thank you, parents for transporting the students, and to Georgia Snowden who was our ‘teacher on the ground’ in Barham for the day who assisted with the duties of these trials.

Catherine Peach
MORNING READING - READING FOR LIFE

When students come to school each morning, they practice their reading with their teacher or peers, or act as a reading buddy for younger students.

This opportunity to read is so important as students get to:
- practice what they are learning about how to read
- share their efforts to read with other people and see that their efforts are valued
- feel good about themselves as readers
- celebrate the progress they are making in reading.

Kindergarten students are beginning their learning journey as readers, while Year 1 and Year 2 students are still benefitting from regular reading practice.

Teachers and some senior students are in class from 8.45am to hear these Infants students read their books and change their home readers. We would love to have parents come in and assist with morning reading - hearing not only their child but other students as well.

Students in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 also read in class when they get to school, or practice important sight words or number skills.

It is ‘go, go go’ across all our classrooms. Parents are most welcome to drop in to help and be part of the action.

GRANNY READING

Our Infants students also have the opportunity to read with our community ‘grannies’ who volunteer their time each Wednesday. This program is absolutely wonderful, and gives students the chance to practice their reading and discuss their stories with some of the grandparents in our community.

We are very grateful to our ‘grannies’ that currently come in and help us. You do not have to be a grandparent though to be part of this program. Community members and school family members are welcome to volunteer some time to hear our students read. Granny Reading happens each Wednesday between 10.30am and 11.00am.

After reading, our ‘grannies’ stay for a cup of tea and a chat. Enquire at the office if you would like to know more and be involved.

SAFETY IN THE PLAYGROUND

Students are currently reviewing their play spaces and games to be sure that they play fairly and safely, and that everyone has the chance to be involved.

Handball is the first game to be reviewed. Students have created a common set of rules and will make up signs that clearly state the rules our students agree to play to. Well done students.

Students will also be learning about mediation as a way to sort out playground differences. This will be based around our core values of Safety, Responsibility and Respect.

NSW Schools are also involved in a Safe Trees program. Trees in our playgrounds will be checked, and trimmed and made safe if need be, over the next few weeks.
COMPUTER AUDIT
Jenny Good, Technology Advisor joins us again this week to continue our computer audit and to assist us to re-organise our computer hardware across our classrooms.

Students have access to a range of computer technology in their classrooms to support them in their learning and to have information accessible ‘at the moment’.

Due to recent NSW DEC re-structuring, Principals are now responsible for a range of Computer maintenance and repair activities. Will Eldridge will be training to assist the Principal in coordinating and managing our fleet of computers. He will attend District eT4L training this Thursday. Thank you, Will.

PRINCIPALS’ NETWORK MEETING
Last Friday, Mrs Peach attended a meeting with Principals from across our area, Director Vicki Kempton and a number of NSW DEC support staff based in Deniliquin.

The Network meeting provided information about a number of the reforms to be introduced this year, and clarified for Principals the changes happening with school funding, management of staff leave and school evaluation and planning.

The changes ahead are complex and designed to empower local schools moving into the 21st century. Principals’ networks are being created to collaboratively address the challenges these changes may present and to provide innovation and leadership that will positively impact on student outcomes and teachers’ professional growth.

LEARNING IN THE LIBRARY
Our school library is well stocked with new books and familiar favourites. K/1/2 students borrow on Tuesday, and 3/4/6 students borrow on Wednesday. Please ensure your child returns their Library books every week (even if not finished with them).

It is important that students have a proper Library bag to put their books in. Our Library books are precious and need to be looked after so that all children at school, now and in the future, have the chance to enjoy them.

HOW2LEARN
Students continue to learn about higher order ways of learning - the habits of effective learning. For the next fortnight students will learn about COLLABORATION.

COLLABORATION - the skill of learning with others
When you use this learning muscle, you:
- know what it takes to learn as part of a team
- are aware of how you respond to other people and manage your feelings when working with them
- respect other people’s point of view even when they differ from your own
- share your ideas willingly with the group
- understand the rules of teamwork.
HOW2Learn awards were presented to our Kindergarten students (above) for their enthusiastic approach to learning at school.

Students’ efforts and achievements in Literacy and Numeracy (above) were recognised at Assembly. Well done to Benjamin, Ebony, Chloe, Katey, and Dakota.

Values Awards went to Indiana and Grace (right) for displaying our core values – Safety, Respect and Responsibility. A Canteen voucher was presented for them to enjoy.

Chloe and Amy (above) have shown they know how to learn with others and by themselves. Well done girls.

Star Students Grace and Shona (above) - excellent learning girls.