Welcome back to the school year. As always we have a number of exciting activities planned for the year with plenty of opportunities for parental involvement.

We started on a positive note with Mr O’Neill being named Citizen of the Year. It is great that the extra work being conducted by our teaching staff is being acknowledged by the wider community. Congratulations Rod.

We will be continuing with the free lunch program this year. To date Rosalinda Smith has volunteered to prepare meals twice a week and Chappie Joe will prepare meals on Thursday. We still need parents to contribute a Monday or Friday to assist in preparing the lunches for the students. If you can help please contact either Tahni or myself at school.

The major event occurring this term is the combined touch, swimming carnival and dance eisteddfod. This will be held the second last week of term 1 from the 26th to the 28th of March. During this time we need help from as many parents as possible. This is our major fundraiser for the year and helps to fund the operation costs of the touch carnival. Last year the P&C Association raised several thousand dollars which was used to purchase an interactive projector for the technology room and a television for the kitchen area.

During the December holidays the school had the roof replaced which has made a huge difference in appearance. Over the past twelve months we have recarpeted and painted the administration area and teaching areas and reroofed the school. We have also purchased ten new computers and an interactive projector and television.

Projects that will need to be undertaken this year include the replacement of the junior playground.

Last year the focus in the school was on reading as a result of this our PM reading benchmark levels have risen a great deal. This year we will be extending on this to further develop reading comprehension throughout the school.

The teachers have been doing a great job improving standards and parents have been doing a great job by contributing at home. We need this extended further. We need more parents in the classroom. Parents are welcome any time but the most useful time is between 9.00 and 10.00 in the morning. This is our focussed reading time.

At presentation night last year I mentioned how important it is for parents to be a part of their children’s education. Parents have five times more influence on student success than teachers. Teachers can only do so much. We need parental support both at home and at school to productively develop your child’s educational outcomes.

The first P & C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday February 18th. We will need to start planning priorities for the year and the touch carnival. We need all parents to attend.

Next Tuesday there will also be meetings held in the junior classroom at 5.00 p.m. and the senior classroom at 5.30 p.m. where teachers will explain what will be happening through the semester in terms of curriculum planning.

We also need parent help with dance this year.

regards
Daniel Smith
Calender

2014

January
27th - Australia Day
28th - School starts

February
10th - Leadership training
11th - Principal meeting

March
21st - Harmony Day
21st - Principal Meeting
26th - Swimming carnival
27th - Touch carnival
28th - Touch carnival
28th - Dance Eisteddfod

April
4th - Last day term 1

Parents/Carers needed for reading
9.00 - 10.00 daily.
Parents/Carers required to assist with free lunch program. Please circle available days.

Mondays - Feb 3, Feb 10, Feb 17, Feb 24,
Fridays - Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 14, Feb 21, Feb 28

Class information sessions
Tuesday 4/02/2014 5.00 p.m.
All parents/carers should attend

Our school expectations - Absentees
All children should attend school every school day

When students are absent
Ring the school on 47456197 before 9.00 a.m. with a reasonable explanation or provide a signed note.
If the student absence is to be for some time collect some work from school.
Students are required to be at school by 8.20 am to ensure they go into class in adequate time.
When students are late i.e after 8.30 a.m. they need a note explaining their absence.

School Response to absences
2 days absence without explanation – class teacher will ring home to enquire
4 days absence without suitable explanation – Principal will ring home to enquire
If there is no response to the phone call then an Absence Letter will be mailed home, reminding parents/carers of their obligations to ensure their child attends school on every school day and the requirement for providing satisfactory explanations for all absences.

Absences greater than 10 days
If you are expecting that your child will be absent for greater than 10 days you need to apply for an exemption from compulsory schooling. This form can be accessed at school.